

Grace For Today

December, 2015
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G.R.A.C.E. Website
www.graceemmaus.com

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Upcoming Gatherings

December 5, 2015
Hallsville FUMC
11:00am Potluck Brunch
Worship 12noon

January 23, 2016
Grace Palestine
12noon potluck lunch
Worship 1pm

February 20, 2016
FUMC Jacksonville
12noon potluck lunch
Worship 1pm



The Gift

-submitted anonymously by a
G.R.A.C.E. member

I learned most of my earliest life lessons while fishing with my Daddy. When I became a teenager, nearly every weekend we would head out to the lake for a weekend of fishing, talking, and just getting away from it all. And we did catch a lot of fish! However, regardless of how much fun we were having, we always headed back to town on Saturday evening so that we could be in church the next morning.

As I got older, I still enjoyed fishing, but the times with Daddy got fewer and fewer. I can still remember our last fishing trip like it was yesterday. It was a perfect spring day in 1985, and as nearly always, we caught plenty of fish. After Daddy died, for some reason I ended up with his old "beat up" tackle box that I remembered from the earliest fishing trips with him. I kept it for a long time, but never used it, just kept it stuck away for safe keeping.

Years later when I had a stepson, I learned that fishing was one way that I could connect with him. We got out when we could, and I tried to teach him some of the life lessons my Daddy had taught me. I got him all the newest and best tackle and he enjoyed every trip, and I might add, he caught a lot of fish, too!

Then one Christmas season I thought that it might be neat to pass Daddy's old tackle box along to him, so I found it, cleaned it out, polished it, and put it under the tree. The look on my son's face as he unwrapped it and heard about its story made that Christmas the best I've ever had.

That old, beat up tackle box was by far the second best gift I've ever given anyone, and likewise, giving it was the second best gift I've ever received....

"In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.

You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart.

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

-Frederick Buechner

The best gift I've ever received, of course, is the one we can all receive again this year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ through God's amazing Grace. How could there be a better gift?

However, just like I did in passing that old tackle box along to someone I loved, it is my joy and responsibility to pass on God's wonderful gift of Grace to others. Let's all remember this Christmas that the best gift is the one that we can pass along...

To quote something I've heard somewhere....our job is to give and give freely, the rest is up to God !

Merry Christmas everyone !

From Your Community Lay Director

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your outgoing Community Lay Director. I hope your stomachs are full from Thanksgiving, your wallets still have some cash from Black Friday, and you are full of the Spirit of Christ!

Christmas is around the corner and our new board members have been elected and some great ones are leaving due to term limits. I couldn't have done the job without such a great group of folks. David Bagley, Robin Gillian, Babby Carroll, Janis Johns, Chuck Reed, and last but not least Doug Smith. I know we have a great new group coming on and Karol Johnston will lead them and be led by them as well. It takes a village!

I am thankful for my time a Community Lay Director and hope you have seen many lives

changed while my team was serving. It is a labor of love and a blessing

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you all!

I will see you on the walks, gatherings, or at Church I hope!

Decolores
Mark Bewley

December Gathering

The Grand Ultreya was a huge success due to the efforts of all those who helped in various ways. The Fourth Dayers at Lane's Chapel took care of all the facility arrangements and staffing of the kitchen, we had plenty of food, lots of fellowship, and a wonderful Worship Service. We had a large turnout of our Community members.

There was also a good turnout of about twenty-five Babe Chicks for their meeting and Sponsorship training led by Jim Buchanan. We welcome you all to the G.R.A.C.E. Community!

As always, it was a blessing to listen to the new Fourth Dayers answer those two familiar questions that we all know....What did the Walk to Emmaus mean to you, and what are you going to do about it? It was hard not to smile a lot while listening to the responses, along with the occasional moist eye as the Holy Spirit filled the room as they spoke.

Herb Marlow lead our Worship Service and, as always, his Spirit-led message was inspiring. Thanks, Herb.

We will be having a December Gathering again this year. We will meet at Hallsville FUMC at 11:00 A.M. for brunch with our Worship Service following at noon. Bring all your pre-Christmas brunch favorites.

Hope to see everyone one more time before we celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas.

Brett Walker

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11:00am Potluck Brunch
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Grace Palestine
2130 Country Club Rd., Palestine
75803
12noon potluck lunch
Worship 1pm

February 20, 2016
FUMC Jacksonville
2031 SE Loop 456, Jacksonville
75766
12noon potluck lunch
Worship 1pm

Board Changes

Welcome new G.R.A.C.E. Board representatives who will begin service in January: Pam Martin, Jerry Fowler, Mike Hodgson, Lisa Palomaria, and Pat Thompson. These members will all serve for three years.

Fran Ayers will complete a remaining 2 year term of David Bagley who had to resign due to a change in his work out of state.

Job responsibilities for new members will be assigned in January.

We will miss the following who have served for the last three years:
Robin Gillian, Shawn Heatherly, Babby Carroll, Janis Johns, and Chuck Reed.



2015 BOARD MEMBERS

Lay Director:

Mark Bewley

mbewley@cablelynx.com

903-522-0782

Ex-Officio:

Mac Young

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Music Coordinator:

Mac Walling

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903-567-6083

Agape (gift – banquet - afterglow):

Babby Carroll

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Talia Epps

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Team Selection-Board

Nominations:

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903-963-7313

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Reunion Groups:

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Non- Board (no restriction) Positions

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Nametags:

Elizabeth Minor

Home: 903-657-8112

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Webmaster:

Mark Bewley

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903-522-0782

GRACE EMMAUS

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 donate \$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.
DeColores

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 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 # _____

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