

# Grace for Today

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

### Coming Events

#### 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!

#### Saturday, Oct 18, Pollard Methodist

Church, Tyler, Babe Chick Training at 11am,  
Potluck at noon (bring extra food for the  
Babe Chicks!) followed by Worship.



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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**

### **Philippians 2:3–4 reminds us:**

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”*

To me, this captures the very heart of our Grace Emmaus community.

We are surrounded by people who genuinely love God and who consistently put the needs of others before their own. Time and again, whenever a need arises, this community responds with a resounding, “Here I am, Lord!”

Being part of Grace Emmaus—and walking alongside the people in it—continues to inspire and strengthen my faith.

If you have ever served this community in any way—working walks, praying, serving on a board or committee, bringing food, or simply showing up with a willing heart—**THANK YOU.**



Your service matters. Your heart reflects Christ. May God bless you richly!

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*  
-Matthew 5:16

De Colores!  
Sandra Grasc  
Community Lay Director

## **Fall Walks Are Here and You Can Still 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.

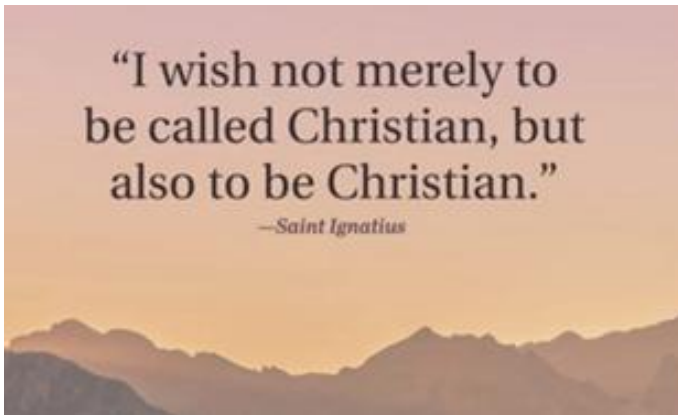
## **GRACE Emmaus Men's Walk #110 Set for September 25–28**

The Grace Emmaus Community is preparing for its upcoming **Emmaus Walk 110**, which will take place **September 25th through September 28th**. This spiritual retreat is designed to help Christians deepen their faith, renew their commitment to Christ, and experience God's grace in new and meaningful ways.

Serving as Lay Director for Walk 110, I can say that the journey to this point has not been without challenges. However, the support from the Emmaus community has been nothing short of incredible. Each step of the process, I have seen God's hand at work through the encouragement, prayers, and dedication of those around me. Each time we hit a snag during the process, God has laid it on the heart of his faithful followers to step-up and answer the call. To the community- you have truly been amazing.

God is bringing together a remarkable team of men to serve during this walk. The testimonies that have been shared during the first two team training sessions are powerful and full of God's grace and love for his people. Their mission will be to minister to the 16 pilgrims who have signed up so far to attend this fall and to all those who will sign up. We are excited for the opportunity to walk alongside them and share the life-changing message of God's love and grace.

The final team training session will be held on **September 13th in Mineola, Texas**, as we prepare for what we believe will be a powerful and Spirit-filled weekend.



Please continue to keep the team and the pilgrims in your prayers as we move toward Walk 110. We eagerly anticipate all that God will do during these four days.

CJ Cox  
Lay Director Walk #110

## **Women's Walk #111**

As I sit here thinking about our 2nd training and all that was perfect and a couple of things I would change, I started reflecting on being a Lay Director.

I have books to read about how to do this. I have lots of people to give me advice and show me what worked best for them. I have plenty of time to do all the things that need to be done.

But actually leading the training and getting to know the team...That's what it's all about. I love these people that God has put together to be the team for Walk #111!! They are amazing, wonderful, God loving people.

They are the ones that make it all happen. They are the ones that meet, greet, get to know and take care of the Pilgrims. They are the ones that do the real work. I am just here to facilitate, assemble the team, pray, send out schedules, pray, and pray some more. I love being the Lay director for this team.

A couple of years ago I said I would never do this. Be careful saying never to God! I am so thankful He thought differently. Thank you to all of you who have supported me and helped me through this new and exciting adventure.



Oh, and btw, we have over 20 pilgrims signed up so far. So, if you are thinking about sponsoring someone, don't wait too long!

Pam McAdams  
Lay Director Walk #111



## **Sponsorship Revisited**

“What did the Emmaus Walk mean to you, and what do you intend to do about it?”

Frequently the response is to say how much the walk meant to them and how they want to invite everyone they know to attend. If you were a pilgrim who made that commitment at closing, perhaps this is your opportunity to sponsor someone you know. While it is normal for us as humans to want to share many experiences we enjoy, and while we certainly encourage sponsorship by all, there are some responsibilities and obligations to sponsorship that we must be aware of. Dedicated and thorough sponsorship will positively impact a pilgrim’s Emmaus experience and typically “teach” your pilgrim how to sponsor in the future.

Please, first, understand that the Walk to Emmaus is not a Christian conversion program for the non-believer. A candidate should already be on a faith journey with Christ and know that God can make a difference in one’s life. And, perhaps as important, the pilgrim should not be so consumed by other situations in life that they would not be able to give their full attention to the message and experience of the Walk during the seventy-two hour weekend and all the following activities of the “Fourth Day”.

The responsibilities and obligations of the sponsor don’t end when the pilgrim is dropped off Thursday and picked up Sunday. Some other important



responsibilities include gathering of letters from family and friends, making that important eye contact with the pilgrim at candlelight, and being prepared to tend to any family necessity while the pilgrim is away for the weekend so the pilgrim may commune with God unhindered for the entire weekend.

After the Walk, the sponsor should be prepared to answer any questions the pilgrim may have about the weekend’s experience and introduce the pilgrim to a Reunion Group.

The sponsor should also be prepared to accompany the Pilgrim to the first Gathering after the Walk to introduce them to the joys of celebration with the other Fourth Day’ers with MORE food, communion and worship. This Gathering is also the time when you have committed to having your Pilgrim attend the training sessions for new Fourth Day members to

learn more about the GRACE Emmaus Community in **Babe-Chick Training** and guidelines in **Sponsorship Training**.

Getting your pilgrim involved in Fourth Day activities will help to create a continued involvement in the Emmaus Program and encourage the new Fourth Day member to support the growth of our Community.

When you register a Pilgrim for a Walk, they will receive a letter from the registrar with a list of “do’s and don’ts” and additional information. As a sponsor, you will also

receive a letter of Instruction with details of responsibilities. You are encouraged to Sponsor other Christians and help bring someone closer to Christ on this weekend.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to an experienced Sponsor for advice or clergy with a spiritual question and I think you will find the road to sponsorship to be a very rewarding experience. DeColores!

Rich Smith  
Babe-Chick Training Chairman

### **Agape and Servers Needed**

It’s almost time for Walks 110 and 111 at beautiful Camp Gilmont in Gilmer. That means it’s time to get busy making agape for them: 36 of each item for Pilgrims only and 72 of each item for Pilgrims and team members. I know there are so many creative people in our Community that can create amazing agape! The Pilgrims are always so amazed that people who may not KNOW them do this FOR them!

We also need women to serve the men at the Christ dinner on Saturday, September 27. And we need men to serve the women at the Christ dinner on Saturday, October 4. Black pants and a white shirt is the attire for the servers. Arrive at Camp Gilmont around 4:00 and report to the Dining Hall.

Please send me a text if you are able to serve. (903-987-3110). Looking forward to seeing and serving along with you!



De Colores!  
Nancy Edwards  
Community Agape Chairman

## A 4<sup>th</sup> Day Story

Hello! My name is Jerri Lykins. I took my Emmaus Walk at beautiful Disciples Crossing Camp in Athens, Texas - Walk #37. I worship and serve at St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Tx.

I have become involved in a very special ministry during my 4th Day - Kairos Outside of East Texas prison ministry. Kairos Inside serves incarcerated inmates, and Kairos Outside serves those ladies who have been impacted by incarceration. They may have a loved one incarcerated, or they themselves may have been incarcerated.

The weekend follows the Emmaus structure, but it is shorter, and the talks are geared toward what our guests need to hear: The Prodigal Daughter, The Church, Anger, I Am Worthy, Forgiveness, etc.

We offer a free, nonjudgmental weekend to our guests and show them the agape love of Christ that many have never experienced. I have seen God work in so many wonderful ways in the lives of these women. Many guests become team members on subsequent weekends and have become weekend leaders themselves. Several of the ladies have taken their Walk to Emmaus.

It has been so rewarding and humbling to be the hands and feet of Christ on this 4th day journey!

Upcoming Kairos Outside Events open to fellow 4th Dayers:

**Lykins Family concert** – Sat, Sept. 13, 6 pm  
(ChristPoint Methodist Church, Lindale)

### **Upcoming Weekend #21 events**

(Timberline Baptist Camp, 15363 FM 849, Lindale) –

- Walking In Love service (like the Emmaus Candlelight) - Sat, Oct. 18, 8:15 pm
- Closing - Sun, Oct 19, 2:30pm  
(Community arrive after 2:00 pm)

DeColores!  
Jerri Lykins



The poster features a circular photograph of the Lykins family (a man, a woman, and two children) standing outdoors in a wooded area. The man is playing an acoustic guitar. To the right of the photo, the text "Lykins Family Bluegrass" is written in a stylized, white font with a blue outline. Below the photo is a heart-shaped logo with a black silhouette of a person's head and a red and white striped heart. To the right of the heart is a blue starburst shape containing the text "Saturday Sept 13, 2025". Below the starburst, the text "ChristPoint Methodist Church 402 FM W 16 Lindale Tx 75771 6:00 -7:30p.m." is written. At the bottom, the text "all donations will benefit Kairos Outside of East Texas" is written, followed by contact information for Melinda McDonald and Jerri Lykins.

**Lykins Family Bluegrass**

**Saturday Sept 13, 2025**

ChristPoint Methodist Church  
402 FM W 16  
Lindale Tx 75771  
6:00 -7:30p.m.

all donations will benefit  
**Kairos Outside of East Texas**

For more information contact  
Melinda McDonald  
melindamcdonald.koet@gmail.com or  
Jerri Lykins lykinsjl@yahoo.com



## **Gatherings are a Blast!**

You don't have to be a "social creature" to enjoy G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Gatherings. The worship is so fulfilling, and it is always a sound pleasing to the Lord. It must be, His presence is always felt. Breaking bread at lunch and through Communion is the best way for the Brotherhood of Believers to fellowship and worship. Besides, our people always bring good grub!

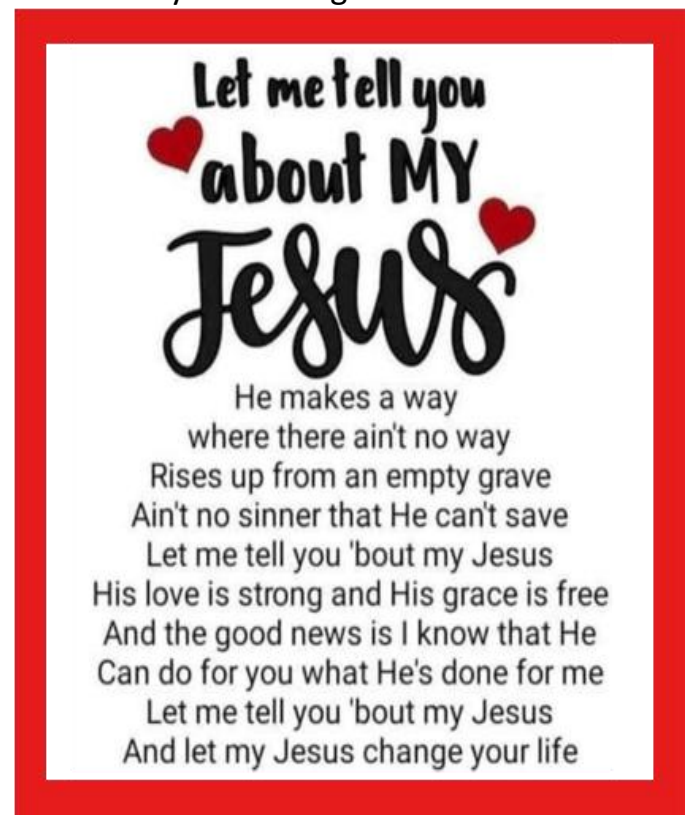
It has been really rewarding to have been asked to coordinate Gatherings as a Board responsibility. Going to them regularly on my own volition had been a failure because Saturdays have traditionally been a wrap-up-the-week-at-work day. But seeing how God continues to work through Emmaus between Walks, it has now become easy to pencil in the once a month Gathering. Having gone to several now, it has been a real blessing to see the energy exhibited by these potluck volunteers, the worship leaders, and the Fourth Day'ers who come to just "feel the love".

Remember, the next Gathering will be held at both Candlelight Services during the next Walks to Emmaus at Camp Gilmont (Men's on Saturday, September 27 and the Women's on Saturday, October 4). Gate opens at 7:30 and the service begins at 8:00. No potluck at this one.

The October Gathering is to be at Pollard Methodist Church in Tyler on Saturday, Oct 18, and it will include the Babe Chick Training at 11am, Potluck at noon, and then Worship. This is always a great Gathering time, since the Babe Chicks will be telling all about their experience at their Walk to Emmaus. Be there, you'll be nourished in more ways than one!

DeColores,  
Paul Breedlove

Community Gathering Coordinator



## 4<sup>th</sup> Dayers in Action

My Emmaus Walk was taken in 2003 and what a change it made in my life! For a long time, I had done all things youth oriented at my church. Chaperoning mission trips, supervising “fun” trips, leading and praying everyone was safe and making sure they got the “message” of the activity. But I was not focusing on MY relationship with the Lord.

But Emmaus... That weekend set me on fire to draw closer to Him, to serve Him however I could and work harder at putting Him first in my life. One of the gifts He gave me was to have a heart for those who needed help but were not able to ask... children. Many children in my community don't have enough food on the weekend when school is out.

Thus, my involvement in our local food backpack program at church began. We are currently providing weekend food for 175 students in 2 school districts on 4 campuses. There is an event coming up on September 13-14 at which I will be serving my Lord by raising funds to continue to fund that program.

The ‘Fall Family Funfest’ is our new Annual Fundraiser for Stone Soup Ministries, Ten Fingers Ministry, and the East Texas Food Bank. Please join us for a weekend of family fun! We will be hosting 30+ musicians from all over the country with genres ranging from Country, Gospel, Bluegrass, and more; a craft fair with a full assortment of hand made goods; a car, truck, motorcycle & tractor show; calf roping and rodeo events; petting zoo and inflatables for the kids, and a variety of food trucks!

Tickets: Advance: \$15 (Adults) \$7 (Ages 12 & Under); At Gate: \$20 (Adults) \$10 (Ages 12 & Under)

Kids under 48” get in free!



Nancy Edwards  
Community Agape Chairman

## *Listening to God*

In a world filled with constant noise, learning to listen to God is both a challenge and a gift.

Our schedules are full, our phones are rarely silent, and our minds are often racing. Yet God still speaks. Sometimes He speaks in a whisper, sometimes through His Word, sometimes through the people and circumstances around us.



Listening to God begins with making space for Him. Jesus often withdrew to quiet places to pray, reminding us that stillness is not wasted time but sacred time. When we pause, open Scripture, and quiet our hearts, we position ourselves to hear His voice more clearly.

God speaks through His Word, the Bible, which is alive and active. He also nudges us through the Holy Spirit, giving peace when we're in His will or stirring discomfort when we've strayed. Even in everyday life, He can use a song, a conversation, or an unexpected interruption to draw our attention back to Him.

But listening to God isn't just for our own encouragement; it equips us to serve others. When we hear His leading, He often directs us to meet a need, offer encouragement, or extend love. True listening leads to action, and through that obedience, God's voice is amplified in the world.

Is God asking you to step out? Are you seeking ways to grow the Kingdom? Are you actively serving in your church and community? Is God asking you to serve on the Emmaus Board or lead an Emmaus Walk? Are you listening? Are you discerning? God is counting on you.

Charlene Burton  
Community Registrar

## GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2025

### **Lay Director**

Sandra Grasch  
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903-286-3331

### **Assistant Lay Director**

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903-452-5331

### **Ex Officio Lay Director**

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### **Spiritual Director**

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### **Assistant Spiritual Director**

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### **Secretary**

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### **Treasurer**

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

## Committees

### **Agape (Banquet)**

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### **Babe Chick Training**

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903-724-3003

### **Sponsorship Training**

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## NON-VOTING

### **Registrar**

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### **Walk Crosses**

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### **Dove Name Tags**

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### **Ministry Manager Data Admin**

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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**