

March, 2010 Volume 10, Issue 3

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

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#### <u>NEXT</u> GATHERINGS

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

Saturday, May 25
PAYNE SPRINGS UMC
Fellowship, 5:00pm
Potluck, 5:30pm
Worship, 6:30pm

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE

But don't forget the Candlelights

VA'LL COME!!

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

Greetings from your Community Lay Director. I do not know the process that the founders of our local community of Emmaus, known as **G.R.A.C.E.**, went through in choosing our community's name. Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus, **G.R.A.C.E.**, maybe the best possible name for an Emmaus Community. Someone not familiar with Emmaus once asked me if I could give them one word that would best describe the predominant theme of Emmaus and I said Grace. And that was before I had ever heard of the GRACE Community. If any of you that read this were a part of naming this community, I want to thank you. Grace, could be described as our savior from death, and giver of life eternal. Have you ever imagined having lived in Old Testament times? Under the Old Covenant, Thou Shalt Not, The Law, meant you had better not sin. And, if you did, the results, many times, was death. Would not have been a fun time to live. But God, knowing we were going to sin, came to earth as His Son. He lived and walked among us, died on the Cross for the sins He knew we were going to commit and through GRACE, which is nothing more than His undeserving Love for us, gave us an out for our sins, if only we ask for forgiveness and except Him as our Savior. Can we somehow derive from that 'undeserving love', a definition and understanding of what Grace is? And that is the name of our community. It is the name of the church I worship and serve at, Grace United Methodist. Our church, Palestine Grace United Methodist, has an unofficial but generally accepted anthem, "This is a House of Grace." We sing this Hymn fairly often, but always at church homecoming and reunion times. We should not however need a hymn to remind us that we all live in a Community of Grace, a Country of Grace and a World of Grace, for it is only by His Grace alone that we live at all. And for that, we give Him praise and glory! Saturday, February 20, we experienced a wonderful GRACE Gathering at Mineola FUMC. God's

grace and presence was experienced

by all in attendance. I encourage all to make plans to attend future Community Gatherings. It is an important part of our Fourth Day. March is the month of our Spring Walks at Disciples Crossing in Athens with the Men's Walk #52 on March 11-14 and the Women's Walk #53 on March 18-21. I hope to see you at Candle Light on March 13 and 20 and at Closings on March 14 and 21. Our next Community Gathering will be on April 24th at Lanes Chapel UMC. Now, go and mark your calendars before you forget. Make it a priority. YBIC, Dan Matthews

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#### From the Spiritual Director

I was listening to Scott Simon on NPR the other day and he was interviewing Mitch Alborn about his latest book, "Have a Little Faith." Mitch was telling about his boyhood rabbi. At the rabbi's funeral they played a tape the rabbi had made earlier in life where the rabbi answered the two questions most asked, "Do you believe in God?" and "What happens when we die?" To hear the answers you will have to listen to the show. http://www.npr.org/templates/story/sto ry.php?storyId=121659134 It made me think about questions I am often asked. One is, "How do we get younger people involved in the church." This is often followed by a statement from someone, "It's about time they took some responsibility!" This is most often said by the problem child of the church. The answer is in Emmaus training. I like to replace the word "younger" and instead use "newer". This is one

of the difficult tasks of the church, integrating new people. Often when encountering new Christians or new members we tend to lord it over them instead of graceful teaching. I think that is what Jesus was trying to teach Peter when he asked, "Simon, do you love me more than ... then feed my sheep." Feeding sheep is building disciples, building leaders. In Emmaus we use the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> rule in selecting team members. 1/3 experienced, 1/3 with some experience and 1/3 new. Taking our Emmaus experience back to our local church we should try and use the same logic.

However, there is more to it than the rule.

Back in the day, (smile) I was an OJT instructor in the government. OJT is on the job training. What that meant was, I didn't do the job and let them watch, they did the job and I watched. When they made mistakes I helped them find their way through the mistakes. I did not take over or brow beat them. I helped them discover their mistake and work through a better way. By the way, I was an Air Traffic Controller.

To get new people in the church we have to first, include them. Second, we need to listen and let them participate. Third, we have to let them take leadership positions. We have to be willing to let them fail. When they fail we have to stand up for them and support them. It is not required they do it the way it has always been done, but together discover and experience grace and love anew.

De Colores David Mays Spiritual Director.

### 24 Hour Prayer Vigil

Walk #52 and #53 need your prayers! Sign up today to play a vital role in the success of these two walks. Praying for team members and pilgrims is a simple act, yet a very powerful one. Remember your walk. Remember how surprising it was to find out how many people were working behind the scenes for your walk. Remember that feeling of awe that these people who didn't even know you would give of themselves so lovingly. Do that for someone else by signing up to be a part of the 72 hour prayer vigil. To sign up, go to

http://gracemmaus.org. Look to the top of the page and you will see Prayer Vigil. Click the walk or walks you want to pray for and another page will open to show you the available time slots to sign up sheet for the Prayer Vigil. complete the sign up process for 30 minutes or more of prayer~~ oh and remember, "Christ is counting on YOU!" Thanks and De Colores, Judy Hawn



Mark You Calendars for these Dates:

# Girls Chrysalis Flight Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, - 6<sup>th</sup> 2010

Boys Chrysalis Flight Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 2010

# KAIROS Prison Ministry

"... I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:36

The Kairos Prison Ministry is an ecumenical Christian ministry designed for use in the men's and women's correctional institutions in Texas. The ministry is conducted, in cooperation with chaplains of correctional institutions, by teams of lay and clergy, who are qualified by their experiences in Christian renewal movements.

The purpose of Kairos is to help build nurture strong Christian and communities among the resident inmates of these maximum security correctional institutions. The Kairos experience for the residents starts with a 3-day short course in Christianity. This weekend involves 42 inmates selected by the Chaplain and a team of 60-65 lay and clergy persons. The weekend is modeled after Christian renewal weekends like Cursillo, the Walk to Emmaus, and Via de Cristo.

#### April 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

The Rector Pat Owens will be leading a team of men and women, (many brothers and sisters from our own community) into the Michael Unit in Tennessee Colony near Palestine, Tx. For KAIROS No. 36. There are a great many needs for the weekend, cookies, financial

support, and agape gifts (placemats, posters and letters). If you feel led to provide any of the needs of the team feel free to contact Pat at: 903-407-1089 (C) Or plo00@earthlink.net

### Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies

**Ingredients:** 

- 1 cup shortening, softened
- 1 cup Packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup Granulated sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 2 Teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 Cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 Teaspoon baking soda
- 1 Teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 Teaspoon salt
- 1 Cup Oatmeal
- 2 Cups Chocolate Chips Directions:
- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2. Beat shortening, brown sugar, granulated sugar, egg, and vanilla in large bowl on medium with an electric mixer until fluffy.
- 3. Sift together flour, and all the other dry ingredients.
- 4. Gradually add flour mixture to shortening mix in bowl beating until well blended. Stir oatmeal and chocolate chips.
- 5. Roll a little more than a teaspoon full into a ball place on cookie sheet Cooked cookies should be about 2 inches in diameter.
- 6. Bake 13 to 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack or counter top.
- 7. Cool completely before bagging. Makes approximately 8 dozen cookies. (Double the amounts to make approximately 15 dozen).

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#### 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.

Men's Walk #52

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The spring walks are rapidly approaching. The team has really come together in our first two meetings. At this time we have 14 pilgrims signed up. We desperately NEED PILGRIMS! So as a community let's get busy and be about doing God's work and let's fill these walks!! If there is someone you have thought about sponsoring, please don't wait. Sign them up ASAP. DeColores.

Brent Hooser Lay Director Men's Walk #52

Current Pilgrims for Walk 52:

Brent T. Abernathy – Gladewater
Jim A. Amaral – Tyler
William H. Bagby – Mineola
Matthew Wayne Blair – Kilgore
Charles Jeffery Cox – Eustace
David Clifton Green – Beckville
Bill H. Lute – Eustace
Matthew Justin Martin – Granbury
Leslie Alan Beekman – Tyler
Terry McKnight – Longview
Brett Wayne Priestley – Athens
Harold Rash – Athens
Roy Drewett – Palestine
James Bell – Gladewater

# Women's Walk #53 Over half way to the goal to hopefully

changing lives to a deeper commitment for Jesus! However, **BOTH** teams need more pilgrims! (As of Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, there were 20 women and 14 men.) Are you doing what you can to help with this? Sometimes, it's just a matter of asking people to go on a walk; some are waiting to be asked. (And I know many of you ask people and get a negative answer from them. That is O.K., it's not their time to go--just plan to ask them for the next walk when it comes around.) Last Sunday at Golden UMC, several people were discussing the Emmaus Walk and a lady who was listening said, "Oh, that sounds like something I would like to do!" Sandy, a woman of action, rose to the occasion, signed her up, became her sponsor and phoned to make sure there was room & to say that the application was on the way. The

number rose to 15. (I said a silent prayer of thanks for Sandy.) We all need to get excited about Emmaus, share our feelings and seek to find pilgrims -- or our community is in danger of dying. Share with others what Emmaus did for you. Sponsorship is one of the most important roles in this whole weekend--without sponsors--there is no Emmaus. And it can be a very sacrificial giving, especially of your own time, but it was once done for you! Walk # 53 meetings have gone great and the team is bonding. The Conference Room team, Chapel team and Outside Servant team is full of some very wonderful ladies with a huge sense of serving and love for Laquita Showen, LD Jesus!

The current Pilgrims for Walk # 53:

Shannon Gayle Brown - Lindale Karrianne Capps – Athens Meredith A. Drewett – Tyler Michelle N. Foster – Jacksonville Lisa Jane Gonzales – Brownsboro Talia Ann Groce – Whitehouse Bonnie Gill Haley - Palestine Gloria Lorene James - Mineola Jennifer Jurden – Tyler Dorothy Howell Love - Mineola Charlene Ann Martin – Granbury Melanie Ann McKnight - Longview Jackie Janell Mitchell - Jacksonville Jan Myers - Tyler Pam June Norman – Tyler Deborah Owens - Kilgore Jessica Pierce - Lindale Dawn Rhodes - Chandler Jo L. Roberts - Mabank Susan Lynn Smith – Mineola

There still room for others so get those applications in!!!!!

### MESSAGE FROM PAST CLD

I'm sure you thought you had heard the last from me, but like a bad nickel I turn up from time to time. My message this time is about **sponsorship**. Last year I wrote 12 articles for the GRACE Emmaus Community newsletters. In 10 of those 12 I mentioned **sponsorship** for the community. My theme was "Effective **sponsorship** is the life blood of our community and lack thereof is to be the demise of our community." We have sponsored 3 sponsorship training

sessions for the community within the past year.

We have two Walks coming up on 3/11 and 3/18 at Disciple Crossing outside Athens. As I type this note we have 8 men and 14 women pilgrims enrolled. As my coach at Malakoff High School would say to me back in the 50's "Somehow I don't think you were listening". So let me quote from page 53 of the Emmaus 4<sup>th</sup> Day publication. "The strength of any Emmaus Community is a direct result of the Communities recruiting practices. If the Community makes a commitment to recruit strong Church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local Church, then the Community will be a strong, vital force in the renewal movement..." There is a lot more and I suggest you read it.

Your Community leaders adopted a worth goal of filling two of the four Walks this year. That's 72 pilgrims. Since we have only 22 registered this spring perhaps we should reconsider out goal???? WWJD? Surely there are leaders in your Church that could benefit from an Emmaus weekend. Please give this request some quick prayerful consideration and get them registered. And don't let money become the issue- if they can't afford to pay the \$150 fee we can find some scholarship money. Thanks for humoring a former CLD. De Colores Ray Carden

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# GATHERINGS for GRACE (2010)

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

May 25, 2010, Payne Springs United Methodist Church; Fellowship 5:00PM, Pot Luck Dinner 5:30PM, Worship 6:30PM

Aug. 28, 2010 Grace Community, OJ Campus; Sponsor training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM Nov. 20 2010 Grand Ultreya; Green Acres Baptist Church; Babe Chick training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

#### **GATHERING NEWS**

George Assaf reports that the Gathering in Mineola on Feb. 20 went very well. God sent 59 people to the gathering. Community lay director Dan Matthews, welcomed everyone and graciously thanked the community for the great turn-out. The music was wonderful. There were several community members who had never attended a gathering before. The community spiritual director David Mays and his wife were present. Pastor Ben Bright led the worship services, and Mickie Kugler gave a wonderful Fourth Day testimony of what the Emmaus experience meant to her. The community wants to thank Sandy Smith, Karen McGee and the staff of FUMC Mineola and many others for their efforts in organizing this Local Gathering.

As you can see above, we have commitments from two additional churches to host local Gatherings-Payne Springs and Athens We are hopeful that Canton, Marshall, Kilgore, Palestine and others will be able to finalize their plans to host. I don't think it is possible to have too many Gatherings

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 <a href="mailto:burtonlove@embarqmail.com">burtonlove@embarqmail.com</a>. 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

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### **GRACE Board for 2010**

We want to welcome Joe Tew to our board. Due to some family medical problems Kathy Kapka had to resign so Diana Frachiseur will finishing out Kathy's term and Joe Tew will be finishing out the term left by John Teegarden. Please remember all the board in your prayers but say a special prayer for Kathy Kapka and her family.

#### Publications George Asaaf

geeassaf@suddenlink.net 903-569-6553

#### Crosses and Nametags Team Selection 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

<u>Jacieh2002@yahoo.com</u> 903-681-1565

# **Babe Chick Training Brent Hooser**

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

#### Music Director Patti Jones

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#### Assistant Lay Director Gathering Coordinator Burton Love

<u>burtonlove@embarqmail.com</u> 903-425-3864

# Community Lay Director **Dan Matthews**

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

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#### Newsletter Editor Joy Parker

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# Sponsorship Training Tom Perdue

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# Treasurer Jo Anne Skeen

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#### Joe Tew

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### Walk Agape Jana Russell Whitehurst

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#### **NON-ELECTED POSITIONS**

# 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

<u>khagedorn@valornet.com</u> 903-678-9621

# Spiritual Director David Mays

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#### Webmaster Tom Perdue

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

# ASD Douglas Smith

<u>Ddsmith2000@yahoo.com</u> 903-968-3833

#### ASD Jodie Windbigler

<u>revjodie@aol.com</u> 432-425-1485

#### MEET YOUR BOARD...



My name is Dan Matthews. I was elected to the G.R.A.C.E. board

for the years of 2008, 2009, and 2010. In 2008 and 2009, I was responsible for Sponsorship. Additionally, I served as the Assistant Community Lay Director in 2009. For this year of 2010, I am serving as your Community Lay Director. I went on Kononia Walk 640 at Mount Wesley in Kerrville, TX in 1998 and sat at the Table of St. Stephen and subsequently served on four Walk teams as ATL, TL, ALD, and Outside Servant team before my wife, O.Y. and I moved back home to Palestine in 2005. We both retired from the U.S. Postal Service in San Antonio, TX. We worship and serve at Palestine Grace UMC. I became active in GRACE in 2007, working GRACE Walk#38 that fall at Gilmont. My fourth Day at GRACE has been truly rewarding and a time of spiritual growth for me. I have had the privilege of working on many Walks since Walk 38, serving in capacities from ATL to WLD. O.Y. and I have three children and four

grandchildren and are enjoying retirement back on the farm where I grew up. I hope to personally meet and fellowship with each of you in our time together as we serve Him in this Community we call GRACE.



Hi my name is Tom Perdue; I attended G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 1 in May 1998 at Timberline Baptist Camp

near Lindale and sat at the Table Family of St. John. My wife Sandee (G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 2) and I attend church regularly and worship with passion at Grace Community Church Old Jacksonville Rd. Campus in Tyler. I have been blessed to have been allowed to work quite a few of the Men's weekends at G.R.A.C.E., was honored to have been a Lay Director for G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 25 and I am serving as Board Rep. for G.R.A.C.E. Men's Walk No. 52 in March in Athens, hope to see y'all there at candlelight. I am currently serving my second three year term as a board member in our community. Besides Emmaus I have served on practically every Michael Unit Kairos weekend since 1998, (we do them only twice a year) which is basically taking the Emmaus weekend and presenting it to 42 incarcerated lost souls of Jesus in a maximum security prison, since that first experience on No. 14, I have served as Rector (lay director) for Kairos No. 23 and am on the team for No. 36 in April, I also serve on our Kairos Unit Advisory Council as State Representative to the Kairos of Texas Board, and help coordinate weekly Prayer and Share meetings (like our reunions) at the Michael Unit in Tennessee Colony, and besides all that time, I have also served on Epiphany weekends (same concept as Kairos and Emmaus, but presented to teenage boys and girls serving time in TYC. (Texas Youth Commission at Corsicana Texas), and was richly blessed by seeing 36 teenage boys come to the feet of Christ as the Lay Director of Epiphany Boys No. 8. To say that Emmaus had changed my life is putting it mildly. There is nothing I desire more nor am

I blessed by anything more rewarding than seeing the fruits of a three day weekend when GOD steps in and changes the hearts of so many, it truly fuels me on to serve as many more as He will allow this former reprobate to be a part of. My weekend at G.R.A.C.E. No. 1 truly changed my life and when my wife attended hers it richly and deeply strengthened our marriage. I can't say enough about the importance of a husband and wife both attending a weekend. Sandee and I have three children Scott the oldest is a lawyer and Lead Council for Spyglass Productions in Los Angeles, Stacy is an Account Manager with Kaiser Permanente in Los Angeles, and Michelle is attending TJC to get a Radiology Technician degree here in Tyler, we have 2 grandsons, Quinton age 8 and Zander age 2, and my most precious child is Charlie age four, a West Highland Terrier and my constant companion. Oh I still work when God sees it time for me to have employment as a Petroleum Landman, but right now I'm waiting on Him to give me an opportunity. But you know it seems like my life is quite busy, but I wouldn't have traded a mile traveling to all those meetings or a minute writing hours of talks or a second of life to see that look in someone's eyes when it finally kicks in HOW MUCH GOD LOVES

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

### **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:	

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

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