

Grace For Today

August 2004
Issue 8

Volume 4,

G.R.A.C.E. News

G.R.A.C.E.
EMMAUS

Gathering

August 12th

FUMC Lindale

Upcoming
Chrysalis Flights

E.T.E. Area

Boys Flight

Aug. 5-8

Hill Top

Application forms are available on-line at

www.etemmaus.org

DeColores

*“Let your light so shine
before men, that they may see
your good works, and glorify
the Father which is in
Heaven.”*

Matthew 5: 16

Change is never easy, nor is it a four letter word. I have been reminded several times in the last few weeks how change impacts almost every facet of my life. It seems as though change drives my life. For the first half of this year the G.R.A.C.E. Board has been dealing with “Change” and trying to decide which changes need to be made and how they will be implemented. It has been a tremendous undertaking that has revealed many of the positive

aspects and strengths about our Community. Every time I look in the mirror, I am reminded about change. There are a few more wrinkles, a few more grey hairs (well actually just a lot more space between them) and the image is blurry unless I stand a little closer. After a long weekend of working in the yard I feel a lot more aches and pains than I used to and it takes much longer to recover from them. I keep telling myself, “You’re not that old, you’re just a little out of shape.” Yet the mirror doesn’t lie. I am not the same as I was 20 years ago or even 1 year ago. I have changed. Now that I think about it, my life has always been about change. Growing up in an oil field family, I lived in 10 different cities by the time I was 18 and had attended 8 different schools, (5 of those just in high school).

Just as I was beginning to get too settled down and to comfortable in my surroundings, people, places and directions would change. Things change in the work place all the time. I experienced a big change in June as the company that I worked for eight years decided to have a major layoff. But God is good, just, and fair, He has provided for me through the years even when I didn’t realize it, and He is doing it now through new opportunities that He is bringing my way through friends that He has provided on this journey through life. He is the same yesterday, tomorrow and forever, and when I slow down and realize that, life gets a little easier. I work for a new company in a new field, and it is like starting all over again. PRAISE GOD. For those of ya’ll in the United Methodist Church, this summer has been a time of moving for some of our Pastors, and we’ve gotten some new ones in the area. Change is inevitable within in our churches, it goes on at a steady

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G.R.A.C.E. EMMAUS

Website: www.gracemmaus.org

Email: Registrar@gracemmaus.org

Snail mail:

G.R.A.C.E. Registrar
P.O. Box 44
Judson, TX. 75660-0044

beat. Our state, national and international governing bodies meet regularly and chart the course for change. The changes that we all experience are because we are growing. We are maturing as people and as Christians we are growing in our faith. Getting to where we are has not been easy. We have made mistakes, suffered losses and hurts and failed on many levels. Getting to where we are going holds more of the same. **There is good news.** Along the way we have discovered our talents and exercised them for the good of many. We have become a family in Christ Jesus that supports each other and lifts each other up just when it is needed the most. We have received Grace and reflected it as love for all that we meet. Change has made us better people and better Christians. One thing in our lives remains constant in this sea of change, it is Holy Spirit who comforts us and guides along the ever changing road we are on. *"And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* Matthew 28: 20. Let us embrace and rejoice in the changes in our lives, churches and our Community as we grow as the children of God.

Tom Perdue

Dear G.R.A.C.E. Community,
We are entering the lazy "dog days" of summer as August begins, and yet during this time a tremendous amount of work is being done by the Lay Directors and Outside Team Leaders as they pull together teams, arrange meeting dates, and finalize details for our upcoming

Men's and Women's Walks in October.

As a community, our responsibility is to assist the walks by praying for the pilgrims, team members, and Lay Directors. We also have a tremendous responsibility to be active in our community and make certain that we participate in our community's gatherings, and work diligently to discover those pilgrims that the Holy Spirit is priming for their Walk to Emmaus.

There are many decisions that still confront the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus board as we more closely follow the Emmaus model set by The Upper Room. It is only through the continued support, loving prayers, and the faithfulness of the community that we are able to make these changes while maintaining the integrity of the Walk.

During this summer make certain that you continue your activity in Reunion Groups. Commit to actively (faithfully) participate in your reunion group striving to grow by looking for those members of the community who need to belong to an

accountability group. The best thing that can happen to your group is to grow, spin-off new groups, and grow again. Only through remaining accountable to each other, and to our Lord, do we keep our Emmaus experience vibrant and alive. As leaders in your churches, you are the drivers and shakers who make things happen to glorify and honor Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your earnest endeavors to grow G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus. Your loving agape contributions to the upcoming Men's and women's Walks, volunteering service when called upon, supporting your local church and assisting the leadership, and for always listening to the One who leads us, loves us, guides us, and has provided salvation for us. Praise Jesus in all things, and always listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

DeColores

Bill Burgdorf
Assistant Community Lay Director
G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus

Jesus Loves You

Howdy, from the Lay Director for Men's Walk No. 30, God is good all the time!

It is an awesome experience to be a Lay Director. Watching God work in my life and watching Him as He assembly His team. I feel that God invited each person that I have been asking to be on team. It is not my invitation, but it is God's invitation delivered through me. It is really wonderful watch God's people respond to it and seeing God working in their lives. I have a couple of spot on the team not filled, but hopefully I will finish that this week. We are having team training, Saturday, August the 14th at Lane's Chapel UMC, and Saturday, August 28th at St Luke's UMC, also September 11th, and September 25th. I am so looking forward to working with the team through the training and then watching God work through the team at the walk. I pray that we will have a full men's walk. Thank all of you for your support and prayers.

DeColores,
Garry Mount
G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 30

"...So do not worry... your heavenly Father knows that you need them... do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."

Matthew 6:25-34.

As the team for Women's Walk #31 begins preparation, I look to this passage for strength and comfort. The positions for the conference room, both lay and clergy are filled. We are now preparing talks and praying for guidance, peace, and courage from our Lord.

Never did I imagine I would be in the Lay Director's position, but here I am. It's scary, and I know that I am not qualified, but the Lord will equip me to do His work. The Upper Room has urged us to make adjustments in order to more closely follow the Emmaus Walk model and we are doing just that. The biggest change is the way the outside team will go about its duties. Change can be difficult but we will do what we must. After all, the pilgrims

have no idea how a walk is supposed to be conducted so it will be perfect for them. All we as the Fourth Day community need to do is step out in faith and serve the Lord in the most efficient way.

I am excited to get started alongside our Spiritual Director Marion Burgess. This walk, like all before it, promises to accomplish great things as we work with His pilgrims. I ask for your continued prayers for the team, pilgrims, and the walk as well as your participation listening to God for whatever He has for you and that you are asked to serve. And may all the glory be given to our Creator Father.

Faithfully His,
Nancy Burgdorf
Lay Director Walk #31



Are you connected to a Reunion Group YET?

Do you want to start a new one, or would you like to become a member of one?

We welcome you to the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community and want to help you to be connected and continue on your exciting journey with the Emmaus experience. In a Reunion Group, you will continue to experience renewal and enthusiasm just like when you took your walk.

A few simple steps will help you:

You can start your own Emmaus Reunion Group. Usually those at you table that you have established some relationships will help you come together as a team. Simply follow the guidelines laid out on the "SERVICE CARD" given you in your fourth day packet. If you have questions or need help contact me.

Ask your Table Leader or Assistant Table Leader to help you start your own group.

Contact me and we (the Reunion Group Committee) will assist you. I can be reached at TPerdue@cox-internet.com

Congratulations on a great start and we look forward to seeing the wonderful growth and renewal God will continue to bring into your life.

DeColores,

Tom Perdue

G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 1

IF YOU ARE IN AN EMMAUS REUNION GROUP!

We are asking for this information again because my listing may still be incorrect on the website. It has been corrected now thru the first mailing and we need this additional information to help everyone get connected to the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community. These are exciting times and you don't want to miss all the fun!

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP IN FOUR AREAS:

1. First, We need an accurate up-to-date list of ALL ACTIVE Reunion Groups. We need to know:

- When and where do you meet?
- How Often and how Long?
- Contact Person for the group, Name, Telephone #, and E-Mail.
- Name of Group (optional)
- Do you allow new members to join?

2. Second, if you have attended an Emmaus Weekend and are not currently in an Emmaus Reunion Group, please consider continuing your pilgrimage with Emmaus. Send your personal information to us and we will help you to get connected to an Active Reunion Group.

3. Third, We need volunteers who have experience starting or LEADING an Emmaus Reunion Group and would like to help start a new group or assist someone else in starting an Emmaus Reunion Group.

4. Finally, We need volunteers to help with this committee to organize, compile, contact, call, suggest, teach, and develop, this program to help reduce recidivism (*people leaving the Emmaus Community*). Our Goal is to get all the Emmaus Reunion Groups, active, energized and mobilized.

5. Please contact me by phone (903) 526-3504 and/or send me a note at

TPerdue@cox-internet.com

Thank you for your cooperation and participation in G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community.

 Please detach here and mail to:

G.R.A.C.E. NEWSLETTER
PO Box 132212
Tyler, TX. 75717-2212

Because of the expense of mailing the newsletters, we are asking that if you live outside the GRACE community area, you notify us if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. The GRACE Community generally runs from Athens to Longview and from Henderson/Jacksonville to Mt. Pleasant. If you think you are on the edge of this area or are completely outside, please fill out this form and mail it to the Editor and let him know your intentions.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please send an e-mail to Tom Perdue at TPerdue@cox-internet.com

If you are moving, please give us plenty of advance notice to help us keep our postage costs down.

Name: _____

OLD street address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ ZIP: _____

NEW ADDRESS:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: ____ ZIP: _____

New telephone: _____

New Email: _____

If your church would like to hold a gathering, Please detach here and mail to:

Gathering Wishes

G.R.A.C.E. Community Lay Director
PO Box 44
Judson, TX. 75660-0044

With the following information:

Contact Person's Name: _____

Contact Person's Address: _____

Contact Person's Area Code & Phone: (_____) _____

Contact Person's E-mail: _____

Church's Name & Address: _____

Directions to the Church: _____

Dates desired (Gatherings are generally the second Thursday of the month):

G.R.A.C.E. Men's Outside Servant Team Application

Contact Information	
Individuals or Reunion Groups information here. (If Reunion Group, please list names of members to be involved).	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Availability	
During which hours are you available for Servant Team assignments?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 2:00PM thru Sunday 6:00PM - (\$130.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday–Saturday 1:00PM - 2:00PM * * *
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM - 10:00PM (\$8.00 Dinner Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat.–Sun. 1:00PM - 6:00PM * * *
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Evening <u>ONLY</u> 6:00PM - 10:00PM (No Meal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM – 6:00 PM (No Meals)
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday–Friday 2:00PM - 2:00PM * * *	*** One Night Lodging & 3 Meals for \$45.00

Previous Walk Experience
Summarize your previous Walk experience. (Walk No., Date, Position or Assignment).

Person to Notify in Case of Emergency	
Any Specific Medical Needs:	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Agreement and Signature	
By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer, I will be financially responsible for any housing and meals for the times I serve.	
Signature:	
Date:	

Mail to Outside Team Leader (OTL): Tom Hays – 2604 Fleetwood – Longview, TX. 75605

G.R.A.C.E. Women's Outside Servant Team Application

Contact Information

Individuals or Reunion Groups information here. (If Reunion Group, please list names of members to be involved).

Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Availability

During which hours are you available for Servant Team assignments?

<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 2:00PM thru Sunday 6:00PM - (\$130.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday–Saturday 1:00PM - 2:00PM ***
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM - 10:00PM (\$8.00 Dinner Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat.–Sun. 1:00PM - 6:00PM ***
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Evening <u>ONLY</u> 6:00PM - 10:00PM (No Meal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM – 6:00 PM (No Meals)
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday–Friday 2:00PM - 2:00PM ***	*** One Night Lodging & 3 Meals for \$45.00

Previous Walk Experience

Summarize your previous Walk experience. (Walk No., Date, Position or Assignment).

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Person to Notify in Case of Emergency

Any Specific Medical Needs:	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer, I will be financially responsible for any housing and meals for the times I serve.

Signature:	
Date:	

Mail to Outside Team Leader (OTL): Sandee Perdue 3449 Iberville Tyler, TX. 75701