

G.R.A.C.E. News

Grace
For
Today

February, 2007
Volume 7, Issue 2

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

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Next Gathering

Thursday

February 8th

@ 7:00PM,

Walter Fair UMC,

Tyler

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

DECOLORES

Dear G.R.A.C.E. Do You Have the “Nerve to Serve”?

One of the common messages presented in sermons at my church is this: We need to go outside the walls of our Church to reach others for Christ. This is how we are to “serve God.” I used to really struggle with this. Verbally professing my faith to unbelievers is not one of my strong points. (Some of you may have heard me refer to my attempts to do just that with my atheist friend in Arizona.) **Galatians 6:10: “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”** I am much more comfortable with “those who belong to the family of believers.”

But I have grown and I have learned. Service is so much more than either of the above mentioned. We serve the God of the Universe, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth. The abundance of Blessings provided to us by our God has no boundaries, it is limitless. Therefore, we cannot limit our service to Him by our human understanding of the meaning of “Service”. The only way we can adequately even begin to serve God is by striving to be like Him. (1Tim 4:8)

Remember the talks you heard on your walks? Christian Action is every action a Christian takes. The main point of the Life in Piety talk is this: There are visible qualities in a living piety which attract others to this life. Discipleship is the giving of one’s life totally as a witness for Jesus Christ. The way we conduct ourselves in our jobs, our homes, our communities, are all a reflection of our understanding of service, and of our commitment to Christ. In the same way, the things we do to increase our understanding of God and His will for our lives is equally important. I understand now that going outside the walls of my church is way more than trying to verbally share my faith with someone who may not

know God. It is trying to live my life in such a way that honors God, that always and in every way will show anyone who is watching a glimpse of God. It is striving to know Him better, to love Him more, to share Him with everyone I come in contact with. Sometimes this can even be accomplished without ever saying a word.

I confess that I have not always been successful. But I am trying. The purpose of Emmaus is to develop leaders for the church. Emmaus will inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and places of work. I know that without my Emmaus experience, I would still be feeling guilty and wondering if I’m serving God “correctly” or enough. I would encourage each of you to examine your life since your walk. How are you doing? Have you grown through study and service to God? Have you helped someone else grow in their service to God by sponsoring them on a walk? By serving on a team? By praying during the 72 hour prayer vigil? By being active in a Reunion Group? By participating in these activities, you *are* serving God. You are helping *others* to learn about serving God. Do you have the “Nerve to Serve”?

DECOLORES

Susan Stallings
2007 Community Lay Director

**You, O Lord, keep my lamp
burning; my God turns my
darkness into light.
Psalm 18:28 (NIV)**

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

As announced at the January Gathering, we know that many of our Pilgrims have had a change in their Email address recently. If you are not receiving (and wish to do so) the newsletter and prayer request emails, please update your email address with **TOM PERDUE** at the email address shown in our [G.R.A.C.E.](#) Board Listing! There will also be a sign-up sheet at each gathering to gather legible new and corrected information for our groups.

**If you prefer to have a paper
copy of the newsletter, please visit**

the book / information table at any Gathering and pick one up.

February Gathering Location Changed

The February Gathering of the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community has been changed from its original location. We will gather for Praise and Worship, food and fellowship, at **WALTER FAIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**. Please join us on Thursday, February 8th at 7:00 pm. **Childcare will be provided.**

Our gathering at St. Marks UMC in Marshall has been moved to Saturday, August 11th at noon. This will be a lunch gathering with Bar B Q and covered dish. More details will follow in the months to come. In the meantime, **“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.”** (Hebrews 10:25)

Come to the gathering at Walter Fair UMC, and encourage one another, and our upcoming Lay Directors, as the days of our Spring Walks are approaching.



KAIROS No. 30 MICHAEL Unit

Please pray for the team going into the Michael Unit, April 12th- 15th, 2007. There are many needs for the Team more volunteers are needed, on both the inside and outside teams. You can contact Terry Beck at **(903) 729-3199 (H) or (903) 724-3372 (C)** or you can drop him an email at the-bopper@earthlink.net

The team is still forming and there are still many positions available, contact Terry, and let the Lord take to a new level of service in your life. If you want to bake cookies for us you can download the recipes from our unit website, find out more about the

KAIROS Prison Ministry and learn what a marvelous ministry this is. Just click on this link to access our site. <http://www.michaelunit.homestead.com/home.html>

You can sign up to attend the closing and get closing instructions at this link.

<http://www.michaelunit.homestead.com/Closing.html>

Please pray for this ministry satan really works overtime to confuse the hearts and minds of the men that will be attending this weekend. Pray for the strength of the Holy Spirit to carry this team into the Unit to do battle.

The first team meeting is this weekend, in Palestine, at Norwood Heights Baptist Church on Hwy 155, just before the loop as you enter Palestine from Tyler, starts at 9:00AM, if the Lord is tugging on your heart to join you are more than welcome.

Girls's Epiphany #9 Corsicana February 8-11

Feb. 10th-12th, 2006 Girl's No. 9, will begin at the Texas Youth Commission Facility in Corsicana, TX. If you are interested in praying for the weekend, they do this really phenomenal prayer chain that gets introduced during the weekend to demonstrate God's Agape Love and Prayer for the boys during the weekend, it represents 24/7 prayer for the boys during the weekend. If you would like to sign up for a prayer slot (30 minutes) just send Tom Perdue an email with your name(s) (Sunday school, reunion groups or families are welcome) at tomdue@suddenlink.net If you've ever seen one of these it is awesome and the Girl's spend a lot of the free time just looking at it and wondering why someone would want to pray for them. If you would like to come to the Closing, be at the Front Gate to the unit by 3:00PM, be conservatively dressed, no open toed shoes or revealing clothing, children 12 and older may attend with a parent or guardian, no children allowed younger than that. Buzz Barton, from Ennis TX is the Lay Director for the weekend, and if you have any support or words of encouragement for him email him at barton2870@netzero.net

For directions to the unit and more info about Epiphany, email Jerry Bach at usglobal@suddenlink.net



It is time for us to start catching some butterflies in the GRACE Community. In December the board signed a “Letter of Intent” to be sent to the Upper Room asking for assistance in starting a Chrysalis Community here in GRACE. We are so excited to be able to bring this opportunity to our Community. In the past if our teenagers wanted to attend Chrysalis they had to go to a neighboring community in order to accomplish this.

For those of you that don't know what Chrysalis is – it is a faith based weekend established on the same principles as the Walk to Emmaus. It is designed for Youth between the ages of 15 – 18 years old Chrysalis Flight AND 19 – 24 yrs old for college age that is called Chrysalis Journey.

The butterfly – an ancient Christian symbol of Christ's death and resurrection – provides the central image of the Chrysalis experience. This journey of spiritual growth is illustrated by the life cycle of the butterfly: caterpillar, cocoon and butterfly. Dying to what it was, the caterpillar becomes what it is meant to be. Similarly, our Christian transformation involves dying with Christ to our old self through faith in God's accepting love (Day One), rising with Christ to a new life motivated by hope in God's promises (Day Two) and going forth with Christ in love to joyfully share Christ's ministry (Day Three).

We are now in the development stages of this program and have formed a Steering Committee to go forward. If you are interested in being a part of the steering committee please contact: Teresa Elliott at (903)570-5233or tgelliott@suddenlink.net OR snail mail me at 811 Shiloh Road, #B2 Tyler, Texas 75703. We hope to have our first meeting in February.

DeColores and Fly with Christ - and let's go catch some butterflies!!!

SPRING WALKS

The Lay Directors have begun their preparations for the Spring Walks. Radford Terry, LD for Men's Walk #40, and Carol Younger, LD for Women's Walk #41 have been contacting prospective team members, and planning their team meetings. The Walks will be held at Disciple's Crossing on April 19-22nd, and April 26-29th, respectively. Please start now praying for these LDs, and for the team members as they prepare. Pray for those pilgrims that God may be calling to these walks, and for those who will be sponsoring them. **Please try to get Pilgrim applications in early.**

Have you ever wondered... what the sometimes mysterious "Board" does? If you are/were like me, after you have gone on a Walk, you heard in passing about this "Board" but really did not pay much attention. Until you began to notice that people often quoted items that "The Board" decided, etc.

For the next several newsletters, the G.R.A.C.E. Board will publish information from and about the 15 Board members and what their job(s) consist of in relation to the Board.

Hopefully this will enlighten you as well as cause you to consider allowing your name to be placed on the nomination list and maybe in time serving as a part of the Board yourself.

A Board member serves a term of 3 years. Five members are rotated off each year and five new members come on. To say that it is a working Board is an understatement. The Board members must do their work in order that the Community functions effectively.

Greetings BABE CHICKS!

Now I know that many of you do not feel like babe chicks anymore but don't you remember how excited you were to re-commune with your fellow pilgrims and team members at 4th Day activities just after your walk? I just want to take this opportunity to invite you to participate and add to our community your talents and love as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Believe me, GRACE community is family. I know the more you participate, the more of these lovely

"family members" you will meet. So, hey, don't hold back. We need you and are looking forward to getting to know you. "It just ain't the same without you!"
De Colores,
Pat Eubanks
Babe Chick Chair

BANK DRAFT INFO

The bank draft authorization, voted on by the **G.R.A.C.E.** Board in 2006, is up and running and hopefully collecting monies even as you read this article. Brian McCabe, Walk 38 LD, was invaluable in setting up this system. The Board encourages you to consider giving in this manner.

You may be thinking "Well, I'm not going to do that!" or "I want control of my money", etc... To be honest, I had some of the same feelings and thoughts – but after considerable thought and prayer, I felt convinced to try it; especially since I was going to be encouraging people to sign up for the same. Even \$1 a month adds up. It is very easy and safe.

You complete the form (provided on the last page of this newsletter and available at Gatherings) with the necessary information or attach a voided check. The amount donated will show on your bank statement as **"Tyler Emmaus Community."** **You can stop the transaction at any time simply by written notification.** (It can even be stopped for a month or two, and then resumed.) Currently there are three participants within our community. Please consider this alternative, especially if you do not make it to Gatherings. This will help each of us with consistent giving to our community.

The last Emmaus Walk costs last Fall were \$161 per Pilgrim and \$156 per Pilgrim, respectively – and the GRACE community only charges \$130 per Pilgrim. That is why we have had to with much prayer and discussion at the board meetings, have had to increase the fee to \$150.00 this year. In our efforts to keep our community strong and continue our commitment, we humbly ask that you prayerfully consider where your involvement is needed.

The costs are high and the financial need great, but the reward is simply priceless.

Thank you,
Laquita Showen
Treasurer

Community Calendar for 2007

- February 8** Gathering at Walter Fair UMC, Tyler – 7 p.m.
- February 15** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.
- March 8** Gathering 1st UMC, Jacksonville – 7 p.m
- March 15** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.
- April 21** Candlelight at Disciple's Crossing, Athens – 8 p.m.
- April 28** Candlelight at Disciple's Crossing, Athens – 8 p.m.
- May 12** Gathering 1st Christian Church, Mineola – Covered Dish and Gathering at NOON
- May 17** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.
- June 14** Gathering Lindale UMC – 7p.m.
- June 21** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.
- July NO GATHERING; NO BOARD MEETING**
- August 11** Gathering St. Marks UMC, Marshall NOON meal bring vegetable dish or dessert (Meats provided)
- August 16** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.
- September 13** Gathering Crossroads Community, Longview – 7 p.m.
- September 20** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.
- October 13** Candlelight at Camp Gilmont, Gilmer – 8 p.m.
- October 18** Candlelight at Camp Gilmont, Gilmer – 8 p.m.
- November 10** Grand Ultreya at St. Lukes UMC Kilgore at NOON
- November 15** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.
- December NO GATHERING; NO BOARD MEETING**

GRACE Board for 2007

Community Lay Director
Susan Stallings
lbighappy5@sbcglobal.net
903-534-2195 (h)
903-714-0623 (c)

Assistant Lay Director

Teresa Elliot

tgelliott@suddenlink.net

903-570-5233 (h)

Spiritual Director

Mike Cline

lstumpastor@earthlink.net

903-842-3531 (h)

903-842-3320 (w)

Assistant Spiritual Director

Not Filled

Nominating Committee

Micheal May

mdcmay@earthlink.net

903-894-7290 (h)

Secretary

Donna Swenson

Swensonhome@aol.com

903-312-1501 (c)

Registrar

David Barnes

Registrar@GRACEmmaus.org

903-581-0441 (h)

903-534-2176 (w)

Treasurer

Laquita Showen

jimshowen@aol.com

903-566-0733 (h)

Music Director

Micheal May

mdcmay@earthlink.net

903-894-7290 (h)

Committees

Agape (walk agape, email, letters)

Debbie Hays

hays48@sbcglobal.net

Agape Dinners/Afterglow

Debbie Hays/Robin Gillian

hays48@sbcglobal.net

bobbilane@aol.com

Babe Chick Training

Pat Eubanks

Eubanpl@aim.com

Book Table (Scroll consignment)

Leah Huffstetter

Leah_belle@hotmail.com

Community Trailer

Mike Minor

mnm-design@msn.com

903-657-8112 (h)

903-720-0488 (w)

Gatherings (Communion, babysitters, fellowship)

Ray Carden

Raycarden287@aol.com

Website coordinator

Tom Perdue

tomdue@suddenlink.net

903-526-3504 (h)

903-571-3199 (c)

Newsletters/

Robin Gillian

bobbilane@aol.com

903-894-3512 (h)

Prayer Clocks

Donna Swenson

Swensonhome@aol.com

Publications (Walk, Gathering, Upper Room Literature)

Harold Starkey

hjstarkey@suddenlink.net

Reunion Groups

Harold Starkey

hjstarkey@suddenlink.net

Sponsors

Bill Durr/Pat Eubanks

Eubanpl@aim.com

Team Selection

Betty Devine/Bill Durr

Walk Clean Up

Micheal May

mdcmay@earthlink.net

Walk Doves/GRACE Crosses, Name Tags

Mike Minor

mnm-design@msn.com

Chrysalis Steering Committee

Teresa Elliot

tgelliott@suddenlink.net

903-570-5233 (h)

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? Our goal is to one day provide enough scholarships so that we can help those that cannot afford to go to be able to attend an Emmaus weekend.

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 # _____