

# Grace for Today

## G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter

March/April 2023

### Coming Events

#### Saturday Apr 22, Gathering

**Carroll Springs Community Church, Carroll Springs** Noon Potluck, Worship immediately following

#### Saturday, May 13, Workday Camp Gilmont

Meet at 8:00am, lunch about noon, Worship immediately following

#### Fall Men's Walk #102

#### Thurs Sept 21 thru Sun Sept 24

Camp Gilmont, Gilmer  
Sat, 7:30pm, Gathering & Candlelight

#### Fall Women's Walk 103

#### Thurs Sept 28 thru Sun Oct 1

Camp Gilmont, Gilmer  
Sat, 7:30, Gathering & Candlelight



### Inside this Issue

- 2: Community Lay Director's Corner
- 2: Stay Connected
- 3: Walks 100 & 101 New Community Members
- 4: Distracted?
- 5: What an exciting time!
- 6-7: God is able!
- 8: Agape
- 8: Send Newsletter Articles
- 9: DeColores everyone!
- 10: Board Members
- 11: Support for Our Community

Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:

[www.graceemmaus.com](http://www.graceemmaus.com)



## Community Lay Director's Corner

Hi Community!

Walks #100 and #101 were awesome! I'm happy to report we now have 51 new members in our Grace Emmaus Community! I would like to thank John Crow and Deborah Armstrong, along with the servants of those walks and all of you for answering God's call to make the walks so beautiful and successful. To the new 4<sup>th</sup> Dayers: It was no accident you attended these walks and we are blessed to welcome you to the Grace Community. We had a wonderful gathering in March at Crossroads in Canton, and the Babe Chick and Sponsorship trainings were well attended. Thank you to Bob Wade and Diane Smith for facilitating the trainings. I understand they were very thorough and well received. And you know I loved all the food and the music at the gathering! God always provides just enough!

Now our focus needs to turn to our upcoming fall walks. Thank you to everyone who has submitted an application to serve. Team selection is the end of April, so there is still time to get your applications in. New 4<sup>th</sup> Dayers: You are invited to apply to serve

on these walks. The applications are online in the Grace Emmaus website ([www.graceemmaus.com](http://www.graceemmaus.com)) and are easy to complete and submit. The men's walk is September 21-24 and the women's walk is September 28 – October 1 at the beautiful Camp Gilmont. Ken Sides and Charlene Burton will be our walk lay directors. Now is the time to sign up to work these walks. Start thinking and praying about who to sponsor as pilgrims. Let's share the blessings our Lord has in store for these new pilgrims this fall.

As we move into Spring and Summer, I would like to thank all of our board members and the Grace Emmaus Community for all the support and help you have given to sustain and support this community. Other communities failed through the Pandemic, but despite all the problems in our world, God is still in control and the Holy Spirit is alive and working through your hands and feet in our community. God Bless you all.

De Colores!  
Chad Bearden,  
Community Lay Director



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

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



**Please welcome the newest Members of GRACE Emmaus Community:**

**Walk #100**

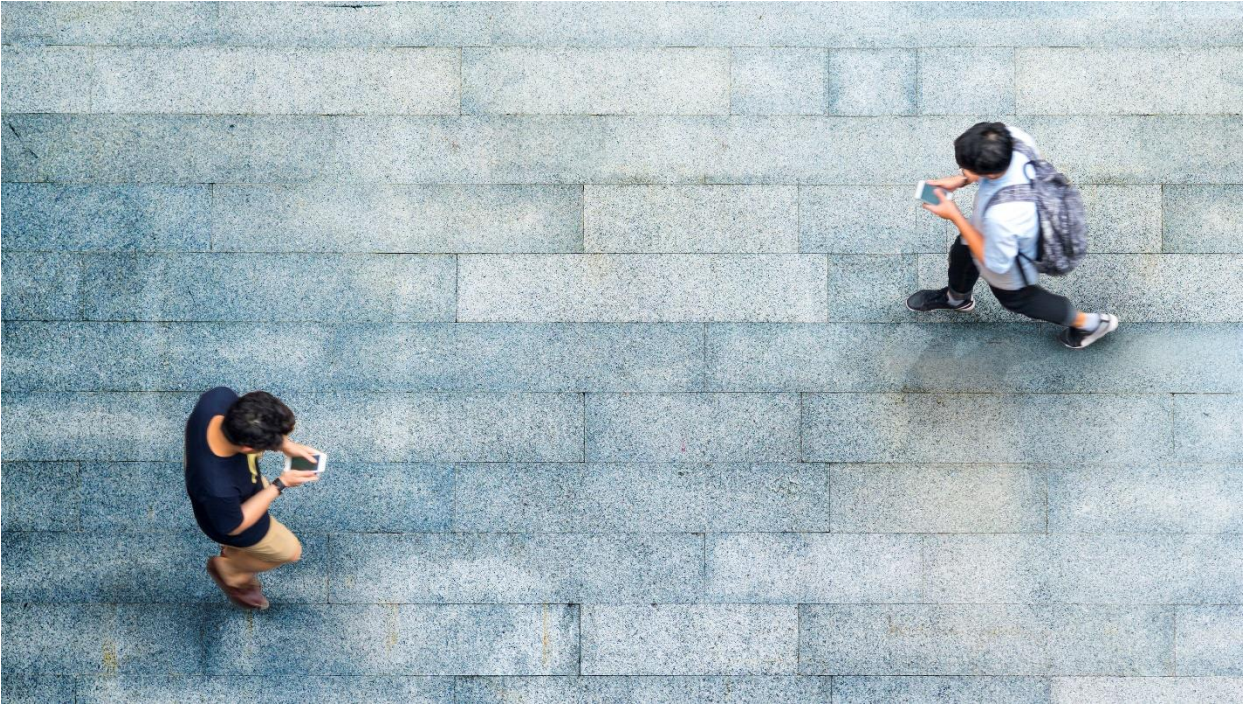
Tom Anthematten  
Terry Archer  
Josh Bailey  
John Braun  
Johnny Bynum  
Sean Cauley  
Sean Clare  
Douglas Denmark  
Mark Frankie  
Brandon Garrison  
George Gonzalez  
Robert Hill  
Kenneth Kines  
Ken Martin  
Tim Miller  
Jeff Modawell  
Greg Peeler  
Landon Peeler  
Thomas Peeler  
Stephen Smith  
Ryan Soward  
Cole Sullivan  
Gary Tholen  
Joe Wallace  
Dennis Wheeler  
James Wood

**Walk #101**

Sandy Archer  
Penny Brooks  
Kat Browning  
April Clare  
Sherry Deaton  
Amber Denmark  
Phyllis Edwards  
Jackie Foster  
Karen Goforth  
Edilma Gonzalez  
Wendi Gowan  
Balie Hendrickson  
Megan Martinez  
Donna McCord  
Teri McMichael  
Gayle Miller  
Kaye Morris  
Ashlie Najera  
Selena Purser  
Marcie Ramm  
Kathy Sanders  
Courtney Sullivan  
Rachelle Tennyson  
Brenda Terrell  
Jeanne Yarbrough



## ***DISTRACTED??***



Do you ever feel so distracted that you can not hear God speaking to you? I think we all do. I recently read a devotional based on the scripture when God called Samuel. (1 Samuel 3:10) *A voice hailed me as I emerged from the dentist office. We exchanged greetings and suddenly I heard birds singing. My friend reached into her pocket and pulled out her phone. The singing stopped as she proceeded to read her text. I asked her if the family was OK. She nodded as her fingers flew over the keypad. After a few minutes I gave up trying to regain her attention and said goodbye. As I crossed the street she was still texting. I suddenly thought, “**is that how we are with God:**”?* How many times are we interrupted during our quiet times with Him. The phone or doorbell rings, you remember something you need to add to your to-do list. It’s all too easy to become distracted. I’m encouraged when I remember that although our attention sometimes slips from God, God’s focus on us never wavers. Thank God we are always on His mind.

Carolyn McCain, Secretary

G.R.A.C.E. Board

## **What an Exciting Time!!**



It is the Best of Times.

It is the Worst of Times.

What an exciting time to be a participant of the Emmaus Experience through your G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Walk! We are so blessed to have an active community, filled with love for one another, wonderful worship, fantastic fellowship, grateful Gatherings, resplendent Reunion Groups, community correspondence through our website and Facebook pages, active applicants to work future Walks and even more. Our community activities are a model for others to follow. Our fellow Fourth Dayers volunteer their churches for Gatherings and Training sessions, making it possible to spread our activities around our geographical area. Blessed are we to have two trailers to transport all the equipment and supplies necessary to conduct Walks. It truly is the Best of Times.

With all the blessings and activities there are hidden costs that most never consider. The sad truth is we are in inflationary times. If you have bought

anything in recent months, you know how prices are rising. Our costs, like yours, are rising on all things.

Background costs you may not have considered include things such as: liability insurance, trailer insurance, website domain and maintenance, our CCLI (music) license, expendables used to conduct the walks and our cost of lodging and meals at each walk. Financially, it is the worst of times.

Your Board of Directors is addressing these issues and working on solutions to address our financial needs. It will be a hard decision, but our Walk Fees are under review and may be raised to accommodate our increased costs.

You can help keep our costs down by getting involved in monthly contributions to the G.R.A.C.E.

Community. I invite you to give prayerful consideration to committing to a monthly contribution through an automatic contribution via an ACH deduction from your account.

Whatever amount you might be able to give monthly, whether it be \$5.00 or \$100.00, will go to keeping our community strong and vibrant.

The last page of this newsletter has the ACH information. Contributions are deducted on the 1st of the month and may be terminated upon request.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to our community.

DeColores!

Rick Rundquist  
Community Treasurer



## **GOD IS ABLE!**



**A couple years ago I was out of State traveling with my sister. I was driving and a car passed us. They were in a hurry. It wasn't long before a squirrel attempted to cross the road and was hit by the car that passed us.**

**Immediately my sister pleads, "Stop! Stop! Stop the car!" I'm sure the look on my face was horrific. Seriously, we are going to stop for a squirrel!? This happens all the time. Why are we stopping and what can we possibly do about it? Those were just a few of my thoughts.**

**So, I stop and turn around. I drive her back to the scene with the squirrel lying in the**

**middle of the road. Now I am parked on the shoulder with my flashers on, in the middle of nowhere, and she is in the middle of the road with the squirrel.**

**I'm watching all of this in my rear-view mirror, thoughts running through my head as she tends to this squirrel. You have to know my sister. I am compassionate. She is overly compassionate. Think compassion on steroids. This is the only reason I stopped the car.**

**She is now walking toward the car with this squirrel in her hands. She opens the door and all I can say is, "That squirrel is NOT GETTING IN THIS CAR!" I say this as adamantly as she had pleaded for me to stop the car.**

**We are in the middle of nowhere with no place open on Sunday to take this squirrel. And we are...  
...OUT OF TOWN; IN ANOTHER STATE. She retreats with the squirrel.**

**I am thinking and probably saying aloud, "Please die squirrel. Oh, please Lord, let this squirrel die." She uses her cell service to see if there are any alternatives. Finding none, she places the squirrel off the road, in the shade.**

**As she makes her way back to the car, crying, she says we need to flag someone down and ask if they have a gun to shoot the squirrel so it will not continue to suffer. It occurs to me that I have a handgun in the glove box. I'm licensed. But I'm not sure I can shoot the squirrel. She says she cannot. I realize we are not leaving this squirrel until it is taken care of.**

**I have watched all this in my rear-view mirror, from the comfort of the driver's seat, having never left the car. As we sit there, contemplating our next move, I see someone in the rear-view mirror walking down the road... (continued on next page)**

**toward us, and I say to my sister, “Maybe this guy coming down the road can shoot the squirrel.” She says, “What guy?”**

**She gets out of the car holding the handgun wrapped in a towel. Now I leave the car. As I follow her, she begins telling this young man, who looks 12 to me, the story of the squirrel. She asks if he will shoot it so it won't suffer. As she begins to hand the gun over to him, I take it and ask him how old he is. I'm wondering if he will shoot us and not the squirrel. But I also don't want to put a gun in the hand of a minor. He responds, “I'll be 20 soon.” I realize if she cannot shoot the squirrel, and he won't shoot the squirrel, I am going to have to shoot the squirrel so we can get out of here.**

**I'm holding the gun. She takes the young man to the squirrel. He immediately begins checking its spine with two fingers like he**

**knows what he's doing. He says, “I think the squirrel can make it. I'll take it home with me.”**

**Wait!! What? What just happened? Manna!! What is it? Have we found, in the middle of nowhere, someone as compassionate as my sister?**

**And where did he come from? We had passed no one walking on the road only a moment before. We thank him profusely and watch him turn and begin his walk in the direction he came from. And it occurs to me...The disciples had chosen to walk by sight; but Jesus, walking by faith, saw what they had missed—He saw the makings of a miracle.**

**The disciples were able to produce “only five loaves and two fish,” which a young “lad” in the crowd had brought with him. However, the word**

**only is not in Jesus's vocabulary.**

**I had “only” wanted the squirrel to die. Jesus sees what I missed. He uses this miracle to remind me. I must think bigger. I must walk by faith first.**

**We will never partner with Jesus in a miracle if we see only what is in our hands. We must set our gaze on heaven's power and remind ourselves that there is a God who does, indeed, intervene in the affairs of human beings. There is a God who is more than enough in any of our life situations. There is a God and He is able!**

**Have a great day!  
Blessings, Liz Webb.**





The Fall Walks will be here before we know it, and your Reunion Groups hold a vital part in the role of Agape. Giving is the nature of God's love. Agape received during a Pilgrim's Walk to Emmaus experience has a ripple effect. As pilgrims reflect on being showered with nonstop agape

in all its forms, many recognize the love of Christ in ways they have never imagined before. The hope is that they will return to their church and communities ready to share God's unconditional love with others. Thank you for making tangible signs of Agape through small gifts to be given to the Pilgrims throughout the weekend. Please bring them to the Gatherings between now and September or contact Deb Miller (debikmiller54@gmail.com) to make arrangements to drop them off.



**How about a sweet new way to get your story into the GRACE NEWSLETTER? Send your article to: [gracenewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:gracenewsletter@yahoo.com)**





### *DeColores everyone!*

Just wanted to take a moment to welcome all our new 4<sup>th</sup> dayers from Walks 100/101! I was blessed to be able to serve on both of these walks and it was such a powerful pair of walks! There were so many times where God was plainly at work in the hearts of the pilgrims and others that were present. Candlelight and the Closing were truly inspirational. The Emmaus Community was certainly supportive of these events and I know each and every attendee was appreciated. We have already had the 1<sup>st</sup> gathering for the new 4<sup>th</sup> dayers and it was well attended by the community and a large group of our newest 4<sup>th</sup> dayers. I loved hearing them each get to respond to “the questions” after having some time to contemplate the weekend further. If you missed out on this celebration, the next gathering will be here soon.

Saturday, April 22 - [Carroll Springs Community Church, Carroll Springs](#)-- potluck lunch at noon, service follows immediately after.

Hope you can attend this next event.

After my walk, I started serving on many of the walks in various positions. This is a wonderful opportunity to give new pilgrims a chance at receiving the love and grace we received on our walks. It also aids in continuing building great relationships with each other and keeping your motor revved up so you can share your energy with your local church. We will be making team

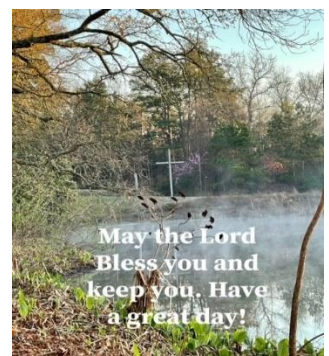
selections for the fall walks in the next 2-3 weeks so go to the

<https://www.graceemmaus.com/>

website and fill out an application to be a part of the Emmaus team.

*Blessings to all,*

*Brad Burton*





The Emmaus talks heard on Sunday at our walk prepare us for returning to the world from the protected and cloistered environment of Emmaus. The talk on fourth day sets us up for a lifetime of commitment and service. Commit to yourself to explore the fourth day reunion groups near you. Remember that Reunion groups are a way of preserving your walk with Christ. Keep the following points in mind:

**Be Serious** – You are dealing with things eternal. There is always time for levity but the focus should be on the condition of your walk with Christ.

**Be Discreet** – Openness and honesty must be respected. The discussions of the group stays in the group. Your reunion group must not be a source of gossip.

**Be Sincere** – You must be completely open and honest with your group. If that is not possible, you may be in the wrong group.

**Be Regular** – This can be tough but regular attendance will develop into a habit that can become a major influence facing problems and staying on course. Again, it requires perseverance to grow and find nourishment.

- Begin your time together by calling on the Holy Spirit and invoking His power.
- Review your service sheet – Take time to reflect on each of the three supports of a life in grace.
- Piety – Share your closet moment with Christ and how He is working in your life.
- Study – Keep each other accountable in growth by learning more about this life in grace and His abundant love.
- Action – How have we responded to God's call to action and submitted to being an instrument for Him to someone else?
- Closest to Christ – At what moment this past week did you feel closest to Christ?
- Call to Discipleship – At what moment during this week did you feel you were responding to God's call to be His disciple? Where did you participate in being the Church this week, the heartbeat of Christ?
- Discipleship Denied – When was your faith tested this week through failure?
- Your Plan – What is your plan for spirituality, study and action for the week to come?
- Reunion Group Activities.
- Close with a Prayer of Thanksgiving.

If you need help finding a reunion group in your area, there is a list on the Grace Emmaus website.

*DeColores,  
Lindale Seekers*

# GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2023

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## **Committees**

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## **SUPPORT FOR THE GRACE EMMAUS 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:**

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**P.O. Box 132212**

**Tyler, TX 75713-2212**