

Grace for Today

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

March 2025

Coming Events

Our Spring Walks at Disciples Crossing in Athens

Men's Walk #108, March 6 – 9

Gathering & Candlelight Sat, Mar 8, 7:30pm

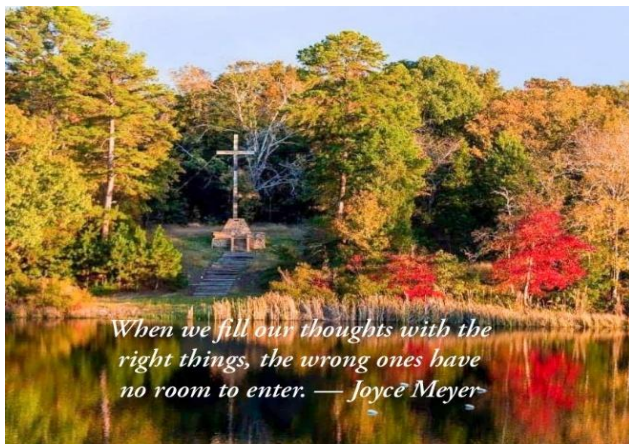
Women's Walk #109, March 13 – 16

Gathering & Candlelight Sat, Mar 15,
7:30pm

Saturday, March 29 – Smith Chapel,
Mineola – Babe Chick/Sponsorship Training
at **Noon** **** Time Change****, then Potluck
Lunch and Worship.

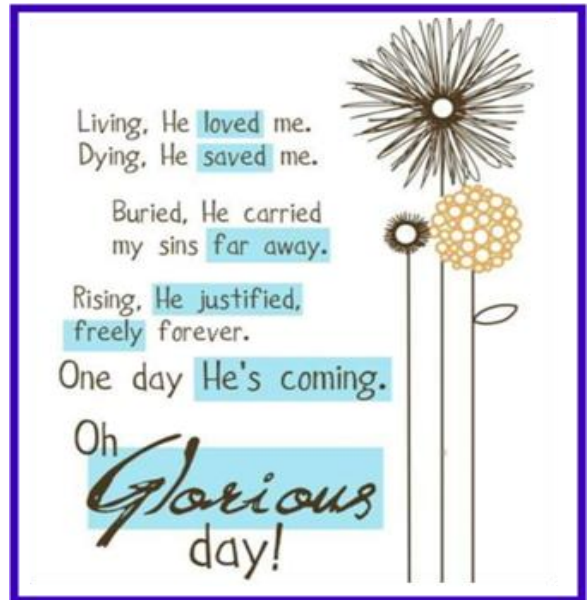
Saturday, April 26, Gathering –
1st Methodist, Gladewater - Potluck at
Noon, Worship immediately after.

**Saturday, May 10, Work Day at Camp
Gilmont** – Arrive at 8:00 AM to work; lunch
at noon, with Worship immediately after;
bring your own lunch, this is NOT a Potluck



*When we fill our thoughts with the
right things, the wrong ones have
no room to enter. — Joyce Meyer*

Cross at Disciples Crossing Camp



Inside this Issue

- 2: Community Lay Director's Corner
- 2: The Purpose of the Emmaus Movement
- 3: The Meaning of Grace
- 3: Learn More About the Emmaus
- 4: A Mountaintop Experience to Prepare Us for the Valley
- 4: WTE Lingo
- 5-6: Faith, Faithfulness, and Faithful
- 6: When Christ Returns
- 7: GRACE Community Treasurer Position
- 7: Walking in Grace
- 8: 2024 GRACE Emmaus Board of Directors
- 9: Support for GRACE Emmaus Community

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

www.graceemmaus.com

Community Lay Director's Corner

"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much." - ***Mother Teresa***

I went on my Walk 15 years ago and never dreamed I would be part of leading this Grace community. Back in the Spring of 2009, I hated talking in front of people, and being asked to pray out loud terrified me.

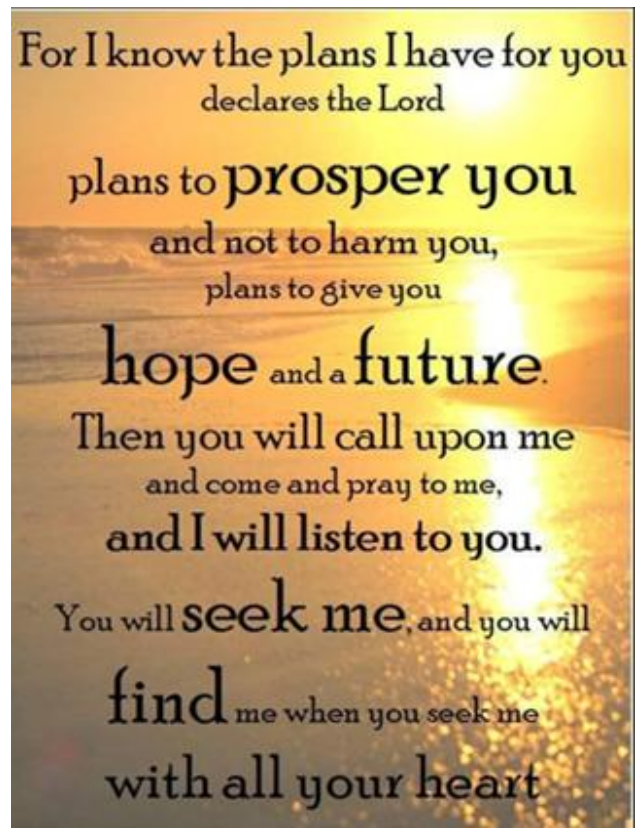
It's amazing what God can do when we let go and give Him control. When I began working Emmaus Walks, I told myself, and anyone who asked, that I would do whatever God called me to do. He has definitely stretched me out of my comfort zone, but He has also shown up in big ways. He has given me a courage I could never have without Him.

So, if you're thinking that you don't have the courage or the skills to work a Walk, give a talk, lead others ... even if YOU don't, GOD does. Step out and give Him control. You will be amazed!

The Purpose of the Emmaus Movement

The sole purpose of the Emmaus Movement is to strengthen disciples within the ministry of individual congregations. Emmaus, in partnership with the church, inspires leaders to become more effective and intentional in their ministry. Emmaus is neither competitive with nor a substitute for your own church. Although the Walk to Emmaus is a unique and powerful instrument through which faithful people are renewed and inspired, it cannot provide the well-rounded programs that an individual congregation offers, such as education, evangelism, missions and stewardships. In short, Emmaus does not intend to become anyone's "new church." However, Emmaus does have a unique role in the church's task of nurturing strong committed disciples who compassionately serve Christ in the world. The unique role of The Walk to Emmaus is spiritual renewal.

- *Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey*
Wynn Harle, Community Secretary



"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline". - ***2 Timothy 1:7***

Sandra Grasch
Community Lay Director

Meaning of Grace

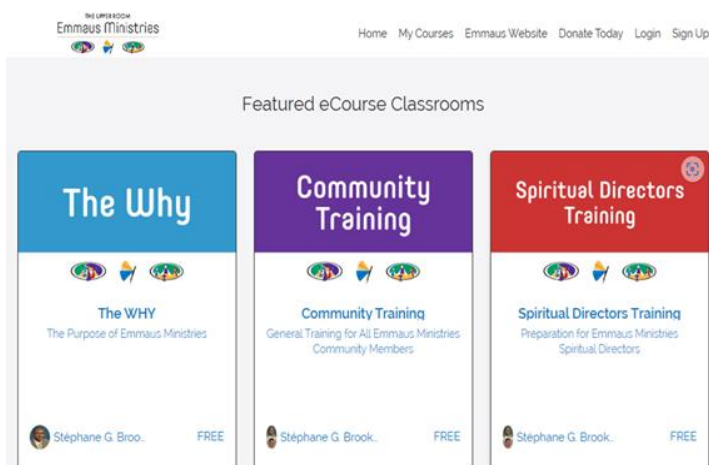
This the transforming love
From Almighty God above
The gift we freely receive
When truly just believe
Giving us the tools we need
To spread the Word His seed
Truly belonging to Jesus Christ
And fully taking His advice
His grace washing our face
From all that brought us disgrace
Professing our faith in church
Like the birds sitting on a perch
Called to a meaningful life
Letting go of every strife
God's will is to raise us up
Despite the sin we brought His cup
Overflowing abundant grace and joy
Then and now for every girl and boy
Making ourselves regularly available to God
To transcend to our holy body
Loving Him forever more
Along with our faithful Lord
So through all time and space
We know this is the meaning of Grace.
-Anonymous Pilgrim from Walk #89

A pilgrim on Women's Walk #89 wrote this poem while still on the Walk. She agreed to have it shared with the G.R.A.C.E. Community but wanted to remain anonymous. I hope that her words are as meaningful to you as they were to me.

- Betty Buchanan, Community Treasurer



Learn More About the Emmaus Ministries!



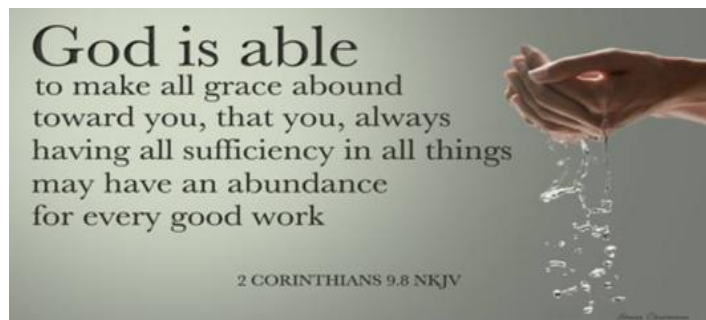
Please visit

<https://emmausministriesuniversity.upperro.com.org/> for free eCourses.

After creating an account with a password, you can watch and listen to insightful information about our purpose and training sessions that explain how you can participate in the Emmaus Ministries. **These eCourses are highly recommended for any Community Member who wishes to work on a Walk Team and/or serve on our Board of Directors.**

A Mountaintop Experience to Prepare Us for the Valley

There is a common denominator for all who are fortunate enough to have gone on a Walk. We come closer to our Lord, no matter where we were before in our relationship with Him. We see, firsthand, Christian lives changed and reprioritized time and time again by the hands and feet of Jesus being used by the Holy Spirit through this ministry. It is truly a source of joy and worthy of a Hallelujah-Amen.



The Walk to Emmaus not only provides us with a great “mountaintop experience”, but it also helps prepare us to reenter the ‘valley’ of this world and its daily grind. The Reunion Group experience and the monthly Gatherings are tools to keep us focused and encouraged.

When you volunteer after being a Pilgrim yourself, it matters not what Walk position you ask for, the Lord uses all who humbly submit to His will, and serving the Emmaus Ministry is one of His great vehicles to be used to further His Kingdom. The adage applies, “God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called”. Hallelujah-Amen!

Paul Breedlove
Community Gathering Coordinator

WTE Lingo

Growing up my brother, sister and I loved talking in pig-Latin. Dinner table talk often became family laugh sessions as we tried to understand each other. When my brother joined the Air Force, we took this to a new level and tried to speak using the military alphabet. **Whiskey-Hotel-Alpha-Tango Charlie-Alpha-November India Sierra-Alpha-Yankee?** We had a lot of free time on our hands. Life was simple: church, family, friends, school, and chores.

Fast forward many hills and valleys and I found myself on the Walk to Emmaus and learning a language of acronyms like you see here. It really helps to know WTE lingo when sharing talking about G.R.A.C.E. to potential Pilgrims and Community members.

Wynn Harle
Community Secretary

- **G.R.A.C.E.** – Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus
- **WTE** – Walk to Emmaus
- **CLD** – our Community’s Board of Directors is chaired by our Community Lay Director
- **CSD** – Community Spiritual Director
- **LD** or **WLD** – each of our Walks is led by a Lay Director or Walk Lay Director
- **SD** or **WSD** – each Walk has a Spiritual Director or Walk Spiritual Director
- **ALD** – Each Walk LD is assisted by three Assistant Lay Directors
- **TL** – Table Leader
- **ATL** – Assistant Table Leader
- **MT** – Music Team
- **ST** or **OT** – Servant Team, often called Outside Team
- **CT** – Chapel Team
- **AV** – Audio Visual person
- **BR** – Board Representative

Faith, Faithfulness, and Faithful

1st Corinthians 4:2 says, *“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”*

Let’s break this down. Who are the stewards? God’s people. What do they do? Manage the resources of the Owner. Who is the Owner? God. What is the requirement? To be faithful to God.

So, what is the definition of faithfulness? According to Google, “Faithfulness is the act of being true to your word or promise. It’s the ability to follow through on commitments with dedication.” In my humble opinion using this secular definition of “faithful,” with just one caveat, 100% of everyone of us is faithful. So, what is the caveat? Each person gets to IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC AREA OF THEIR LIFE WHERE THEIR FAITHFULNESS IS BEING EVALUATED.

THE REALITY IS WE ARE ALL FAITHFUL TO OUR PRIORITIES IN LIFE. Here are some of the things we may be faithful to: our spouse, children, family, friends, job or business, fishing, hunting, sports, drugs, working out at the gym, creating drama, TV, alcohol, hate, gossip, money, shopping, porn, social media, crime, video games. The list goes on.

Let’s look at the Kingdom definition of faith and faithfulness. It’s defined in 2 parts. **FAITH** - the belief, assurance and trustworthiness of God’s Word, His promises and all He has done.

FAITHFULNESS - is living in consistent and dedicated accord with that truth. So to me, FAITHFULNESS comes down to the question of OBEDIENCE (GOD’S SPIRIT versus our FLESH). Faithfulness is proving our loyalty to

God through unwavering obedience. Being faithful isn’t just about proclaiming our loyalty to God. True faithfulness is proven by our actions.

I don't know about you, but for me, it’s helpful to keep some key principles in mind that give me the right perspective. Let me share 4 principles for you to think about in the journey of being faithful.

#1 LOYALTY TO GOD. He is our CREATOR. We are made in His image. He is our MASTER. We are His children. We are His servants. Deuteronomy 6:5 says, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength.”*

#2 ADHERE TO GOD’S WORD. God wants us to know the truth, who He is, and His nature through the Bible and Scripture. James 1:22 tells us *“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* It takes more than reading the Word and knowing the Word, it requires doing the Word.

#3 BE CONSTANT AND UNWAVERING IN FAITH. God’s Word tells us we will have challenges, pain, suffering, and persecution in our lives. We are in spiritual warfare every day. Satan is constantly on the warpath. God’s Spirit vs our flesh and the world’s view. James 1:6 tells us, *“You must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”* No matter the challenges, falls, stumbles, or setbacks we need to keep the faith.

#4 BE A CONSISTENT SOWER. When we emulate Christlike qualities and sow seeds of truth and love in others’ lives, God feeds our spirit, changes our heart, enlarges our spiritual understanding and desire to live for Him and grow His kingdom. Galatians 6:9 tells us, *“Let us not become weary in doing good*

for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

We all know the journey of becoming and being faithful to God is a long and difficult road. But we know God is always with us!

John Webb
Ex Officio Community Lay Director



When Christ Returns

During our life, most of us will have opportunities to experience amazing things, see beautiful views, and hear wonderful music. But more marvelous than any earthly event is what Christians will experience at the return of Christ. Just imagine...

- What we will hear. Jesus “will descend from heaven with a shout” (1 Thess. 4:16). The voice of the archangel Michael - the leader of the angelic host - and a heavenly trumpet will be heard, calling the saints to assemble.
- What we will see. The Lord will come down from above, to be met in the air by newly resurrected saints and then, a moment later, by living believers. Paul explains in Scripture what will happen at Christ’s return - both to the saints who have died and to those still living. First, Jesus will descend from the sky in a way similar to His ascension. (See Acts 1:11.) Then, God will resurrect the bodies of departed believers. (We know from 2 Corinthians 5:8 that their spirits will have been with Jesus since the moment of physical death.) Next, Christians who are still alive will rise to meet Jesus in the air and will dwell with Him forever.

- What we will feel. Though it’s impossible to know exactly what the experience will be like, we can expect it to be magnificent. We’ll be transformed physically: Unlike our present body, our new form won’t be susceptible to pain, sin, sadness, sickness, or death. And in an instant, we will be brought into the presence of our heavenly Father, to remain with Him for eternity.

Let’s encourage one another - and ourselves - with this reminder about Jesus Christ’s return (1 Thess. 4:18). So, when hardships get you down, think about this exciting event in your future. The best is yet to come!

Dr. Charles Stanley
Submitted by Liz Webb
Walk #87



GRACE Emmaus Community Treasurer Position

I am currently serving as the Treasurer on the G.R.A.C.E. Community Board of Directors, and this is the last year for me to hold that position. I am reaching out to anyone in our Community with bookkeeping knowledge and experience who might be interested in running for the Board of Directors this fall and serving as the Treasurer. Currently our financials are processed through QuickBooks, so experience with this program as well as EXCEL spreadsheets would be helpful.

If you feel called and are interested, please contact me to get more information (903-930-2678 for phone calls and texts).

Betty Buchanan
Community Treasurer

Walking in Grace

*When anxiety was great within me, your
consolation brought me joy.*

—Psalm 94:19 (NIV)

No matter how many times I hit a key, my laptop refused to power on. It had crashed. While I was normally great at backing up documents and files, I'd gotten a little lazy in doing it on a regular basis. Would my notes be lost? Worse, would I remember what all was open in my infinite browser tabs?

When I finally got it to reboot, a little box popped up: Start from where you left off, or start fresh? Instead of clicking the option that would immediately launch seven programs, open no fewer than forty tabs, and likely cause my computer to crash all over again, I took a breath, said a prayer, and opted to start fresh instead.

When the screen came to life, it was bright and clean. From there, I could choose what to tackle first, then next. Doing only the next thing, without the other ninety-nine things looming in my vision, allowed me to be terrifically productive and, well, calm.



At the end of my workday, I turned to the rest of my house and immediately felt like crashing myself: toys scattered, dishes piled, laundry heaped, and floors cluttered. Instead of crashing, I picked one thing to start with and then moved on to the next.

I know God doesn't speak out loud in burning bushes anymore, but it turns out He can use just about anything to speak to us when we need Him and His grace most, even overloaded laptops.

Lord, help me to clear my mental cookies so that I may be able to focus on You and Your plans for my life. Help me in my work today—and every day.

—Ashley Kappel
Guideposts Daily Scripture & Reflection

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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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