

# Grace for Today

## G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter October 2023

### Coming Events

#### Saturday, October 14, Grand Ultreya

#### Gathering to welcome the new 4th Day

Members LifeSource Community Church,  
Lindale, Babe Chick and Sponsorship  
training 4:00, Potluck 5:00 pm, Worship  
immediately after

#### Saturday, November 11, Gathering

Smith Chapel UMC, Mineola  
Potluck noon, Worship immediately after

#### Saturday, December 9, Gathering

Emory UMC, Emory  
Potluck noon, Worship immediately after

#### Spring Walks at Disciples Crossing in Athens

Men's Walk #104, March 7 – 10, 2024

Women's Walk #105, March 14 – 17, 2024



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

[www.graceemmaus.com](http://www.graceemmaus.com)

## Community Lay Director's Corner

Greetings and DeColores!

God's provisions and timing is so perfect!

In the recent September newsletter, you were informed of our upcoming Board elections that would be taking place at our Grand Ultreya Gathering on October 14th. You were also informed that you could vote prior to the meeting, by marking and mailing your ballots. I am pleased to announce that a vote will not be necessary, for God heard our need and has provided for just that. He has provided us with the exact number of possible candidates as board positions coming available in 2024. Please join us at the Grand Ultreya Gathering, as we welcome and support the newest 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community Members and the newest members of the Grace Community Board of Directors for 2024:

1. Betty Buchanan
2. Debbie Hayes
3. Bob Holloway
4. Brian Jones
5. Tim Thompson
6. Martha Walker
7. Douglas Denmark

Can't wait to see you all there

Thank you and God Bless,  
Chad Bearden  
Community Lat Director



## **How you can help prepare for Walks #104 and #105**

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

Men's Walk #104, March 7 – 10, 2024

Women's Walk #105, March 14 – 17, 2024

- **Pray, Pray, Pray for our Walks!**
- **Prayfully consider serving on the Walks!** Team Selection will be in November, so it's important for you to get your applications in as soon as possible if you want to serve! Go to our website, [www.graceemmaus.com](http://www.graceemmaus.com) -> Applications tab -> Team Application.
- **Pray for Pilgrims!** 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](http://www.graceemmaus.com) -> Applications tab -> Pilgrim Application.
- **Start making agape gifts for men and women!** For each Walk, we need sets of 72 identical gifts for meal table agape and sets of 36 identical gifts for pilgrim bed agape. We also need sets of 72 identical decorated placemats to use at meal time. 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.
- **Do you have a Golf Cart we could borrow for both the Mens' and Womens' Walks?** More information will come later about Golf Carts.
- **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, March 9th. Men will serve for the Women's Walk on Saturday evening, March 16th. All you need are black pants, a white shirt and a willing heart! More information will come later.
- **Mark your calendar to attend the Gathering and Candlelight for each Walk.** The Mens' Walk gathering/candlelight will be on Saturday evening, March 9th. The Womens' Walk gathering/candlelight will be on Saturday evening, March 16th. More information will come later.



## *The Light of a Candle*

The light of the candles is an important symbol that reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world and that we are called to reflect His light into the world. Candlelight is a means of grace to express God's unconditional (Agape) love in a new and unique way. It's one of my favorite moments on the walk. Jesus is the Light of the world, our world, and in the world.

In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus compares his followers to light, saying we "are the light of the world," unable to be hidden. No one puts a lamp under a bowl because a lamp is designed to help people see in dark places. Christ's words and actions showed the true nature of the world around Him.

*Jesus, light of the world, let your light shine  
through us to break the hold of darkness.  
Amen.*





## What did Walk #102 mean to me?

This is a question we ask of the pilgrims when they finish their Walk. I thought it would be a good idea to address this same question from my point of view as the Lay Director of Grace Walk # 102.

As for me I enjoyed seeing the pilgrims grow in their faith as the days went by. But I also saw the people that worked the Walk grow in their own faith, including myself. We all take something away from our Walk, and that is the important thing to look at.

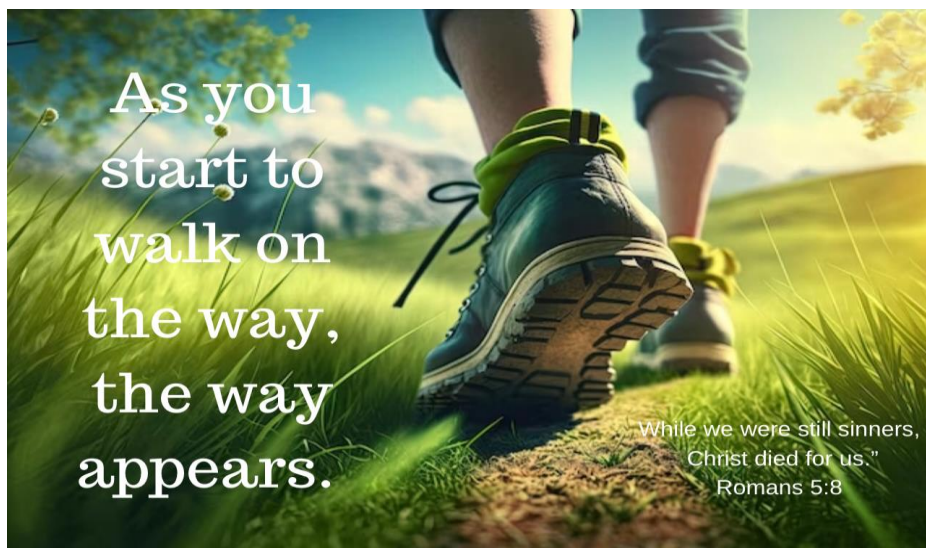
When you leave your Walk, most of us are so pumped up there is no limit to your faith. Some of us are feeling blessed and so happy after being in this surrounding of Christian outpouring. We just don't want it to end. Then the weekend is over, and we return to the world we left behind.

As I tried to stress in my talk we all need to recharge our faith on a regular basis! The world that we returned to is not a changed world; it is the same place we left. This is why we need to find a group that can help us in our walk. We can't change the world alone, but we can become part of a group working to keep Christ alive in our lives. Let's not let our Walks go to waste. Plug in and recharge that feeling you got on your own Walk.

Reach out to your new friends at the monthly gatherings and become active in your Grace Community. All these things I credit for my continuing growing faith.

I ask you, could this be your next step in your journey with the Lord?

De Colores  
Ken Sides, Lay Director Walk #102



## Women's Walk #103

After every Walk, we say it was the “Best Walk Ever”! The culture and atmosphere of each Walk is unique and ideal. But Walk #103 truly was the BEST WALK EVER! From the moment we started praying for the pilgrims and the team members by number a year ago, until closing on Sunday, we could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding and directing this Walk. Lives were changed. Our community now has 35 new 4th Dayers, and we all have the responsibility of helping them embrace their 4th day life. My prayer is that our Reunion Groups will welcome new members and help them live the life of true disciples.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored a pilgrim, served on the Walk, came out for the Agape dinner, came to candlelight, provided music, made agape, and covered us in prayer over the 72 hours. We were truly blessed by you. It isn't always easy to say Yes when asked to serve the Lord, but it's always worth it. It was truly a blessing to serve as Lay Director, and I give God all the glory for choosing such an amazing group of clergy and laity to serve with, who truly showed grace and love (and a little flexibility and charity) over the weekend.

I watched as God orchestrated the Walk moment to amazing moment. I felt Him move in the lives of the Pilgrims and the team. What a privilege to be part of such a loving community.

May God continue to bless you all in ways only He can.

Your sister in Christ  
With much love,  
Charlene Burton, Lay Director Walk #103



## Agape Love

Early Christian writers identified four types of love, each of which serves a unique purpose and each of which is referred to by a specific Greek word.

Eros love refers to intimacy and passion and the fulfillment of physical needs.

Storge love, which is natural affection, exists within the bonds of family relationships, such as mother or father to child and kin to kin.

Philia love is affectionate regard, where one has warm feelings for another and enjoys being in the company of that person or friend.

Agape love is unconditional or sacrificial love, the self-sacrificing love of God for the people of God and of the people of God for God.

In his book *The Four Loves*, C. S. Lewis describes charity [i.e., agape love] as the highest form of love. It is Christian love exemplified not only by acts of giving but also by providing for the welfare and betterment of another person through one's own selfless acts.

We are to learn from God how to love and to practice love through acts of unconditional love for all of humanity. We expect nothing in return.

Agape is, simply and purely, loving for the sake of loving.

A Community Member



## *Women's Walk - Prayers and Exclamation Marks*

I have just come off of the most glorious Walk weekend with the most phenomenal ladies. BEST WALK EVER!!!! Walk 103!!!! If you were on Walk 103 you'll get the reference to ALL the exclamation marks. I actually use them as much or more than our Spiritual Director for the weekend, Chris Harrison.

My friend and Lay Director, Charlene Burton, began praying over 36 numbers a year ago. Simply a number! But God....He knew the names of those numbers. For months she prayed over numbers, her team prayed over numbers. Over time, those numbers turned into names. We then began praying over them by name.

There are truly no words. Those numbers turned into faces. Those faces became friends. I fell in love with the ladies of Walk 103. We had a glorious time. We laughed beyond delirium. We cried buckets of tears both in sadness and in glorious gladness. We emptied the junk and filled up with love.

Something you are probably unaware of is that I needed them as much as they needed Walk #103. You will never know how thankful I am that God answered so many prayers by bringing us all together. Through the working of God's hand, our Lay Director's faithfulness, to be obedient when He calls and to go where He leads, we are now sisters. I am blessed to be part of His flock with you, geese flying far and wide for God's glory... Sheep on a mission for Him to tell the world how much He loves them.

And, just so you know, there is an opportunity for others to join us on one of these weekends that only come around twice a year. God will let them know when it's their time. You only need to reach out and give them the opportunity to say, "Yes!"

Can you even fathom praying for a number that already has a face and a name to our Lord? Can you even imagine praying for a number and the name of a stranger for a year? Someone is being prayed for by a stranger and they don't even know it!!!! He will orchestrate our meeting.

Maybe 1 of those nameless numbers we are praying for now is your loved one, your friend, your co-worker. I can confidently say this, each number is someone loved, adored, chosen, redeemed, worthy of our great God almighty!!!!

May God continue to bless each of you on your Fourth Day. DeColores!

Liz Webb



## *The Outside Team – Invisible Servants*

The G.R.A.C.E. Fall Walks are over but not forgotten. I served on the Outside Team for the Women's Walk #103 this fall. You need to know that it was tiring and there was a lack of sleep, **BUT** I want to reassure you that it was well worth the time. It wasn't my first and will probably not be my last to serve. After all, the next Walks are in March, more than enough to get rested up! The best way to become involved is to keep showing up and helping wherever you see a need. It's up to you as to how much you want to work on a weekend.

The Outside Team supports the Walk from the outside - setting up and taking down and everything in between. You can serve in many different capacities as a member of this team: part, one, or all of the days involved. You are not limited to the number of times you can work on the Outside Team. In fact, the more Outside Teams you work, the more you will understand what is necessary to support the entire Walk. Sometimes starting out working on the Outside Team right after your actual Walk can be helpful if you're reluctant to serve in the Conference Room. Also, it's an introduction to the community and how the Walks work. And you'll find out how some things from your Walk seem to just appear out of nowhere!

Teams are selected through prayerful consideration of Team Applications submitted through the G.R.A.C.E. website, rather than on 'who knows who'. Also applications should be submitted soon because Team selections for the Spring Walks will be in November in order for the next Walk Lay Directors to start their planning activities.

To sign up to serve on an upcoming Walk, use the link to the team application below: <https://www.graceemmaus.com/pages/applications/team-application> . When you have completed the application, you will receive an email confirmation that it has been received.

While working with the Outside Team, you will reconnect with "old" friends and make new friends. On Walk #103, there were about 10 veteran workers and three new folks that I worked with. We had a great time hearing a daily devotion and receiving Holy Communion as a team, sorting Agape and pilgrim letters, getting supplies for the conference room (such as, Kleenex, Sharpie markers), putting out Agape in the cafeteria and on the pilgrims' beds, and going to Wal-Mart for something needed and didn't have in the inventory. We served anonymously as much as we could and experienced God's presence in our own way.

So prayerfully consider working with the Outside Team. It's a decision you won't regret.

Betty Buchanan  
Walk #57

# GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2023

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## **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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

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