

December, 2008 Volume 8, Issue 10

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

Inside this Issue

DEVOTIONAL:

A SEASON OF PERFECT LOVE

OUTGOING AND INCOMING COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTORS' ARTICLES

DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY?

BOARD FOR 2008, NEW BOARD MEMBERS 2009-2011

5 CHRYSALIS HAPPENINGS

6 ELECTION RESULTS
--BANK DRAFT FORM

<u>NEXT</u> GATHERI NG!

January 17, 2009 12 noon Fairwood UMC, Tyler

YA'LL COME!!

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE

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

DEAR G.R.A.C.E.

This holiday season is almost always filled with joy and sadness, right? Isn't that the world our Savior came into? Even the swaddling clothes our precious Baby was wrapped in were typically to bodies for used wrap burial. And, yes, remember King Herod's decree to murder male babies? Any action out of fear is cruel. Even when we do not know. Perfect love casts out fear.

Perfect love is our gift this season. And we get to give the gift away. Perfect love of accepting our brothers and sisters where they are. Perfect of honesty. love Perfect love of facing our shortcomings and not living in Perfect love denial. grieving our losses and weeping with those who weep.

This season there are many suffering. Maybe you are suffering. So, who will you turn to? Or what will you turn to? Imperfect love?or the only One who knows suffering more than we do and can give us perfect love.

May we give this Christmas the gift of ourselves and connect with those we would normally not touch. Touch even as Jesus did the lepers and offer healing through authenticity.

May Jesus be the reason for this season as we remember the faith of a young single teen girl who said, "Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 2 LOVE ALWAYS WINS. TOM HAYGOOD 903.570.9306

We Say Thank You for Teresa's Service:

Dearest GRACE Community,

It is hard to believe that the end of the year is here. I heard on TV today that we have 32 shopping days left until Christmas. That will be even less by the time you get this newsletter. Last year as I moved into the position of your Community Lay Director I had so many plans and hopes as I really that our community struggling because gathering attendance was down and it seemed to be hard to fill our walks... What I found is that the year has been full of so many blessings and opportunities working with each of you. God is GREAT all the Time!!!

One of our major changes we will implement in 2009 is Quarterly Gatherings that are centralized with other churches, reunion groups, etc. and also holding smaller gatherings around the district. Please refer to the article below in this newsletter for more details on how the gatherings will work.

Another large success was having our first Girls Chrysalis Flight this summer. We had 9 girls who went, and the weekend was such a blessing. We are working on getting another Girls' Flight off the ground and plans for a Boy's Flight this summer.

I want to take time for a special blessing and prayer for each of your Board Members who served this year. Without them nothing would have been accomplished. This group of board members worked so hard to serve the community and always put the community's needs first over their individual wants. I was honored to work with each and everyone one of them.

As far as 2009 goes it will be imperative that you keep informed about the community happenings and let your board representatives know what your concerns and needs are. Please keep the board members of 2009 in your daily prayers so that as they serve the community they continue to make decisions to keep us focused on our 4th days.

DeColores and Fly with Christ, Teresa E lliott GRACE Community Lay Director 2008

2008 Gatherings

DECEMBER - NO GATHERING

A Note from the New Community Lay Leader:

First please let me introduce myself, my name is Ray Carden. If you read the first line you know what my job is to be and why I'm writing this. I've not met all of the GRACE Emmaus community so please let me introduce myself this way. I took my Walk at Camp Gilmont, GRACE #25 in March of 2003 and sat at the table of St Luke. My wife (Pat) and I worship at First United Methodist in Lindale.

Very soon after March I was recruited for the Kairos Prison Ministry and have spent the last few years doing two weekends each year at the Michael Unit

outside Tennessee Colony, TX. That precluded my involvement in the Emmaus community other than attending Gatherings. A few years ago I was asked to run for the GRACE Emmaus Board, and reluctantly I agreed to do so. When Bill Burgdorf called to tell me I didn't get elected, I had a feeling of relief. The next year Michael May asked me to run again and I thought, "Why not as I won't get elected anyway". Surprise surprise, the Lord had something in mind for me- I got elected! So I joined the Board in January of 2007, not knowing what to expect. Now I guess I'm a veteran as I have served 24 months of my 36 month sentence... Oh! I meant commitment. Serving on your board has been a real blessing to me as I see how hard the board members work in your behalf. I certainly don't know all the answers and will depend on the board, the Lord, and you, to keep me out of trouble. If you ever need to reach me you can do so at Raycarden287@aol.com or my cell 903-245-9138. I probably won't know the answer, but I promise to try to find one for you. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve our community and my Lord. Hope to see you at the January Gathering at Fairwood UMC.

DeColores, Ray Carden

Would YOU Consider Serving the G.R.A.C.E. Community in Some Way? I want to thank the G.R.A.C.E. community for allowing me the privilege of serving on the Emmaus Board for the past 3 years. For a long, long time after I went on my Walk, I absolutely had no clue what the Board was other than hearing: "The Board said" numerous times. Even when asked to place my name on the ballot, I still did not have a clue so it was probably very fortunate that I did not get voted in at that time. © It is an understatement to say that serving on the Emmaus Board, you will learn -- a lot! It is very much a working Board and each person has a specific job to do mainly for the sole purpose of furthering the cause of Emmaus and helping Walks run smoothly.

If you are asked to run for the Board, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so. If you would like to run for the Board but no one has mentioned it to you when ballot time comes up next year, let the Nominating Chair Board member know that you are interested. All Board members and duties are listed in the newsletters and on the web site.

I have been blessed to serve you as a Board member and also by serving with all the other Board members.

Thank you. Laquita Showen

Added Board Members 2009-2011

I'm pleased to announce to the community the names of the six new GRACE Emmaus Board members that you recently elected. Yes there are six as we had a vacant slot on the board (Harold Starkey had to resign due to a conflict with his Stevens Ministry schedule) so we have six new members. They are:

George Assaf- Mineola Patti Jones- Athens

Frank Copeland- Palestine Burton Love- Payne Springs

<u>Judy Hawn</u>- Athens <u>Tom Perdue</u>- Tyler

Please join me in welcoming these 6 new board members to service in your community. And when you see one of them please thank them for being unselfish and agreeing to serve with their time, energy, and commitment to our Emmaus Community. For your info here is a geographical breakdown of your board for next year:

Athens-2 Canton- 1
Flint- 1 Golden-1
Jacksonville-1 Lindale-2
Longview-1 Mineola-1
Palestine-2 Payne Springs-2
Tyler-2 White Oak-1

Yes, we know that's 17 when there are only 15 positions on the board. But we carry two clergy members (we need a lot of prayers serving on the board) as well. Tom Haygood is our Spiritual Director and David Mays is his assistant, soon to become the leader. So as you can see you have a very diverse board with members from almost all geographical locations. Their contact info will be in the newsletter so please use them as your voice in the community. DeColores, Ray

Election Results for G.R.A.C.E. Gatherings

First of all I would like to thank those of you that took the time to vote for how you would like for future Gatherings in the GRACE Emmaus Community. This was not an easy decision for the board to make. We represent You, therefore, we wanted to hear from you what the majority of the people wanted. The results are in and PLAN THREE won the final vote.

We will hold 4 quarterly gatherings centralized in Tyler on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community. The board is actively trying to confirm locations of these 4 meetings. Tentative Dates and Places are as follows:

[Be sure to check the web site (www.gracemmaus.org) for any updates to locations and dates.]

Locally we would encourage other towns, or reunion groups, or churches to hold smaller gatherings as often as you like with the following guidelines;

- 1. Place to hold the gathering
- 2. Make arrangements for a 4th day speaker (about 10 to 15 mins long)
- 3. Have qualified clergy present to serve communion
- 4. Plan for this at least 30 days in advance so that you can send information to the board to be added to the monthly newsletter (deadline on 25th)AND an all user e-mail can go out to the community to invite them.
- 5. Notify the board so that we have a board representative present at your gathering for announcements from the board and to take up a love offering for the community.
- 6. Make arrangements for music.

- 7. Line up someone for the nursery (this is optional but a nice gesture for families with children).
- 8. Last but not least have food present. Snacks are more than adequate; no need for a full course meal. We will be having full potlucks at each of the quarterly meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact one of the board representatives. DeColores. Teresa Elliott

GRACE Board for 2008

Community Lay Director

Teresa Elliot

tgelliott@suddenlink.net 903-570-5233 (h)

Assistant Lay Director

Ray Carden

903-882-1780 (h) 903-245-9138 (c)

Raycarden287@aol.com

Spiritual Director

Tom Haygood

tomhaygood@yahoo.com 903-570-4123(c) 903-881-2663(h)

Assistant Spiritual Director

David Mays

Treasurer

Robin Gillian

bobbilane@aol.com 903-894-3512 (h)

Secretary

Joy Parker

bjparker589@yahoo.com 903-768-2892(h) 903-850-2893(c)

Nominating Chair

Micheal May

mdcmay@embarqmail.com 903-894-7290 (h)

Agape Coordinator

Laquita Showen

jimshowen@aol.com 903-566-0733 (h)

William "Bill" Durr 903-586-1720 (h)

John Teegarden johnt58@yahoo.com 903-451-4439 (h)

Brent Hooser

Brenth12000@yahoo.com

903-939-9528 (h)

903-521-7367 (c)

Dan Matthews

danmatt4497@hughes.net 903-338-2136 (h) 903-948-9039 (c)

Newsletter Editor

Gail Meadows

agapegail@suddenlink.net 903-240-1223 (c)

John Norman

jenorman@hughes.net 214-803-4074(c)

Chrysalis Steering Committee

Leah Huffstetter

<u>Leah_belle@hotmail.com</u> 903-509-1218 (h) 903-360-1017(c)

Webmaster

Tom Perdue

tomdue@gmail.com

Registrar

Ted & Pam Weaver

Chrysalis Happenings

Hello everyone – this is news from the Chrysalis Steering Committee. We were so blessed and honored to hold our 1st Chrysalis Flight this summer in Athens. But now it is time to start making plans for number 2. One of the issues we are faced with is having enough community ready to support a Boy's Flight. During Martin L. King weekend [Jan 17, 18 & 19] the North East Texas Chrysalis Community is holding a boys flight. What we would like to do is offer up to our community to identify several boys from GRACE that would make good leaders and be interested in attending his flight in NET so that he can work as part of the team this summer here in GRACE.

We are looking for a few good "Caterpillars". Note that the boy's flights are much like the walks. They need a sponsor, they have candle-light and letters and banquet. This Flight will be held in Paris so it will be a big commitment from the sponsors to make all the trips back and forth. But we can meet up and car pool.

It is imperative that we get some boys with experience in order to hold a flight this summer. So please be in prayer and evaluate if you know of a young man that is 15 yrs old to 18 yrs old and at least a Freshman in High School. The cost is \$50. The guys need to pack air mattresses or cots to sleep on in the gym floor.

If you are going to sponsor someone go to this web site to download an application www.netemmaus.org and please let me know if you are sponsoring someone so that we know who and how many boys are going from the GRACE Community.

Fly with Christ, Teresa Elliott



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

Name:Address:	EASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:
Address:	ame:
	ddress:
City, State, Zip:	ty, State, Zip: