

Grace for Today

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

May 2025

Coming Events

Saturday, May 10, Workday at Camp

Gilmont – 8:00 AM meet at Mackey Hall; lunch at noon, with Worship immediately after; bring your own lunch & drink, this is NOT a Potluck. **(more details on page 3)**

Saturday, June 21, Gathering – Grace Bible Church, Canton - Potluck at Noon, Worship immediately after.

Saturday, July 19, Gathering Winona Methodist Church - Potluck at Noon, Worship immediately after.

Saturday, August 23, Gathering – Marvin Methodist Church, Tyler - Potluck at Noon, Worship immediately after.

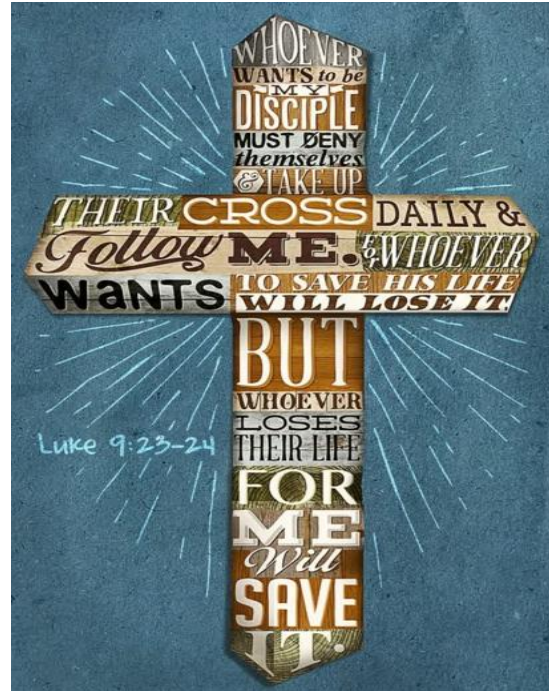
Fall Walks – Camp Gilmont, Gilmer

Men's Walk #110, Sept 25 - 28

Women's Walk #111, Oct 2 - 5



But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. --Romans 5:8 (NIV)



Inside this Issue

2: Community Lay Director's Corner

3: Camp Gilmont Workday

4: Help With Our Fall Walks

5: A 4th Day Story

6: When you change the way you look at things...

7-8: What did Judas Teach Us

9: Grace

10: The Emmaus Story

11: 2024 GRACE Emmaus Board of Directors

12: Support for GRACE Emmaus Community

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

<https://www.graceemmaus.com>

Community Lay Director's Corner

The Easter season may be finished, but God isn't!

Many churches have extra services and events during Lent, and especially during Holy Week, that keep our focus on Christ and the resurrection. It is a spiritual and meaningful time for most Christians.

But then what? Do we simply go back to our homes, our jobs and our worldly ways? Do we set down our bibles and allow them to collect dust?

During Jesus' time on earth, between his crucifixion and resurrection into heaven, he told his followers that God's Holy Spirit would be with them, and guide them as they went into the world and shared His message of hope, love and forgiveness.

This is His message to you too. Go into the world with actions and words of love, so that those around you will see and know your savior, Jesus Christ. Don't let the love and hope of the Easter story end. Keep the celebration going all year long!

CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Sandra Grasch
Community Lay Director



Camp Gilmont Work Day

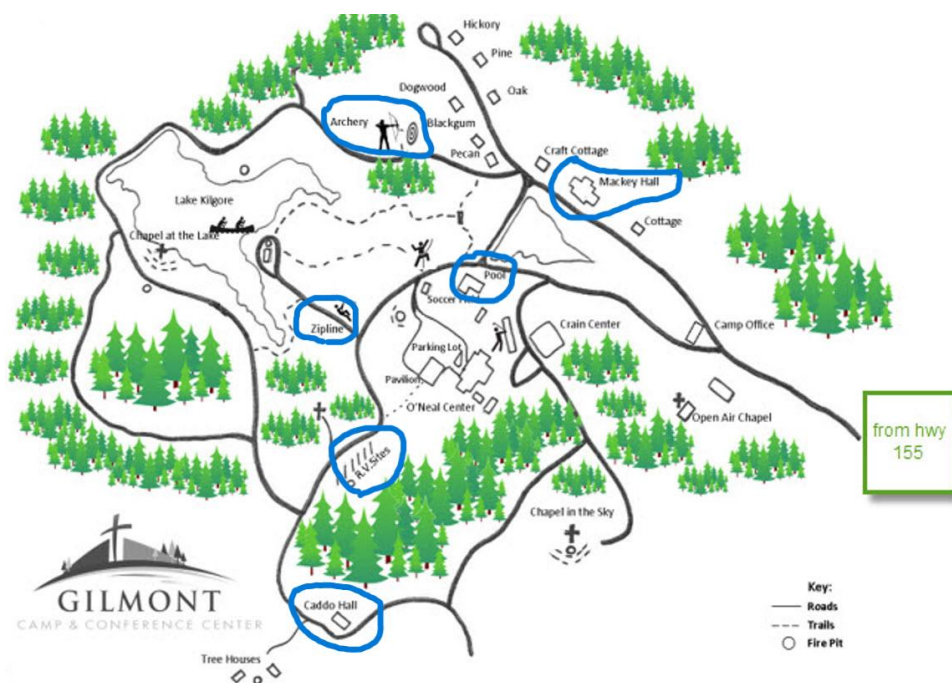
On Saturday, May 10, we will have our annual Camp Gilmont Workday! Arrive at **8am** at **Mackey Hall**, and we will spend the morning doing projects around the camp. About noon we will stop for lunch and Worship also at Mackey Hall. We can go home after that. **Bring your own food and drink** since this is NOT a Potluck. **Also, bring insect repellent and sunscreen!**

This year we have some significant projects so please come and help:

- The RV Bathrooms need to be cleaned. They are used by Adventure Camp, Caddo Hall kids, and Archery kids. Please bring cleaning supplies.
- Caddo Hall needs to be cleaned. It is used for kid's camp art and crafts: sweep and wipe down the inside and clean off the front porch. Please bring brooms and cleaning supplies.
- The Archery area needs the briars cut down. Please bring pruners and weed eaters.
- The Low Rope area also needs the briars cut down and tree limbs along the road trimmed up. Please bring pruners and tree trimmers.
- The Volleyball Court needs the grass removed. Please bring a garden fork or rake.
- The outside of the Pool House needs to be painted. Camp Gilmont will provide tarps, paint, rollers and brushes.
- The Pool House bathrooms need to be cleaned. Please bring cleaning supplies.
- The A-MA A-WA-YA Trail, needs to be cleaned up. Please bring pruners and tree trimmers. The trail starts about 3/4 of the way down the Zip line.

Please try to come! It is a great time of fun, companionship, and worship while we help Camp Gilmont with much needed improvements before the summer camping season begins.

For more details, email Garry Mount at gmountcmount@hotmail.com



It's Not Too Early To Help With Our Fall Walks

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

Camp Gilmont, Gilmer
Men's Walk #110, Sept 25 - 28
Women's Walk #111, Oct 2 - 5

- ***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 -> Applications tab -> Pilgrim Application.



The Cross at Camp Gilmont

- ***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 Nancy Edwards (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, C J Cox (charlescox98@gmail.com) or Pam McAdams (sp1792@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) 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.



A 4th Day Story

Two days before my scheduled Walk to Emmaus, I received the final decree for divorce from my husband's attorney. With a heavy heart I prepared for my journey to Emmaus.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I did know that God had something to teach me. While there, I was led to leave my burdens, emotions, and feelings of abandonment, rejection, hurt, "alone-in-the-world" feelings, "I'm not good enough", and the "why was I just not good enough to love" ...

As I surrendered these to God, my eyes were opened to see that I am truly seen, I am heard, and I am certainly loved by my Father. I actually gave the Lord His pen back that I seemed to keep stealing from Him, and decided to let Him finish writing my story that He originally penned long before I ever knew Him. After all He is the Author and Perfecter of my life.

"looking away from all that will distract me and focusing my eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith, the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity, who for the joy of accomplishing the goal set before Him endured the cross, disregarding my shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work. (Heb. 12:2)

God-fi-dence
knowing i can't
but knowing He will.



As I sat in reflection this morning, the day after returning home from Emmaus, God's confirmation surrounded me as the sun was positioning itself for the day, the birds singing in harmony, and the beautiful sprinkles of my favorite color, pink, arrayed from the tulip tree that my mother had planted years ago, all perfectly positioned outside of my window for me to admire. As far back as I can remember, I used to focus and place my concern upon my physical body weight and appearance, now I am able to see my spiritual self as so much lighter and brighter.

Then with pen in hand, or cursor on screen, God and I closed a 14-year chapter of my life as I signed the final decree of divorce.

As I continue reading in Hebrew 12:3, I will consider and meditate more on Jesus, and I will not allow the trials in my life to cause me to grow weary and lose heart.

I am reminded that God loves me, and His love will never fail me. He has me safely in His arms. He is going to carry me all the way through the rest of my life and, in the very end, I will rest forever in His loving arms.

Laurie Williams, Walk #109

When you change the way you look at things...

Sitting here thinking about activities from the weekend and it's amazing what blessings can be put in front of you if you just let go. It has taken me two strong cups of coffee this morning to come down from the mountaintop experiences back into the reality of this valley. And I'm not uncomfortable here; I know it's just where I need to be today.

Our Pastor had a great message on "God balanced tension". Like people pulling on a tug-of-war rope. Yeah, life is like that. But I am learning that when we stay centered and focused and just be in the presence, it's amazing how the tugs of life just make you stronger. I've learned over time (and this was a hard, L O N G, way less-than-fun, lesson)... that it's so much easier if you can let go of the "Why is this happening to me?" and opt instead for "What can I learn from this?" "What do you want me to do with this?" "How can I help others from this experience?" Y'all, it makes all the difference in the world. It can change your heart, help you with forgiveness, and actually let you smile again.

One weekend recently, Brad, Blake, and I stood in damp grass, in the dark, holding candles, and along with an amazing gathering of people, we sang to a group of women who walked past with tears in their eyes, a group of women who felt shunned, who did not feel worthy, who had lost so much hope. Our message was to let them know they are loved, they are beautiful, they are gifts of God. And the blessing was truly ours. In the Agape class one Sunday, we stood with a fishing pole, in front of a special family of adults, and we talked about being fishermen. Only, instead of a fishing pole, line,

hook, and bait... we talked of using faith, scripture, and love as a lure. And the blessing was again ours.

God gives us just what we need when we need it. He makes something special and something perfect out of something dark and defeated. God balances tension. Turns coal into diamonds. It's a real thing, y'all. I've learned that when things aren't going the way I want in my life, it's usually because I'm ready to move forward (even if I don't understand it). I have learned to adjust my thinking, find emotional support, stay healthy and positive, and not let my anger, limiting beliefs, emotions, frustrations, and stress keep me from being something I could be. And I grow a little each time.

Wayne Dyer said something like, "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will change." We all have the ability to live in peace and happiness, but we have to stop walking the path of fear and struggle. Brad and I have found some ways to remove our stuck emotions through serving and taking time to pay attention to the universe around us. And we truly understand the cliché "What doesn't kill us will only make us stronger" ... like diamonds.

Happy May y'all! Shine on! Be a blessing!
Charlene Burton, Community Registrar



What Did Judas Teach Us

The enemy is coming hard. Hold fast.

Easter has come and gone this year. And I'm wondering if we learned anything new. Was it just another holiday or did we notice something different?

Jesus is our greatest example of how to love others. Jesus treated Judas so well that no one was able to detect who the betrayer might be. Judas was even clueless that Jesus knew. But, rest assured, Jesus knew.

If we are to be thankful for everything ("Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18), it might be hard to find how or why to be thankful for Judas. Yes, because of the betrayal of Judas, Jesus paid the cost for our sins. The truth is, if it hadn't been Judas it would have been someone else because God's plan must unfold. He's good like that.

Judas walked with Jesus. Judas listened to and talked with Jesus. Judas ate at the same table, in the flesh, with Jesus. Jesus spoke to Judas and asked him to follow. Judas was welcomed into this misfit family. Judas lived and traveled with Jesus for years. Every day he looked into the eyes of Jesus. With his own eyes Judas saw the miracles Jesus performed.

Jesus gave Judas the ability to heal so he could go out and help others, just as He did for the other Disciples. And still, Judas led the Roman soldiers to Jesus and betrayed Him with a kiss. He kissed the face of Jesus.



God uses Judas to teach us something very valuable; that one can live among Jesus, be up close and personal for years, and still get it wrong. Let that sink in.

The prophet Isaiah says we are "unclean and our righteous works are like filthy rags" to God, Isaiah 64:6. Paul said in his letter to the Romans, "All have turned aside...no one does good, not even one," Romans 3:12. And even Jesus said, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God," Mark 10:18.

Scripture is quite clear on this, God is holy and righteous, and our works are not. The moment that we think otherwise we need to revisit what Scripture says is true. "For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

(continued on next page)

“Stay awake and pray, so that you won’t enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak,” Matthew 26:41. When Jesus spoke these Words to Peter, James, and John, He already knew what Judas had done. Jesus already knew the repercussions of Judas’ choice. Jesus was very familiar with how powerful the influence of the enemy can be.

We don’t know what lies around our corners. We don’t know when the enemy is asking permission, plotting, and lying in wait to sift us like wheat, Luke 22:31.

It doesn’t matter how much my head knows about Scripture, how smart I may seem about it, if it is never transferred to my heart. I am Judas if I don’t get right with God.

Jesus told Thomas in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” God is speaking these same Words to you and me today. Jesus is calling. Can you hear Him? He’s there. Just off in the distance, “I am with you. I love you.”

There is only One way. Judas was so close yet couldn’t see it. Maybe it was his pride that got in the way, or quite possibly his greed. But please don’t miss this, friends. It is the difference between eternal life and eternal death. And it has nothing to do with how busy you are on God’s behalf. Please don’t ignore His calling. That tug you feel is Him wanting you to get to know Him. He knows all about you. And He still wants your heart.

“If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

But friends, believing in historical Jesus or being baptized is a profession of faith. It means I like Christianity. I believe. It doesn’t mean I’m living a surrendered life.

One of the most spiritual decisions one can make is to choose to take the journey with God more seriously. We have to choose to submit the leadership of our lives to the God who created the heavens and the earth and everything in it. One might think this would be an easy choice, especially in light of the empty tomb we just celebrated. But this is a decision to begin a journey; long obedience, a commitment to choose Him over everything else, to put His Word first in our lives and live by it.

God has more for us and wants to do so much more through us. I’d love to visit with you about how much He loves you. To God be the glory. In Jesus’s name, amen.

Liz Webb

GRACE Emmaus Walk 87



Grace

I have visited several oceans here in the USA (Texas, Louisiana, Maryland, Maine, California, and Hawaii). The last time I actually strolled down a beach by the ocean was last Thanksgiving. We had decided to spend the holiday in Galveston. Never did get into the water, but I was able to watch the water always coming up to the beach. The waves were so rhythmic and relaxing. As I watched them, I noticed how consistent and constant they are. The waves of the ocean can teach us wonderful lessons about God's grace.

Many times it helps to read a single verse from several different Bible translations. Each translation may vary in the mechanics, but each brings a fuller meaning to God's Word. **John 1:16** reads as follows in the following translations:

New International Version

"Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given."

New Living Translation

"From His abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another."

English Standard Version

"For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

King James Bible

"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."



Just as the ocean splashes upon the shore with wave upon wave, so out of God's fullness He sends grace upon grace. His grace never stops in our lives but is truly sufficient for each moment. "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses ..." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

May the waves remind you and your family of God's constant provision and presence. As you watch the waves come in, whisper to yourself, "Grace upon grace" and let God's Truth fill you.

-Betty Buchanan
(adapted from Creative Bible Study)

The Emmaus Story

As we step out of Lent and into the joy of Easter, we proclaim the heart of our faith: Christ is risen! (Luke 24:34). The season of penitence has been a time of reflection and renewal, preparing our hearts for the hope and victory of the resurrection.

The Emmaus story (Luke 24:13-35) beautifully illustrates this transformation. Two disciples, weighed down by sorrow, walked a lonely road, believing all was lost. Yet, in their despair, Christ met them, walked alongside them, and revealed himself in the breaking of the bread. What began as a journey of grief became a moment of revelation, turning their sorrow into joy and their confusion into renewed faith.

Easter is not just a celebration. It is a call to embrace the resurrection life. The struggles we have faced, the burdens we have carried, and the uncertainties we have endured do not have the final word. God's power is greater, and his promise of new life is sure. Easter is indeed a reminder that, in Christ, every ending can become a new beginning.

As members of the Emmaus Ministries family, we are both recipients and bearers of this Good News. We have encountered Christ through community, renewal, and shared faith, and now we are called to walk alongside others, offering them the same hope. As we do so, our mission calls us to embrace our ecumenical mandate — to recognize Christ in all believers across traditions and backgrounds and to be living witnesses to the unity of his body. The risen Christ is not bound by denomination or culture, and he calls us to be one in him.

May this Easter bring renewal to your heart. May you encounter Christ in unexpected places. May you see His presence in the lives of those around you. May you embrace the beauty of diversity within the body of Christ, celebrating the richness of different traditions and voices. And may you go forth with joy, proclaiming Christ's resurrection in all that you do.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Stéphane Brooks
The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries staff



GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2025

Lay Director

Sandra Grasch
grasch319@gmail.com
903-286-3331

Assistant Lay Director

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

Ex Officio Lay Director

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

Spiritual Director

Jim Pickens
jpickens316@msn.com
214-476-5558

Assistant Spiritual Director

Richrd Luna
richard@pollardumc.com
903-787-0585

Secretary

Wynn Harle
cowboycentral@suddenlink.net
903-245-2701

Treasurer

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

Committees

Agape (Banquet)

Nancy Edwards
ne52055@aol.com
903-987-3110

Babe Chick Training

Richard Smith
richsmith1144@yahoo.com
512-940-7553

Book Table

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

Community Trailer

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

Gathering Coordinator

Paul Breedlove
paul@breedlovelandscape.com
903-352-2840

Music Coordinator/Trailer

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

Newsletter Editor

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

Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape

Mike Payne
mpayne0000@gmail.com
903-658-3637

Publications Coordinator

Kim Brooks
brookskimberly@live.com
903-926-2333

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
nmm-design@msn.com

Dove Name Tags

Jay Edwards
je7255@aol.com

Communications

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

Community Trainer

Wynn Harle
cowboycentral@suddenlink.net
903-245-2701

Webmaster

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

Ministry Manager Data Admin

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