



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

May/June Newsletter 2020

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Fall Walks

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

Gatherings

First UMC, Mineola,
Saturday, July 18th,
4 P.M. Babe Chick /sponsor training
5 P.M. BYO Brown bag supper,
(Sponsors bring supper for your pilgrim)
6 P.M. Worship
Masks will be required and
Social distancing will be practiced

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

A Word from Community Lay Director

I woke up this day thankful for the many blessings that God has given me! For the gift of life that leads to everlasting, for the hope He provides in this word, and for the gift of salvation!

God has provided us with many firsts this year! A walk without community involvement in candlelight and closing, two months with no gathering in person, board meetings using go-to-meeting or zoom. Filmed gatherings for the community. A gathering without potluck or a church.

We have a nation that is periled against itself. A pandemic that seems to be lingering on. But through all of this it gives me great comfort to know that the God we serve is still in control and He is the light in the darkness!

I am also thankful for many in this community that continue to lift this community in their prayers, and a board that is still faithful and working very hard.

As many of you know, we had our annual workday at Camp Gilmont in order to help the camp and also to keep our costs down. Just as our walks this year, it was the best workday ever. Our community attended in record numbers, we worked hard together, and prayed and worshipped hard together. For the first time since the pandemic, we were able to worship together in song, and the word of God as a community.

We are looking forward to the fall walks at Camp Gilmont the first two weeks in October. We are also thankful for so many that have volunteered for the walk teams, as those are now filled, and we are now praying for pilgrims.

I hope that you will be excited that we will be worshipping face-to-face as a community on July 18th at First UMC Mineola, and will begin with babe chick and sponsor training at 4:00pm, will eat at 5:00pm but are asking you to bring your own brown bag meal, and gathering will be at 6:00pm. During these times together we will be complying with the church's requirements for social distancing, ask that you wear a mask, maintain 6-feet separation when sitting, and if you have been sick please worship with us on facebook live on our Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus facebook page.

My life was forever changed by my walk to Emmaus! I am so blessed to be in this community of believers where we love and support one another!! You all remain in my prayers, and I ask God to continue blessing you and your during these trying times that we live.

God's Peace!!! DeColores!

Mike



May We Never Harden Our Hearts

This brings to mind Psalm 95, "Don't harden your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness." How often the Israelites hardened their hearts against the Lord. They complained in the desert that they didn't have the right food or enough water, and even constructed an idol, the Golden Calf. And now, they are going back to worshipping idols and abandoning their God for the gods of the nations that surrounded them. Because they didn't listen to God, Israel was attacked and pretty much destroyed. Only Judah was left, and that wouldn't last long either, because they, too, would abandon God and turn to idols. Saturday, we were talking about God's "instruction manual" and how the Bible has the power to keep us on the right path. How much we are like the Israelites in the desert, the people of Israel and Judah who refused to listen to Moses and then to the prophets who tried to bring them back to the God who had saved them over and over again. When do we stop hardening our hearts? When do we obey both the letter and the spirit of the Law? The spirit of all the laws is love. The Israelites who allowed their children to be sacrificed to Baal were not exactly loving parents! Why would they do that? I can't imagine their thinking, but they must have believed that sacrificing their children would bring them something worth having, but what could have been more important than their children? We are probably glad that this doesn't happen anymore, but what about parents who believe that it's more important to work for a bigger house, a better car, or just a bigger bank account than spending time with their children? Of course, there are those who need to work many hours just to put a roof over the heads of their children, but they are sacrificing for their children, not sacrificing their children! Let's examine our own hearts and see how well we are living the law of love.

Good and gracious God, you have shown us the way to you; help us to stay on the course you have set for us. Amen.



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

A TRAINING SESSION WILL BE HELD AT THE JULY 18th GATHERING IN UMC MINEOLA.

We are all still feeling the effects of a pandemic, the tenuous political situation in this nation and economic hardship. Considering sponsoring a pilgrim for the Fall Walks to EMMAUS is the last thing you may have on our mind.

There are so many questions to answer. They include;

When will our Churches open?

Will I have a job to go back to?

When will our economy come back?

When will I feel safe to leave my house?

What could I say to a pilgrim that would lessen their fears and mine about going on a retreat?

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding”. Proverbs 3:5 KJV

The team members for the EMMAUS Walk have been selected and are preparing for the best walk ever with God’s help and yours. With all this uncertainty in our lives what could be better than to offer a Christian retreat and turn our eyes to our Creator?

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 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 has 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. To assist them with filling out the pilgrim application which requires signatures of their pastor and sponsor. The cost of the walk is \$165. A \$50 dollar deposit should be sent in with the application. All pilgrim applications should be sent to Betty and Jim Buchanan

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. The Men’s Walk will be Oct. 1-4 and the Women’s Walk Oct. 8-11. Please include the application 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 sponsorship



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

Giving – Priority of the Heart

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Mathew 6:21

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many of us, the CoronaVirus Pandemic has interrupted our lives, compromised our incomes and rearranged our priorities! P-r-i-o-r-i-t-y, I recall that talk: especially, the three questions. What do you think about? How do you spend your time? How do you spend your money? Thought + Time + Money = Your Priority. I would imagine that our answers to all three of these questions have drastically changed in the past few weeks! As Christians, we have scripture to provide direction regarding money...number one, it is not ours, it belongs to God and is at His disposal. We are encouraged to tithe; give 10% of our first fruits in support of our churches and ministers with gratitude to God who provides all. We are also charged with the mission to provide for the needy, the widow, the orphan and to support the ministries of our ‘messengers to the world.’ Is it any wonder that money is mentioned in the Bible over 800 times and Jesus spoke to the subject in over half of His parables? Could it be that the subject of money required that much attention because it is a place where even Believers are challenged to trust God as our Provider and Ultimate Financial Planner?

In these uncertain times it is a challenge to part with Tithes to our church let alone give more to our missions, but this is what we are called to do! Malachi 3:10 affirms, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My House. Test Me in this.” Says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgate of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be enough room to store it.” Amen.

G.R.A.C.E. has been impacted by the Covid-19 Epidemic as well. Social Isolation has precipitated a short fall in donations and the opportunity to gather, fellowship and share our financial blessings. Many members choose to donate monthly, for which I am extremely grateful. Many prefer to give at Gatherings and Candlelight services as well. So please, as you reevaluate your priorities and plan ahead, remember your walk; your mission; your G.R.A.C.E. and ‘give what you have decided in your heart to give...’ 2 Corinthians 9:7a

May God continue to Bless and Prosper each and every one of you.

Your sister in Christ,

Boni Demaree, Board Treasurer

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 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.

Walk Lay Director and Board Rep Training

We will be having a short training session for next year's Walk Lay Directors and future Walk Board Reps immediately prior to our July Gathering in Mineola on July 18th.

We will meet at 4 P.M. while Babe Chick and Sponsorship training is being held in another part of the building.

If you are interested in learning more about the requirements and duties of a Walk Board Rep, you are invited to come to that part of the training. It will be held first and will be brief but informative.

Our Lay Directors for next year will be contacted directly.

Thanks,

Brett Walker, Community Trainer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for some new folks who might be interested in learning how we manage our community website and send out our email notices. The idea would be to work as an apprentice for a period of time in order to work as back up and eventually take primary responsibility for these duties.

Also, if you are interested in helping with Community training, please let us know.

Brett Walker can be contacted at brettfcall@gmail.com or 903-987-3090.

Martha Walker can be contacted at marthasgarden55@gmail.com or 903-235-0158.



For the new books to be sold at the spring 2020 walks, 42 books were purchased from Mardel's and one from Amazon. Of these, eight books were sold, and 35 unsold books were returned to Mardel's. From fall 2019, 24 new books were left unsold. At the fall 2019 walks, 13 were sold, and 11 were saved for a later date. There were 14 suggested books. Of the seven that were purchased for sale, two were bought at Walk #93. The Donation/Used Books on hand number between 60 and 70. These seem to be the bulk of the book's sales at the two walks. With the availability of ebooks and other online options, it is still a good idea to provide books for sale at the walks. Pilgrims may have a chance to purchase a book representing any of the 15 talks given at the walk. Anyone in the G.R.A.C.E. community who has a suggestion of a book for the upcoming fall walk that you have read or studied, please send the name and author to my attention. Email: jimbet85@gmail.com or PO Box 132212, Tyler TX 75713.

Betty Buchanan
Board Member for Walks Book Table



From the Registrar:

Pilgrim registration forms must have all information completely supplied with all required signatures. Payment of a \$50 deposit or the \$165 full payment of fees must accompany form. Unfortunately, verbal requests won't be accepted or processed. However, we can be contacted at any time for information of walk openings. Any changes such as choice of Walk, change of Sponsor, or change of address must be done in writing by mail (PO Box 132212, Tyler TX 75713) or email to the Registrar (jimbet85@gmail.com). Registration forms sent by email won't be processed unless it is within the week before the walk and is accompanied by a copy of the check. If a registration form is received, we will email the sponsor and pilgrim to acknowledge receipt. Sponsor and pilgrim information letters will be sent out beginning in early August.

Jim & Betty Buchanan, Registrars



GOD IS FAITHFUL

Christ is counting on YOU!

Even in these days of trials, when we are constantly barraged with news stories with accounts of horrific situations, Christ is counting on each one of us. We may have moments of doubt, feeble faith, or outright indignation as we question why these things are happening, yet, we must rejoice in the God of our salvation.

If you are lagging in your faith these days, think back to your pilgrim walk. Was there even a moment during those 72 hours that reminded you of why you trust God? Something you experienced that increased or re-affirmed your faith? Use that; today, right now, to combat what the world is throwing at us.

Our faith is important. It is what sees us through difficult times and what adds to our joy in the good times. It is what gives us courage during the dark times when we are in a pit of despair. It is what helps us sense God's presence as we search for the light as we trust God's goodness, mercy and timing.

When we feel our faith tank is running low, spending time in God's Word, at church and yes, participating in and serving at Emmaus will help refill and re- fresh that faith supply. These things help to remind us that God is wise and does not make mistakes. That God is too kind to be cruel and has our good at heart (Romans 8:28). God knows what's best and does just that in HIS time. Faith believes that God is always in control so we can rest in that knowledge. And, faith knows that even when we cannot see God's hand, we can trust his heart.

DeColores, Ernest Rodriguez

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

Lay Director: Mike Johnston

Cell: 903-521-0860 Email: revmike.johnston@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@equistarranch.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

Prayer Vigil/Wall Agape: Debbie Wade

Cell: 903-520-8495 Email: eleridancer@gmail.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

Community Trailer: 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: ltfnp2@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 75713-2212