

February, 2010 Volume 10, Issue 2

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

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<u>NEXT</u> <u>GATHERI NGS</u>

Saturday, February 20 FUMC Mineola Visitation, 5:00pm Worship, 5:30pm Potluck, 6:30pm

Saturday, April 24 LANES CHAPEL UMC TYLER, TX Babe Chick, 4:30pm Potluck, 5:45pm Worship, 6:45pm

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE

YA'LL COME!!

DEAR G.R.A.C.E.

Well, I just turned around and January 2010 is history! Our first Community Gathering was a great success and counts as our first step in reaching one of our Community goals for 2010. You may recall that I listed two goals in January's newsletter that I hoped the GRACE Board would adopt for the Community. They have been officially adopted.

Those goals are:

- 1) Community functions (Gatherings, Walks) in 11 of 12 months in 2010.
- 2) Full Walks (36 Pilgrims) in two of our four Walks for 2010.

As for Goal 1, we are off to a good start with our First Central Gathering on January 23 at Fairwood UMC in Tyler. We presently have events on the calendar for 6 of the remaining 11 months. I'm confident that our local areas will schedule 4 more local Gatherings like the one that is scheduled for February 20 at FUMC Mineola (mark your calendars to attend). With five local Gatherings, three additional central Gatherings, and Walks in two months (March & October), we will attain our goal. Please consider scheduling a local Gathering in your local area. We need local Gatherings for the months of May, June, July, and September. You may contact board member Burton Love burtonlove@embarqmail.com to assist you with scheduling and planning a local Gathering.

Goal 2, Only you and I, the Fourth Day members of our Community, can help us reach this goal. Walks cannot fill up without Sponsors. I want to commend those of you that attended Sponsorship training at the Gathering at Fairwood UMC. Please be in Prayer for potential Pilgrims in your church that you may sponsor during the year of 2010. I'm confident we can attain this goal also, with much prayer and awareness of those potential spiritual leaders sitting next to us in church on Sunday mornings.

May I leave you with this parting reminder from The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus? "The purpose of Emmaus is to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Emmaus

expands participants' spiritual lives, deepens their discipleship, rekindles their gifts as Christian leaders in their churches These aims are communities. accomplished not only during the three-day Emmaus Walk but also through participation in Reunions and Community Gatherings, sponsorship, prayer support of Walks. and service on teams. Persons whose spiritual lives are renewed and strengthened through Emmaus are called to share within their community the grace they receive. They become the leavening influences in their local churches. The purpose of Emmaus is not fully realized during the three days of the event itself but in the Fourth Day." Did you notice there were no 'or' words in the quote, only 'and' words. Do you participate in an active Group, and Reunion Community Gatherings, and sponsor Pilgrims, and give prayer support of Walks, and serve on teams? encourage you to become more active in your Fourth Day.

I'll see you in Mineola on February 20. Grace and Peace.

YBIC, Dan Matthews

From the Spiritual Director

Some people will never forget January 12, 2010 because, that's the day it happened. It was sudden and without warning. I cannot image what people felt in Port-A-Prince the afternoon the ground shook and the city collapsed around them. Many were still recovering from the last hurricane. I feel certain they will not forget that day.

I wonder how Christians in Haiti reacted to the events that unfolded that day. Some might feel it was the last days. Others may feel like Pat Roberson, it was punishment for some great crime committed. A few may have felt the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, like the Disciples on the day of Pentecost, as they moved among the rubble helping others. A few may have questioned God as to why and a few may have been lost and without guidance. How would you have responded?

Would you like to do something to help?

The web site

http://www.churchworldservice..org/

has a list of items they keep in warehouses so that in event of a catastrophe they can respond quickly. The Haitian earthquake drained their supplies and you can help to replenish them. While at the web site, look at the 2008 and 2009 reports. Can you imagine if agape were in each kit? What about writing encouraging words on the side of the bucket, do you think it might brighten someone's day. Your prayers over the bucket may change someone's life.

Emmaus teaches us to go beyond what is required. It teaches us we can make a difference in the world, maybe one bucket at a time. Lord, give us strength to accomplish the task for which we are called.

Please pray for the teams preparing for walks in March.

De Colores David Mays Spiritual Director

Assistant Spiritual Directors

We are pleased to announce the following clergy have accepted the position of Assistant Community Spiritual Director:

Kim Hagedorn – SE Area Douglas Smith – NE Area Ben Bright – NW Area Jodie Windbigler – SW Area.

Their service to our community will help to invigorate servants and pilgrims alike.

Let us thank them and support them in their service to G.R.A.C.Emmaus.

David Mays Spiritual Director

To: Those Emmaus groups within the Southwest Area

I was asked by David Mays if I would serve as an assistant Spiritual Director for one of the four areas that the Board has created within our Emmaus Community. I was happy to say yes. The Southwest Area is bounded on the north by I-20 and on the east by US 259, although the cities on 259 will be part of the Southeast

Area. At this point I am not sure of the western or southern boundaries, but believe that Canton may be the northwestern boundary and Fairfield the southwestern boundary. The south boundary is probably US 84 although Elkhart will be included. However, all that is purely conjecture since I have not heard specifically from the Board about the Area boundaries.

As I understand the vision of the Board, the goal is to have monthly meetings in the Areas between the quarterly meetings of the Community. One suggestion is that we have the Community gathering one month, local gatherings the second month and Area gatherings the third month. And of course, the reason behind the vision is that when we meet we support and nurture each other, and the more we meet the stronger becomes the bond and the stronger the support and nurture. And it is hard to destroy what is bound tightly. I cleared twenty feet of vines yesterday. I was impressed by how the vines had twisted and grown through and around each other. That made cutting them out a difficult task, but I was even more impressed by how the vines (from different areas of the fence line and different types of vine), which I had just stacked haphazardly in a pile, stuck together when I tried to move them. In a short time, they had become a force to reckon with. I have the scratches to prove it. It will be like that with us. As we come together in fellowship and worship, we will create bonds that will be difficult, and over time impossible, to sever. And those bonds will strengthen our ability to serve our Lord God.

Since the Southwest Area is a large area, we will want to have as much input from the different Fourth Day Groups as possible. I would like to establish a Steering Committee which would encourage and help establish meetings within smaller local areas and within the SW Area. If you are interested in serving on such a committee or have any ideas about how to start us off, please contact me at 432-425-1485 or at

reviodie@aol.com.

24 Hour Prayer Vigil

Just in case you are one of those very prepared, plan ahead sort of people, you can now begin to sign up at www.3dayol.org for the 24 Hour Prayer Vigils for the Spring Men and Women's Walks or see the links on the front page of our website at www.gracemmaus.org. You are only 1-Click away from volunteering for a VERY important job. Select time slots available now! Hope to see you "there!" Judy Hawn



Chrysalis Happenings

Hello everyone – this is news from the Chrysalis Steering Committee. We are looking for a few good "Caterpillars". We have plans to hold two flights during the year of 2010. This is so exciting. We have lots of information so I am going to try to summarize this for you as best I can.

GRACE Chrysalis Flight – GirlsLabor Day Weekend - September 4th, 5th and 6th. This is a Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The flight will be held at Lindale UMC.

GRACE Chrysalis Flight – Boys

Christmas Break – December 18th, 19th and 20th. This is a Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The flight will be held at Lindale UMC.

Please mark your calendars NOW and hold these weekends open as you make plans for the future. We will need each of you to help in some way during these weekends; it may by sponsorship, being a member on the team, giving a talk, helping on the servant team, attending candlelight, signing up for the prayer vigil, provide a meal or money for a meal, etc.

The cost to attend the flight and/or serve on the team is \$50 a person. The age is for 9th Graders 15 – College 24. This is what is known as a Flourney... to combine the High School and College Students together. But please know that the tables would be set up

by age groups. You would not have a 15 yr old and a 24 yr old at the same table.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like to assist in this ministry. Fly with Christ,

Teresa Elliott

elliott.teresa@gmail.com

REUNION GROUPS:

Our Community and personal Faith walk are strengthened by weekly Reunion groups. In the long run, these small, personal groups can do more to deepen your walk with Christ than even the 3 day Emmaus Walk; they are that important. The power of the Emmaus Walk is in the Fourth Day. This is why reunion groups are so vital to deepening our Faith walk with Christ. Please update your information

http://www.gracemmaus.org/GroupUp dates.html

with the time/place/date of your Reunion group, and the name of the group contact.

Men's Walk #52

Greetings to the G.R.A.C.E. Community. I am honored to be the lay director for walk 52. We are exited about the walk and the great team God has put together. Please pray for the team and pray that the pilgrims will come to a deeper understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We do need pilgrims to make this a successful walk, so sponsor someone or that person you've always thought about sponsoring. Team training meetings begin Saturday January 30. We are looking forward to an awesome walk! DeColores. Brent Hooser

Walk #52 Team

Brent Hooser Lay Director Jimmy McGonagil ALD Burton Love ALD Mike Minor ALD Jarrett Major Spiritual Director Mike Cline ASD Ricky Ricks ASD Bill Hauwk ASD Jim Pickens ASD

Michael Prince TL Damon DeRieux TL Scott Howard TL Josh Jarvis TL Tom McDonald TL Phillip McKanna TL Jim Born ATL Jay Edwards ATL John Hart ATL Mike Johnston ATL Michael Neill ATL Rodney Eurom ATL Randy Skiles Music Team Loren Lykins Music Team Dan Mathews Outside team Chuck Reed OT Billy Bass OT Ken Braswell OT Rusty Honeycutt OT Cindy Hooser OT Bill Durr Chapel Team Billy Partin CT Chuck Reed CT Jerry Bach CT Tom Perdue Board Rep.

Women's Walk #53

It is an honor and privilege to be the Walk # 53 LD -- and to be perfectly honest I never intended that I would ever say those words. I attended G.R.A.C.E. Walk # 13 in October, 2000 at Camp Gilmont and sat at the Table of Mary. Two talks made such an impression on me, due to their personal witness, that I still remember who gave them: Shelly Gasser: Priorities & Shirley Druschke: Perseverance. Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the Walk but had no thoughts of being a leader of any kind--much prefer the background servant team work. After all, I was **NEVER** going to give a talk--had absolutely no desire to do that! As I began serving on Walks, giving talks came about although I was still very slow to "catch on" to the process of WTE. When I accepted an ALD position, a friend said, "So you're going to be a LD at some point." I looked at her like she was crazy and exclaimed, "Absolutely NOT! Whatever gave you that idea?" Her reply was, "When you accept an ALD position, you're saying that you'll possibly be a LD." Oh, duh! What I eventually realized is that little by little God helps us change our minds/attitudes then we seek to help in whatever way we can

so that others can share the WTE experience. It has been, and continues to be, an adventure of growing in faith. De Colores! Laquita Showen

The team is in place and the clergy team is getting there. Everyone has been so very gracious--even those that declined due to various reasons.

The Walk # 53 Team is:

LD Laquita Showen

Fairwood UMC, Tyler ALD Cindy Hooser GABC, Tyler ALD Jo Anne Skeen Grace UMC, Palestine ALD DeLisa Heard GABC, Tyler TL Vickie Bright LHF, Gladewater TL Diana Frachiseur Troup UMC TL Renee Steele Gladewater FUMC TL Sharon Cline Troup UMC TL Berita Morse Gilmer UMC TL Jeannie Hanssen LHF. Gladewater ATL Janine Shelton Athens FUMC ATL Donna Williams Central Baptist, Jacksonville ATL Susan Jeanes Hawkins UMC ATL Audry Gould Mineola UMC ATL Debra Graham Chandler ATL Jeane DiBella Winterfield UMC MD Pam Martin Pollard UMC, Tyler AMD Jerri Lykins Jacksonville UMC AMD Stacy Boyer Jacksonville UMC OST Toyia Urbaniak Beckville UMC ChapelNan Haygood Swan-Woodsprings BR Patti Jones Athens FUMC SD Ben Bright LHF. Gladewater ASD Gary Andrews First Baptist Eustace ASD Tom Haygood Swan-Wood Springs UMC ASD Patti Maudslay Athens FUMC



WALK AGAPE NEEDED

Don't forget to make your agape for the upcoming Walks. Do you realize how much agape we would have if each reunion group would make and send one item. And then we have those groups who send more than one, which is wonderful! Please help these Pilgrims feel the love with your agape gifts.

Jana Russell Whitehurst

SPONSORSHIP

The most important job in Emmaus is sponsorship. You can share with others the joy you experienced on your Walk! Please prayerfully consider sponsoring someone on the up-coming Walks.

What: Good sponsorship builds up the body of Christ. Sponsors should recruit strong church members to strengthen the local church.

Who: Please sponsor anyone who is already on a pilgrimage, who is willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith, who knows God can make and, is making, a difference in their life. Please sponsor one who is considerate of others, who listens more than they speak. Please sponsor one who is well respected among church members, dependable, faithful in attendance, genuine, with a servantheart. Please sponsor one who is searching for a place to serve.

Why: Sponsorship is one of the most important functions in Emmaus. Good sponsors help prepare Pilgrims for a great Walk experience. Sponsoring someone on a Walk to Emmaus is a great blessing.

How: Take a list of names to God in prayer. Leave them with God. Let God reveal a name. Then ask. Together you and the Pilgrim complete a Pilgrim Application. Please see link below. For more information on sponsorship, please go to: http://www.GRACEMMAUS.org. Please do not let cost keep someone from attending a Walk to Emmaus.

G.R.A.C.E. can assist with the registration fee for anyone needing financial assistance.

GATHERINGS for GRACE(2010)

LOCAL: Feb. 20, 2010 FUMC, Mineola; Fellowship 5:00PM; Worship 5:30PM Pot Luck Dinner 6:30PM

CENTRAL: April 24, 2010 Lanes Chapel UMC; Babe Chick training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

CENTRAL: Aug. 28, 2010 Grace Community, OJ Campus; Sponsor training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

CENTRAL: Nov. 20 2010 Grand Ultreya; Green Acres Baptist Church; Babe Chick training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

GATHERING NEWS

Those of you who had the opportunity to attend the Gathering at Fairwood on Saturday Jan. 23, 2010 were truly blessed. Tom Perdue did a wonderful job of sharing information Sponsorship. concerning Mathews, our new Community Lay Director helped the evening move along smoothly while Rev. David Mays guided us enthusiastically through worship. Jim Showen provided an excellent witness with his Fourth Day talk. Our sincere thanks go to Loren Lykins and Andy Christopher for providing wonderful musical accompaniment Over 50 community members were attendance. Our host church coordinator, Laquita Showen did a wonderful job assuring that the evening was a success.

Come one; Come all

The Emmaus Community is planning a Gathering on Saturday, **February 20, 2010 at FUMC, Mineola**. The plan is to gather at 5:00 pm at the Methodist Church Ministries

Center on 612 N. Newsome St. Everybody bring a covered dish of your choice. We will have worship and communion at 5:30 pm, then break bread together at 6:30 pm.

We look forward to having many brothers and sisters whom we have not seen in a while. If you have any questions about the Gathering call or e-mail George Assaf at (903 569 6553) geeassaf@suddenlink.net) or Burton Love at (903 425 3864) Burtonlove@embarqmail.com.

ALERT!-- Now we have heard about interest in hosting local Gatherings in Athens, Canton, Marshall, Kilgore, Palestine, and Payne Springs. Canton has expressed an interest in July while Payne Springs is looking toward May. There's also one being planned for Athens FUMC on September 18th. The critical issue for putting on a Gathering is the venue or place. The rest is easy. Churches are clearly the best locations. If you would like to plan a Gathering contact Burton Love at 903 425 3864(h) 903 880 5462(cell) or burtonlove@embargmail.com. You can also get guidance from any of the other board members. Keep in mind, it is not difficult and there is a lot of help available to make it a success. It is a true blessing when it all comes together.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of the GRACEmmaus Gatherings in 2010. DeColores





WANTED: EIGHT MEN AND WOMEN TO HELP LOAD TRAILER!

Those of you who love to hear the testimonies at the WALK CLOSINGS.... this job is for YOU! We need help moving the lidded, plastic boxes, speakers, banners, etc., to the Trailer. The Outside Team will have everything

packed and by the door nearest the trailer. It has been a real chore for the faithful two or three who have helped in the past. With several committing to faithful service we can get the job done quickly! Frank has organized the trailer so all boxes are uniform sizes for easy stacking, and are distributed for lighter weight. You'll be there for the 4 pm closing, anyway, and all can immediately begin loading the trailer when closing is over. Your help would be much appreciated!

PLEASE CONTACT FRANK COPELAND AT FHCOPEL@GMAIL.COM OR (903) 391-3542

GRACE Board for 2010

We have an annual election for the board. There are 15 members. Each member serves for 3 years and each year 5 new members are elected. We meet one night each month to conduct necessary business for the community. The current boards' contact information is listed below. If you have any comments or questions regarding community activities,

please feel free to contact one of your board members.

Publications

George Asaaf

geeassaf@suddenlink.net 903-569-6553

Crosses and Nametags

Ken Braswell

braswellsbb@aol.com 903-677-3341 (h) 903-288-5949 (c)

Exificio

Ray Carden

raycarden@suddenlink.net 903-882-1780 (h) 903-245-9138 (c)

Trailer Clean-up

Frank Copeland

fhcopel@gmail.com 903-723-3420

Secretary

Diana Frachiseur

Tdhbe05@yahoo.com 903-842-3030 (h) 903-571-2646 (c)

Wall Agape Prayer Clock

Judy Hawn

Jacieh2002@vahoo.com 903-681-1565

Babe Chick Training

Brent Hooser

Brenth12000@yahoo.com 903-939-9528 (h) 903-521-7367 (c)

Music Director

Patti Jones

Shellie47@aol.com 903-469-3431 (h) 903-288-4550 (c)

Banquet AterGlow

Kathy Kapka

kev@tyler.net 903-839-3003

Assistant Lay Director Gathering Coordinator

Burton Love

burtonlove@embargmail.com 903-425-3864

Community Lay Director Dan Matthews

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

903-948-9039 (c)

Book Table

John Norman

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

Newsletter Editor

Jov Parker

Bjparker859@yahoo.com iparker@co.wood.tx.us 903-768-2892 (h)

903-850-2893 (c)

903-763-2332 (w)

Sponsorship Training Webservant

Reunion Groups

Tom Perdue

tomdue@gmail.com 903-218-1578 (h) 903-571-3199 (c)

Treasurer

Jo Anne Skeen

joanneskeen@gmail.com

903-723-2189 (h) 903-391-1664 (c) 903-723-6143 (w)

Walk Agape

Jana Russell Whitehurst

jrussell@flex-source.com 903-291-1110 (h) 903-237-9068 (c)

NON-ELECTED **POSITIONS FOR 2010**

ASD

Ben Bright

bfbright@aol.com 903-845-2871

Chrysalis Steering Chair Registrar

Teresa Elliott

Elliott.teresa@gmail.com Elliott@tmfhs.org 903-570-5233 (h) 903-531-4485 (c)

ASD

Kim Hagedorn

khagedorn@valornet.com 903-678-9621

Spiritual Director

David Mays

dmays@dkjjt.com 903-374-4766

Webmaster

Tom Perdue

Douglas Smith

Ddsmith2000@yahoo.com 903-968-3833

ASD

Jodie Windbigler

reviodie@aol.com 432-425-1485

MEET YOUR BOARD



name is Joy Му Parker. I was elected to serve on your board for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Ι served as secretary for 2008 and 2009. I will be the newsletter editor for 2010.

I went on GRACE Walk #37, at Disciples Crossing and sat at the table of Rachel. My Walk was definitely a lifechanging experience.

My husband, Roy, and I worship at Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church in the Alba-Golden area. children have two and four grand children. We also have a foster daughter in Guatemala and she has two children. am the Court Coordinator the 402^{nd} for Judicial Court District in Wood County.

have enjoyed being on your board and forward looking If you have this year. articles, church announcements, etc., that you would like to see in the newsletter, please email them to me and I'll try to incorporate them.



My name is Jo Anne I will be serving Skeen. your board for the 2010, 2011 and years 2012. I will be serving treasurer this the I took my Walk, year. #39, at Camp Gilmont and table sat at the Rachel.

I am married to Gene (from Palestine!) Skeen and we both worship at Grace UMC in Palestine. Grace UMC is also mν employer am the as Т administrative assistant there. I am also a Mary Independent Beauty Consultant. Gene and I have 2 daughters and grandchildren.

Bloopers in the church

The following are actual church bulletin board bloopers found in churches across the United States.

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church. Evening massage - 6 p.m.

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Twenty-two members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

Potluck supper: Prayer and medication to follow.





KAIROS #36 AT THE MICHAEL UNIT

We would ask that you pray for the team that the Lord has assembled to carry the message of our Lord and Savior into the prison unit on April 22-25. The team has been forming and our second meeting will be at First Christian Church in Mineola this Saturday, it begins at about 8:30am. There is room for more. If you feel called to serve God in one of the most rewarding ministries we do in this community please contact Pat Owens, Team Leader, give him a call at 903-**407-1089**, he would be more than happy to help you find the opportunity serve God in this ministry. You can access all information about our mission thru our website http://www.michaelunit.org. We need your prayers, your cookies (recipes available on web), and your financial support. It costs us around \$12,000 to conduct a weekend and we depend on the support of our community and volunteers for that money. If your Church is interested we do a prayer chain (similar to the Emmaus prayer chain) that we use to make a chain with and display in our meeting place during the weekend. Contact Tom Perdue at tomdue@gmail.com to obtain a copy. We are all prospecting for men's souls, some free world and some imprisoned.

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

www.gracemmaus.org

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:	

Tyler Emmaus Community DBH: **GRACE Emmaus Community P.O. Box 132212 Tyler, TX 75713-2212**

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