

November, 2015 Volume 23, Issue 1

G.R.A.C.E. Website www.graceemmaus.com

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2015 Remaining Gathering Schedule

November 7th Lane's Chapel UMC
4pm Babe Chick
5pm Potluck
6pm Worship

December 5th Hallsville FUMC 11:00am Potluck Brunch



The Real Feast of Thanksgiving

In a few weeks most of us will gather with family and friends and share in an extravagant feast we call Thanksgiving. For Christians, thanksgiving is a different kind of feast. It is a feast of joy for the soul. In John 6:27we read "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you."

The "food that endures to eternal life" is what is most satisfying to our soul.

That is what Thanksgiving's feast of food should be about for us. The food is not meant to be the focus; it is meant to remind us of God's abundant grace which brings satisfaction and joy to our soul. As we enter into this season of giving thanks may we be reminded of the abundance of grace we feast on continuously and may we be truly grateful for His gift of "food that endures to eternal life"

November Gathering

The Grand Ultreya will be Saturday, November 7 at Lanes Chapel Methodist Church in Tyler. For those of you who have never been there, it is on the Old Jacksonville Highway just before you get to Loop 49 as you travel south from Tyler.

Babe Chick and Sponsorship Training will begin at 4:00 P.M. Bubba DeBerry and Jim Buchanan will be presenting the material. If you sponsored a Pilgrim on one of the Fall Walks, you should make every effort possible to take your Pilgrim to this training session. As you know, that is one of the things you agreed to do when you became a sponsor. Also, those of us who have been around for a while could probably benefit from a "refresher" on the responsibilities of being a sponsor. If you don't have a Sponsorship Handbook, this would also be a good time to get one. The Potluck Supper will begin at 5:00 P.M. as soon as the training session is over. Let's remember that Babe Chicks do not bring food to this Gathering, so the rest of us need to bring more than usual. We can expect a large turnout for this Gathering, so let's bring lots of food.

The Fourth Dayers at Lanes Chapel will have plenty of help, but it never hurts to volunteer to help in the kitchen, set up, clean up, or whatever needs to be done. Our Community announcements and Worship Service will begin at 6:00 P.M. The results of the Board election will be announced, along with other important announcements.

Let's all turn out to welcome all of our new Fourth Dayers! This is one Gathering you don't want to miss.

-Brett Walker, Gathering Coordinator

Sponsorship

Peace and greetings to all. The fall walks are now behind us, and many seeds of change were planted and many lives were changed. A couple of reminders as we already begin to prepare for the 2016 Spring Walks no. 76 and 77.

First, as sponsors for the new GRACE Community 4th Dayers it is your responsibility to bring your sponsoree to the Grand Ultreya Gathering on Nov 7th at Lane's Chapel in Tyler. Please be there by 4:00 so that our new community members can receive Babe Chick and Sponsorship training, followed by a wonderful meal and worship service. Either before this gathering or immediately after it is up to YOU to make sure the pilgrim gets involved in a reunion group, even if it means starting a new one.

As a sponsor it is your responsibility for the safe arrival and pick up of pilgrims. If you are not able to complete this task yourself, please ensure that some other 4th Dayer can fill in for you to transport the pilgrim(s). In NO case should pilgrims be transporting themselves to a Walk.

Also, if you have a pilgrim who is unable to attend the Walk they sign up for, but wishes to attend a subsequent Walk, not only let the registrar know, but follow up as the time for the Walk nears. There are times when Walks are full (36 pilgrims), and it is conceivable that someone could be dropped at the last minute or not be able to attend

a Walk due to a lack of communication.

In the meantime, it is suggested that if you are considering being a sponsor in the future, please obtain the Emmaus booklet "Sponsorship" for specific guidance in many areas of sponsorship. These are available from the Upper Room Emmaus website, or at most GRACE gatherings.

Peace and De Colores, Jim Buchanan Board Sponsorship Representative

Prayer Request

Thank you for your continued prayers for Jaceson Browning, as he continues to battle a serious illness. Jaceson is the husband of Kemi Browning, Walk 75. They are members of 1st Methodist, Mineola. Another way we can support Jaceson during this time is to send cards and letters of encouragement. His address is:

Jaceson Browning 115 PR 5553 Alba, TX. 75410

Upper Room Online Learning

"Upper Room Online Learning" launches this week with nine on-demand courses, including studies based on the works of Henri J.M. Nouwen and Phyllis Tickle. An online space to dig deep into spiritual formation topics and engage with others, Online Learning from Upper Room Ministries is designed for individuals seeking self-paced

experiences and online community.

Since 2011, Upper Room eLearning has offered virtual events-webinars, call-in seminars, and select eCourses with other partners. Now, Upper Room Online Learning offers a way for participants to access content anytime, from anywhere, and with any device. Laptop, desktop, tablet, and mobile-device friendly, Upper Room Online Learning eCourses include video and audio recordings, readings, prompts for reflection and a place for community discussion.

"The intent of these eCourses is to offer people an accessible and reasonably-priced means of supporting personal spiritual growth," said Sharon Conley Cottingham, director of eLearning design for The Upper Room, "and to have conversation and learn with others who they might not meet in their local church setting."

Nine eCourses are currently available from Upper Room Online Learning, including two based on best-selling books in The Henri Nouwen Spirituality Series.

Special, customizable classroom experiences for this Advent and the coming Lent season will be available soon for churches and small groups looking for private, closed-group online interaction.

To view a list of available eCourses, visit http://urelearning.upperroom.org/

Words from the Fall Walk Lay Directors

Walk 74
-Lay Director, Mike Johnston

Grace Emmaus Men's Walk 74 was held at beautiful Camp Gilmont. There were 28 pilgrims in attendance during this walk and 39 workers from the Grace community.

The team members on this walk worked selflessly during this weekend to make this the "Best Walk Ever" for the pilgrims. The Outside Team under the direction of Gary Mount, worked long and hard supplying all of the needs for the pilgrims and inside team. The Chapel Team, under the direction of Jim Buchanan, worked hard to provide a spiritual atmosphere for the pilgrims and inside team. The Music Team, under the direction of Mac Walling, provided uplifting music for all members to experience. The Inside Team worked very well together as a team and provided the pilgrims with direction and insight. Spiritual Director, Richard Luna, and the ASD's worked hard to provide assistance to all members during the walk.

The Lykins family also provided music for the Christ Dinner and blessed us all. The women of the Emmaus Community also showed up in full force to serve the men of Walk 74 during the Christ dinner. The prayer vigil from the community was filled due to the efforts of our community. Many praises to this team for providing a very spiritual experience for all in attendance. And many thanks to my wife, who without her support, the walk would not have gone without a hitch.

The Holy Spirit was there when we arrived and never left us at any time during the walk. Richard

Luna, Spiritual Director, and ASD's worked flawlessly during the walk and provided spiritual guidance for the pilgrims and team during the walk. They prayed with individual pilgrims, tables of pilgrims, and provided answers to all questions posed by pilgrims. Mark Bewley, Board Rep, also assisted where needed.

The closing was also an indicator that God was ever present during the walk with four men accepting Christ for the first time, one rededication, and others who poured out their hearts during the closing.

I am also thankful to Troup UMC, Fairwood UMC, Pleasant Retreat UMC, and First UMC Canton for allowing us to use their facilities for the team training meetings. Their Emmaus Community members served us with such agape love,I know that I will not soon forget it.

And to the Emmaus Community who prayed for us, prepared agape for us, prepared snacks for us, and showed up for candle light and closing, many thanks to each of you that participated in some fashion.

Thank you Emmaus Board for allowing me to serve on Walk 74. Thank you one and all that assisted with this walk to make it a success for Christ's kingdom. For me it was an experience of a lifetime and one that I will never forget. Mike Johnston DeColores!

Walk 75 -Lay Director, Diana Frachiseur

I am reminded of a quote from the great Oswald Chambers, and he writes

"I chose you..."(John15:16) Keep these words as a wonderful reminder in your theology. It is not that you have gotten God, but that HE has gotten you. God is at work bending, breaking, molding and doing exactly as HE chooses. And

why is HE doing it? HE is doing it for only one purpose~that HE may be able to say, "...This is my woman". We have to be in God's hand...Never choose to be a worker, but once God has placed His call upon you, woe be to you if you 'turn aside..to the right or to the left..(Deut. 28:14). HE will do with you what HE never did before His call came to you, and HE will do with you what HE is not doing with other people.

Let Him have His way." Walk 75 was just this: His calling. And I did not turn away, although I'd really wanted to early on but I persevered. And HE did with me what HE is not doing with others and our weekend was wonderfully uplifting and gracefully fulfilling! The beautiful pilgrims of Walk 75 graciously participated in their Walk to Emmaus and received a blessing much larger than they'd ever expected or imagined. Lives were remade. Hearts were refilled and minds were refreshed by the Grace of our Lord and Savior,

Much gratitude to the community who committed to serve and patchwork their part into this weekend of love. And a special thank you to our outside servant team who made this weekend run flawlessly. Through the efforts of many our conference team was able to maintain a level of unbridled discipline in spite of ourselves! Truly a testimony to His power being made perfect in weakness!

Jesus Christ.

It was an honor and a privilege to be the lay director for Walk 75~ Diana Frachiseur

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

John 15:16



CAMP GILMONT'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

November 7-8, 2015 Fun for all ages! The event is free, but there are many ways to support Gilmont throughout the weekend.

SCHEDULE

Saturday November 7, 2015 11:00 am - Kick Off - Brunch Served - O'Neal Dining Hall Silent Auction Opens – let us know if you have an item to donate (suggested starting bids at \$25)

Afternoon full of camp activities – high and low mobility choices; zipline, canoeing, fishing, hiking, games, biking, board games, dominoes, trolley rides and knitting.

4:00 pm - Celebration Service and Dedication of The Rev. Bill and Dot O'Neal Center - Crain Center

5:30 pm - Annual Visioning Dinner (fundraising dinner/dress is outdoor camp casual) – Pavilion After Dinner Campfire Sing Along - Fire Circle

Sunday November 8, 2015 8:00 am - Breakfast - O'Neal Dining Hall Individual and Small Group Prayer Options at Various Camp Locations - Chapel in the Sky, Tabernacle and Chapel by the Lake Camp Activities to choose from. Depart at your leisure. Commemorative 75th Anniversary items available throughout the weekend.

PLEASE RSVP;

www.campgilmont.org 903-797-6400

info@gilmont.org

Accommodations are available for overnight stay. Assistance is available for low mobility guests.

In the event of inclement weather, the celebration and activities will be moved indoors.

THE COMING KING SCULPTURE PRAYER GARDEN

-Tommy Ferguson, GRACE Walk #60

Recently during a labor-day trek, my wife, Anita, and I went through parts of the "Hill Country", specifically Kerrville, Texas and visited the Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden. Location is easily found on the west side of Kerrville; the entrance is just one block, on the south service road, west of the intersection of IH 10 and State Highway 16. The main sculpture, the open cross, is easily seen for miles. The entire garden is a work in progress; however, the main sculptures and walkways are already in place.

Not since my rebirth on March 17, 2012 in the chapel at Disciples

Crossing on Emmaus Walk # 60 have I been so spiritually moved. This visit profoundly moved me spiritually and touched my life in a most intimate way that words cannot adequately explain. The open cross itself dominates the garden at 77feet-7inches in height and can be seen from all points of the garden. One cannot look at the cross without having the urge to stop and pray for the worthiness of one's life, as well as service to others. The stone prayer collection is very moving in that these personal prayers are written on limestone rocks and piled in designated places; the personal prayers of people in pain (both spiritual and physical) will move a follower to tears. The entire garden is about the life of Christ and his supreme sacrifice for humans who did not and do not deserve the honor. One cannot feel but unworthy to even be in the presence of so many reminders of Christ's short, sainted life.

If there is someone out there who needs a little nudge from God to give it all up for Christ, then the "Garden" is the place to visit and be inspired to do so. Others, who have already given it up will be inspired to take a deep breath and renew their vows to Christ and service for Him. Believe me, if you are seen on your knees emotionally giving all your baggage to Christ, no one will notice (not that it matters). The trip to Kerrville is long and worth it.

FREE ADMISSION 6:00 am to 12:00 midnight Open All Year Guided Tours Available (830-367-7706) Virtual Tours:

 $\underline{www.thecrossatkerrville.org}$

2015 BOARD MEMBERS

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903-522-0782

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<u>jmacyoung@aol.com</u>

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Reunion Groups: <u>Tommy Ferguson</u> <u>tloys@hotmail.com</u> Cell: 903-256-7296 Non- Board (no restriction)
Positions

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Walk Crosses/Dove Nametags: Elizabeth Minor Home: 903-657-8112 Cell: 903-720-1740

Webmaster:
Mark Bewley
mbewley@cablelynx.com
903-522-0782

GRACE EMMAUS

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 donate \$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. DeColores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW Name	=			
Name:Address:				
City, State, Zip:				
Email Address:			<u> </u>	
	BANK INFORMATI	ION		
I (We) hereby authorize GRACE Emmaus to initiate monthly. This authority is to remain in full force an				
Monthly gift amount \$				
Date	Signature			
Fill out information below or attach voided check	k			
Depository Name	City	State	Zip	
Account #	Transit/ABA #			

MAIL INFORMATION TO:

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