

August, 2008 Volume 8, Issue 6

G.R.A.C.E. Website www.gracemmaus.org

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COMMUNITY LD LETTER. WALK 46 NEWS,

LETTER FROM THE SPIRITUAL **DIRECTOR, WALK 47 NEWS** BOARD NOTES, REUNION **GROUP NEWS**

CHRYSALIS NEWS, KEY NOTES ON SPONSORSHIP THANK YOU NOTE, **GATHERING SCHEDULE & BOARD LISTING**

<u>NEXT</u> **GATHERING**

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MARSHALL, TX POTLUCK AT 12PM

YA'LL COME!!

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE LISTED ABOVE!!

> **G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR** P.O. Box 132212 Tyler TX. 75713-2212

DEAR G.R.A.C.E.

Is it hot enough out side for you? I normally love the summer months but it just seems that this summer has come and gone before I turned around good. All the activities have made time pass so fast. Chrysalis was overwhelmingly wonderful. So many people helped to make this a success.

On Saturday we had our first set of team meetings getting ready for the October Walks. The talks were wonderful. If you have not started to pray about these two walks – now is the time. Please keep Nancy Lineberry (LD), Bill Younger (LD), the rest of the team and the pilgrims in your daily prayers from now until the walks. Speaking of prayer – don't forget to go out to the web site to sign up on the 72 hr prayer vigil. We do have pilgrim openings for both (the women's and the men's) walks... so get those applications turned in ASAP.

We have a busy schedule for the month of

- August 9th Gathering @ St Marks in Marshall, noon w/ potluck
- August 16th Board Training @ Lanes Chapel UMC in Tyler
- August 21st Board Meeting @ Marvin UMC in Tyler
- August 23rd Emmaus Team Meeting

It is also time to identify who is called to run for a board member slot for GRACE. This is a big responsibility with many blessings. The board meets once a month to discuss and plan for future walks. We attending gatherings each month and each hold "jobs" for special duties to keep the board functions such as, agape, prayer clock, community agape letters, keeping the trailer stocked, the music lined up for events, secretary, treasury, newsletter, web page, registration, book table, gatherings, ... these are not a complete list. Just random listing of some of the duties we each do on the board to make sure that the walks happen efficiently. We are looking for a few men and women (5 to be exact) who are willing to be Christ's hands and feet in the ministry of Emmaus by serving on the board. Please let a board member know of your interest.

Another big project that we have been working on is to discuss different ways to hold gatherings to make them more fair (as far as distance goes) so that everyone has an equal chance to attend. These are

some things we have talked about all year but with the recent climb of gasoline (well, all things) it is getting harder and harder for people to drive long distances. We are a large community reaching from Marshall, Longview, Mineola, Palestine, Athens, Jacksonville, Kilgore, Henderson, etc. Be watching for updates on this topic. We have 3 plans and we will be presenting them in the next newsletter, at the gatherings, and at candlelight. We will be asking the community to vote on one of the choices at the same time we vote for the board members. Come to the Gathering in Marshall for the first preview of these plans. See you there....DeColores and Fly with Christ. Teresa Elliott Community Lay Director

From the Lay Director of GRACE Walk #46:

The team is in place for GRACE Walk #46, and Wow! What an awesome team! At our June Gathering our SD. Tom Haygood mentioned that we are getting a reputation of being "cliquesh." My goal was to change that view and have many churches represented. This team represents 17 different churches and 4 different denominations. Five of the six ATLs and one ASD are rookies. We also have 3 ASDs working a GRACE walk for the first time. GRACE Community, my challenge to you is to support these fall walks - first of all with prayer, prayer for the 2 teams and for the pilgrims. Second, sponsorship. Without pilgrims we will not have walks. I believe there are 36 women and 36 men just waiting for you to invite them on a walk. Camp Gilmont is beautiful in the fall. Sponsorship is work and takes time. Please be willing to "give back" in response to God's love and grace that you felt on your walk. And third, Agape. Snacks, bottled water, sodas, bed, conference room and table Agape. Thank you to the 4 churches, Green Acres, Fairwood, Lane's Chapel and 1st UMC Lindale for hosting our team meetings. October 9 is fast approaching and with God's help the team will be ready for GRACE Walk 46 to be the best walk ever! Thank you GRACE Community for having the confidence in me to lead the fall walk. DeColores, Nancy

From the Spiritual Directors

Leaving the comfort zone

"Please tilt your seat back straight, buckle your seat belt as we prepare for take-off." Common words. Preparations made for leaving one place to travel to another. That is what the Walk to Emmaus is about. Leaving the old way and traveling a new way. A "road less traveled" perhaps.

However, like in our recovery movements, recovery is not really a destination we ever arrive at; it is the iourney. Isn't that what spiritual transformation is about? Moving toward perfection, but never arriving? Having all the grace of Jesus right now, but "not vet?"

How about another slant on this topic? Leaving the comfort zone of the old way of self?

Letting go of idols. Such as: "looking good," "feeling good," "being right," and "being in control." Aren't those our common American idols today? Even among us believers?

"I'm not comfortable with" Who said that was our goal? Comfort? Is that all we want? Of course, on the other side "discomfort"; hopefully that is not what we are about either. Right? It is about following Jesus, taking up our crosses daily. And not grumbling. Ouch!

So, with rising gas prices, when do I stop grumbling and become grateful? When does my conversation change from wanting it my way and moving toward the way of the cross?

Think on this: In the heating and air conditioning trade, the point on the thermostat in which neither heating nor cooling must operate—around 72 degrees—is called the "the comfort zone." It is also known as the "dead zone."

Wanna step out in faith right now as you invite two or three of your friends to journey with us on the next walk to Emmaus? Wanna offer to serve agape in the name of Jesus? Remember the most important job of all....is being a servant...being a pilgrim sponsor. When do you want to start? DeColores!

LOVE ALWAYS WINS. TOM HAYGOOD 903.570.9306

From the Lay Director of GRACE Walk #47:

The first men's meeting went GREAT!! Kudos to Brent Hooser and Alan Smith for providing the larapin BarBQ! Thanks to Green Acres Baptist for being our "host".

Attention community! Please don't wait until the last minute to sponsor pilgrims. I know I'm preaching to the choir, but spread the word so we don't have to panic at the last minute like last time! Should we have too few, the prospect of cutting back on the number of walks is a possibility next year!! Let's don't let this happen. By the way, I need someone/s to sew some worship book covers(36). Don't stop-py that good Agape! Love, Bill Younger

BOARD NOTES:

G.R.A.C.E. Board **Training Set**

A representative of the South-Central Regional Emmaus International will be here on Saturday August 16th for Board Training and Review. If you would like to attend please contact Teresa Elliott by phone or e-mail to let me know so that we ensure we have enough food present. All are welcome. Anyone interested in running for a GRACE Board Position is encouraged to attend this meeting.

Saturday, August 16th 9:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. Lanes Chapel UMC – Tyler, Texas

Election Time... Already?

Well, not really. But it will be time to elect five new members to our Grace Emmaus Board, before you know it.

For everyone that is new or just doesn't know, I would like to let you know that the Board of Directors for our Grace Emmaus Community consists of sixteen individuals. One appointed member is our Spiritual Director; our community elects the other fifteen members. These folks have agreed to serve our community for three years. Generally, we all commit to meet once a month to discuss and make decisions necessary to conduct the business

of the community. You know "the behind the scenes stuff." Each year we hold an election to add five new members while rotating off five members that have served their three-year term. That is how we continue to keep fresh leadership and ideas for the community.

So, this is where you come in. We are looking for those people who may have an interest in serving this way. If you think you may wish to be placed on the ballot, to serve as a board member, we want to hear from you! Please contact us by mail or e-mail at any address in this newsletter. The ballot will be set and finalized for the mailing of the October newsletter. So don't delay, if you feel you are being led in this direction, you are probably right. We look forward to hearing from you! DeColores

Reunion Groups

Are you looking for a reunion group? Are you looking for a way to let people know about a reunion group? If you answered yes to either of these questions, I encourage you to visit our web site. www.gracemmaus.org and click on the Reunion Groups link. Here you can find the latest information that we have on all the reunion groups in the community. Also at our web site, in the bottom left corner, there is a link where you can update your reunion group information and let us know about any new reunion groups. We will update the web site with new information as we receive it. So check back often! Whether you are looking for a reunion group or adding information about a new one, let www.gracemmaus.org be the place to find it.

Chrysalis Corner

Thank you - Thank you - Thank you!!!! Although small in numbers GRACE Chrysalis Flight #1 was mighty in power and was "THE BEST FLIGHT EVER!"

Words can not express how much the girls were blessed on their weekend. I would like to go on record and say how "perfect" our flight was. Those working may have another story but with God in control, HIS will was done and the girls that went know no different. How amazing our God is.

I would like to personally thank First United Methodist of Athens for hosting us. Your facility was great. A BIG THANK YOU to those in the conference room and the servant team. Many people played multiple roles and many roles were switched. It goes to prove that this team was so willing to do anything and everything for Christ. Thanks from the bottom of my heart for your service to Him.

The Chrysalis board is meeting soon to set the dates for the next flights. YES, a boy's flight is in the works. If anyone is interested in working the next girl's or boys' flight, please go to the website and pull off an application and send it in. WE NEED WORKERS AND BUTTERFLIES.

Leah Huffstetter

gracechrysalis@yahoo.com

- The objective of sponsorship is not to fill up the three-day event, to fix the pilgrim's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others.
- We should sponsor a pilgrim who will bring new vision, commitment, and understanding back to their congregations, those who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed.
- As a sponsor we should pray for our pilgrim, sign up on the Prayer Vigil, obtain Agape letters from family and friends, personally bring our pilgrim Thursday evening to registration, remain for Send-Off and Sponsor's Hour, attend both Candlelight on Saturday evening and Closing on Sunday afternoon.

 As a sponsor, we are responsible for our pilgrim's needs and the needs of the pilgrim's family during this entire 72-hour period, until the pilgrim returns home.

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

There are not enough words of thanks to tell everyone how much you are appreciated for everything you did to help Chrysalis Flight #1 be the best Flight ever. From your prayers, your agape, your willingness to sign up on the 72 hour prayer vigil, etc. There are a few people / reunion groups that I would like to send a special thank you out too: Dogwood Circle of Men; Glowing in Grace; Rise 'N Shine, Men of Grace; Donna Swenson: Sue & David Starrett: Susan Stallings; Leeann & Bob Meyers; Trudy & Freddie Riddle; Waymon McMillon; Jan & Cam McLarty; and anyone that helped with the background. There are too many hands and feet that made this possible to list everyone - so Thank You ALL for your AGAPE LOVE that was shown during the Weekend to make this Flight Possible.

2008 Gatherings

<u>September 11</u> (Thursday) Crossroads Community Church, Longview 7pm

<u>October 11 & 18</u> (Saturday) CANDLELIGHT at Camp Gilmont Gilmer 8pm

<u>November 8</u> (Saturday) GRAND ULTREYA at Lanes Chapel United Methodist Church 5pm Babe Chick Meeting, 6pm Potluck Dinner, 7pm Gathering

DECEMBER - NO GATHERING

GRACE Board for 2008

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