

July, 2008 Volume 8, Issue 5

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

# Inside this Issue

LAY DIRECTOR NOTES, LETTER FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

AGAPE NEWS, BOARD NOTES, REUNION GROUP NEWS, CHRYSALIS NEWS

DEVOTION BY RAY, GATHERING SCHEDULE, GRACE BOARD LISTING AND CONTACT INFO



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, ATHENS, TX 7pm NO SEPARATE EMMAUS GATHERING IN JULY YALL COME!!

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE LISTED ABOVE!!

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

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

What a pleasure it is to be a part of this community. At the gathering in Jacksonville it was great to see so many smiling faces. The music was awesome and food was good. One of the things that I was so excited about is the Christian Action that our Community members are involved in. We have members of our community that work with teams for the Walks to Emmaus, Chrysalis, Epiphany and Kairos.

If you haven't heard – we are getting ready to have our very first Chrysalis Flight this summer. Mark you calendars for July 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Athens, Texas at the FUMC on Lovers Lane. The caterpillars (aka pilgrims) are to be at the church for registration at 8 a.m. on Thursday Morning. Chrysalis is set up a lot like a walk but there are differences. We have banquet and we give the participants agape letters; Candlelight will be on Friday Night and Closing will be on Saturday afternoon.

There are 15 talks with 5 being by Clergy, 5 given by Adults and 5 given by Youth. Instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> day talk we call it Next Steps and it is a youth talk. Two of the Adult talks are based on the topics of Single Life and Married Life. The Marriage talk is given by a couple; the talk is written together and presented together to the youth. After each of these talks there is a question and answer time for the youth to discuss any questions or concerns they may have that was not covered in the talk.

We will have places for 36 youth from the ages of 15 (completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade) up to college age. There is a maximum of 6 caterpillars from one church. The youth will be placed in groups based on either high school or college age. Please get those applications for caterpillars to attend the weekend filled out and turned in ASAP.

In order to try and keep the cost down we are charging the base fee of \$50. We will have reunion groups cook breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you are interested in providing a meal for the weekend please contact Susan Stallings @ 903-534-2915 as she is the Kitchen Coordinator on this Chrysalis Flight. The girls will also need an air mattress, cot, or some type of bedding because we will be on the gym floor to sleep at night.

Leah Huffstetter is our Chrysalis Steering Committee Chairman and will serve as the Lay Director for the weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact her @ 903-360-1017. We will need AGAPE for the girls' bed, tables and dinner room. We will need snacks and drinks – soda and water for break times and we can always use Green Agape – if you want to give something but don't have time to cook or bring goodies.

This is such an awesome time for our community as we start a new journey together to bring our youth closer to Christ.

DeColores and Fly with Christ, Teresa Elliott Community Lay Director

## From the Spiritual Directors Desk

Honesty is the best policy. Right? Well, ok, then if we are being honest, maybe our true prayer is more like:

General Confession

Benevolent and easy-going Father; we have occasionally been guilty of errors of judgment. We have lived under the deprivations of heredity and the disadvantages of environment. We have sometimes failed to act in accordance with common sense. We have done the best we could in the circumstances: And have been careful not to ignore the common standards of decency; And we are glad to think that we are fairly normal. Do thou, O Lord, deal light with our infrequent lapses. Be thy own sweet Self with those who admit they are not perfect; According to the unlimited tolerance which we have a right to expect from thee. And grant as an indulgent Parent that we may hereafter continue to live a harmless and happy life and keep our self-respect.

Altered from the Book of Common Prayer

### By David Head

Please pray for our Lord to rekindle our hearts to be in love with our First Love. Isn't that what Emmaus is all about?

### DeColores!

LOVE ALWAYS WINS. TOM HAYGOOD 903.570.9306 

## AGAPE NEWS

Calling all agape makers of any sort. Chrysalis needs 65 of anything/everything. Oct. Walks will be here before you blink your eves twice too.

Thanks. Laquita Showen 

## And Please...

Several years ago, the Community was asked, when labeling agape, to please only place your reunion group name, town &/or church. Some suggested that true servanthood agape should not have a label at all. However, many pilgrims enjoy looking at the many places that the agape comes from -- just please do not add your individual names. The Board deeply appreciates all agape received on/for each Walk.

# BOARD NOTES: Change in date of Emmaus training session

At the Gathering in Jacksonville last month we announced that a training session for the Board members would be held on July 12 from 9AM to 3PM at a site TBD. That session date has been postponed until August 16 still at a site TBD. The GRACE community is welcome to attend this session and cordially invited and the destination will be published in the August newsletter. If you plan to attend please let one of the Board members know so we can plan for the lunch food.

## Election Time... Already?

Well, not really. But it will be time to elect five new members to our Grace Emmaus Board, before you know it.

For everyone that is new or just doesn't know, I would like to let you know that the Board of

Directors for our Grace Emmaus Community consists of sixteen individuals. One appointed member is our Spiritual Director; our community elects the other fifteen members. These folks have agreed to serve our community for three years. Generally, we all commit to meet once a month to and make decisions discuss necessary to conduct the business of the community. You know "the behind the scenes stuff." Each year we hold an election to add five new members while rotating off five members that have served their three-year term. That is how we continue to keep fresh leadership and ideas for the community.

So, this is where you come We are looking for those in. people who may have an interest in serving this way. If you think you may wish to be placed on the ballot, to serve as a board member, we want to hear from you! Please contact us by mail or e-mail at any address in this newsletter. The ballot will be set and finalized for the mailing of the October newsletter. So don't delay, if you feel you are being led in this direction, you are probably right. We look forward to hearing from you!

## **DeColores**

## \*\*\*\* **Reunion Groups**

Are you looking for a reunion group? Are you looking for a way to let people know about a reunion group? If you answered yes to either of these questions, I encourage you to visit our web www.gracemmaus.org and site. click on the Reunion Groups link. Here you can find the latest information that we have on all the reunion groups in the community. Also at our web site, in the bottom

left corner, there is a link where vou can update vour reunion group information and let us know about any new reunion groups. We will update the web site with new information as we receive it. So check back often! Whether you are looking for a reunion group or adding information about a new one, let www.gracemmaus.org be the place to find it.

# Chrysalis





## WOW!! We are less

than a month away from the first flight in the GRACE community. What an awesome time this is for our youth. Don't think this is just for youth. We still need help from everyone. If you love God and you want to serve him, there is SOMETHING you can do for Chrysalis. The following is a list of different ways the community can support the flight even if you are not working the actually weekend.

The following items or services are needed:

Food & Drink Agape for snack times Full Meals for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on all three days. (One meal has already been signed up for by Lindale's Reunion Group)

Placemats

Green Agape (\$) is always welcome. Presence for Gathering and Candlelight

Presence for Closing

All General Agape = 65 pieces of each item

Sign up on the Prayer Vigil @ 3dayol.org

Scholarships for youth to attend Chrysalis Boys and/or Emmaus Men to serve dinner for the girls

We need youth to attend so please get those applications filled out and returned. Please don't wait until the week before to get the application in. We need time to get everything ready for the flight.

The flight will be Thursday through Saturday July 24-26. It will be at FUMC Athens. Candlelight will be FRIDAY night at 8 p.m. Closing will be Saturday at 4:00. This is different than what we are used to so PLEASE mark your calendars. Let's show our support to our young people.

If you have any questions or would like to help in ANY WAY, please let me know. You can contact me at <u>leah\_belle@hotmail.com</u>, <u>gracechrysalis@yahoo.com</u>, or 903-360-1017.

Most important, please pray that God's way will be done and that all that is being done is for the GLORY of GOD!!

Leah Huffstetter

gracechrysalis@yahoo.com

#### \$

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

#### Galatians 2:20

These words from Paul to the Church at Galatia should remind us that the life we now live was purchased for us by the blood of our Savior. Often we get beset by problems in our Church and in our world, and we forget to keep our eye on the goal of serving our Lord and Savior. We owe all to the willing sacrifice that was made for each of us, and should live our lives to be in His service. Nothing, absolutely nothing, should deter us in our quest to do His will. We should be reminded that "We are the Church", not our facilities, not our pastor, not anything else, but us. That Jesus Christ is the leader of that Church, and that the lives we live now should be by faith in Jesus and the Father. We gladly leave our old lives behind and live by faith in our Lord. May the Lord bless you.

# 2008 Gatherings

<u>August 9</u> (Saturday) St. Marks United Methodist Church, Marshall 12pm Covered Dish & Gathering

<u>September 11</u> (Thursday) Crossroads Community Church, Longview 7pm

<u>October 11 & 18</u> (Saturday) CANDLELIGHT at Camp Gilmont Gilmer 8pm

<u>November 8</u> (Saturday) GRAND ULTREYA at Lanes Chapel United Methodist Church 5pm Babe Chick Meeting, 6pm Potluck Dinner, 7pm Gathering

**DECEMBER – NO GATHERING** 

"Anyone who wants to be the first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." Mark 9:35 \$\*\*\*\*

## **GRACE Board for 2008**

Community Lay Director Teresa Elliot tgelliott@suddenlink.net 903-570-5233 (h)

Assistant Lay Director **Ray Carden** Raycarden287@aol.com

Spiritual Director Tom Haygood

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

Registrar / Music Director **Sue Cross** 

Registrar@GRACEmmaus.org scross88@sbcglobal.net 903-581-0908 (h) 903-714-3321 (c)

Treasurer Robin Gillian bobbilane@aol.com

903-894-3512 (h)

#### Micheal May

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

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

<u>danmatt4497@hughes.net</u> 903-338-2136 (h) 903-948-9039 (c)

#### Donna Swenson

<u>Swensonhome@aol.com</u> 903-312-1501 (c)

#### Harold Starkey

hjstarkey@suddenlink.net 903-939-8252 (h)

Chrysalis Steering Committee

#### Leah Huffstetter Leah belle@hotmail.com

903-509-1218 (h) 903-360-1017(c)