

# G.R.A.C.E.



## NEWS

### February 2005

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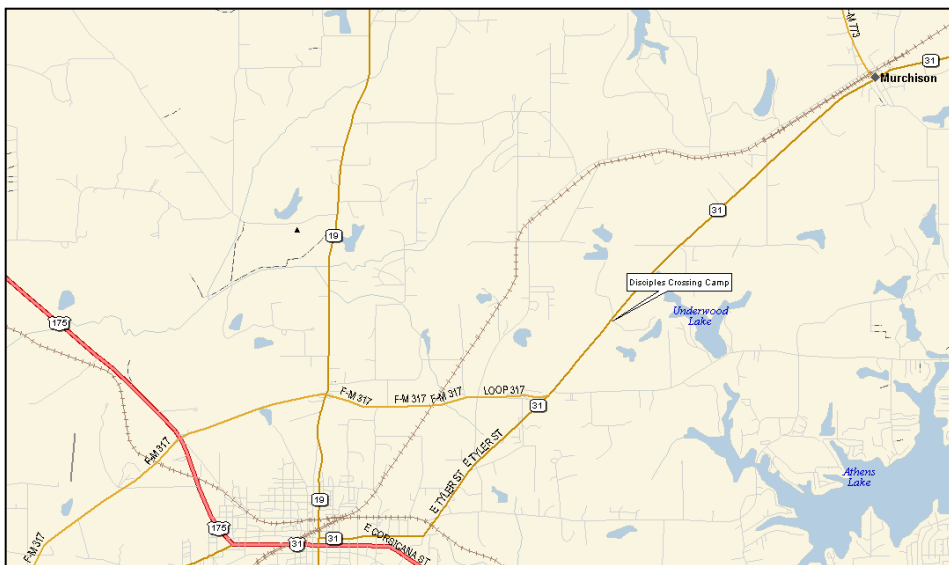
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## From the Community Lay Director

What a great Gathering at Walter Fair UMC. We had over 80 brothers and sisters who came together to worship and fellowship on Thursday, February 10. Take a minute and look up the GRACE calendar (in this issue of the newsletter). Put the gathering/walk dates on your personal calendars right now! We want to see you, and miss you when you are not fellowshiping with the community. We are especially appreciative of those churches and reunion groups that host our Gatherings. Your service in allowing our community a place to meet and worship is a blessing.

**At the January Gathering, we discussed the following items:**

1.) The location for our upcoming Women's walk #33. We will be at Disciple's Crossing camp, Hwy 31, Athens, TX. Disciple's Crossing is a tremendous camp and location that helps us better accommodate the growing needs of our community's members. **(Disciple's Crossing is located exactly 28.7 miles west of Loop 323 in Tyler on Hwy 31, just past Murchison, TX).**



2.) Board members have assigned groups of GRACE members/churches that they will contact on a regular basis to share community information. We want everyone in GRACE to know what

is happening, where it is happening, and when it is happening.

3.) Reunion groups need to be working on agape for the upcoming women's walk – contact Willa Beltz ([wbeltz2@tyler.net](mailto:wbeltz2@tyler.net) or 903-825-6906) with questions.

4.) Reunion groups – WHERE ARE YOU??? Tom Perdue ([tperdue@cox-internet.com](mailto:tperdue@cox-internet.com) or 903-526-3504) is updating our reunion group listing. He needs to hear from you right way to be included in the updated listing.

We also made a decision that was extremely difficult one for the board and the community. We had to cancel a Men's GRACE Emmaus walk. Unfortunately, this is a direct reflection on our GRACE community. We had twelve men who wanted to engage the Lord Jesus on this meaningful weekend. There was a team of willing workers assembled who adjusted their personal lives to provide the arms, legs, head, and heart for Jesus to the pilgrims. **It was our community, each one of us, who let the Lord down. We must recall that the Lord is counting on us!** We are called to support our Emmaus walks and team members by attentively listening to Holy Spirit's call, and gathering pilgrims from our churches to provide a full walk of 36-42 pilgrims. Your GRACE board of directors voted to cancel **Men's Walk #32**, to avoid incurring extreme financial obligations that the small enrollment would impose on the community. To those who did sponsor pilgrims, **THANK YOU.** We will be communicating alternatives with you very soon through the registrar. We are asking your pilgrims to consider walking to Emmaus during our scheduled **October 6-9, 2005, Men's walk #34. Community, we have another opportunity to serve.**

**The good news is that our Women's walk #33 is rapidly approaching the full status.**

The walk team is preparing and the Holy Spirit is actively at work. Plan on attending the candlelight for this walk at Disciple's Crossing.

**God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.**

During the gathering at Walter Fair UMC, one of our members brought up the fact that we need to pray for our

Emmaus community. Prayer is powerful, prayer sustains, and prayers are answered. We have a great community that spreads from Malakoff to Marshall, and Palestine to Gilmer. Within this territory, we have over 1000 brothers and sisters. What we need to constantly pray for is wisdom, knowledge, and guidance as we are called, through Emmaus, to do work for the Lord Jesus Christ. To much in the world is constantly pulling at us taking our time, and talents. All the reasons are valid and justifiable in our minds. In reality, Jesus is asking us to do just one thing, and one thing only – be **FAITHFUL.** As the Holy Spirit directs each of us to align our lives with the Lord's will, pray that part of that alignment will be continued prayer, work, support, and participation in Emmaus. Remember the message of our Christian Action talk. Put your belief into practice, and use words if necessary.

Finally, consider this, if you were arrested today and charged with being a Christian -- would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Grace and peace

*DeColores Community Lay Director*  
 Bill Burgdorf

## GRACE Emmaus Calendar for 2005

### February

**10 – Gathering** – 7 pm, Walter Fair UMC, Tyler – speaker: Al Tribe

**17 – Board meeting** – 7 pm, Marvin UMC, Tyler

### March

**10-13 – Women's Walk #33**, Disciples Crossing, Athens

**12 – Candlelight** – 8:00pm, Walk #33, Disciples Crossing, Athens

**17 – Board meeting** – 7 pm, Marvin UMC, Tyler

### April

**14 – Gathering** – 7 pm, Pollard UMC, Tyler – speaker: Willa Beltz

**21 – Board meeting** – 7 pm, Marvin UMC, Tyler

### May

**14 – Gathering** and pot luck lunch – Noon, 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Henderson – speaker:

**14 – Board meeting** – 10 am, 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Henderson

### June

**9 – Gathering** – 7 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Lindale – speaker: David Barnes

**16 – Board meeting** – 7 pm, Marvin UMC, Tyler

### July

No activities planned

### August

**11 – Gathering** – 7 pm, Swan-Wood Spring UMC, Swan – speaker: Susan Stallings

**18 – Board meeting** – 7 pm, Marvin UMC, Tyler

### September

**8 – Gathering**– 7 pm, Summerfield UMC, Longview – speaker: Lynda Slay

**15 – Board meeting** – 7 pm, Marvin UMC, Tyler

### October

**6-9 – Men's Walk #34**, Camp Gilmont, Gilmer

**8 – Candlelight** – 8:00pm, Walk #34, Camp Gilmont, Gilmer

**September Continued**

**13-16 – Women’s Walk #35**, Camp Gilmont, Gilmer

**15 – Candlelight** – 8:00pm, Walk #35, Camp Gilmont, Gilmer

**20** – Board meeting – 7 pm, Marvin UMC, Tyler

**November**

**12 – Gathering** (Grand Ulfrea) and pot luck lunch – Noon, St Luke’s, Kilgore – speaker: Bill Burgdorf

**12** – Board meeting – 10 am, St Luke’s, Kilgore

**December**

**15** – Board meeting (transition to new board) – 7 pm, Lane’s Chapel UMC, Tyler

**January**

**12 – Gathering** – 7 pm, Lane’s Chapel UMC, Tyler

**19** – Board meeting – 7 pm, Marvin UMC, Tyler