



# G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Today

## February Newsletter 2022

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Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:  
[www.graceemmaus.com](http://www.graceemmaus.com)

### Spring Walks

Both at Disciple  
Crossing, Athens, Tx  
Men's Walk #96  
February 24~27, 2021  
Women's Walk #97  
March 3~6, 2021

### Gatherings

Candlelight service for Men's Walk #96  
Saturday, Feb.26th @ Disciple's Crossing  
Please be there around 7:30 pm.  
Candlelight service for Women's Walk #97  
Saturday Mar.6th @ Disciple's Crossing  
Please be there around 7:30pm

## **A WORD FROM COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR**

De Colores all of you Fourth Dayers,

I am John Epps, and I went on Central Texas Community Walk 288 in Round Rock, Texas. I sat at the table of Peter, the Rock. My wife Michelle and I serve and worship at two churches, West New Hope United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant, Texas and Reeves Chapel United Methodist Church in Pittsburg, Texas. I currently serve as your Community Lay Director in the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community. I am excited for our community.

We gathered in January at Crossroads Church in Canton where we fellowshiped together, enjoyed a potluck dinner, worshiped, and shared communion with our Lord Jesus Christ. Our walk teams have been working hard in preparation for the upcoming walks. Both the men and women walk teams have been training and preparing for the men's walk from February 24-27 and the women's walk from March 3-6. And we look forward to our March gathering at Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church on March 19 to welcome our newest Fourth Dayers to our community.

We have a new board that I would like to introduce you to. They all have a specific job responsibility that the Lord has delegated to them. But the Lord does not delegate and walk away, He walks along each one and provides support from the Body of Christ. As the Body of Christ, show your Discipleship by reaching out to one of these board members and asking how you can help. You all have abilities that have been gifted to you. Share these gifts.

<b>Lay Director</b>	<b>John Epps</b>
<b>Ex Officio Lay Director</b>	<b>John Crow</b>
<b>Assistant Lay Director</b>	<b>Chad Bearden</b>
<b>Spiritual Director</b>	<b>Dan Vickers</b>
<b>Assistant Spiritual Director</b>	<b>Mike Johnston</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Carolyn McCain</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Rick Rundquist</b>
<b>Music Coordinator &amp; Community Music Trailer</b>	<b>Bob Wade</b>
<b>Agape (Gift, Banquet, Afterglow)</b>	<b>Baby Carroll</b>
<b>Babe Chick Training</b>	<b>Laura Resler</b>
<b>Book Table</b>	<b>Diane Smith</b>
<b>Community Trailer</b>	<b>John Webb</b>
<b>Gathering Coordinator</b>	<b>Dennis Gage</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Ernest Rodriguez</b>
<b>Prayer Vigil/Wall Agape</b>	<b>Boni Demaree</b>
<b>Publication Coordinator</b>	<b>Carlee McRee</b>
<b>Sponsorship Training</b>	<b>Scott Snyder</b>
<b>Reunion Groups</b>	<b>Roger Mann</b>

Get involved and stay involved. If you don't have a Fourth Day Group, find one and join in. Ask around your church, look up groups on the G.R.A.C.E. Community website. But find one and join in. Sharing yourself as others share with you. I would like to close with 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

Now I would like you to read the same passage but where love is stated or referred, replace it with your name and see how it sounds.

\_\_\_\_\_ is patient, \_\_\_\_\_ is kind. \_\_\_\_\_ does not envy, \_\_\_\_\_ does not boast, \_\_\_\_\_ is not proud. \_\_\_\_\_ does not dishonor others, \_\_\_\_\_ is not self-seeking, \_\_\_\_\_ is not easily angered, \_\_\_\_\_ keeps no record of wrongs. \_\_\_\_\_ does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. \_\_\_\_\_ always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. \_\_\_\_\_ never fails.

After replacing love with my own name, I felt a little shallow, a little shame, a little unworthy. But God's love endures forever, and His Grace covers all my shortcomings. And because of His Grace I can show my faith in Him as I serve in His Body as the Body of Christ and as His Disciple.

De Colores,

John Epps



# Offer Yourself

**Romans 12:1-21**

*How we should act with God, with believers,  
and with those who do not yet believe.*

## **DOING YOUR PART**

Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was an enormous project. Most Jews understood the importance and gave time and energy to the project. This included the people of Tekoa, a town located about 10 miles south of Jerusalem, who were assigned to help build the Fish Gate. But for some reason, their nobles would not do their part.

Perhaps they felt this was work for common people, or they had better things to do. Perhaps they simply were not willing. But through their lack of commitment, they were poor examples and poor leaders. They hindered the work of God through their lack of effort and bad attitudes.

In contrast, as a man appointed by the king, Nehemiah could have enjoyed special status. But he understood the biblical principle that everyone has a role to play in God's Kingdom. Everyone needs to contribute.

Paul reminded the Corinthians that we all are part of the body of Christ. While the body is one, there are "many members." Each of us has a unique role. We have been given unique gifts and responsibilities. But we all need each other, and the contribution of every person is important (1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

Remember that God has special assignments just for you. You are important to Him and the body of Christ. Dedicate your life to serving Him, to fulfilling His calling. Offer your life as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). Focus on doing your part.

## **Prayer**

Father, thank You for Your call on my life. I dedicate my life to You. Use me to impact lives for Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.

The word agape was used by early Christians to refer to the self-sacrificing love of God for humanity and the reciprocating love toward God and among one another. In simple terms, agape means love, as in the love of God. In the Emmaus Movement, agape acts are special acts of prayer, sacrifice and expressions of Christian love on behalf of a Pilgrim by another Christian.



Sponsorship of another pilgrim is the ultimate act of agape since by prayerfully seeking God's guidance and through self-sacrifice, you are able to bless another individual with the experience of three days in His presence. Agape letters from other communities and the 72 hour prayer vigil are introduced on Friday afternoon and illustrate God's love for everyone through community prayer and sacrifice. On Saturday, the pilgrims become increasingly aware of table agape which is the same for everyone but shows up as a gift for each person, reflecting the fact that God loves us all the same but cares for each of us individually. On Sunday afternoon, the personal agape letters from family and friends communicate God's love for each pilgrim in personal ways that are unique through relationships.

You are encouraged to participate fully in the 72 hour prayer vigil. You and your Reunion Groups are encouraged to make or purchase gifts of agape for our walks. You just have to have a loving spirit and a desire to express Christian love. There is no limit to the type or amount of gifts you can make and it can be anything that pertains to God's love, the healing grace He offers us, how to be His servants, etc.

There are no minimums nor special labeling requirements for agape. If you would like to make Agape for the entire conference room team and all of the pilgrims, 80 items are required for each walk. When making individual table agape, you may want to attach a label with a particular scripture or simple phrase associated with your gift. These gifts are to actually represent God's love and therefore we should remain as anonymous servants. Mark your package of items to indicate if they are for the Men's Walk or Women's Walk, especially if they are brought at the same time. If you have questions, please contact Babby Carroll @903-424-1641.



## **From the G.R.A.C.E. treasurer**

**Thanks to the generosity of the G.R.A.C.E. community, donations continue to come in regularly each month by the ACH, personal checks, and at monthly gatherings. Every dollar received goes back into the community to continue to spread the life changing experiences that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Donated funds can also be used for pilgrim and team member scholarships, updating equipment, and the general fund of our community. Thank you, for your continued support of our Emmaus community.**

**Treasurer, Richard Rundquist**

## **EMMAUS GATHERINGS**

Won't you consider hosting a WALK TO EMMAUS GATHERING at Your home church? We are asking for EMMAUS GROUPS to volunteer to welcome the G.R.A.C.E. Community to their home churches for Gatherings to include Fellowship, Worship and the sharing of a Meal. Please give prayerful Consideration to hosting us at your church. We generally meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month, beginning at noon and ending by 2:30pm. If interested, please contact Rick Rundquist at 903 569-4421 or [richardrundquist@cebridge.net](mailto:richardrundquist@cebridge.net).

DeColores, Dennis Gage



<https://www.upperroom.org/newsletters>

## **Stay Connected**

Sign up to receive newsletters and updates from The Upper Room.

Newsletters Upper Room Daily Reflections (Daily) - Words of wisdom and faith found in the pages of Upper Room Books. From the Center (Monthly, 1st Tuesday) - A monthly email newsletter from The Upper Room with resources for your soul care as a spiritual leader. Academy Bulletin (Monthly) - Updates, news, and special reflections exclusively for The Academy for Spiritual Formation participants, faculty, and leaders. Emmaus eNews (Every Other Month) - Get the latest news and tips for your fourth day journey. Especially for leaders and participants in Emmaus Ministries, including the Walk to Emmaus, Face to Face, and Chrysalis. Upper Room Recommends (Weekly, Thursday) - A weekly email for those seeking resources for spiritual formation and prayer. The email contains excerpts from Upper Room authors, plus book and online resource suggestions for small groups, congregational studies, and individual spiritual growth. My Quiet Spaces (Quarterly) - A quarterly newsletter for women seeking inspiration, tools, and support to deepen their walk with God. Rising Generations (Every Other Month) - Whether you're a church leader or parent, this bimonthly newsletter provides tips and tools for ministry with Children, Youth & Young Adults.



## **A REMINDER OF WALK FEES: STARTING IN 2021**

**Pilgrim: \$195.00**

**All others: \$195.00**

**Deposit : \$75.00**

**Richard Rundquist, Treasurer**





The Upper Room, part of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, began the three-day ecumenical spiritual-renewal retreats in 1978. The self-supporting ministry grew out of the Catholic Cursillo movement, and took the name Walk to Emmaus in 1981. The goal of Walk to Emmaus is to equip church members for Christian action. Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ. The movement also includes the [Chrysalis](#) program for youth, the [Face to Face](#) program for adults 60 and older, and the [Journey to the Table](#) program for adults 18 to 35.


## G.R.A.C.E. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2022

Lay Director	John Epps
Ex Officio Lay Director	John Crow
Assistant Lay Director	Chad Bearden
Spiritual Director	Dan Vickers
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Sponsorship Training	Scott Snyder
Reunion Groups	Roger Mann



**Hello there fellow Fourth Dayers! My name is Boni Demaree. I attended Central Texas Conference Walk #398 at Latham Springs in Aquila, TX and Sat at the Table of Mary. My husband, Chuck and I serve and attend First United Methodist of Winona, TX. This is my third year to serve on the Board and I am responsible for the Walk's Prayer Vigil Sign Ups and Wall Agape; none of which can be successfully done without the support and participation of all of you Fourth Dayers! Thank you very much. Blessing and Favor!**

**DeColores, Boni Demaree**



Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I will say it again:  
Rejoice!  
**Philippians 4:4**

DailyVerses.net

Hello! My name is Carolyn McCain. I took my walk in the North East Texas Community 05-82 at Lone Star. My husband Gary attended NET Emmaus walk 05-79. We have recently retired from pastoring a small church near Paris and moved to Lindale. We worship and serve at Life Source Community Church in Lindale. We are excited to be working and serving now in G.R.A.C.E. community. I have recently been invited to serve on the G.R.A.C.E. board and was elected to be the secretary. I look forward to serving these next 3 years with God and His People.

From Jesus Always I found these words: I AM YOUR JOY! These four words can light up your life. Since I am always with you, *the Joy of My Presence* is continually accessible to you. You can open up to My Presence through your trust in Me, your love for Me. Try saying "Jesus, you are my Joy." My light will shine upon you and within you as you rejoice in Me, your Savior. Ponder all I have done for you and all that I am to you. This will lift you up above your circumstances. Open your Heart and Mind to my Heavenly smile of approval. Philippians 4:4 NJKV we find: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

DeColores, Carolyn McCain

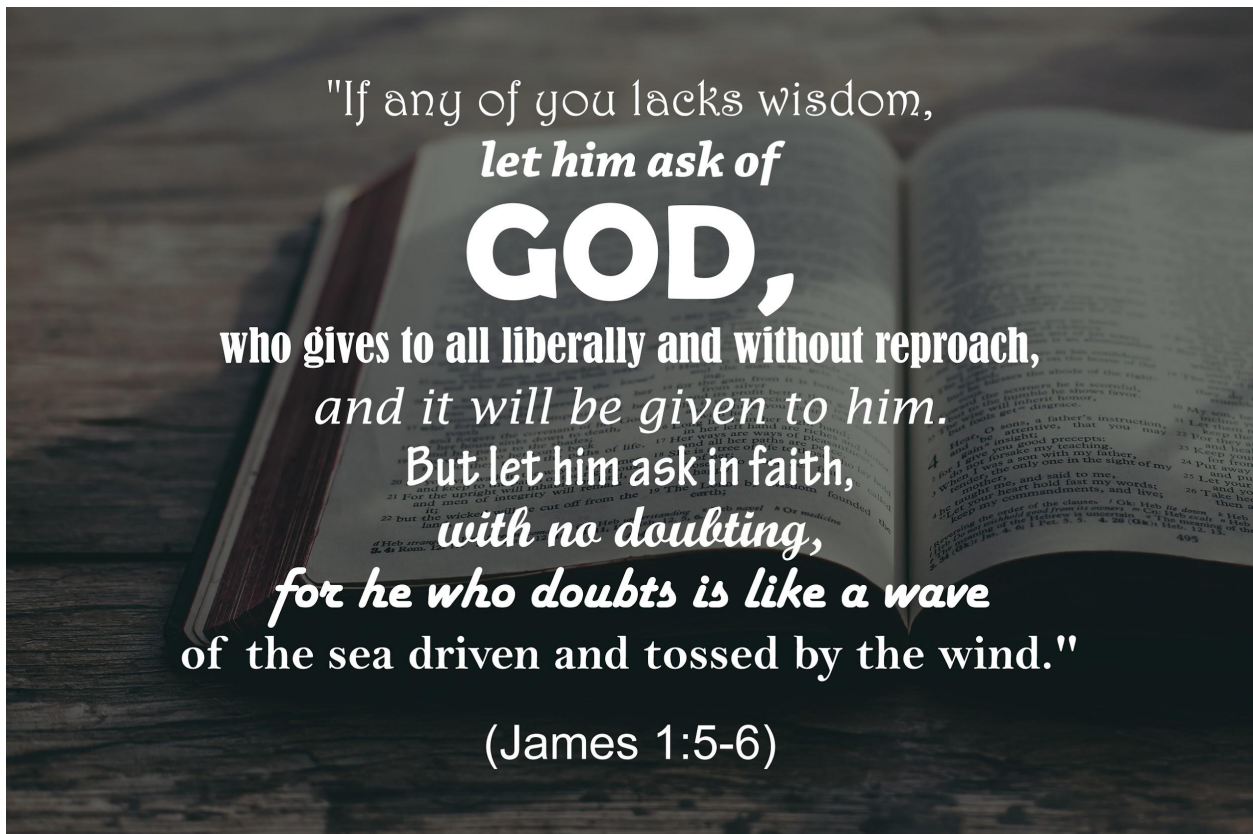


**My family were not huggers. I was loved, yes. But we talked and did things which stimulated our curiosity rather than our emotions. Speaking from my heart is hard.**

**My name is Bob Wade. I went to G.R.A.C.E Walk 88 at Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX where I sat at the Table of Mark. My wife and I worship and service at Pleasant Retreat in Tyler, TX. I am also currently serving in my 2nd year as a member of our Community's Board of Directors with the responsibilities of Music Coordinator at Walks and Gatherings.**

**Agape. I have no other words to describe what my Pilgrimage and Fourth Days have been. I am continually grateful for everyone's outpouring of it, and I pray that you will feel the same.**

**De Colores,  
Bob Wade**



"If any of you lacks wisdom,  
*let him ask of*  
**GOD,**  
who gives to all liberally and without reproach,  
*and it will be given to him.*  
But let him ask in faith,  
*with no doubting,*  
*for he who doubts is like a wave*  
of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."  
  
(James 1:5-6)

Hello,

My name is Ernest Rodriguez. I went on G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Walk #88 at beautiful Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX, sat at the table of Luke. My wife, Heather and I attend and serve at St. John's United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Tx.

At some point in your life, you will be lucky enough to meet some people who inspire you to be a better person. They will make you want to strive for things you've always dreamt of and help you realize what actually matters in your personal bubble of a world. Not only will they be role models, but also one of the best and most genuine people you have the privilege and pleasure of meeting. Lucky for me, I met these types of friends at my G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus walk. I would say that my fourth day has been a journey spreading the Love that was so eloquently poured on me during my 72 hours on my walk. Don't let me have you believing that it has been an easy journey. I have had my obstacles dealing with the dirty devil, but all in all, I have done my best to love on others as Jesus loves on us. Since I attended my walk, many doors have been opened for me to engage in God's work and spread His love. The love I experienced on the walk opened my eyes to how desperate I was and how desperate the world is for a love that can only be found in the embrace of Jesus. The Walk to Emmaus helped to open my heart and helped prepare me for receiving and getting a better understanding of God's amazing gracious love. I am a work in progress and I will continue to pray and ask God to open doors for me to help spread His love.

DeColores,

Ernest Rodriguez

# GRACE EMMANUS COMMUNITY

The G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community wishes to continue to spread the life changing experience that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Won't you help us by donating funds for scholarships for both Pilgrims and team members, or the general fund of our community? We are asking you to consider donating \$5, \$10, \$25 monthly or whatever amount you would like to set the donation to. This monthly donation will be debited automatically from your bank account on or about the 15th of the month. Thank you for your continued support of our Emmaus community.

De Colores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BANK INFORMATION**

I (We) hereby authorize GRACE Emmaus to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking in account indicated below. The amount will be charged monthly. This authority is to remain in full force and effect until GRACE Emmaus receives written notification of its termination.

Monthly gift amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Fill out information below or attach voided check**

Depository Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Transit/ABA #: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL INFORMATION TO:

Tyler Emmaus GRACE Community

P.O. Box 132212

Tyler, TX 75713-2212