

# Grace for Today

## G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter June 2024

### Coming Events

Sat, Jun 15, Gathering, Carrol Springs Community Church - Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

Sat, Jul 20, Gathering, Winona Methodist Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

Sat, August 17 - Bar None Cowboy Church, Tatum - Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

### Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer

Men's Walk #106, September 26-29, 2024  
Women's Walk #107, October 3-6, 2024



### Inside this Issue

- 2: Community Lay Director's Corner
- 3: The Teams Have Been Chosen!
- 4: How to help with the Fall Walks
- 5: Howdy Pilgrim! Men's Walk #106
- 6: How Great Is Our God! Women's Walk #107
- 7: God's Continued Blessings Through Agape Love
- 8: Serving Is Good For Your Soul
- 9: God Matters Most
- 10: Praise The Lord
- 11: The Gift of Rest
- 12: 2024 GRACE Emmaus Board of Directors
- 13: Support for GRACE Emmaus Community

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

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

## **Community Lay Director's Corner**

It's June...

The new year feels like yesterday and suddenly we are in the month of June, the gateway to summer! Praise God!

I would like to give a "shout" out to all of those who came to our annual workday and Gathering at Camp Gilmont on Saturday, May 11. It is amazing to see how God's people can work together utilizing different skills to accomplish worthwhile projects and make a difference. We were blessed to have Pastor Chad Bearden lead the devotion and worship service. WOW, what a message!

Team Selection has been completed for Walk's #106 and #107. Extensive work is underway by Walk Lay Director's Rick Rundquist and Liz Webb to coordinate and plan Team Training.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our June 15th Gathering at Carrol Springs Community Church in Athens at noon. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck luncheon and bring a friend. Worship service will follow lunch.

DeColores  
John Webb  
Community Lay Director

Let your light shine!

**For a better  
morning, talk with  
God first. For a  
better night, talk  
with God last. For a  
better life, talk with  
God all day.**

## **The Teams Have Been Chosen! Pray for our Teams!**

### **Men's Walk #106**

Lay Director	Rick Rundquist
Assist Lay Dir	Todd Morgan
Assist Lay Dir	CJ Cox
Assist Lay Dir	Joe Rhoades
Spiritual Dir	Joe Hall
Assist Spiritual Dir	John Epps
Assist Spiritual Dir	Mike Johnston
Assist Spiritual Dir	Ricky Ricks
Assist Spiritual Dir	Jeff Dotson
Board Rep	Brett Walker
Audiovisual	Brian Walker
Music Team Leader	John Crow
Music Team	Mack Walling
Music Team	John Berry
Table Leader	Brian Jones
Table Leader	Brian Arledge
Table Leader	Mike Payne
Table Leader	Brad Burton
Table Leader	Rich Smith
Table Leader	Kevin Abney
Assist Table Leader	Brad Sustaire
Assist Table Leader	Daniel McMichael
Assist Table Leader	Johnny Bynum
Assist Table Leader	Stephen Smith
Assist Table Leader	Caleb White
Assist Table Leader	James Cox
Chapel Team Leader	Jim Buchanan
Chapel Team	Dale Jamerson
Chapel Team	Colton Hawkins
Chapel Team	Bill Clem
Chapel Team	Paul Breedlove
Outside Team Leader	Chuck Reed
Outside Team	Martha Walker
Outside Team	Pat Thompson
Outside Team	Bobby Miller
Outside Team	Terry Archer
Outside Team	Regina Shafer
Outside Team	Jayde Deshotel
Outside Team	Nancy Edwards
Outside Team	Jay Edwards
Outside Team	Candy Maroney
Outside Team	Gil Maroney
Outside Team	Garry Mount
Outside Team	Cathy Mount

### **Women's Walk #107**

Lay Director	Liz Webb
Assist Lay Dir	Kathy Pruitt
Assist Lay Dir	Patsy Pyland
Assist Lay Dir	Donna Sustaire
Spiritual Dir	Chris Harrison
Assist Spiritual Dir	Chad Bearden
Assist Spiritual Dir	Nicole Duncan
Assist Spiritual Dir	Richard Luna
Assist Spiritual Dir	To be determined
Board Rep	Charlene Burton
Audiovisual	Karol Johnston
Music Team Leader	Amy Morris
Music Team	James Cooley
Music Team	John Crow
Table Leader	Kim Brooks
Table Leader	Alicia Bynum
Table Leader	Kim Hart
Table Leader	Pam McAdams
Table Leader	Kathy Morris
Table Leader	Bonnie Wilson
Assist Table Leader	Amber Denmark
Assist Table Leader	Michelle Epps
Assist Table Leader	Cam Ray
Assist Table Leader	Mary Rhoades
Assist Table Leader	Robyn Smith
Assist Table Leader	Michelle Tannery
Chapel Team Leader	Betty Buchanan
Chapel Team	Rhydonia Clem
Chapel Team	Sherry Daniel
Chapel Team	Joanna Goodwin
Chapel Team	Sandra Grasch
Chapel Team	Debbie Hays
Chapel Team	Diane Smith
Chapel Team	Crystal Taylor
Chapel Team	Deborah Wade
Outside Team Leader	Nancy Edwards
Outside Team	Sandy Archer
Outside Team	Amanda Brewer
Outside Team	Rachel Brohaugh
Outside Team	Jayde Deshotel
Outside Team	Jay Edwards
Outside Team	Ellen Emerson
Outside Team	Mary Ford
Outside Team	Angie Guest
Outside Team	Sam Luwizhi
Outside Team	John Webb
	Candy Maroney
	Gil Maroney
	Garry Mount
	Cathy Mount
	Chuck Reed
	Donna Rowland
	Regina Shafer
	Martha Walker
	Brett Walker

## **How to help with the Fall Walks**

- **Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer**

Men's Walk #106, September 26-29, 2024

Women's Walk #107, October 3-6, 2024

Schedule of events during each Walk -

**Thursday:** Sponsors, please have Pilgrims arrive promptly at 7pm and stay for Sponsors' Hour after Sendoff.

**Saturday:** Servers for the Agape dinner arrive at 4pm.

**Saturday:** For Gathering, Worship and Candlelight arrive at 7pm.

**Sunday:** Sponsors pick up Pilgrim's belongings at 3:30, Closing begins at 4pm.

**Mark your calendar to attend the Gathering and Candlelight for each Walk.**

- **Pray, Pray, Pray for our Walks!**

- **Sponsor a Pilgrim!** The Teams have been selected and preparations are being done. 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 – 36

Feel 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 Deb Miller ([debikmiller54@gmail.com](mailto:debikmiller54@gmail.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, Rick Rundquist ([roundtwig01@gmail.com](mailto:roundtwig01@gmail.com)) or Liz Webb ([lizw3bb@gmail.com](mailto:lizw3bb@gmail.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 Deb Miller ([debikmiller54@gmail.com](mailto:debikmiller54@gmail.com)) for more information.



## **Howdy Pilgrim! Men's Walk 106**

Do you remember this oft repeated line spoken by John Wayne in several of his western movies? Usually, he was speaking to a newcomer to the west, one who had not yet experienced the western lifestyle. The movie may be from 1962, but the line is still used today.

How about you? Have you used it lately? The Fall Walks are rapidly approaching, and it is time to share the Walk with family, friends, coworkers and acquaintances.

Matthew 28:18-20 gives us the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. What better way do you have at hand than to enrich, deepen and renew someone's walk with Christ.

Sponsorship of Pilgrims is not only the lifeblood of G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus, it is one of our mission fields. I know in my heart that our Lord has already called those who will attend the Fall Walks, but He has also called those who are to sponsor these Pilgrims.



**Go out into the world today  
and love the people you meet.  
Let your presence light new  
light in the hearts of people.**

— Mother Teresa

Have you been called? Prayerfully ask yourself 'is there someone I should be inviting?' Perhaps it's time for you to say, "Howdy Pilgrim!"

DEColores!  
Rick Rundquist  
Men's Walk #106 Lay Director

*"Taste and see that the Lord is good."  
Psalm 34:8*

## **How GREAT is our GOD! Women's Walk 107**

I am overwhelmed at the outpouring of love and support from our GRACE Emmaus Community for Walk #107. You all are such a blessing. So many of you completed applications to serve the Pilgrims of Walk #107, I was beginning to wonder if we would have accommodations for everyone. Team Selection has come and gone, and the Board approved our Team. We are busy, busy, busy making preparations. The Team is finalized from a human perspective, but God! He will no doubt shake things up and place people where we certainly misunderstand His will. I'm looking forward to seeing His vision.

Please know how much your prayers mean to this Team. Each servant of Walk 107 has an individual Team Prayer Partner for this Walk who we are praying for daily. It is such a blessing to be able to pray for those we serve with. In addition, each Conference Room Team member also has an individual Pilgrim # (1-36) they are praying for. Each Pilgrim who will be on Walk 107 is being prayed over now by a specific Conference Room Team member. We do this anonymously. The Pilgrim will never know who was praying for them all these months, but they will receive a handwritten note at the Walk, an act of agape love, reminding them of how worthy they are. We may not know their name, but God does! We believe these prayers are vital. We know God hears our prayers. He may not always change our circumstances or situations, but prayer does change our hearts. It changes our desires. Unceasing, faithful, and faith-filled prayer to an unchanging, gracious Savior can break chains and move mountains. Our great God keeps His promises.

This is why your prayers are needed as well. The Prayer Vigil link is available on the GRACE Emmaus website. You can sign up now. But please begin praying for our Fall Walks daily. Go to [GRACEemmaus.com](http://GRACEemmaus.com) and select the Prayer Vigil tab at the top of the page. Once you sign up you will receive an email reminder of your day and time to pray. Thank you for supporting us.



To God be the glory!  
DeColores!  
Liz Webb  
Walk 107 Lay Director

## **God's Continued Blessings Through Agape Love**

One of our active GRACE Emmaus Community members was recently given the opportunity to identify and designate a specific non-profit charitable organization to be the recipient of a large financial gift.

You see, many years ago her grandparents set up a non-profit charitable organization to fund and operationalize a specific Christian ministry. After many years, the decision was made to cease operations at the passing of its founders.

We recognize that there are many worthy organizations that could have been the recipient of this generous gift. However, this member of our GRACE Emmaus family chose the GRACE Emmaus Community to be the recipient of a \$50,000 gift to our community.

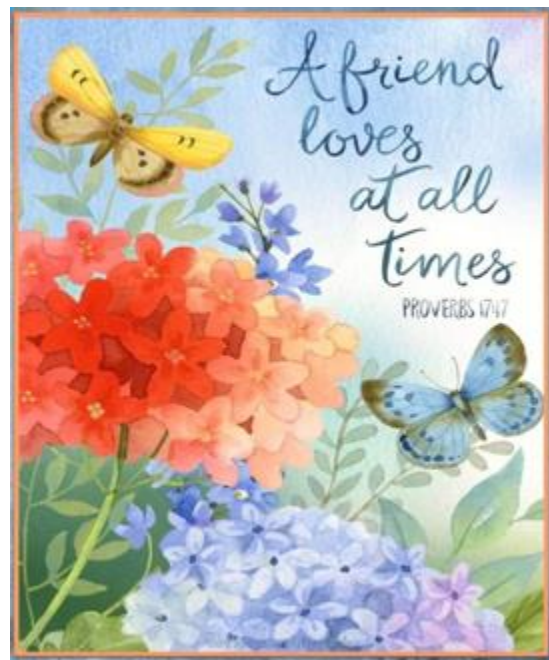
What an incredible example of agape love! This gift will certainly strengthen the financial health of our GRACE Emmaus Community. This gift will assist in our mission to bring Christians closer to Christ, seek to inspire, challenge, and equip leaders for Christian action in their homes, places of work and communities.

Please note, this active member of our GRACE Emmaus Community has asked that they remain anonymous. In their words, *"This gift is not about me at all."*

***On behalf of the GRACE Emmaus Community, thank you for your generous gift and your agape love.***

With love,  
John Webb  
GRACE Emmaus Community Lay Director

"Let your light shine"



## *Serving Is Good For Your Soul*

Studies have shown that volunteering is so good for the mind and body that it can ease symptoms of stress and depression. Tapping into our gifts and passions builds self-confidence, energy, and strength. Serving others can also be the best distraction from our own worries.

We make all sorts of rational explanations for not serving, like, *"I don't have time," "I don't know what I would do," "I don't have any special skills to contribute."*

The reality is the Lord doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called. God used men and women with similar doubts to change the course of history. Moses didn't think he was a leader or speaker, but God worked through Moses to bring Israel out of slavery. David was the youngest and smallest of all his brothers, but God worked through David to defeat a giant and eventually made him a king. Paul used to kill Christians before he met Jesus, but he went on to become one of the most highly regarded and prolific writers/church planters in history.

God doesn't just want to work through you, He wants to work in you. Learn more about how you can serve on our GRACE Board and on future Walks by reaching out to any of our board members.

Sandra Grasch  
Assistant Community Lay Director





## **God Matters Most**

These days, it seems so easy to find ourselves “too busy”. We put off certain things in our lives, with the thought that we will get to them once we get this or that accomplished. Or maybe, we believe we will have time, after our next raise in pay, or when these certain bills are paid off.

But the Bible teaches us in the book of Matthew to seek first The Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things will then be added to us. Is this just too difficult for us to understand? After all of this time, could it still be that we don't truly trust in our God?

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money (Matthew 6:24)." Money in its context within this conversation, could be represented by anything we put before God Himself. The people to whom Jesus was speaking were worried about what they were going to eat, drink, and wear. Simply our everyday challenges that we all face and wrestle with, focusing on the trivial matters of life when we should be trusting God in all of those decisions.

*God Matters Most is the Ultimate Theme of Scripture!*

The more we know God, the more we will trust God! Let us set our eyes, mind, and heart to seek to live today believing that God Matters Most! Living convinced and confident that Jesus' Righteousness is my righteousness before God! God is my King, my Master, and He is also the “Gracious and Just Creator” of all things, and most importantly, He is Father God! Yay God!



***God Matters Most!***

Chad Bearden

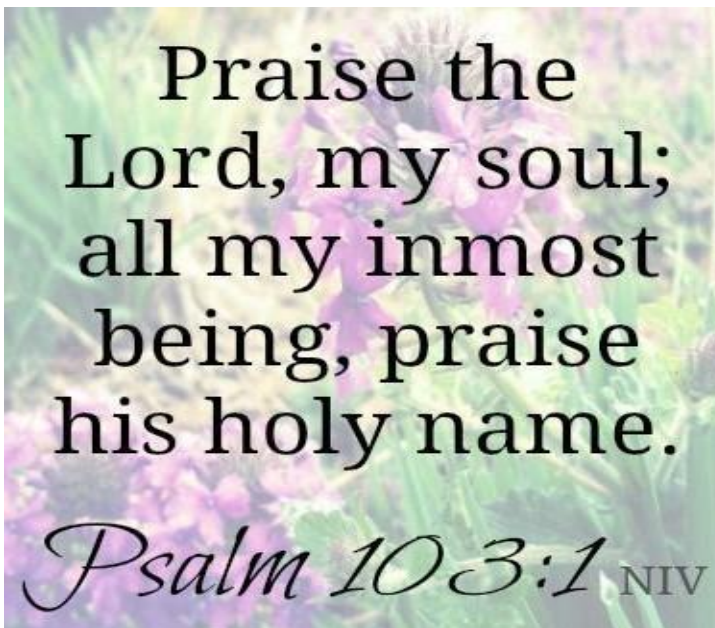
Community Ex-officio Lay Director

## *Praise The Lord*

I've had some health issues over the past five months which has caused my vision to blur a little. The doctor doesn't know if it's the health issue or if it's the medication I'm taking that's causing the issue. In any case, I was prescribed a contact for my left eye. and it has worked pretty successfully.

This morning, when I woke up, I stumbled into the bathroom, brushed my teeth and splashed water on my face. When I looked up, I COULD SEE! I was so excited that I was dancing around the bathroom and praising God and feeling on top of the world!

It wasn't until I started to put drops in my eyes that I heard God say, "Girlfriend, your vision isn't better, you just forgot to take your contact out last night when you went to bed". And God and I laughed, and I was reminded that I need to praise him like that every single day just because he woke me up and not because something glorious may have happened.



Charlene Burton  
Community Registrar

## **The Gift of Rest**

***I will lie down and fall asleep in peace because you alone, Lord let me live in safety.***

***Psalm 4:8***

Before I retired as a firefighter, my job demanded that I be on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year. I could be at home eating dinner, at my son's high school football game, at my daughter's birthday party, or on vacation when I would receive a work-related call, text, or email.

This constant connection to the workplace can have long-term effects and often leads to exhaustion. There were many calls that I went on that I would be up all night, and then have to work the next day.

At the end of a hectic day, bedtime prayer can be a way to decompress, discuss the day's challenges with God, and enter into a time of rest and reflection. So, when I am so tired, I embrace the blessing that rest can be. Rest has many benefits for physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Jesus took time away from the crowds and his followers to find needed rest. Just as hard work honors God, so does our times of rest. Words from Psalm 23 tell us that God wants us to enjoy quiet moments:

***"He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul". Psalm 2-3.***

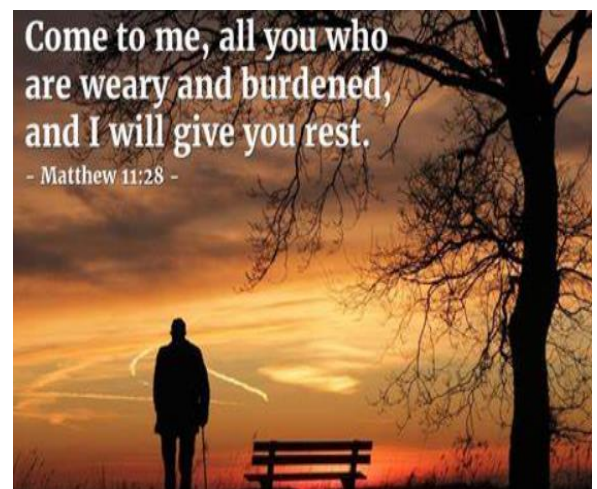
Let's not feel guilty when rest presents itself, rather recognize it for the spiritual gift that it is.

Dear God, lead us to adopt the model that Jesus set for us. Help us to seek physical, mental, and spiritual rest and to welcome your restoration of our souls. Amen

Here are some verses in the Bible when you are tired:

Matthew 11:28-30, Mark 6:31, Isaiah 40:31, Exodus 33:14, Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 62:1-5, Psalm 18:31-32, Psalm 62:1, Jeremiah: 31:25, Psalm 68:35, and Galatians 6:9.

Dennis Gage  
Community Book Table  
Reprinted from  
The Upper Room Daily Devotional



# GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2024

## **Lay Director**

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## **Assistant Lay Director**

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## **Ex Officio Lay Director**

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## **Spiritual Director**

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## **Assistant Spiritual Director**

## **Secretary**

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## **Treasurer**

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### **Ministry Manager Data**

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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**