

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter March 2024

Coming Events

Spring Walks at Disciples Crossing in Athens

Men's Walk #104, March 7 – 10

Women's Walk #105, March 14 – 17

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: Arrive at 7pm for Gathering, Worship and Candlelight that starts promptly at 7:30pm.

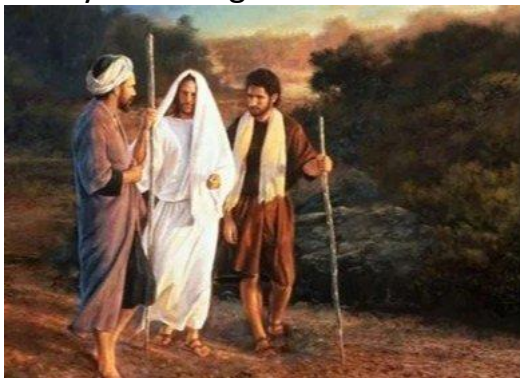
Sunday: Sponsors pick up Pilgrim's belongings at 3:30, Closing begins at 4pm.

****DATE CHANGE****

Sat, Apr 6, at Crossroads Church, Canton

4pm Babe Chick and Sponsorship Training; Gathering potluck dinner at 5, with Worship immediately following.

Sat, Apr 20, FMC Gladewater – Gathering potluck lunch at noon, with service immediately following.



Walk to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-35

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16



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

www.graceemmaus.com

Community Lay Director's Corner

Happy March! What a wonderful name for this month. As we grow weary of winter's gray and cold days, we need to "march" forward, knowing that light and renewal are right around the corner. As Spring is budding, it is the perfect time to think about the renewal that is also happening in our own lives. The Emmaus movement is all about renewal and growth.

Excitement is in the air as the Spring Walks are upon us. Having just completed training for Walks 104 and 105, March will host the GRACE Community Walks which are set to see the turnout of Pilgrims being sponsored by Community members. In addition to sponsoring, the hands and feet of Jesus are showing up to serve as Team members loving Pilgrims on these Walks, 4th Dayers seating and serving Christ Dinner, Community members attending Candlelight services and making agape, and prayers being lifted from close and afar around the clock during the Walk weekends. If you haven't already signed up for the Prayer Vigil, please do so by visiting our website at GRACEemmaus.com

We had a great turnout for our February Gathering at Athens First Methodist Church. Many thanks to the wonderful people there for hosting us and for their warm hospitality. Our next Gathering is April 6th at Canton Crossroads Church with Babe Chick Training at 4pm. There will be a potluck dinner and worship service to follow. Please remember to bring your name tag and worship book. We look forward to seeing you all there.

As I was reading through the Emmaus Disciples passage in Luke 24:13-35 there are several important insights that occurred to me. (1) The Living Jesus wants to join us on our journey of life. Scripture tells us in Luke 24:15, *"While they conversed and reasoned, Jesus drew near and began to walk with them. But they were prevented from recognizing Him."* (2) The Living Jesus will point us to His Word. Luke 24:27 tell us, *"Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."* (3) The Living Jesus is waiting to be invited in. *"Jesus gave the impression He was going farther. But they urged Him to stay with them,"* Luke 24:28-29. (4) The Living Jesus wants to open our spiritual eyes. Jesus reclines at the table in Luke 24:30. *"Then their eyes were open, and they recognized Him."*

I don't know about you, but for me there is a powerful message here. Sometimes an explanation of the Scriptures is not as powerful as experiencing His power and grace for ourselves. Don't get me wrong, when I read His Word my heart moves within me. But when I think of the moments I have had fellowship with Him, that is when my eyes are opened and my heart burns within me. My prayer is we will all experience Jesus this Easter season.

Sunday is coming!

DeColores
John Webb, Community Lay Director
"Let it shine"

It's Spring Walk Time!

- **Spring Walks at Disciples Crossing in Athens**

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

Saturday: Arrive at 7pm for Gathering, Worship and Candlelight that starts promptly at 7:30pm.

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

Sponsors – also please make sure your pilgrims are at Babe Chick and Sponsorship training after the Walks on Sat, Apr 6, at Crossroads Church, Canton - 4pm Babe Chick and Sponsorship Training; Potluck dinner at 5, with Worship immediately following.

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

- **Sponsor a Pilgrim!** Do you know someone you would like to share this amazing experience with? Prayfully consider asking them to attend a walk. Pilgrim information is found on our website www.graceemmaus.com -> Applications tab -> Pilgrim Application.

- **Make agape gifts for men and women!** Recommended number of identical pieces of agape for each Walk:

- 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.**

- **Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for one or both Walks?**

- **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!

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



Cross at Disciples Crossing Camp

Mens Walk #104

Greetings

The team for Walk#104 is ready to have "The Best Walk Ever". We look forward to meeting the Pilgrims on March 7th and meeting our new best friend. We covet your prayers during that entire weekend at Disciples Crossing.

*He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6*

De Colores
Eddie Leibold
Lay Director, Mens Walk 104



Womens Walk #105

It's Walk month!!!

I love working Emmaus Walks. I get to love on others, watch them let go of obstacles and grow closer to God, and go back to their homes, jobs and churches on fire for Christ. It's a beautiful thing!

I also love watching those working the walks grow in their faith and in confidence. I have seen those who said they would never get up and talk in front of a group, do just that. (Watch what you tell God you will "never" do! He loves that challenge!) The more we are filled with Christ, the more we lean on scripture, the more confidence and courage we have. This too is a beautiful thing! Don't let fear keep you from doing those things God is calling you to do. Trust that He will equip you with all you need, and more.

*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
Lay Director Womens Walk #105

Are We Different?

It's the same story, the same season. Are we different?

The Easter story makes sense of a world that too often seems senseless. The story of a faithful, loving Creator, who shared our life and walked our road. It's a story of overcoming. The story of triumphant hope, even in the face of death itself.

As Christians we want to know the Resurrection story. This is where we place our hope. But we don't want to feel it in our hearts or see with our own eyes what Jesus truly went through for us. The reality is too painful.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." Mark 1:16-18

Jesus asked the disciples to leave their life, their families, their jobs that provided for their families, all their responsibilities, everything they knew and follow Him. Without hesitation Simon and Andrew traded their dreams for a life in the unknown. They walked away from everything they had always known without even knowing Him. Yet, there was something about Him that prevented them from continuing life the same way.

What if we could take the journey with Jesus to the cross this season? What if we



could be part of the story instead of hearing it or reading about it?

It's the same story we hear year after year; the cross and the empty tomb. We may even be familiar with all the characters. But, I'd like to challenge us to look at it differently this year. What if we could get to know Jesus on an intimate level, not simply intellectually?

Knowing ABOUT Jesus is not the same as KNOWING Jesus. Even when we make God a priority, we seem to understand intellectually but we struggle to carry that knowledge to our hearts. Transferring our head knowledge to our hearts is vital to our walk with our Lord and Savior.

We can have knowledge of a truth without actively believing. In Mark 9:23, Jesus said, "Everything is possible to the one who believes." He didn't say, "All things are possible to those who have knowledge."

This season my prayer is we would draw close to Jesus personally, the Man who stands before us and journeys to the cross for our sin. Lean in, listen closely. Can you hear Him calling your name?

Remember Mary and her worship of our Lord with the expensive oil in John 12? Read it again.

Mary takes a bottle of perfume worth a year's wages and breaks it. She pours the perfume on Jesus. She doesn't save any for later. She uses it all.

Mary knows people will criticize her behavior. She does not let this stop her worship. She is unreserved in her love for Jesus. She worships him.

Not a casual worship. But an extravagant worship where she doesn't count the cost. Every part of her being is engulfed in her worship. It's reverential worship, an extraordinary worship, perhaps even an irrational worship.

Mary doesn't look at the clock, or her wallet. She doesn't look at the people

around her who sit in judgement. Mary focuses on Jesus. She allows Him to completely fill her vision. She begins to worship her Lord in a glorious, personal way.

She pours the fragrance over Jesus' feet and wipes His feet with her hair. Oh, Glory! What a sight to witness! What a scent to absorb!

What would we look like if we were full of Jesus? What would we look like if it didn't matter what others thought or said of our worship?

Is our heart on fire for the Lord? Do we feel our hearts burning when we read His Word as though He is speaking to us in the same way He spoke to the Emmaus travelers in Luke 24?

To whom will we go and tell the good news?

Liz Webb
Community Member

**Let your roots grow
down into Him,
and let your lives
be built on Him.
Then your faith will
grow strong in the truth
you were taught,
and you will overflow
with thankfulness.**
Colossians 2:7

Donations

Thanks to everyone who donated to G.R.A.C.E. in 2023. Remember that all monetary donations go directly to cover all Walk expenses.

To help offset variations in expenses, please consider a monthly donation. It is very easy and safe. Complete the ACH form (provided on the last page of this newsletter) with the necessary information or attach a voided check. The transaction can be stopped at any time simply by written notification. (It can even be stopped for a month or two, and then resumed.)

Another option is to set up a transaction through your personal bank to send a check to our Community.

And a third way is to attend monthly Gatherings and contribute during the worship service. This is also a way to stay connected and help with consistent giving to our Community.

In our efforts to keep our Community strong and continue our commitment, we humbly ask that you prayerfully consider where your involvement is needed. The costs are high, and the financial need is great, but the reward is simply priceless.

Betty Buchanan
Community Treasurer

International Virtual Gathering

The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries Office invites you to participate in its yearly **International Virtual Gathering** on April 19 at 7pm. This yearly event will bring together Emmaus Ministries community leaders and members from around the globe. Together, we will praise God in song and hear from lay and clergy speakers as they share their Fourth Day experiences. We will meet in small groups to share and encourage each other on the journey. The session will end with a love feast that will provide us with an opportunity to continue to open ourselves to God's grace.

Use the following link to register for the Virtual Gathering:

https://www.upperroom.org/walktoemmaus/gathering?utm_source=The+Upper+Room+Newsletters&utm_campaign=0e207d487c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_01_15_05_31_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=00542d9a4cf-0e207d487c-204526697

Editor's note: I have participated in this event, and it is truly amazing to see how the Walk to Emmaus is shared around the world.

FAITHFUL

"MOREOVER, IT IS REQUIRED OF STEWARDS THAT THEY BE FOUND FAITHFUL."

Have you ever wondered what is meant by being faithful? Where do we draw the line when we declare we are faithful to someone or something? "Faithful" according to the Biblical Dictionary is being "loyal; steadfast in affection or allegiance; true to one's word or devotion." A faithful steward is simply one who keeps their promises and fulfills their duties.

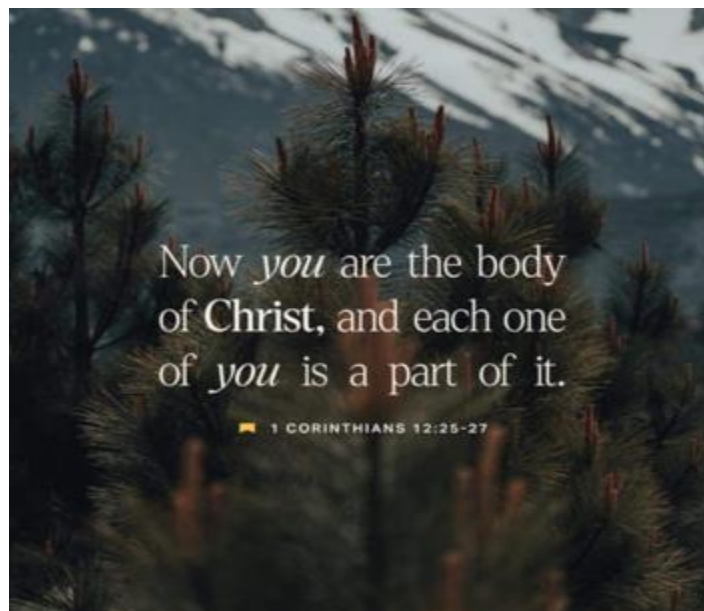
What does faithfulness look like in our lives? Faithfulness is evidenced through our continuous actions. You can't be faithful once. Faithfulness is being immovable in our affections and allegiance. To Love God Most! To be devoted to God Most! God's Word confirms what we all know to be true personally, *"The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41)."*

Don't we all have good intentions for being faithful?

Here is the good news! God enables faithfulness! *"He Who calls you is Faithful; He will surely do it (1 Thessalonians 5:24)."* *"God is Faithful, by Whom you were called into The Fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 1:9)."* Yay God!

Let's make a decision today to lean in and lean on Jesus and His Spirit within you as you serve His Purpose as Lord of all of life! We can and will be found faithful because of God and His Grace to us and for us! Yay God!

Thank you,
Chad Bearden
Ex Officio Community Lay Director



Binds and Unites



This drawing is by Anja Rozen, a 13-year-old primary school student in Slovenia. She was chosen from 600,000 children around the world to create a piece of art to show what peace looks like.

She is the winner of the international Plakat Miru competition.

"My drawing represents the land that binds us and unites us."

"Humans are woven together. If someone gives up, others fall. We are all connected to our planet and to each other, but unfortunately, we are little aware of it. We are woven together. Other people weave alongside me my own story; and I weave theirs," said the young designer.

Charlene Burton
Community Registrar

Reunion Groups

The Reunion Group is very important to the Emmaus community. Aside from the relationship you build with Christian brothers, it is a sort of accountability of your Walk.

We call our group the Emmaus Accountability Group, and we meet once a week on Tuesday night. In addition, we have a group text to use when one of us feels like sharing something encouraging. This sharing has become almost important as the meeting itself. So one is uncomfortable about the meeting and sharing, we follow the "Las Vegas" rule of what happens here stays here. We really are a close group. Attendance varies because of our busy lives with as many as 12-15 showing up or as few as 3. It is a very important part of my Walk and could be an excellent introduction for some potential Pilgrim to attend.

Bob Holloway
Community Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape

Start With Prayer

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:5

I believe the principle of first praying to God applies to any task or challenge we face. Instead of just jumping in and relying on our own efforts, we can make it a practice to start with prayer.

The words from Proverbs offer good advice:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Prov.3:5-6)

God created us to be in relationship with Him and to seek His wisdom and will for our lives. We should all begin each new task with prayer.

Dennis Gage
Community Book Table



Gatherings & Reunion Groups

Hello community,

I'd like to start by saying how good it was to see the people that showed up to the gathering at Athens on February 17th. It gives me such a good feeling getting together with fellow Christian believers, I can't help but feel the joy.

But I also must ask why I don't see more people at these gatherings? I realize that it's not possible to attend every gathering. I have missed some myself just like others, but I must ask myself why am I seeing fewer people new and old? Are they not interested anymore? Are the gatherings not meeting the needs of our community?

Okay, yes, I have a new position on the Grace Board. I am responsible for Reunion Groups. The biggest reason I am, is I really believe in the power of groups. We need the support of others to stay strong in our beliefs. We sometimes need the support of others to keep our faith strong. God tells us that we cannot do it alone, we need God and his believers to maintain the strength of our beliefs. It is because of my belief that I am reaching out to the Community Members. I am asking you to try and attend a monthly Gathering near you.

Do you have ideas that could help us draw more people to attend our monthly Gatherings? Reach out to me with your ideas!

I will be attending some of your local Reunion Groups to see what is working and what may not be working so well. I look forward to seeing you in the near future!

DeColores,
Ken Sides
Community Reunion Groups



GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2024

Lay Director

John Webb
webbgraceemmaus@gmail.com
903-714-6346

Assistant Lay Director

Sandra Grasc
grasch3@gmail.com
903-286-3331

Ex Officio Lay Director

Chad Bearden
cbearden@txfb-ins.com
214-490-9351

Spiritual Director

Jim Pickens
Jpickens316@msn.com
214-476-5558

Assistant Spiritual Director

Secretary

Debbie Hays
dhays55@yahoo.com
903-452-5331

Treasurer

Betty Buchanan
Jimbet85@gmail.com
903-930-2678

Committees

Agape (Banquet)

Deb Miller
debikmiller54@gmail.com
214-537-0627

Babe Chick Training

Brian Jones
bjones171958@gmail.com
469-337-8654

Book Table

Dennis Gage
gagefireandsafety@gmail.com
903-987-3908

Community Trailer

Douglas Denmark
denmark_douglas@yahoo.com
903-917-3454

Gathering Coordinator

Tim Thompson
826sambojr.tt@gmail.com
903-368-8819

Music Coordinator/Trailer

Brad Burton
brad.d.burton@gmail.com
903-920-6662

Newsletter Editor

Martha Walker
marthasgarden55@gmail.com
903-235-0158

Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape

Bob Holloway
thegapp2@yahoo.com
817-296-2586

Publications Coordinator

Carolyn McCain
cbmccain@hotmail.com
903-335-1460

Reunion Groups

Ken Sides
sideskr@gmail.com
903-724-3003

Sponsorship Training

Kevin Abney
kevinabney01@icloud.com
903-780-2768

NON-VOTING

Registrar

Charlene Burton
cburtonlindale@gmail.com
903-920-6677

Walk Crosses

Elizabeth Minor
mnm-design@msn.com

Dove Name Tags

Jay Edwards
je7255@aol.com

Community Trainer

Brett Walker
brettcall@gmail.com
903-987-3090

Webmaster

Brian Walker
triyourself@gmail.com
903-563-2131

Ministry Manager Data Administrator

Martha Walker
marthasgarden55@gmail.com
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