

Our next central Gatherings will be at Candlelight on 3/7 and again on 3/14 at Disciple Crossing in Athens. I hope to see you there to support our new group of pilgrims.

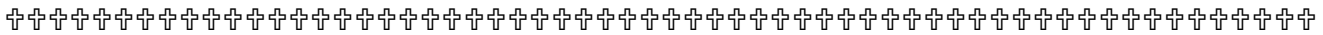
Lastly, I encourage you to sign up for monthly bank drafts to our Community. Our fee of \$150./ Walk no longer covers the cost of a Walk so we need donations to help us fund the Walks without increasing the fee (which will limit participation.). We're not asking for a lot of money, if everyone in the community gave \$3-5 each month we would most prosperous. Thanks for your consideration.

Thank you for your support of this community. All of us on the Board love representing you.

DeColores Ray Carden



(outgoing 2008 CLD, Teresa Elliott, presented with Walk scholarship in her name, by Ray Carden, 2009 Community Lay Director)



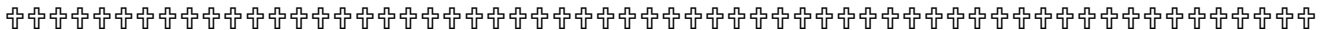
KAIROS UPDATE AND CHALLENGE

On April 23-26 forty men and women, all with Emmaus or equivalent backgrounds, will go to the Michael Unit of Texas Dept of Criminal Justice (a maximum security prison), outside Tennessee Colony, and share God's amazing love with 42 inmates from the unit. We will sing, pray, worship, learn, and eat together for three plus days. The only time we are separated is when they go back to their cells and we go to our sleeping quarters in Palestine. Prior to the weekend we will attend five training sessions to convert us from forty individuals into one team with a common goal, to share God in a special way with the men. To accomplish this we have to learn to leave "self" behind, and go in as a vessel of God's love and grace. If we will just get out of the way God will use us in an amazing way to reach out to the inmates, our "brothers in white".

So what can you do to help us? Be daring and join the team! We need you. I can promise you an experience like none you have ever known. Simply contact Jim Clark at 817-991-1928 or jimtclark@yahoo.com, or me to get an application form with all the details.

Not sure you want to do that? Then we covet your prayers, your homemade cookies, (call me at 903-245-9138 for the instructions on packaging, etc.), your Agape in the form of wall posters and place mats, and your money. Obviously we can't ask the inmates to pay the cost, so the team of forty has to raise the money for the weekend. Make your checks payable to KPML, note Michael # 34 on the memo and send to me at Box 367 Lindale, TX. 75771. Or perhaps you could let us come to your Church to do some fundraising. We have an excellent DVD with multiple presentations for this use. Again simply contact me at 903-245-9138 and we can arrange. Thanks for your consideration.

Ray Carden



Sponsorship Information – Part 2 of 2

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPONSOR

1. Spend concentrated time in prayer in an effort to discern whom God wants you to sponsor. The whole weekend experience leads pilgrims to desire a reordering of priorities, to understand and experience God's grace within a community of believers, and to be drawn into deeper discipleship by the Holy Spirit.
2. Meet with the potential pilgrim and share with them some of the aspects of the walk: This may be an appropriate point to address the issue of secrecy. One of the worst mistakes made by those of us who have attended the Emmaus Walk is to be too secretive about what happens on a Walk. The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus states "There is nothing secret about Emmaus." When your prospective pilgrim asks you a specific question, you should always give an honest and truthful answer. Chances are they aren't going to think to ask you about Candlelight or Dying Moments, but if they do, you should not try to deceive them. It would be better to tell them more than necessary than to be too secretive.
3. Tell your pilgrim about the format of the weekend:
 - There will be fifteen talks, group discussions, and time for fellowship. It's fine to tell them about the type of food served, communion, and the sleeping accommodations. They will be with people they don't know, but in a short time they'll become a close-knit community. This experience will demonstrate the love of God and b Christian fellowship. Hopefully, this will help to set their minds at ease.
 - Also tell them about Reunion Groups and how they can help to encourage them in further spiritual growth.
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4. After you have answered all questions, give your prospect an application. (Registration forms can be downloaded from this website). Be sure to explain the application. If you have a pamphlet or book on Emmaus, give this to your pilgrim.
5. It is the sponsor's responsibility to advise the registrar of any changes such as change of address, phone number or desire to attend the Walk.
6. Begin preparations to request the personal agape letters; approximately 12 LETTERS are needed. Please be sure to get letters from family, good friends, and clergy. Please mark the letters with "SPONSOR" or "S." If you have more than 12, give the extra to the pilgrim after closing. Just be sure the most important letters are in the initial 12 the pilgrim will be given on Sunday. If you do not have 12 letters, people working behind the scenes (who probably don't know your pilgrim) will have to make up the difference.
7. A few days before The Walk event, contact your pilgrim as a reminder about the upcoming Walk. Offer guidance about what to pack for the weekend. There are guidelines in the letters sent to each pilgrim.
8. Get your pilgrim to sendoff between 5:30-6:00 p.m., and assist with check in. Remain with your pilgrim through send-off, introducing him or her to others. Following send-off, the sponsor is to attend sponsor's hour. At this time you have the opportunity to pray for your pilgrim.
9. Spend as much time as possible in prayer for your pilgrim. Be a part of the 72-hour prayer vigil.
10. During the 72 hours check on your pilgrim's family to provide necessary assistance.
11. Attend the Saturday sponsor's hour and candlelight service and take any additional agape letters you have collected. Ensure they do not contain gifts. Any letters containing gifts will NOT be given to the pilgrim.
12. Be at closing.
13. Take your pilgrim to the Sponsorship Training. This is usually taught at the gathering following the walk.
14. Assist your pilgrim with joining a reunion group.
15. Get the new member to a gathering and introduce him/her to others in the Emmaus community.
16. Teach the new Emmaus member how to be a good sponsor and be sure he/she understands the responsibilities of good sponsorship.
17. Tell the pilgrim how to serve the Emmaus community in future Walks. If you are not sure, ask a board member.

Please remember that sponsorship can be wise or unwise. Unwise sponsorship results from unbridled enthusiasm. Sponsors with unbridled enthusiasm approach anybody and everybody with the admonition that "you need to go on The Walk." Wise sponsorship is careful, intentional, prayerful, and purposeful because it results from God's leading. Wisely sponsored pilgrims return to their churches and community renewed in the commitment to be effective disciples. THIS is the purpose of Emmaus.

May we always **sponsor with responsibility**, and do it with wisdom!

, Grace and Peace. DeColores, Dan Matthews



Please Pray for our Team members--Women's Walk #49

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------------------|-----|------------------|----------------------------|
| LD | Patti Jones | FUMC Athens | TL | Peggy Rhodes | Grace Community |
| ALD | Judy Hawn | FUMC Athens | TL | Sandy Collins | Golden UMC |
| ALD | Cindy Hooser | Green Acres Baptist, Tyler | TL | Becky Hanks | FUMC Athens |
| ALD | Kathy Kapka | Pollard Methodist, Tyler | TL | JoAnne Skeen | Grace Methodist, Palestine |
| BR | Laquita Showen | Fairwood Methodist, Tyler | TL | Teresa Elliott | Lanes Chapel Methodist |
| SD | Mike Cline | FUMC Troup | TL | Toyia Urbaniak | Beckville UMC |
| ASD | Kim Hagedorn | Beckville UMC | ATL | Mary Dale Skiles | First Baptist Athens |
| ASD | Jack Matkin | FUMC Athens | ATL | Kim Johnson | Home Fellowship |
| ASD | Bill Holda | | ATL | Alara Vega | Lanes Chapel Methodist |
| ASD | Bill Hauck | First Christian, Athens | ATL | Kathy Mecklin | Payne Springs Methodist |
| MD | Sue Cross | Pollard Methodist, Tyler | ATL | Berita Morse | FUMC Gilmer |
| AMD | P.A.M. Martin | Pollard Methodist, Tyler | ATL | Rae Parrish | FUMC Athens |
| AMD | Nan Haygood | Grace Methodist, Palestine | | | |

Dear Community,

We had our first two team meetings and so far God has spoken in amazing ways through the Talks. The team has bonded in worship and music. We have prayed together, played together, sung and eaten together. Just like family! Now all we need are Pilgrims to make the Walk complete. I believe that God has women that He is speaking to and they will hear His voice through our continued prayers.

Please join us in prayer for these upcoming Walks (#48 and #49). Don't forget to sign up for the Prayer Clock at www.3dayol.com. Thank you for your support and love.

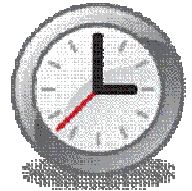
DeColores,
Patti Jones



Prayer Vigil for Walks #48 & #49

Prayer from the community is a vital and necessary part of The Walk to Emmaus. You may not be able serve on a team at this time. You may not be able to contribute agape. You may not be able to attend Candlelight or closing, but you *can and must* pray. The upcoming Walks must be “bathed” in the communities’ prayers. It is the “agape” we all can give no matter what our circumstances are during that 72 hour period. Won’t you go to www.gracemmaus.org and go to the center of the page and click “signup.” The Pilgrims of Walks #48 and #49 need you! Remember, “Christ is counting on you” to be a part of the 72 hour prayer vigil “team.” Won’t you sign up today!

De Colores!
Judy Hawn



Suggestion for Snack Table during Walks:

At our recent board training session it was pointed out to us that we should have healthier foods on the table: more fruit/veggies, raisins, nuts, and less candy. So if you plan to donate for our snack table (and we hope you do) please remember to keep it healthy. The objective is to fill the pilgrims with the Holy Spirit and not worthless calories and weight gain. Thanks for all you do.

2009

Gatherings

We will hold 4 quarterly gatherings centralized in Tyler on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community.

January 17th----- **FairWood UMC**, Sponsor’s Training @ 11:00, Pot Luck @ 12 noon & Worship @ 1:15 p.m.

April 18th----- **Lanes Chapel UMC**; Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.

August 15th----- **Pollard UMC**, Sponsor’s Training @ 11:00, Pot Luck @ 12 noon & Worship @ 1:15 p.m.

November 21st----- **GRACE COMMUNITY Church**, Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.;

[Be sure to check the web site (www.gracemmaus.org) for any updates to locations and dates.]

GRACEMMAUS GATHERING NEWS

St. Marks United Methodist Church Marshall, Texas will host the first locally produced Gathering of 2009. Pat Owens, pl00@hotmail.com, is coordinating this effort.

The Gathering is Thurs Feb. 12. Activities will begin at 6 PM with a meeting of local Emmaus members to discuss hosting additional Gatherings in the area. Worship will be at 7 PM followed by snacks. St Marks UMC in Marshall.

The Jan. 17 Gathering hosted by Fairwood United Methodist Church in Tyler was well attended. Lunch and worship was preceded by a one hour presentation on Sponsorship by Ray Carden, Community Lay Director. Our next **Sponsorship Training** will be at the August 15th Gathering at 11 am.

There are three centralized Gatherings remaining on the calendar for 2009 : April 18th Lanes Chapel UMC; August 15th Pollard UMC; Nov. 21st Grace Community Church

Each centralized Gathering will be on a Saturday beginning with training (Sponsor or Babe Chick) at 11am, pot luck lunch at 12 noon and worship at 1:15pm

Make sure and start marking your calendar. The community will have the opportunity to attend four walk candle light services Sat. Mar. 7; Sat Mar. 14; Sat. Oct. 10; and Sat. Oct. 17.

We are continuing to encourage other towns, reunion groups or churches to sponsor local Gatherings. Of course these Gathering would be open to all of the community. However, by holding them locally we hope to make it easier for GRACEmmaus members to attend a Gathering without excessive travel. The criteria for these Gatherings have appeared in the last two news letters. If you need an update on the criteria and /or you would like to explore hosting a Gathering, you may contact Burton Love.

Burtonlove@embarqmail.com 903-425-3864 or any of the other Emmaus Board members. If you need help with the planning, we may be able to assist..

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*Changing of the guard:
New and "old" board
members.....*

GRACE EMMAUS

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 donate \$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.
DeColores Mail back TO:

G.R.A.C.E.
P.O. Box 132212
Tyler TX.
75713-2212

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 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 # _____