

# Grace for Today

## G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter January 2025

### Coming Events

#### Saturday, January 18, Gathering

Grace UMC, Palestine - Potluck noon,  
Worship immediately after

#### Saturday, February 15, Gathering

1<sup>st</sup> Methodist, Athens - Potluck noon,  
Worship immediately after

#### Spring Walks:

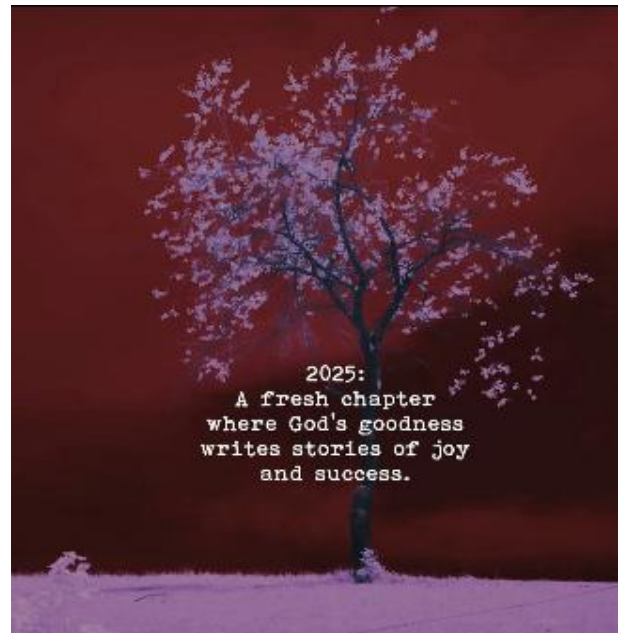
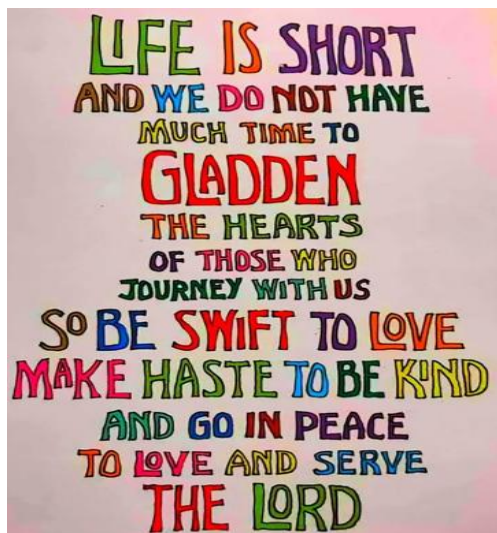
Men's Walk #108, March 6 – 9

Women's Walk #109, March 13 - 16

#### Team selection is complete, and preparations have started for our Spring

Walks! Please prayerfully consider  
sponsoring a Pilgrim! If you know someone  
start asking them now!

See page 3 for ways you can help before  
and during the Walks.



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

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

## Community Lay Director's Corner

2025 is here, and it's going to be the "best year ever"!

My name is Sandra Grasch, and I have the pleasure of being the GRACE Emmaus Community Lay Director this year. While John Webb has left me with very big shoes to fill, I know God will equip me for this task that He has called me to.

I went on GRACE Emmaus Walk #49 at Disciples Crossing, I sat at the Table of Ruth, and I worship and serve at Athen's First Methodist Church. I served this past year as the Assistant Community Lay Director, and the previous year I was in charge of the Prayer Vigil and Agape letters. I was the Lay Director for Walk 105 last Spring.

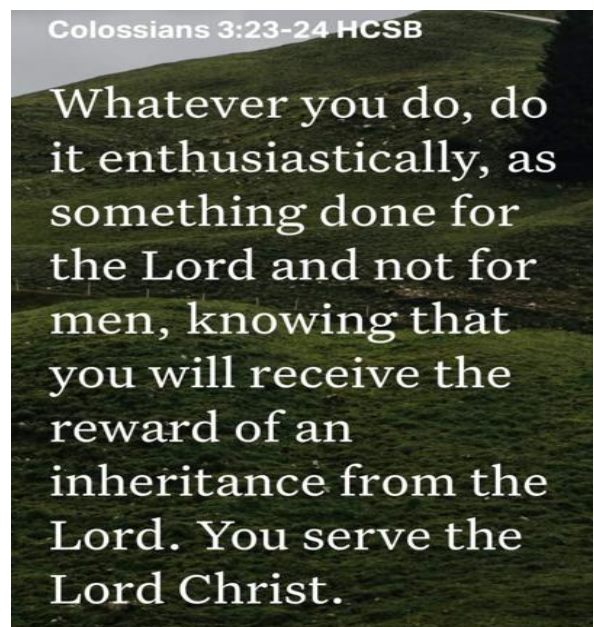
Just like the many things that go on behind the scenes on the Walks, there are also many things going on behind the scenes for the community. Without the many volunteers serving this community, we would not be able to bring hundreds of pilgrims closer to Christ each year. I would like to say thank you to those who served us tirelessly over the last 3 years - Chad Bearden, Dennis Gage, and Carolyn McCain. Also, John Webb, who led our community with grace, and who will now act as the Ex Officio Lay Director. Thank you to Bob Holloway, Tim Thompson and Nancy Edwards who stepped in to fill the positions of someone who couldn't complete their 3-year term this past year. Thank you to Debbie Hays, Jim Pickens, Betty Buchanan, Brian Jones, Brad Burton, Tim Thompson, Nancy Edwards,

Douglas Denmark, Martha Walker, Kevin Abney, and Ken Sides for returning to serve on our board, and to our newest board members Richard Luna, Wynn Harle, Richard Smith, Mike Payne, and Kim Brooks. We also have several non-voting board members who hold important positions in our community, like Charlene Burton, Brett Walker, Jay Edwards, and Brian Walker.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

My prayer this year for this community is that more of you will get involved in leadership positions, more pilgrims will be sponsored on Walks, and that we will all grow closer to God and to each other. As we grow and serve within our Emmaus family, we will be better equipped to serve in our churches and communities. I look forward to serving alongside you over this next year.

Sandra Grasch  
Community Lay Director



## [Begin Preparing for Our Spring Walks](#)

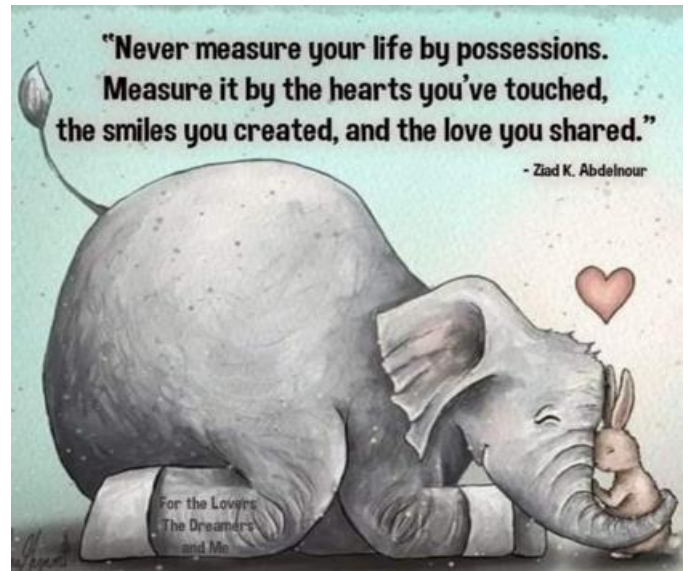
- **[Pray, Pray, Pray for our Spring Walks!](#)**

Disciples Crossing Camp, Athens

Men's Walk #108, March 6 – 9

Women's Walk #109, March 13 – 16

- **[Sponsor a Pilgrim!](#)** Do you know someone you would like to share this amazing experience with? Prayerfully consider asking them to attend a walk. Pilgrim information is found on our website [www.GRACEEmmaus.com](http://www.GRACEEmmaus.com) -> Applications tab -> Pilgrim Application.



- **[Start making agape gifts for men and women!](#)** Recommended number of identical pieces of agape for each Walk (you can add the name of your Reunion Group and city to the Agape, but please do not put the name of your church):
  - Agape for Everyone – 72
  - Dining Room Agape – 64
  - Bed Agape – 36Feel free to make as many sets as you would like! It's not too early to start! We will also need lanyards for nametags and crosses, and decorated place mats. Contact Nancy Edwards ([ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com)) for more information.
- **[Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for one or both Walks?](#)** Contact one of the Walk Lay Directors, Ken Dueterhoft ([kwdues@gmail.com](mailto:kwdues@gmail.com)) or Kathy Pruitt ([kathy.pruitt74@yahoo.com](mailto:kathy.pruitt74@yahoo.com)) if you can help.
- **[Consider being a server for the Agape Dinner on Saturday evening of each Walk.](#)** Women will serve for the Men's Walk on Saturday evening. Men will serve for the Women's Walk on Saturday evening. All you need are black pants, a white shirt, and a willing heart! Contact Nancy Edwards ([ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com)) for more information.
- **[Can you help with snacks and drinks for both Walks?](#)** We can use all drinks from bottled water to cans and bottles of soft drinks and tea, along with plenty of snack food! Individually wrapped goodies are best.

## **Welcome Our New Board Members who will serve 2025-2027**

Our Board of Directors consists of 15 members, who serve 3-year terms, with 5 members rotating off the Board every year.

Listed below are the new Community Members who will be serving on the Board of Directors for the 2025-2027 term.

### ***Kim Brooks***



Kim Brooks, attended GRACE Emmaus Walk 75 at Camp Gilmont, sat at the table of Naomi, and worships and serves at Grace Fellowship in Marshall. She has participated in multiple Walks, serving as Assistant Table Leader and Table Leader. She loves the excitement and joy of providing pilgrims with a unique experience on THEIR Walk to Emmaus, and says It makes her heart smile, to see such wonderful transformations of beautiful women. Kim is honored to serve on the Board and give back to the Community that has given her so much.

### ***Wynn Harle***



Wynn Harle attended Dallas Emmaus Community Walk #250 at Mt. Lebanon in November 2013, sat at the table of Mary, and worships and serves at First Methodist Church in Mineola. As a 4<sup>th</sup> Dayer, Wynn has served in almost all laity positions on the Walk teams and on the Board. She shares that the Walk to Emmaus has enriched her faith, given her numerous opportunities to serve selflessly, and helped her to prioritize church participation in her life. She is honored to have another term on G.R.A.C.E.'s board.



## ***Mike Payne***



Mike Payne went on GRACE Emmaus Walk 94 at Camp Gilmont and sat at the Table of John. He and his wife worship and serve at Henry's Chapel Methodist Church in Troup. He has served several Walks as an Assistant Table Leader and on the Outside Team. Mike shares that his Walk strengthened his relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and has given him a greater desire to serve the Lord in any capacity. He believes that being on the Board will allow him to contribute in a meaningful way.

## ***Richard Smith***



Richard Smith attended Houston Emmaus Walk 116 in 1995 and sat at the table of Ezekiel. He and his wife worship at ChristPoint Methodist Church in Lindale. Richard has worked numerous Walks and Kairos events in Emmaus Communities in Houston and Round Rock before settling in East Texas. He shares that Emmaus has been his grounding point with God, and his greatest satisfaction at this stage of life is giving back to Christians what he has received from this program. He considers it a privilege to serve on the board.

## ***Tim Thompson***



Tim Thompson went on Grace Emmaus Walk #98 at Camp Gilmont and sat at the Table of John. He and his wife worship and serve at Grace Bible Fellowship in Canton. Tim has served as an ATL and on the Chapel Team on Walks and truly believes that we are the hands and feet of Christ. He feels that serving on the Board will help him grow in his relationship with the Lord, and he will give as much of himself as possible to his position.

## *The Teams have been chosen for our Spring Walks!*

### Men's Walk 109

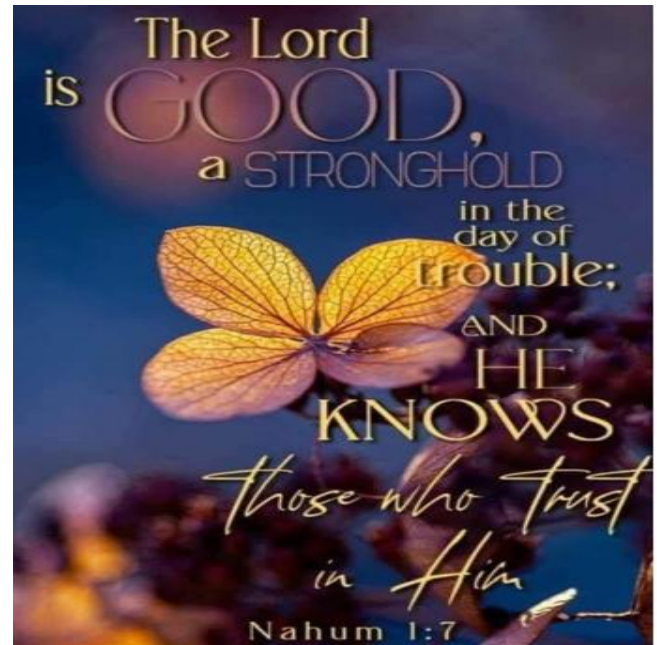
LD	Ken Duesterhoft
ALD	Brian Arledge
ALD	C. J. Cox
ALD	Brian Jones
SD	Mike Fraley
ASD	Richard Luna
ASD	Chris Harrison
ASD	Chad Beardon
ASD	Mike Johnston
BR	James Buchanan
AV	Brian Walker
MU-L	Mac Walling
MU	Loren Lykins
TL	Brad Burton
TL	Richard Smith
TL	Johhny Bynum
TL	Brian Jones
TL	Douglas Denmark
TL	Mike Payne
ATL	Allen Bridges
ATL	Bill Clem
ATL	Jerry Fowler
ATL	Larry Rosemond
ATL	Gary Dievendorf
ATL	Zachary Barnhart



CH-L	Brett Walker
CH	Thomas Paine
CH	Brian Brooks
OT-L	Chuck Reed
OT	Blake Burton
OT	Paul Breedlove
OT	Eugene Johnson
OT	Todd Morgan
OT	Robert Bailey
OT	Bob Wade
OT	Martha Walker
OT	Alicemae LaPlante
OT	Jay Edwards
OT	Nancy Edwards
OT	Gary Mount

## Women's Walk 109

LD	Kathy Pruitt
ALD	Rhonda Gorrell
ALD	Pam McAdams
ALD	Kim Brooks
SD	Dan Vickers
ASD	Richard Luna
ASD	Jim Pickens
ASD	Kara Mitchell
ASD	Deborah Wade
BR	Wynne Harle
AV	Karol Johnston
MU-L	Jerri Lykins
MU	Abby Haskill
MU	Babbie Carroll
MU	Sherry Daniel
TL	Sam Luwizhi
TL	Donna Sustaire
TL	Cam Ray
TL	Kim Hart
TL	Alicia Bynum
TL	Tabitha Morgan
ATL	Bonnie Fowler
ATL	Crystal Taylor
ATL	Danielle Marsh
ATL	Jessica Spradley
ATL	Anita Duesterhoft
ATL	Danielle Vickers



CH-L	Charlene Burton
CH	Tori Beekman
CH	Rachel Brohaugh
CH	Rhidonia Clems
CH	Amber Denmark
OT-L	Jade Hawkins
OT	Nancy Edwards
OT	Tammy Martin
OT	Alice LaPlante
OT	Laura Grigsby
OT	Mike Johnston
OT	Amanda Brewer
OT	Debbie Hayes
OT	Tammy Jo Mason
OT	Sarah Braswell
OT	Martha Walker

## [How to discern what God wants you to do with your life](#)

Discerning our purpose through the seasons of life can be one of the most challenging tasks that we face.

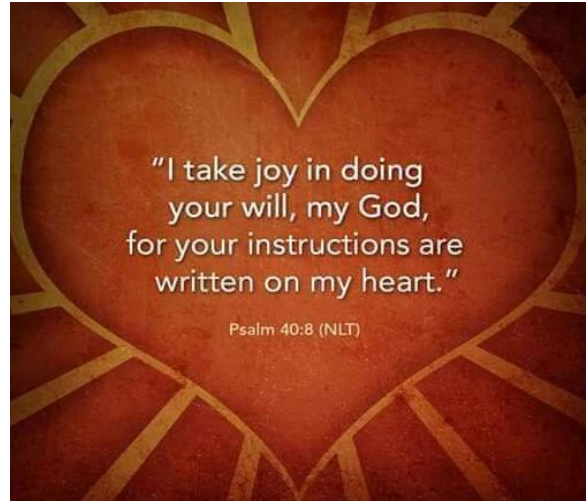
But the good news is God has a purpose for each of us.

Practice the following to help discern your own purpose:

1. Engage in different activities, ones that make a difference in your life and in others' lives, until you discover the one that makes you come alive. This process leads to understanding what truly brings you joy.
2. When in doubt, pray. Prayer provides insight and clarity on what your heart yearns for and the ways you can help others. Prayer opens the way.
3. No matter whether your circumstances are good or bad, continue to search for your purpose. Be assured, knowing many people have found their purpose in times of personal hardship and tragedy.
4. Listen to your heart. When you feel passionate about something and are willing to work hard, you are capable of anything.

We must be prayerful and relentless in our pursuit to discover and live out our purpose in life. The journey is different for everyone, but all of us can make a difference in our own way.

*Lord, I know that you have a purpose for my life. Help me discern what it is and live it out.*





# GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2025

## **Lay Director**

Sandra Grasch  
[grasch3@gmail.com](mailto:grasch3@gmail.com)  
903-286-3331

## **Assistant Lay Director**

Debbie Hays  
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903-452-5331

## **Ex Officio Lay Director**

John Webb  
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903-714-6346

## **Spiritual Director**

Jim Pickens  
[Jpickens316@msn.com](mailto:Jpickens316@msn.com)  
214-476-5558

## **Assistant Spiritual Director**

Richrd Luna  
[richard@pollardumc.com](mailto:richard@pollardumc.com)  
903-787-0585

## **Secretary**

Wynn Harle  
[cowboycentral@suddenlink.net](mailto:cowboycentral@suddenlink.net)  
903-245-2701

## **Treasurer**

Betty Buchanan  
[Jimbet85@gmail.com](mailto:Jimbet85@gmail.com)  
903-930-2678

## Committees

### **Agape (Banquet)**

Nancy Edwards  
[ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com)  
903-987-3110

### **Babe Chick Training**

Richard Smith  
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512-940-7553

### **Book Table**

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### **Community Trailer**

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### **Gathering Coordinator**

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### **Music Coordinator/Trailer**

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### **Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape**

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903-658-3637

### **Publications Coordinator**

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512-940-7553

### **Reunion Groups**

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### **Sponsorship Training**

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903-780-2768

## NON-VOTING

### **Registrar**

Charlene Burton  
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### **Walk Crosses**

Elizabeth Minor  
[mnm-design@msn.com](mailto:mnm-design@msn.com)

### **Dove Name Tags**

Jay Edwards  
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### **Community Trainer**

Brett Walker  
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### **Webmaster**

Brian Walker  
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903-563-2131

### **Ministry Manager Data Administrator**

Martha Walker  
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903-235-0158

## **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:**

**Tyler Emmaus GRACE Community**

**P.O. Box 132212**

**Tyler, TX 75713-2212**