

# Grace for Today

## G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter August 2025

### Coming Events

**Saturday, August 23, Gathering – Marvin Methodist Church, Tyler** - Potluck at Noon, Worship immediately after. Enter on the Elm St side and go to Pierce Hall.

**Fall Walks – Camp Gilmont, Gilmer**

**Men's Walk #110, Sept 25 – 28**

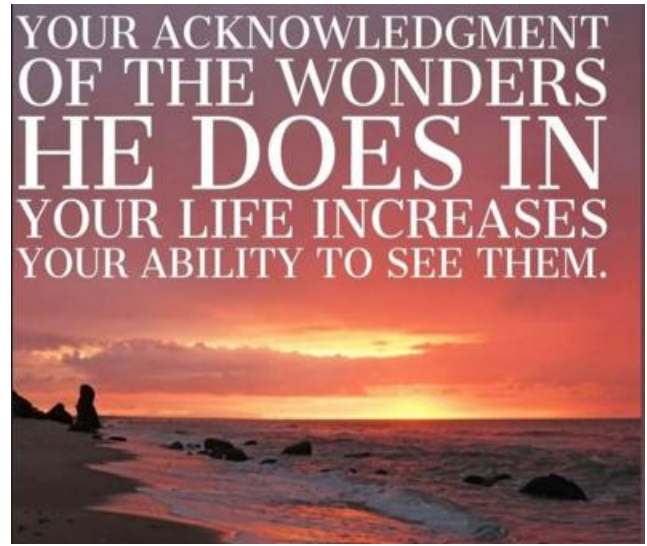
--Saturday, Sept 27, gate opens at 7:30pm,  
Gathering at 8pm & Candlelight at 9pm

**Women's Walk #111, Oct 2 – 5**

--Saturday, Oct 4, gate opens at 7:30pm,  
Gathering at 8pm & Candlelight at 9pm

**PRAY ABOUT SPONSORING A PILGRIM AND  
GET THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED!**

**PRAYER VIGIL SIGNUP IS POSTED ON THE  
WEBSITE!**

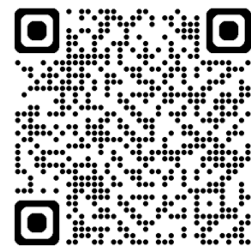


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**Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:**

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



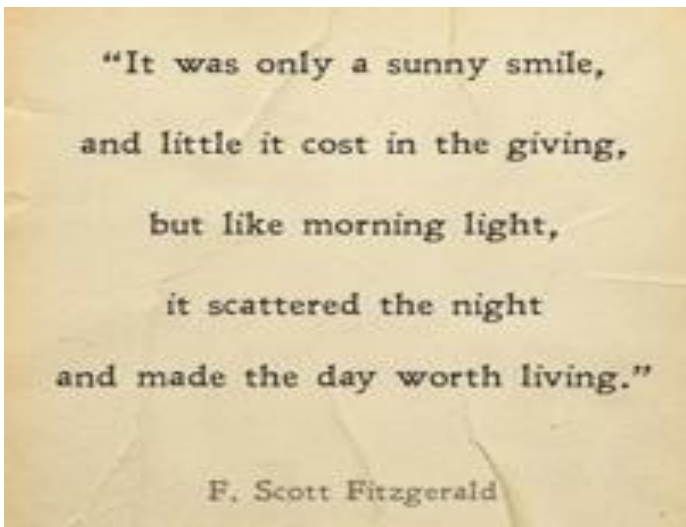
## **Community Lay Director's Corner**

You've probably heard the saying, "You catch more bees with honey than with vinegar." That saying came to mind this morning as I read **Proverbs 16:24**, which says:

*"Pleasant words are a honeycomb,  
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."*

I love this verse! It's such a powerful reminder of the impact our words can have. Words hold the power to hurt or to heal. As followers of Christ, we are called to use our words the way Jesus did—to bring peace, comfort, and encouragement to others.

In a world that feels increasingly divided and filled with anger, we're called to be a light. Let's choose compassion over criticism. Let's extend grace even when it's hard. Let's forgive those who have hurt us. And let's love on the people who are difficult to love—because that's exactly what Jesus does for us every day.



My prayer for each of us, and for our GRACE community, is that others would see Christ in us—not just through our actions, but also through the words we speak. May people experience God's love, healing, and hope through us.

**De Colores!**

Sandra Grascch  
Community Lay Direct

## **Do you have a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Story?**

We all remember our own Walk to Emmaus experience and how we felt on the Monday morning after we got home. Do you have a story about how the experience changed your life, changed your faith walk, or how it affected those around you? These stories can be so inspiring to others in our Emmaus Community! If you would like to share your thoughts in a Newsletter article, please email me!

Martha Walker, Newsletter Editor  
[marthasgarden55@gmail.com](mailto:marthasgarden55@gmail.com)

## **Fall Walks Are Soon and You Can Help**

- **Pray, Pray, Pray for our Fall Walks!**

Camp Gilmont, Gilmer

Men's Walk #110, Sept 25 - 28

Women's Walk #111, Oct 2 - 5

- **Sponsor a Pilgrim!** Do you know someone you would like to share this amazing experience with? Prayerfully 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.

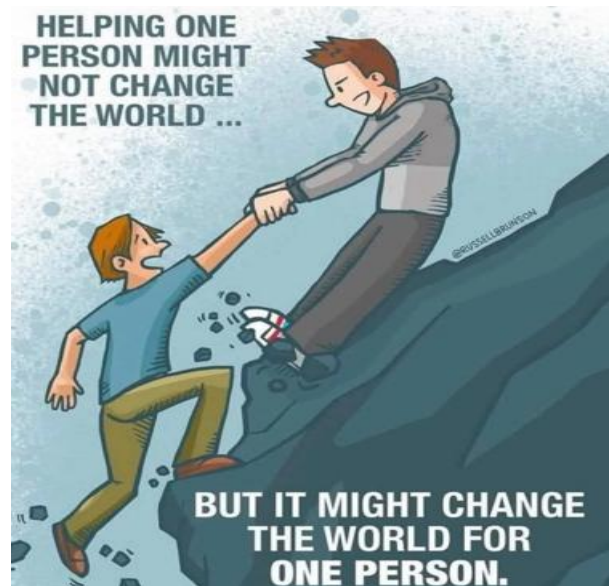
- **Start making agape gifts for men and women!** Recommended number of identical pieces of agape for each Walk (you can add the name of your Reunion Group and city to the Agape, but please do not put the name of your church):
  - Agape for Everyone – 72
  - Dining Room Agape – 64
  - Bed Agape – 36

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, and decorated place mats. Contact Nancy Edwards for more information. ([ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com))

- **Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for one or both Walks?**

Contact one of the Walk Lay Directors, CJ Cox ([charlescox98@gmail.com](mailto:charlescox98@gmail.com)) or Pam McAdams ([sp1792@yahoo.com](mailto:sp1792@yahoo.com)).

- **Attend Candlelight and Closing at the Walks**



- **Sign up on the Prayer Vigil posted on the website!**
- **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. Men will serve for the Women's Walk on Saturday evening. Arrive at the camp at 4pm. All you need are black pants, a white shirt, and a willing heart! Contact Nancy Edwards ([ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com)) for more information.
- **Can you help with snacks and drinks for both Walks?** We can use all types of drinks from bottled water to cans and bottles of soft drinks and tea. Cases of bottled water are greatly appreciated! We also need plenty of snack food, and individually wrapped goodies are best.

## Women's Walk #111

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything. James 1:2-4*

Suffering is inevitable, and we are to find joy in our suffering. That does not come naturally to most of us. But through the grace of God, it can be done. As we grow closer to him and trust that all things good and bad are for his glory, life is easier. If we ask, what can I learn from this, instead of, why me Lord, life is easier. We have a new outlook, a new nature. We are no longer the same as we were before knowing and trusting God. In Christ you have new power! When we trust God and submit to his plan, he can redeem and use for good, even the worst things in our lives.

As I wrote my talk on Perseverance for this walk, I was reminded of all these things. I had to relive some of the worst moments of my life. I had to tell my story.

No, I didn't really have to, but I feel a very big part of the walk is hearing and learning from each other's life experiences. We all have a story, and they are all unique. I know there will be 15 powerful talks during Walk #111, and the pilgrims will all be impacted by them in one way or another.



Invite someone you care about to go on this Walk. Give them the chance to grow closer to God and feel his love in a way that I, personally, have never experienced anywhere else. My Walk changed me. Consider being a sponsor and change a life!!

Pam McAdams  
Lay Director Walk #111



## **WORDS FOR REFLECTION**

I have been reading The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide for most of my life. Both of my grandmothers had a copy on their bedside tables from as early as I can remember. One was Baptist, and the other Methodist. I was raised in an Ecumenical setting.

The Emmaus Ministries office meets twice weekly to read and discuss the daily devotional as a team. It is wonderful to hear from each person how that day's devotion has touched our hearts in different ways each time. We are a microcosm, if you will, of the 4 million readers of the devotional guide every day.

A few weeks ago, a single line in that day's devotional caught our attention. It sparked much conversation because none of us had ever heard the phrase stated that way. To paraphrase, "If we can trust God with our eternity, why do we struggle with letting God have the little things in our day?"

Wow! One of those "arrow straight to my heart" comments. Those words convicted each of us that day. How often (a day, an hour, a minute?) do I say to God, "Leave me alone. I can handle this!" How often do I get stressed out when I have too much on my plate? I can deny God access to my life because I like being in control of my life.

Please don't mistake what I'm saying here. I firmly believe in St. Augustine's famous statement, "Pray as if everything depends on God, work as if everything depends on you." But we tend to forget the first half — prayer! The communication of a relationship, not just a shopping list. Pray every morning for God to guide you in every thought and deed today, and God will answer. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you an Advocate, to be with you forever," (John 14:16, NRSV). God is with us! At all times, and in all things — in every decision and every thought. The word inspiration comes from the Latin "inspiratus", meaning to "breathe into," and it originally had a theological basis. In other words, our inspiration is God breathed into us. Let us all trust that God is with us in all the little things in our days.

If we can trust God with our eternity, we can trust God in the little things. Thanks be to God!

Hess B. "Doc" Hall, Jr.  
on behalf of The Upper Room  
Emmaus Ministries staff



## **The Walk to Emmaus Talks**

30 of our Emmaus members are currently engaging the Holy Spirit to help write Emmaus talks for the upcoming walks #110 and #111. It's important for all of us to pray for these walks, to reflect on our walks, and to remember how impactful these talks can be. We pray that the Pilgrims deepen their relationship with Christ and renew their commitment to Christian action over these 3 days. As a reminder, here's a brief overview of the talks:

### **Day One: God's Grace and Our Response**

1. Priority – Encourages us to examine what truly comes first in our lives and challenges us to center everything around Christ.
2. Prevenient Grace – Introduces the idea that God's grace is working in our lives before we are even aware of it.
3. Priesthood of All Believers – Explores our shared calling as Christians to serve and minister, regardless of our roles or titles.
4. Justifying Grace – Highlights the grace that forgives, redeems, and brings us into right relationship with God.
5. Life of Piety – Discusses how we respond to God's grace through spiritual practices like prayer, worship, and daily devotion.

### **Day Two: Growing in Grace Through Community and Discipleship**

6. Grow Through Study – Encourages lifelong learning and study of Scripture to grow in our faith and understanding.
7. Means of Grace – Focuses on the ways God pours His grace into our lives through the sacraments, fellowship, and Christian practices.

8. Christian Action – Calls us to put our faith into action in our daily lives, serving others and living as Christ's hands and feet.
9. Obstacles to Grace – Identifies the struggles and temptations that can hinder our relationship with God and how to overcome them.
10. Discipleship – Invites us to commit to following Jesus wholeheartedly, living as intentional disciples in the world.

### **Day Three: Going Forth in Mission and Community**

11. Changing Our World – Inspires us to impact the world for Christ through love, service, and witness.
12. Sanctifying Grace – Describes the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in shaping us into the image of Christ.
13. The Body of Christ – Highlights the importance of Christian community and our role within the Church.
14. Perseverance – Encourages us to stay the course, continuing in faith even when it's hard.
15. Fourth Day – Explains how the journey continues after the weekend, encouraging ongoing spiritual growth and community involvement.

-Charlene Burton, Registrar

### **3 Ways to Find Peace in the Bible**

We could all use more peace—in our own lives, in our relationships with others, in our dealings with other nations. But how do we find such peace? Look to the Bible for answers.

Here are three practical aspects of peace that the Bible offers.

1. Peace of Mind. Just as planted seed is bound to grow, so the things of God implanted within our spirits will bring forth God's harvest of peace and joy and many other good things. " ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith..." (Galatians 5:22).

I once met a man who had this statement printed on the back of his business card:

"Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry. Live simply; expect little; give much; Fill your heart with love; scatter sunshine. Forget self. Think of others, and do as you would be done by. Try it for one week—you will be surprised." That man knew the peace of God. You will feel it more deeply yourself if you will write those words on your own card, read them every day, and put them into practice.

2. Peace with Others. God does not give us His peace to hoard in our hearts until it grows stale. As with all His gifts, peace is meant to be shared. And only as we share it, do we truly have it. God's call for us to put His peace into practice in our association with others is summed up in



Roman 12:18: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." What a wonderful formula for peace!

If someone says something unkind about you, don't brood about it. Ask yourself if there is any truth in it. If there is, be thankful for the criticism. Then pray for your critic and do him or her an act of kindness. And you will feel better, and be better, for it.

3. Peace on Earth. While the peace that God promises is primarily an inner blessing, it is meant to be spread around the world. The Bible states that war will end eventually and everyone will live without fear of violence or disaster (Isaiah 32:17).

Let us pray that nations will not be torn apart but will learn to live in harmony and righteousness as foretold by the prophets of the Bible.

Dr Norman Vincent Peale

## GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2025

### **Lay Director**

Sandra Grasch  
[grasch319@gmail.com](mailto:grasch319@gmail.com)  
903-286-3331

### **Assistant Lay Director**

Debbie Hays  
[dhays55@yahoo.com](mailto:dhays55@yahoo.com)  
903-452-5331

### **Ex Officio Lay Director**

John Webb  
[webbgraceemmaus@gmail.com](mailto:webbgraceemmaus@gmail.com)  
903-714-6346

### **Spiritual Director**

Jim Pickens  
[jpickens316@msn.com](mailto:jpickens316@msn.com)  
214-476-5558

### **Assistant Spiritual Director**

Richrd Luna  
[richard@pollardumc.com](mailto:richard@pollardumc.com)  
903-787-0585

### **Secretary**

Wynn Harle  
[cowboycentral@suddenlink.net](mailto:cowboycentral@suddenlink.net)  
903-245-2701

### **Treasurer**

Betty Buchanan  
[Jimbet85@gmail.com](mailto:Jimbet85@gmail.com)  
903-930-2678

## Committees

### **Agape (Banquet)**

Nancy Edwards  
[ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com)  
903-987-3110

### **Babe Chick Training**

Richard Smith  
[richsmith1144@yahoo.com](mailto:richsmith1144@yahoo.com)  
512-940-7553

### **Book Table**

Brad Burton  
[brad.d.burton@gmail.com](mailto:brad.d.burton@gmail.com)  
903-920-6662

### **Community Trailer**

Douglas Denmark  
[denmark\\_douglas@yahoo.com](mailto:denmark_douglas@yahoo.com)  
903-917-3454

### **Gathering Coordinator**

Paul Breedlove  
[paul@breedlovelandscape.com](mailto:paul@breedlovelandscape.com)  
903-352-2840

### **Music Coordinator/Trailer**

Brian Jones  
[bjones171958@gmail.com](mailto:bjones171958@gmail.com)  
469-337-8654

### **Newsletter Editor**

Martha Walker  
[marthasgarden55@gmail.com](mailto:marthasgarden55@gmail.com)  
903-235-0158

### **Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape**

Mike Payne  
[mpayne0000@gmail.com](mailto:mpayne0000@gmail.com)  
903-658-3637

### **Publications Coordinator**

Kim Brooks  
[brookskimberly@live.com](mailto:brookskimberly@live.com)  
903-926-2333

### **Reunion Groups**

Ken Sides  
[sideskr@gmail.com](mailto:sideskr@gmail.com)  
903-724-3003

### **Sponsorship Training**

Kevin Abney  
[kevinabney01@icloud.com](mailto:kevinabney01@icloud.com)  
903-780-2768

## NON-VOTING

### **Registrar**

Charlene Burton  
[cburtonlindale@gmail.com](mailto:cburtonlindale@gmail.com)  
903-920-6677

### **Walk Crosses**

Elizabeth Minor  
[nmm-design@msn.com](mailto:nmm-design@msn.com)

### **Dove Name Tags**

Jay Edwards  
[je7255@aol.com](mailto:je7255@aol.com)

### **Communications**

Brad Burton  
[brad.d.burton@gmail.com](mailto:brad.d.burton@gmail.com)  
903-920-6662

### **Community Trainer**

Wynn Harle  
[cowboycentral@suddenlink.net](mailto:cowboycentral@suddenlink.net)  
903-245-2701

### **Webmaster**

Brian Walker  
[triyourself@gmail.com](mailto:triyourself@gmail.com)  
903-563-2131

### **Ministry Manager Data Admin**

Martha Walker  
[marthasgarden55@gmail.com](mailto: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**