



October-December 2020

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

www.graceemmaus.com

A Word From Community Lay Director

What a year it has been for the Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus! To say that this year has been challenging, is an understatement, but praise God that He has been there with each of us through every struggle regardless of how big or how small.

Our prayers go out to each of you and your families this Christmas season and pray that none of us forget that the season is about the birth of baby Jesus!

This will be my final letter to you as Community Lay Director. I pray that the year to come finds favor with God and that He will continue to lead guide and direct us in all that we do and we will have ears to hear.

For those who have lost loved ones or dear friends during this pandemic, we pray God's peace be with you and know that we pray for you each day.

We continue to pray that God would rid us of this virus so that we can continue in His business!

Please pray for the coming walks, that the community will be able to do what God is calling us to do.

In addition, please continue to pray for the board members as prepare for the year ahead.

God's blessings and peace abide with you always

DeColores!

Mike Johnston

Community Lay Director

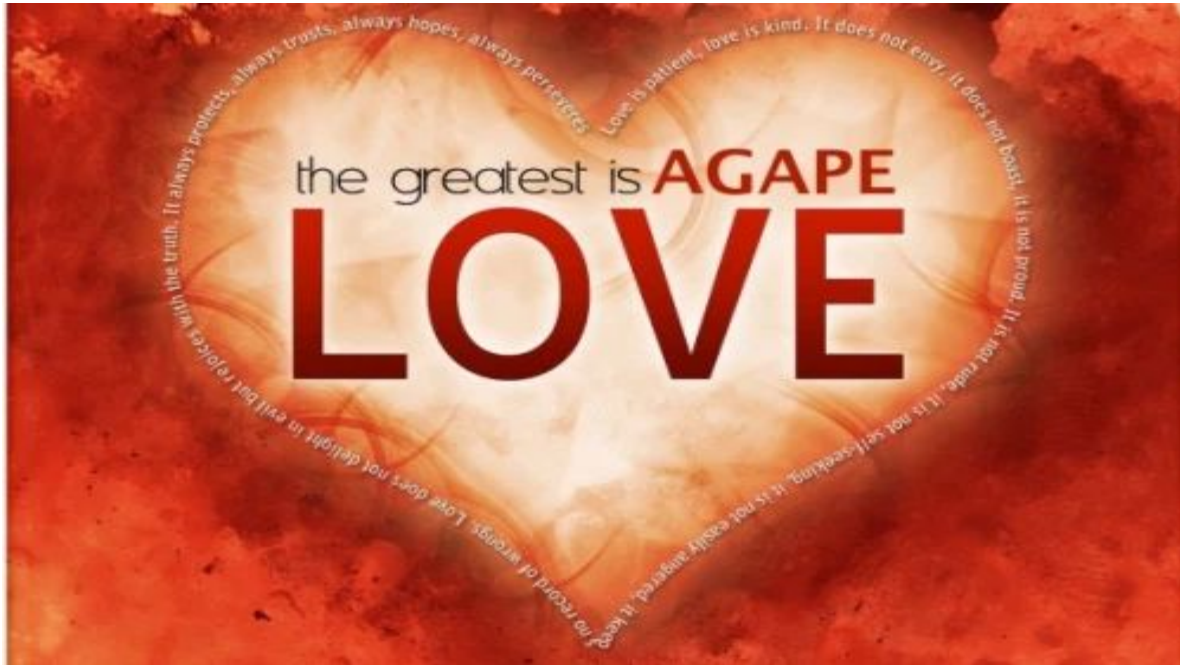


We Need to Use Our Gifts

We know the end of the story. The first two men used their talents wisely and increased their value. For their good work, the master rewarded them. The third, buried his talent and when the master returned, it was taken away from him. I love music and especially love the piano. When I was in high school I took piano lessons for two years but school work became more important and I let the piano practice slide and eventually I was unable to play. I have two friends who play the piano. I would consider one of them receiving the two talents and the other the five. The one who received the two talents went to college and received a degree in music education, taught music for years and even though he is now retired, plays the piano and organ at church. The other friend, who received the five talents, was classically trained, developed his ability in music far beyond playing the piano and is currently the conductor of a symphony orchestra. The little talent that I had was taken away from me because I didn't practice. What talent have you been given? We have all been given the gift of faith. What have we done with it? How well have we witnessed our faith to others? Do we practice our faith; read the Bible to increase our knowledge and understanding? Do we meet with others in our community to reach out to the poor and the vulnerable? To those of us who have been gifted with faith, much is expected. We would not want our faith to wither away as my gift of piano playing did.

Prayer

Gracious God, You have gifted us with so much. Regardless of the talents You have given us, You expect us to use them to the best of our ability for the good of others. Give us the grace we need to allow our gifts to grow to your glory, Amen.



The Next 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 next upcoming Gathering or call Charlene Burton at 903-920-6677 to make arrangements to drop them off.

SPONSORSHIP

The Fall walks will be here before we know it. Sponsoring a pilgrim probably is the last thing you have on your mind. We are bombarded by new cases of coronavirus, increased unemployment and unrest in this country which is terrifying. The core values of this country are under attack. Christians and people of faith are under attack.

We all have so many questions about where we are going and when will this stop. I am sure some of you are wondering why is this happening?

One answer is to make our voices heard and to hold on to our faith and each other. To say we have to keep our hearts and minds focused on God seems to be a simplistic solution; an easy fix. What does God want from us? He wants us to persevere against great odds.

No battle is won without cost. The more valuable the prize the more costly the effort to achieve it. Romans 5:3-5 “Not only so, but we must also glory in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who he has given us”.

We need each other more than ever. Think about what your Emmaus Walk meant to you. Did it help lift you up? Were you renewed and strengthened in your faith? Hold out your hand to a friend and offer them the opportunity to journey with Jesus on a walk to Emmaus.

If the walk does not happen this Fall there will be one in the Spring. Give someone hope and offer this journey to them.

**De Colores,
Laura Resler
Sponsorship**



From the G.R.A.C.E. treasurer

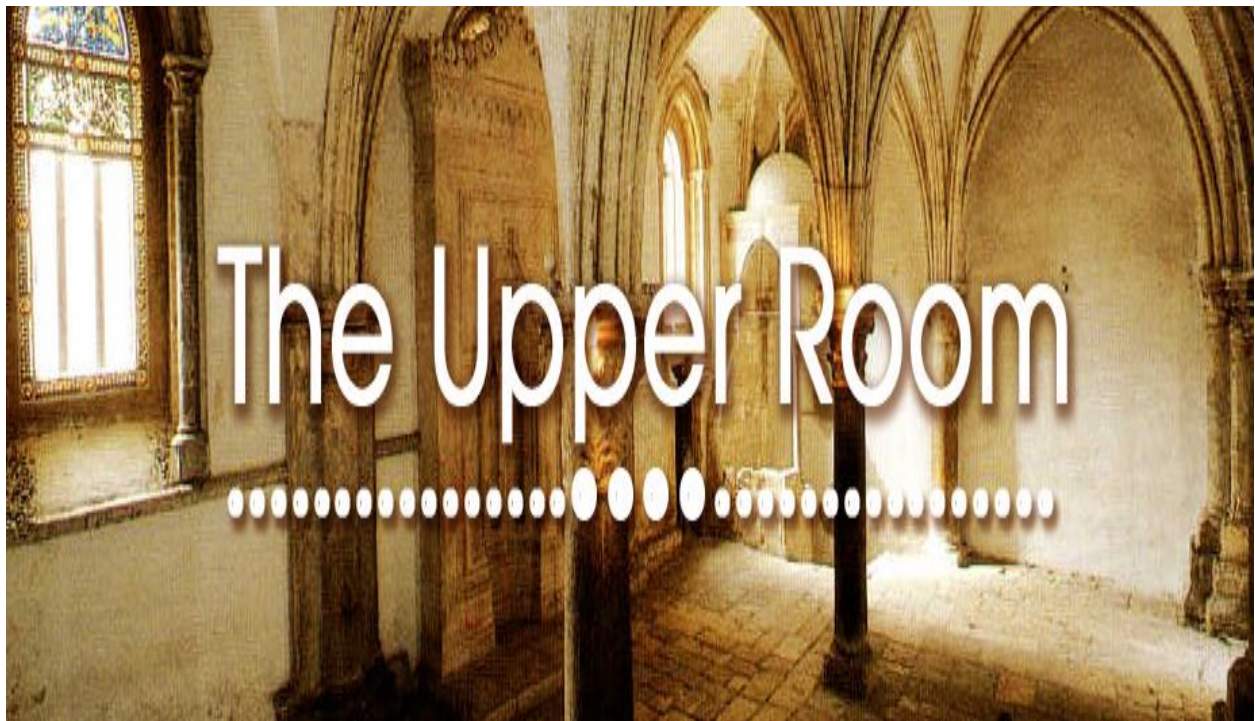
Thanks to the generosity of the G.R.A.C.E. community, donations continue to come in regularly each month by the ACH, personal checks, and at monthly gatherings. Every dollar received goes back into the community to continue to spread the life changing experiences that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Donated 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



<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: STARTING IN 2021

Pilgrim: \$195.00

All others: \$195.00

Deposit : \$75.00

Boni Demaree, Treasure



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.

Dear GRACE community,

I don't know about you, but I have let the distractions and fears of 2020 drift my relationships away from my friends of this organization. It's too easy to fall out of the habit of doing important things when we get interrupted. I say all of this to help you remember back to your own walk and how special it was to you and the neat people you met.

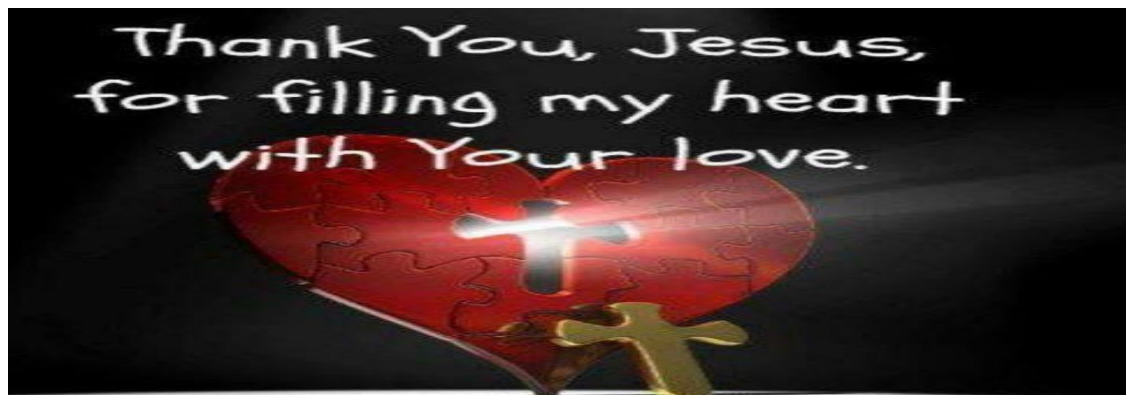
Gatherings and reunion groups are both excellent ways to help rekindle the spark that you experienced on your walk weekend as well as a reminder to share that special moment by sponsoring a friend on an upcoming walk. (February is coming up quicker than you think).

I would like to ask two favors of you. 1. Pray about who Jesus would lay on your heart to invite to our next walk. And 2. Come to our next Gathering! We practice social distancing by asking you to bring your own meal and drink. We have a great time and you get to see some old and new friends. I promise the drive is worth it. Too many times in our fast-paced world I think I'm too busy to take time out for gatherings, but once I get there, I'm glad I came. Do me a favor and ask some of your friends from your own walk to meet you at the gathering. Think of it as a reunion within the gathering. It's time to get back in the groove of supporting this community and being the hands and feet of God to reach out and develop new leaders in our churches. What better way to do that than thru Emmaus. God has blessed each one of us on a daily basis. Let's do our part to help spread the love He has for us all.

De Colores,

John Crow

Asst. Lay Director



Before I surrendered my life to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I had a deep sense of emptiness in my heart. As a way to fulfill this empty hole in my heart, I always looked to man to fulfill my needs with any kind of sin. At the time, I was not aware of what was really going on in my life and why I made all the wrong choices, not realizing the Holy-Spirit was what I really needed. I'm 53 years old now and my life had been a big mess until I accepted Jesus Christ as my savior. I have seen and been through many terrible things and I felt so alone in the world for a very long time. I couldn't love or trust anyone. I had a big empty void in my heart and I just couldn't find a way to fill it. I realize now that God was always with me and I just didn't know it at the time. If it weren't for Him, I doubt I would be alive today. One of my favorite passages is Ephesians 6, the armor of God. I struggled with a very severe spiritual battle from an early age. I thought if I told people some things that happened in my life that they would assume I was just a crazy person. What a joy it is to know beyond all shadows of a doubt that there really is a God. Not just to believe there is a God and leave it at that, but to have personally experienced His presence in my room. That was the night my doubts about God and Jesus Christ changed forever! It is my hope that if you are somehow doubting God, my testimony will change that. After all, to believe that Jesus Christ is merely the Son of God is one thing, but to know by the Holy Spirit to the depths of your soul that Jesus Christ is also God Himself. Knowing that He is co-equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit – One God in three distinct persons . . . that's when Christianity takes on a whole new meaning! Then it's not so much what you believe that is important anymore, but WHO you are believing in that makes all the pieces of the puzzle of Christianity start coming together. I have been thinking about all that GOD has done for me. I have no words to adequately express the love and the appreciation I owe to GOD. To whom much is forgiven, much is required. GOD help me to honor You in all that I do. GOD graciously revealed the truth of Christ's redeeming work on the cross of Calvary to save a wretch like me. So real was GOD's presence as tears of joy washed away a lifetime of anger and pain. Gone was the guilt of my sin against GOD. Knowing that by accepting Jesus as my Savior and LORD, GOD had declared me righteous. Nothing in my past had power over me anymore. It was then that I realized why GOD chose me. I know I'm hurt. I know pain. I know intimately the hopelessness felt by all people today. But most importantly, I know that GOD can save. What I did, I no longer do. I'm not without sin, but the sins I used to love I now hate. When I am wrong I am quick to ask for forgiveness. And shockingly, GOD has birthed in me a sincere concern for the needs people have, and the urgency for their eternal salvation. I am becoming a very different person, and this is my testimony to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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@sysresourcegroup.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: pastorscottcatchot@gmail.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