

January, 2009 Volume 9, Issue 1

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

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# <u>NEXT</u> GATHERI NG!

January 17, 2009 11 am Fairwood UMC, Tyler

YA'LL COME!!

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE <u>GRACEMMAUS.ORG</u> WEBSITE

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

## DEAR G.R.A.C.E.

### A Note From Your Community Lay Director:

Please let me be among the first to wish for you a happy and productive new year. Isn't it interesting how we believe that replacing one calendar for another will change things for us. I guess that's part of the definition of hope, that a new year will bring the changes we seek in our lives.

Your new board has already met once already (12/18/08) getting ready for the new year, one that holds lots of promise for us to serve our Lord. All six of our new members were present at the meeting. I encourage you to thank them for serving when you next see them ( George Assaf, Frank Copeland, Judy Hawn, Patti Jones, Burton Love, and Tom Perdue). We are very excited about the upcoming spring Walks #48 and #49 at Disciple Crossing being led by Dan Matthews and Patti Jones. Team meetings will start on 1/10 at Fairwood UMC in Tyler with following meetings in Athens and Lindale. March will be here before you know it. Tom Haygood has also planned a training session for Clergy to be held in Henderson on 1/22 from 9 AM until noon. I encourage you to invite your minister to attend, no matter if they have been to Emmaus or not. Contact Tom (contact info in this newsletter) if you need details.

The NET Emmaus Community is sponsoring a leadership training session on 1/17-1/19 for high school age Chrysalis boys @ Paris

UMC. Contact Teresa Elliott for more details.

Lastly, we will be promoting Sponsorship this year. Sponsoring a pilgrim is the lifeblood of this organization. We have no higher calling to support Emmaus. At the January and August Gatherings we will have a Sponsorship training session preceding lunch. consider encourage you to attending one of these sessions to learn or review how to become an effective sponsor.

# DeColores Ray Carden

### **Chrysalis Happenings**

During Martin L. King weekend [Jan 17, 18 & 19] the North East Texas Chrysalis Community is holding a boys flight. Since we do not have any boys OR many men that have worked a Chrysalis Flight before we really need some boys from GRACE to attend this flight in Paris, Texas on MLK weekend.

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.

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 <a href="https://www.netemmaus.org">www.netemmaus.org</a> 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

# Sponsorship Information – Part 1 of 2

(article by Dan Matthews)

#### According to the dictionary, a sponsor is:

- 1. One who assumes responsibility for another person or a group during a period of instruction.
- 2. One who vouches for the suitability of a candidate for admission; one who takes responsibility for another.

Sponsorship is the act of carrying out that responsibility for a pilgrim that God has chosen. You are God's instrument, "The Sponsor", the one who takes responsibility for another. God chose you to go on The Walk to Emmaus experience. Now be sure that God has chosen your potential pilgrim. It requires a lot of PRAYING. God should decide whom and when we should sponsor someone.

GOOD SPONSORSHIP is vital to the Emmaus Movement; it is the most important job in Emmaus.

#### **Unwise Sponsorship**

- 1. Those persons who would find The Walk to Emmaus a discomforting experience should not be pressed to attend. This discomfort might extend to beliefs about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit that differ from the traditional Christian belief of the Holy Trinity. The Walk to Emmaus it is not a place for theological or religious debate.
- 2. Do not sponsor persons who are not a member of a church.
- 3. Do not sponsor people involved in recent or unresolved emotional distress; for example, the death of a loved one, family breakup, divorce proceedings, work downsizing, job loss, and health problems. (If you are unsure about this, please ask his/her pastor!) Those who are unable to sit in the conference room chairs for several hours at a time, or have severe medical problems should NOT attend.
- 4. Church Hoppers (those who join a church, find something they don't like, complain, and then leave) would be an unwise choice. Many always seem to have an axe to grind against the church, while others are looking for a perfect church.
- 5. People that use any forum to talk about their own agenda. They do not hear or want to hear other views.
- 6. Persons who decide not to make a Walk after being presented the opportunity.

#### Wise Sponsorship

Initially, consider sponsoring those persons who are committed to living a life that is pleasing to God, those who want to grow and increase their knowledge and understanding of God and His will.

- 1. Church leaders (pastors and laypersons), those serving on committees, outreach programs, anyone participating in the ministries of the church.
- 2. Couples: Try to get them to go on the same set of walks or back-to-back walks.
- 3. Single persons who are active in the church.
- 4. Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed.
- 5. Christians who want to grow spiritually.



6. Members of diverse congregations, denominations, and ethnic groups. Many times these people are just waiting to be asked to do something.

We know that there are many potential pilgrims in our communities awaiting responsible sponsorship for their Walk to Emmaus. Be acutely aware of our brothers and sisters among us that fall within the 6 criteria given above in <u>Wise Sponsorship</u> and beware of the 'do nots' in <u>Unwise Sponsorship</u>. Sponsoring a Pilgrim that is not a good candidate is not fair to that individual, the Walk team members, nor the other Pilgrims on the Walk.

February's newsletter will continue with Sponsorship Information – Part 2, with an overview of "Responsibilities of the Sponsor." Until then, Grace and Peace in this New Year. DeColores, Dan Matthews

### 2009 Gatherings

We will hold 4 quarterly gatherings centralized in Tyler on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community.

January 17<sup>t;h</sup>----- FairWood UMC, Sponsor's Training @ 11:00, Pot Luck @ 12 noon & Worship @ 1:15 p.m. (confirmed)

April 18<sup>th</sup>------ Lanes Chapel UMC; Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.

July 18<sup>th</sup>----- Pollard UMC, Sponsor's Training @ 11:00, Pot Luck @ 12 noon & Worship @ 1:15 p.m.

November 21<sup>st----</sup> GRACE COMMUNITY Church, Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.;

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

(article by Burton Love)

Most of you know the community has voted to handle Gatherings differently for 2009. It is our prayer that the new format will allow more and more of the community to attend a Gathering near them.

The G.R.A.C.E. community will come together for four centralized Gatherings in the Tyler area which is the approximate middle of our area. (Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> Fairwood UMC; April 18<sup>th</sup> Lanes Chapel UMC; July 18<sup>th</sup> Pollard UMC; Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> Grace Community Church). Each Gathering will be on a Saturday beginning with training (Sponsor or Babe Chick) at 11am, potluck lunch at 12 noon and worship at 1:15pm.

In addition, the community will have the opportunity to attend four Walk Candlelight services Sat. Mar. 7; Sat Mar. 14; Sat. Oct. 10; and Sat. Oct. 17.

Now for the best part: Locally we encourage other GRACE towns, reunion groups or churches to hold Gatherings. We can become a stronger Community if we get to know each other better. Smaller, local Gatherings will be easier to get to and also start molding leaders for more equal representation from all parts of our area. These are not meant to be "instead of" the "community-at-large" Gatherings. By the same token, we hope you will not just limit yourself to the main 4 gatherings in Tyler.

The criteria for these Gatherings is straight forward.

Place for the Gathering

4<sup>th</sup> day speaker for 10-15 minute presentation

Qualified clergy to serve communion

Advanced planning to assure that the information can be: put in the Grace Newsletter; sent out via e-mail to the community and provided to the Grace Board to assure a Board Representative can attend to make announcements and collect a love offering for the Community (at least 30 days notice should normally be adequate however, the more notice the better)

Make arrangements for music Make arrangements for a nursery if possible (optional but preferable) Have food available (snacks are appropriate)

If you would like to have a local Gathering please get your information to Burton Love, Grace Emmaus Board member. (<u>Burtonlove@embarqmail.com</u>; 903-425-3864) If you need help with the planning, we may be able to assist.

#### **GRACE Board for 2008**

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### **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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Thank you for your continued support of our Emmaus community. DeColores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:	
Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	