

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter September 2023

Coming Events

Fall Men's Walk #102

Thurs Sept 21 thru Sun Sept 24

Camp Gilmont, Gilmer

Sat, 7:30pm, Gathering & Candlelight

Fall Women's Walk 103

Thurs Sept 28 thru Sun Oct 1

Camp Gilmont, Gilmer

Sat, 7:30, Gathering & Candlelight

Saturday, October 14, Gathering

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

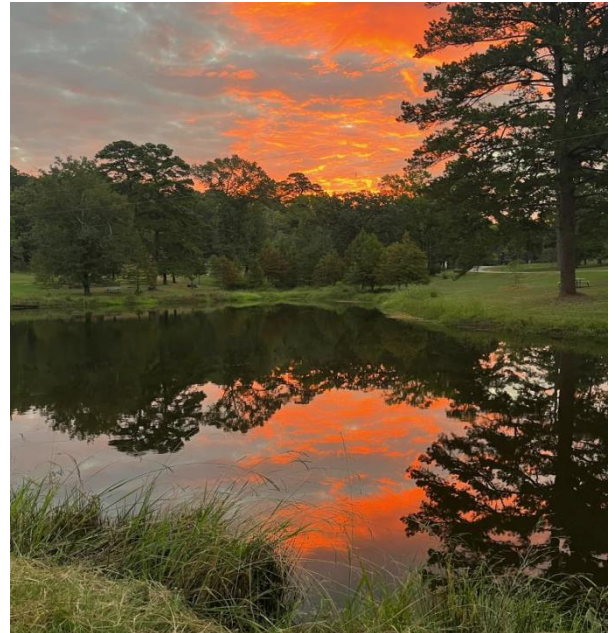
Potluck noon, Worship immediately after

Help find PILGRIMS for these Fall Walks!

Do you know someone who is a good candidate? Please consider being a sponsor! Helpful Information is on the website. See the Pilgrim Application tab.

Prayer Vigil signup is posted on the

website! Please signup to pray for Walks 102 and 103.



Sunrise at Camp Gilmont

Inside this Issue

2: Community Lay Director's Corner

3: Reminders for Our Coming Walks

4: Light of the Holy Spirit

5: Prayer and Service for our Walks

5: The Little Things

6: "Walk to Emmaus" Meaning

7: Indescribable Joy

**8: Candidates for the 2024-2026 GRACE
Emmaus Community Board of Directors**

**11: 2023 GRACE Emmaus Community
Board of Directors**

**12: Support For The GRACE Emmaus
Community**

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

www.graceemmaus.com

Community Lay Director's Corner

Greetings and DeColores.

I am so excited for our community to be on the cusp of yet another set of GRACE Emmaus Walks this Fall.

I believe the part I love most about the walks, is how the Holy Spirit affects each and every person. We so often say that the Walks are for the Pilgrims. But that just simply is not true. The Walks are for everyone, from the Pilgrims to the Teams and beyond. This can only be true, because at the heart of the Walks, when it comes down to it, the Walks are for the Glory of God. Can you imagine the effects of a Walk on a complete stranger in the distant future that has never attended or even heard of an Emmaus Walk?

Psalm 24:1-6 states "The earth is The Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of The Lord? And who shall stand in His Holy Place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from The Lord and Righteousness from The God of his Salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek The Face of The God of Jacob."

To believe in God is to believe that He is The Creator of everything and everything is His! Therefore, to believe in God means that we live with a stewardship mentality and in practice! We have been gifted His Salvation, His Forgiveness, His Mind, His Grace, His Love, HIS EVERYTHING! We don't own anything. HE OWNS EVERYTHING!

We must ask ourselves; how will I use what He has gifted me? And what is God's Purpose for all that He has given us? What is God's Purpose for my Salvation? What is God's Purpose for my life? What is God's Purpose for my position? What is God's Purpose for my job? What is God's Purpose for my relationships? What is God's Purpose for my physical body?

What is God's Purpose? What is God's Purpose?What is God's Purpose for the Emmaus Walks?

God has made everything! And everything God made has Purpose! Let us each live today, purposely, for His Purpose?

Again, I am so excited about these Walks, as I am sure they will be the best walks EVER!

Thank you and God Bless.

Chad Bearden, Community Lay Director

Reminders for Our Coming Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer

Fall Men's Walk #102, Thurs Sept 21 thru Sun Sept 24

Fall Women's Walk 103, Thurs Sept 28 thru Sun Oct 1

- **We need PILGRIMS for both Walks!** Do you know someone who is a good candidate? Please consider being a sponsor! Helpful Information is on our website under the Pilgrim Application tab.
- **Prayer Vigil signup is posted on the website!** Please signup to pray for Walks 102 and 103. Access to the prayer vigil is thru our website under the Prayer Vigil tab.
- **We need Agape gifts for both Walks!** For table agape we need 70 identical gifts, and for bed agape we need 36 identical gifts. Please contact Deb Miller at debikmiller54@gmail.com or 214-537-0627 if you can help.
- **We need snacks and soft drinks for both Walks!** For homemade snacks, please put them in individual bags. Please contact Deb Miller at debikmiller54@gmail.com or 214-537-0627 if you can help.
- **We need Golf Carts for the Walks. Do you have one we could borrow?** Please contact one of our Walk Lay Directors if you can help: Ken Sides (sideskr@gmail.com or 903-724-3003) or Charlene Burton (cburtonlindale@gmail.com or 903-920-6677).
- **Consider being a server for the Agape Dinner** Saturday evening for the Walks. Women will serve at the Men's Walk on September 23, and Men will serve for the Women's Walk on September 31. Please contact Deb Miller at debikmiller54@gmail.com or 214-537-0627 for information about what time to arrive and what to wear.
- **Gathering and Candlelight at both Walks** will be on Saturday evening start promptly at 7:30. Please use the parking lot in front of the Dining Hall, and the Gathering will be in the Dining Hall.
- **Everyone is invited to Closing** for both Walks! Please arrive at the Camp promptly at 3:45pm on Sunday. Use the parking lot in front of the Dining Hall, and Closing will be in the Crain Center.
- **Sponsors picking up a Pilgrims after the Walks** should arrive promptly at 3:30pm on Sunday to collect the Pilgrim's belongings before Closing. Please use the parking lot in front of the Dining Hall.

Please help if you can!

Light of the Holy Spirit

“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”



Before 14 of our Talks, this prayer is prayed by the speaker. It is a powerful prayer. When my grand-angels were little, we laid in bed every night when they visited, just talking about the day. We gifted them flashlights to use to make puppets on the ceiling and to have fun in silly ways. They would use them at night to go to the bathroom or get in the closet without turning on lights. It was great fun as littles. That reminds me of this prayer. Specifically, “O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful...,” comes to my mind as I reminisce of them using their flashlights.

Yes, a flashlight. Not an expensive gift, but one that kept the girls and me busy, shining the beam of the flashlight so that the dark was no longer dark. They quickly embraced the power of the flashlight to shine light, and they were even more excited to know that they could use light to get rid of the darkness. Like many young children, Alyssa was sometimes afraid of the dark. She wanted a night light on in her room so she was happy to know that with the flashlight she would always have light with her. Fear of the dark was no longer a problem. The dark was now more of an adventure with her flashlight.

Jesus left us with the “light of the Holy Spirit.” We, with the same excitement and happiness, are to use the light of the Holy Spirit just as Alyssa used her flashlight to banish darkness and to shine light in the lives of people we meet and especially in the lives of the pilgrims that we sponsor, love and serve on their Walk to Emmaus.

Christ is counting on us to shine the light of the Holy Spirit as that same Holy Spirit calls and uses us so that lives can be changed. We have the responsibility to carry on the work of making disciples through the Grace Emmaus community. That same light infuses our lives and empowers us to listen, to show up, and to be obedient to God’s call on our life to serve our neighbor.

De Colores, Charlene Burton

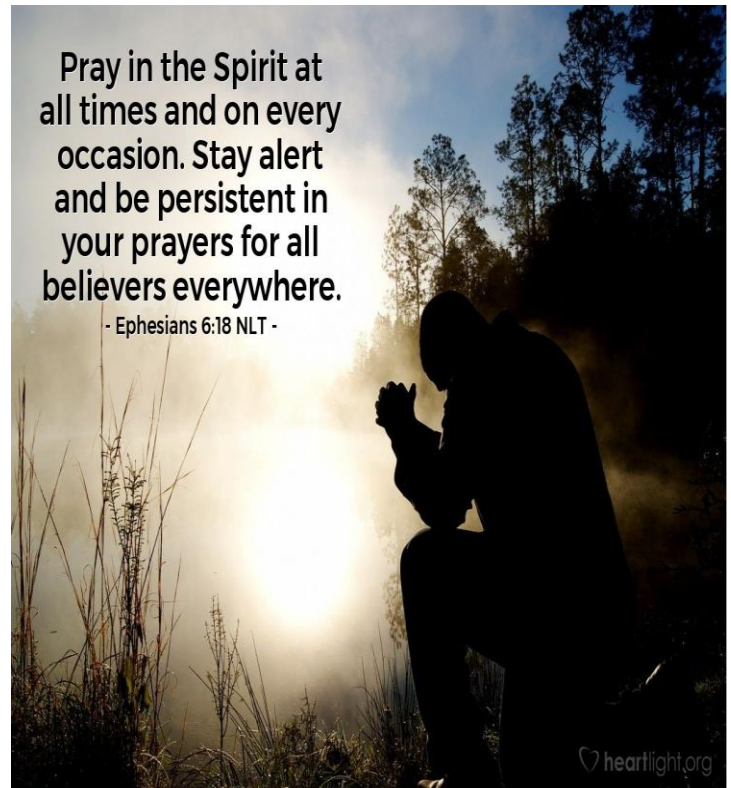
Prayer and Service for Our Walks

“The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service.” - Billy Graham

Prayer and service are the backbone to the Emmaus Walks. Never have I seen so many people, so willing to serve, in one place, as I do when I work an Emmaus Walk. The amount of prayer, time, energy and heart that goes into each Walk is truly what makes them so special.

If you’ve never worked a Walk, please consider it. You won’t be disappointed! If you can’t physically work a Walk, consider joining the prayer team, through the Prayer Vigil. Prayer, in my opinion, is even more important than the service. Without prayer the Walks can’t succeed.

You can sign up today for the Fall Walk Prayer Vigils, and, while our Fall Walk servant teams are full, you can sign up now for the next Spring Walks. God is calling you!



Sandra Grasch
Board Member, Agape and Prayer Vigil
Spring Women’s Walk Lay Director

The Little Things

In a recent podcast, Max Lucado, a Christian writer, reminded us to “give the little things”. His example was the anonymous man who gave a donkey for Jesus to use on the Sunday He entered Jerusalem. That man did not know who would be riding that donkey or how his generosity would be used. But now, we all know it was used by God.

We all have something that can be given to God to help move Jesus and His story further down the road. Maybe you can sing or play a musical instrument or use a computer or speak a foreign language or sew or cook or pray or build things... more gifts than can be listed!

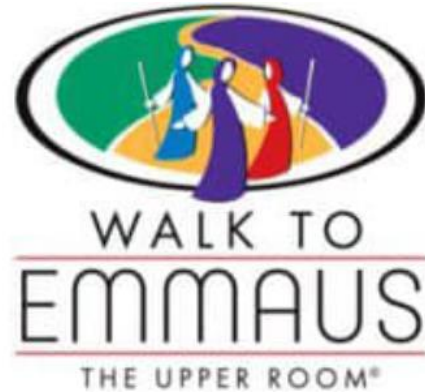
We all have a “donkey” that can be used by God. What do you give? The guy who gave Jesus the donkey is just one of many nameless folks who gave little things for our big God to use.

— A Community Member

What is the meaning behind the name "Walk to Emmaus"?

The Walk to Emmaus gets its name from the story in Luke 24:13-35, which provides the central image for the three-day experience and follow-up. Luke tells the story of that first Easter afternoon when the risen Christ appeared to the two disciples who were walking together along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Like Christians and churches who are blinded by preoccupation with their own immediate difficulties, these two disciples' sadness and hopelessness seemed to prevent them from seeing God's redemptive purpose in things that had happened.

And yet, the risen Christ "came near and went with them," opening the disciples' eyes to His presence and lighting the fire of God's love in their hearts. As they walked to Emmaus, Jesus explained to them the meaning of all the scriptures concerning Himself. When they arrived in Emmaus, Jesus "took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them," and their eyes were opened. They recognized Him as Jesus, the risen Lord, and they remembered how their hearts had burned within them as they talked with Him on the road. Within the hour, the two disciples left Emmaus and returned immediately to their friends in Jerusalem. As they told stories about their encounters with the risen Lord, Jesus visited them again with a fresh awareness of his living presence.



However, the story of Jesus' resurrection does not conclude with the disciples' personal spiritual experiences. Jesus ascended to the Father, and the disciples became the body of the risen Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The disciples were sent forth by the Spirit to bear witness to the good news of God in Jesus Christ. They learned to walk in the spirit of Jesus, to proclaim the gospel to a disbelieving world, and to persevere in grace through spiritual companionship with one another.

The Walk to Emmaus offers today's disciples a parallel opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their lives, to gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity. While Emmaus provides a pathway to the mountaintop of God's love, it also supports pilgrims' return to the world in the power of the Spirit to share the love they have received with a hurtful and hurting world.

"Reprinted from the Emmaus® eNews. Used with permission."

Indescribable Joy

At the last Emmaus Board meeting, Pastor Mike talked about indescribable joy.

Joy. Everyone wants it. It might surprise you to know that joy is a big topic in the Bible. God wants his children to be joy-filled. Just like a mother wants her baby to laugh with glee, or a Nana gets a warm fuzzy every time her grand-angel texts her, God longs for us to experience a deep-seated, deeply rooted joy.

The joy offered by God is so much different than the day to day Earthly joy we experience. God isn't interested in putting a temporary smile on our face. He wants to deposit BIG hope in our heart. He has no interest in giving us a shallow happiness that fades in hard times. He offers us true joy: a deep-seated, heart-felt, honest-to-goodness, strong sense of joy that can weather the most difficult storms and never fade. A joy that shines above all.

Peter referred to this joy in the opening words of his epistle.

1 Peter 1:8

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.

Don't let anything steal your indescribable joy!

Heavenly Father, we desire the joy that comes from Christ. Help us to experience the love of Christ on a deeper level. Make our lives glorious for your honor and praise. In Jesus's name. Amen.

A Board Member



Candidates for the 2024-2026 GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors consists of 15 members, who serve 3 year terms, with 5 members rotating off the Board every year. Listed below are the Community Members running for election to the Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term.

Please review the candidates on the following pages.

Voting will occur at the Grand Ultreya Gathering on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

If you cannot attend the Gathering, please use the Voting Ballot below, and mail it quickly to the address below. ***All ballots must be received on or before October 13, 2023, to be included in the count.***

John Webb, Assistant Community Lay Director
PO Box 2434
Lindale Texas 75771

Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus BALLOT BOARD NOMINEES for the 2024-2026 term Please CIRCLE your 5 choices clearly Nominees are listed Alphabetically
BETTY BUCHANAN
DEBBIE HAYS
BOB HOLLOWAY
BRIAN JONES
TIM THOMPSON
MARTHA WALKER



Betty Buchanan

Hey y'all! My name is Betty Buchanan. I attended G.R.A.C.E. Walk #57, Spring 2011, and sat at the table of Esther. My husband, Jim, and I worship at Pleasant Retreat Methodist Church in Tyler, TX. My walk experience has included, Chapel Team, Outside Team, Assistant Table Leader, Table Leader, and Assistant Lay Director, Lay Director. I've also served as Community Treasurer and the Book Table Coordinator on Emmaus walks. Jim and I served as the Community Registrars, 2013-15 and 2019-2022, a very challenging and rewarding task, vital to the workings of each Walk. On my previous time on the Community Board, I served as Community Treasurer and Book Table Coordinator.

Serving the Lord in these positions has been very rewarding and hopefully a meaningful service to the G.R.A.C.E Community. The Emmaus Walk was a real life-changing experience for me, as I feel like it certainly was for most all of you. Participation in this Community has certainly moved me out of my box, and serving on the Board would be an additional opportunity to continue serving God. I would appreciate your consideration of being elected to the G.R.A.C.E Community Board.



Debbie Hays

I am Debbie Hays. I have been involved in the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus community for 23 years or more. My first walk was G.R.A.C.E. Walk #8 at Timberline Camp, I sat at the table of Ruth. I worship and serve at Marvin Methodist Church, in Tyler.

I have done 10-12 walks over the years, my last walk was #95. I was the Lay Director for Walk # 83, at Camp Gilmont, in Gilmer, Tx. I have been a board member previously. I believe that God is calling me to get involved again. I would be honored to serve on the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus board once again. I believe the Emmaus community is one of the most valuable tools available to guide, lead and teach others about God's role in their lives. Thank you for the opportunity, Debbie Hays



Bob Holloway

My name is Bob Holloway. I attended Grace Emmaus Walk # 80 at Disciples Crossing in Athens. I sat at the table of Peter the Rock. My wife and I attend and serve at Crossroads in Canton, TX. I have served as Assistant Table Leader twice and am currently serving on the Chapel Team at Walk #102.

Brian Jones



My name is Brian Jones. I attended walk #94 at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer Texas. I sat at the table of St. Luke. I worship and serve at First Methodist Church of Mineola.

I have worked on the Chapel Team on Walk #97 at Disciples Crossing in Athens Texas in the spring of 2022. Then I served as an Assistant Table Leader on Walk #98 in Disciples Crossing. I sat at the table of St. John. I've also worked the Outside Team on Walk # 100 at Disciples Crossing in March of 2023. The last Walk I worked was Walk # 99 in Disciples Crossing once again in the spring of 2023. I will be working the fall Walk in September Walk # 102 as an Assistant Table Leader at Camp Gilmont under Lay director Ken Sides. It is time for me to give back to the Emmaus Community serving on the Board. I consider this a privilege and honor to have this opportunity.

Tim Thompson



Hello and DeColores. My name is Tim Thompson and I went on Grace Emmaus Walk #98 at beautiful Camp Gilmont in Gilmer, Texas. I sat at the Table of John. My wife and I attend Grace Bible Fellowship in Canton, Texas where we serve as the Youth Activities Directors.

I served on the Chapel Team for Grace Emmaus Walk #100. I am also very active in my weekly reunion group. If elected to the Board of Directors I hope to give as much of myself as possible, as I truly believe we are the hands and feet of Christ. I believe this experience would intensify my walk as well, growing in my relationship with the Lord.

Thank you for your consideration. God Bless, Tim

Martha Walker



My name is Martha Walker. I attended G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Walk to Emmaus #77 at Disciples Crossing Camp, and sat at the table of Naomi. My husband, Brett, and I worship and serve at the First United Methodist Church of Longview. I currently serve our Community as the Ministry Manager Data Administrator and previously served as the Webmaster. Since my Walk, I have worked on every Walk but one, serving as an Outside Team Member or as the Outside Team Leader.

I know how attending the Walk changed my life, and have seen it in others. I am fully committed to the principles and purpose of the Walk to Emmaus movement, and would appreciate the opportunity to serve on our Community's Board of Directors.

GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2023

Lay Director

Chad Bearden
cbearden@txfb-ins.com
214-490-9351

Assistant Lay Director

John Webb
johnw3bb54@gmail.com
903-714-6346

Ex Officio Lay Director

John Epps
j.epps1400@gmail.com
830-444-1400

Spiritual Director

Mike Johnston
revmike.johnston@gmail.com
903-521-0860

Assistant Spiritual Director

Jim Pickens
Jpickens316@msn.com
214-476-5558

Secretary

Carolyn McCain
cbmccain@hotmail.com
903-335-1460

Treasurer

Rick Rundquist
roundtwig01@gmail.com
903-569-4421

Committees

Agape (Banquet)

Deb Miller
debikmiller54@gmail.com
214-537-0627

Babe Chick Training

Bob Wade
logiosophia@gmail.com
903-521-7361

Book Table

Hank Resler
ltfnp2@gmail.com
903-894-6239

Community Trailer

Ken Sides
sideskr@gmail.com
903-724-3003

Gathering Coordinator

Dennis Gage
gagefireandsafety@gmail.com
903-987-3908

Music Coordinator/Trailer

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

Newsletter Editor

Kevin Abney
gracenewsletter@yahoo.com
903-780-2768

Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape

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

Publications Coordinator

Carla McRee
mccree1979@live.com
903-571-8663

Reunion Groups

Roger Mann
rogermmann@aol.com
559-790-1295

Sponsorship Training

Diane Smith
dismith125@yahoo.com
903-932-5562

NON-VOTING

Registrar

Kevin Abney
register4walk@yahoo.com
903-780-2768

Walk Crosses

Elizabeth Minor
mnm-design@msn.com

Dove Name Tags

Jay Edwards
je7255@aol.com

Community Trainer

Brett Walker
brettfcall@gmail.com
903-987-3090

Webmaster

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

Ministry Manager Data

Administrator
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