



G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Today

March Newsletter 2020

What's Inside

A Word from Community Lay Director
Devotional
Agape Needs
Sponsorship
From the Treasurer
Want to host a Gathering
Upper Room Connections
Walk Fees
Walk to Emmaus Movement
Words from GRACE Emmaus Community
2020 Board Members
Bank Draft

Fall Walks

Both at Camp
Gilmont, Gilmer, Tx
Women's Walk #94
October 1-4, 2020
Men's Walk #95
October 8-11, 2020

Gatherings

April canceled
May Pending

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

A Word From Community Lay Director

Walks 92 and 93, “The best Walks ever”, are now complete and the Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus has 38 new Babe Chicks who have bonded together in the Holy Spirit, through tears, laughter, prayer, and sharing this walk experience together. This would not have been possible without all of the members of the GRACE community that exhibited agape love in prayer, made agape, sponsored pilgrims, and all of the efforts not captured here. We wish to thank each of you in the G.R.A.C.E. community for the mighty acts that were accomplished through the body of Christ!

Many of you have devoted 72 hours of your own time to serve as Christ’s hands and feet by serving on the teams. Thank you to all who participated through prayer or your presence. It is because of your efforts that our Spring Walks were “the best walks ever”.

Walk 93 met a new host of new challenges to say the least, with the pandemic COVID19 coronavirus! For the first time in our history, to my knowledge, the community would not be allowed to participate in candlelight or closing. No one other than those already at the camp were allowed into the camp at the direction of Disciples Crossing Medical Director. But our creator made a path for the walk to go on! The Teams for this walk had to compensate for the inability of the community to participate, and the usual outside team members that come in on Saturday and Sunday to assist. Thank you to this combined team that worked as one in the body of Christ, and tirelessly under new circumstances to make this walk successful.

With the COVID19 Coronavirus pandemic we are operating in a new environment. The Upper Room – Walk to Emmaus Board stated in their edicts that we will not have reunion group meetings, gatherings, etc. for the next several weeks. Our GRACE Board met and decided that we adhere to the guidelines, and we will not have gatherings or reunion groups meet for the next 30-days and will reevaluate to determine the steps necessary going forward. We will try our best to keep the community informed.

Our Fall Walks are right around the corner and will need to begin this process again to be prepared for these walks. Please be in prayer for Women’s Walk 94 and Men’s Walk 95. Also, please consider sponsoring a pilgrim for one or both of these walks. The pilgrim and team applications are both available on our community website. Our Babe Chick meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 4p.m. at First UMC Lindale has been postponed to a later date that will be announced when these meetings are again possible. The sponsors training and gathering scheduled for the same date is also being postponed.

We are always in need of agape gifts. If you are making these for the pilgrims only, please make 36. If you are making them for the entire team, please make 72.

Our Fall Lay Directors are Laura Resler and Steve Morton, and we ask that you keep them in your prayers as they begin planning the next “best walks ever!”

De Colores!

Mike Johnston



PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD

Whom do we trust, God or man? I can see that it might be easier to trust what we can see and touch rather than what we take on faith. God is warning the people not to trust in their kings to protect them while they are going against the most important of all the commandments – worshiping false gods. They were offering sacrifice to Baal, even murdering their children by throwing them into the fires built to honor Baal. Is it any wonder that God was angry! The result of their trust in their kings was the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of those remaining into Babylon. About 800 years later, the immorality in Rome so weakened this once powerful nation and allowed it to be overcome by the army of Constantine. Today we also face a lack of morality in our world. This behavior and a lack of belief and trust in God has weakened strong nations and there are always governments that are poised to take advantage of weakness. Regardless of what is going on around us, we need to stay firm as did the prophets and keep reminding those who will listen that we need to return to the way that leads to Christ. It isn't easy, but we need to trust that God will bring good out of whatever evil seems to be happening in the present. After all, at the end of the Babylonian captivity King Cyrus sent the Israelites back with enough gold to rebuild the temple. After Constantine defeated the Romans, the persecution of Christians ended. We can't see into the future, but one day we will understand God's plan. For now, it is enough that we trust.

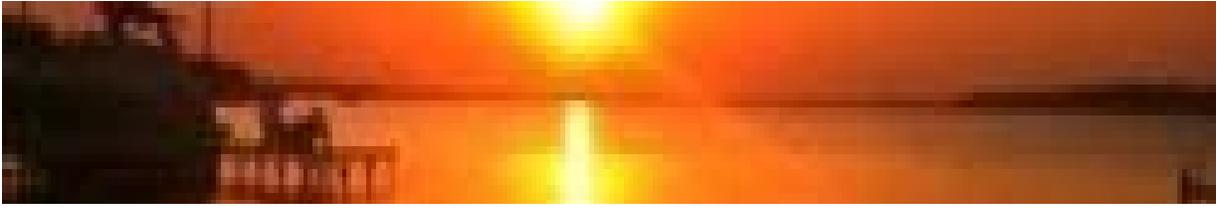
Prayer: Lord, only you know how this world will end. We know that when our lives are over, you have a place for all those who trusted in you and didn't place their trust in human beings who would lead them away from you. Amen.



AGAPE

The Fall Walks are getting close 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 September Gathering or call Charlene Burton at 903-920-6677 to make arrangements to drop them off.



SPONSORSHIP

Hi GRACE EMMAUS Community

Please reflect on your walk. Regardless of when or where it was taken, I am sure you still remember the weekend. Many of you have kept your agape, your talk notes and those wonderful letters you received on Sunday. Many of you cried with joy, sadness and many more emotions as you read them with your new sisters and brothers in Christ.

I have to admit I know where all my letters are and when I need a little extra I read those letters. Before sponsoring a pilgrim I pray that he/she will be receptive and that the Holy Spirit will help me to reach potential pilgrims. I also take out my letters and read them. They remind me of all the love and kindness that my church family, my family, my friends and of course my sponsor poured out in those letters. They help inspire me.

Read your letters, look at your agape, read the notes from your walk. Reflect on what your walk meant to you. Then be in prayer and think about who really needs this walk. It will surprise you how many people pop into your head..

I have a challenge for you. Sponsor at least one pilgrim this year. Let's continue to have the best walks ever.

De Colores,
Laura Resler, Sponsorship

G.R.A.C.E.

Greater Rose Area Community Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. It is not for everyone. It is not for the first time Christians.

You may ask who will benefit from this walk. Quite simply it is your friends, your neighbors, fellow church members and the clergy. It is for Christians of every denomination. Every 4th dayer can be a sponsor.

Please be in prayerful consideration of what this walk meant to you and what it will mean to someone else in our community of faith.

When you are ready to sponsor your pilgrim. Remember to pray with them. Work with them to fill out the pilgrim application which requires 3 signatures; theirs, their pastor and the sponsor. The cost of the walk is \$165. A \$50 dollar deposit must be sent in with the application. All pilgrim applications should be sent to :

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

There's still plenty of time to submit applications for the Fall Walks which will be held at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer, Tx. The Men's Walk will be October 8-11 and the Women's Walk October 1-4. Please include the deposit fee with the application. If the cost is a problem you might try approaching a group within your church that could provide a "scholarship". Should you have any questions regarding your sponsorship duties, I would be glad to help you. Please call me at 617 953-4486.

De Colores,
Laura Resler Board Sponsorship Chair



From the G.R.A.C.E. treasurer

Thanks to the generosity of the G.R.A.C.E. community, donations continue to come in regularly each month by the ACH, personal checks, and at monthly gatherings. Every dollar received goes back into the community to continue to spread the life changing experiences that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Donated funds can also be used for pilgrim and team member scholarships, updating equipment, and the general fund of our community. Thank you, for your continued support of our Emmaus community.

Treasurer, Boni Demaree

EMMAUS GATHERINGS

**Community Church Members,
Planning to host a Walk to Emmaus Gathering? Here is your chance. We usually meet on the third Saturday. We are looking for Emmaus groups to volunteer to welcome the G. R. A. C. E. Community to their church for fellowship, worship, and food. Please consider hosting us at your church! If you are interested, please contact Debbie Hays 903-452-5331 or dhays55@yahoo.com**

**Thank you,
Debbie Hays**

THE UPPER ROOM



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

Stay Connected

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

Newsletters Upper Room Daily Reflections (Daily) - Words of wisdom and faith found in the pages of Upper Room Books. From the Center (Monthly, 1st Tuesday) - A monthly email newsletter from The Upper Room with resources for your soul care as a spiritual leader. Academy Bulletin (Monthly) - Updates, news, and special reflections exclusively for The Academy for Spiritual Formation participants, faculty, and leaders. Emmaus eNews (Every Other Month) - Get the latest news and tips for your fourth day journey. Especially for leaders and participants in Emmaus Ministries, including the Walk to Emmaus, Face to Face, and Chrysalis. Upper Room Recommends (Weekly, Thursday) - A weekly email for those seeking resources for spiritual formation and prayer. The email contains excerpts from Upper Room authors, plus book and online resource suggestions for small groups, congregational studies, and individual spiritual growth. My Quiet Spaces (Quarterly) - A quarterly newsletter for women seeking inspiration, tools, and support to deepen their walk with God. Rising Generations (Every Other Month) - Whether you're a church leader or parent, this bimonthly newsletter provides tips and tools for ministry with Children, Youth & Young Adults.



A REMINDER OF WALK FEES:

Pilgrim: \$165 (although the community expense is \$175)

Clergy Pilgrim: \$75

Inside/Conference Room Team: \$165

Outside Servant Team (full weekend): \$165

Outside Servant Team (partial weekend): \$8 per meal, \$27 per night (lodging)

Boni Demaree, Treasurer

The Walk To Emmaus Movement



Walk to Emmaus THE UPPER ROOM.®

The Upper Room, part of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, began the three-day ecumenical spiritual-renewal retreats in 1978. The self-supporting ministry grew out of the the Catholic Cursillo movement, and took the name Walk to Emmaus in 1981. The goal of Walk to Emmaus is to equip church members for Christian action. Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ. The movement also includes the [Chrysalis](#) program for youth, the [Face to Face](#) program for adults 60 and older, and the [Journey to the Table](#) program for adults 18 to 35.



I wanted to share what the gathering did for my church and how it has inspired my congregation. The folks that attended the February gathering at our church, McCary's Chapel, saw a glimpse of the love our members have for one another and the willingness to meet new people. Our congregation was so overwhelmed by the experience that over a 1/3 of my congregation is attending the Oct. walk. We will have 6 women and 3 men going, in a church that has about 26-28 attending on Sundays. This is a testament of what God does when we all pull together and feel his love, grace and presence amongst us. I wonder, if maybe we had a mini new introductory gathering on a Wednesday night maybe once a quarter in 4 key churches throughout our community geared towards younger families that could come and participate. Most kids have church activities on Wednesday night so we just incorporate our service with them in mind. You can see our Emmaus landscape, we need younger families to get involved, we just need to keep the kids weekend activities in mind for greater attendance. Just a few thoughts for the old " Trailer Dude "

DeColores!!!

Wayne Brunt



Hello G. R. A. C. E. Brothers & Sister in Christ. My name is Boni Demaree. I attended CTC Walk #398 at Latham Springs in April of 2013 and sat at the table of Mary. My husband and I attend & serve at Winona UMC. I am new to your Board this year and serve as your Treasurer. A Registered Nurse by trade, I have stepped way out of my comfort zone here and welcome any advice, recommendation and support from you members who know the financial world. I Thank you for all your financial support of G. R. A .C. E. and look forward to serving you in the coming years and pray that you each and every day be filled with God's Blessing & Favor.

DeColores,

Boni Demaree



Hello my name is Ernest Rodriguez. I went on G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Walk #88 at beautiful Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX, sat at the table of ST. Luke. My wife, Heather and I attend and serve at St. John's United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Tx. At the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Walk, I truly felt God's love for me. I also saw people who didn't even know me, showing acts of love and kindness towards me, which was hard for me to accept and trust. I knew I wanted to come back and serve, inside I craved for more of what I had experienced, but still not trusting God. Through the family of God, the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community has been critical in teaching and showing me what unconditional love and giving grace is all about. They have shown me how to properly act and react to situations. They have taught me about keeping my commitments and shown me grace while God has stretched me. I know they are not perfect by any means, but they are real. What you see is what you get. G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community has given me some life tools from scripture that I use in my everyday life. Learning to serve others first instead of myself has made such an impact on my life. My family and friends are telling me they want what I have. Serving others has given me a softer heart toward others, like my kids, family, friends and even people I don't know.

So, in a nutshell, God, my new life, and the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community are all intertwined with each other. The G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus community will continue to be part of my life. I don't really have the right words for what G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community means to me, except that it is a huge part of my life. God's leading may be another flight or walk where I can work behind the scenes or be in the conference room. His leading may also be to focus on my congregation, or to work at the local shelter, or to do a street ministry, or to simply stop, be quiet, and listen to Him. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength - I am waiting, praying, seeking, and daily going to my secret, quiet place, listening for Him to talk to me..... Share your Favorite Emmaus Experience with us! Have you been waiting for just the right time to share your Emmaus experience? Would you like to share what your Walk meant to you even after all these years? Or do you have a question about Emmaus. We want to invite you to share your reflections and questions for consideration in future newsletters. Simply email me, Newsletter board rep Ernest Rodriguez at

erod7707@gmail.com

Decolores

Ernest Rodriguez

" I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil 4:13

Hello, my name is Paula West. I attended GRACE Emmaus Walk #79 at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer, TX during the fall of 2016. I sat at the table of Esther. My husband and I worship and serve at Calvary Baptist Church in Henderson, TX. This year I am happy to serve on the board of directors as the community secretary.

I don't consider myself a writer but here goes.

I was honored to serve as a table leader on GRACE Emmaus Walk #93. Our team knew God had something special in store for us during our training sessions. We knew we would be called to step up and not be leaders but true servants. We were not wrong.

While the world outside the camp dealt with a virus and a shortage of toilet paper, our focus was to make this walk as grand and glorious as the walks we attended. We worried that Candlelight would be subpar. We worried that we would not have smartly dressed men escort us to Christ's table. We worried that closing would be just so-so. We worried and some of us became angry. BUT, God called two wonderful women to lead this group.

Our Spiritual Director, Susan Smith and our Lay Director, Anita Duesterhoft stayed calm and focused. They encouraged us to step back and allow God to work. He did just that, worked in His miraculous, mysterious way.

As we approached Christ's Table I heard, "Wow, we are going to escort!?" When we entered Candlelight I heard, "How Beautiful". Then at Afterglow, "Where are all the lights? It's like magic". My heart was full when I realized that I was seeing God's Glory. It was in the faces and hearts of the pilgrims, not in the number of candles in the room.

The pilgrims saw kind men escorting them to their table, not the t-shirts and jeans.

All the things we worried about, got angry about, and felt bad about didn't happen. We saw that when we stepped back and allowed God to work, God's Glory and Grace shined. It showed me that my vision is not God's vision and His vision is much better.

Thank you to an outside team that was experienced and ready to step up. Thank you for being a gate to town errand person. Thank you for using social media to connect the community and the world. Thank you GRACE community for your prayers.

It was the BEST WALK EVER.

De Colores

Paula West



Reflections on Walk 93

My name is Brett Walker, I went on Walk 66 at Camp Gilmont, I sat at the Table of St. John, and my wife Martha and I worship and serve at FUMC in Longview. I had the privilege of serving on the Outside Servant Team on Walk 93.

This was the most amazing Walk I have been involved in. Because of the restrictions and nearly constant changes put on the Walk because of the Corona Virus situation, this was a Walk like none other.

God provided the Body of Christ that was needed during the weekend. As we remember from the Body of Christ Talk, every part of the human body is important. Without every part functioning well, the body does not do as intended. The same is true for the Body of Christ. On this Walk, I witnessed the Team and Community come together like never before.

The entire Lay Team (Conference Room, Music, Chapel, and Outside) truly understood that no part of the team was more important than the other in order for the Pilgrims to have the experience that God wanted for them.

The Spiritual Team was able to provide the spiritual guidance for all of us even though the conditions made it much more difficult.

A Community member who was not able to come to Candlelight on Saturday night created a virtual candlelight service that was invited and attended by many community members. They prayed for the entire Walk and the Pilgrims individually for hours. There were people all over the world praying. I can assure you that the prayers were felt by all at the camp.

I truly believe that this was the "Best Walk Ever" because we were forced to get out of God's way, and let it happen through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Body of Christ.

Perhaps we can all learn something from this.

Brett Walker



Scott Snyder

ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF MUSIC TEAM FOR GATHERINGS OR FUTURE WALKS PLEASE CONTACT ME. SCOTT SNYDER 903 539 1754. GOD BLESS. Scott Snyder



G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Walk #93

I served as a Table Leader, during this Walk, and was excited and honored to be asked to serve, in this way. I did not know how blessed I would be, while serving on this Walk. As always, we arrived on Thursday, and there was some mild distraction related to COVID 19, but it was not a real concern, to most of us. Later, the camp's administration required that we be screened, to alleviate their concerns, though, they really wanted us to cancel the event. The team was screened, and each person coming into camp was screened. Then, we got down to business, doing God's work. Thursday evening and Friday morning followed the normal flow as we began to get to know our pilgrims, and to see how each table would function. All the ladies were amazing and had beautiful stories to share. Around midday, on Friday, the Camp Director decided no one would be allowed to enter the camp. This meant that one of the ASDs would not be present, and that the men would not be able to serve Christ's Dinner, and that the Community would not be present for Candlelight. Though it was hard to give up control, we needed to let go, and let God take control. Meanwhile, the walk continued, and the ladies were really getting the message, and moving forward with the program, and many great discussions followed the talks.

The Service Team and the Chapel Teams came together, and miracles began to happen. A Virtual Prayer Vigil was set up by one of the Community members who was aware of the changes. This became a worldwide vigil; reading the posts later was truly inspiring and showed the power of the Holy Spirit. God's amazing grace was seen over the next several hours as the Service and Chapel teams served Christ's Dinner, then flipped the dining hall, and created a glimpse of heaven, using props from the camp. The pilgrims were sung into candlelight. When the candles were raised to the pilgrims as they sang "Jesus, Jesus," the pilgrims raised their arms and reached out to the Service Team. God was moving through the hall, and we all felt his love.

Sunday proceeded along, though, we knew that the only people present for closing would be the pilgrims and the Walk Team. The pilgrims shared freely, and with Grace. Pilgrim pickup looked like an elementary school pickup. Cars were allowed in, the drivers were to remain in the car, and we carried everything to the car, with the appropriate pilgrim(s).

I know that on this Walk I saw God moving in so many ways, to make things happen with grace and beauty. I will be forever grateful that I had the experience of serving, with this team, at this time. In many ways, I felt that I was reliving my own Walk, in a different and special way.

De Colores,

Debbie Wade

G.R.A.C.E. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2020

Lay Director: Mike Johnston

Cell: 903-521-0860 Email: mike.johnston.unionchapelumc@gmail.com

Assistant Lay Director: John Crow

Cell: 903-288-1881 Email: jwcrow56@gmail.com

Ex Officio Lay Director: Wynn Harle

Cell: 903-245-2701 Email: cowboycentral@suddenlink.net

Spiritual Director: Rev. Joe Hall

Cell: 903-742-5828 Email: joehall@mhd.com

Assistant Spiritual Director: Dan Vickers

Cell: 214-673-6233 Email: dvickerspmp@gmail.com

Secretary: Paula West

Cell: 903-918-9067 Email: pjwest57@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Boni Demaree

Cell: 903-352-2857 Email: boni@sysresourcegroup.com

Music Coordinator: Scott Snyder

Cell: 903-539-1754 Email: scott_snyder@att.net

COMMITTEES

(Board Member is chair of designated committee)

Agape (Banquet, Afterglow, handmade items): Charlene Burton

Cell: 903-920-6677 Email: cburtonlindale@gmail.com

Babe Chick Training: Ken Duesterhoft

Cell: 903-520-0294 Email: kwdues@gmail.com

Book Table : Betty Buchanan

Cell: 903-930-2678 Email: jimbet85@gmail.com

Community Trailer: Wayne Brunt

Cell: 903-522-0833 Email: waynebrunt@ymail.com

Gathering Coordinator: Debbie Hays

Cell: 903-452-5331 Email: dhays55@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Ernest Rodriguez

Cell: 903-810-0633 Email: erod7707@gmail.com

Prayer Vigil: Rhonda Gorrell

Cell: 575-749-1221 Email: fire322dfd@yahoo.com

Publication Coordinator: John Epps

Cell: 830-444-1400 Email: j.epps1400@gmail.com

Sponsorship Training: Laura Resler

Cell: 617-953-4486 Email: ltrfp2@gmail.com

Reunion Groups: Scott Catchot

Cell: 903-373-5415 Email: scottcatchot@yahoo.com

Non-Board (non-voting) Positions

Registrar: Jim and Betty Buchanan

Cell Betty: 903-930-2678 Cell Jim: 903-930-2360 email: jimbet85@gmail.com

Walk Crosses: Elizabeth Minor

Home: 903-657-8112 Email: mnm-design@msn.com

Cell: 903-720-1740

Doves: Jay Edwards, je7255@aol.com

Webmaster: Martha and Brett Walker

Cell Martha: 903-235-0158 Cell Brett: 903-987-3090

email Martha: marthasgarden55@gmail.com email Brett: brettfcall@gmail.com

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 75713-22122