

May, 2014 Volume 14, Issue 4

G.R.A.C.E. Website www.graceemmaus.com

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Men's Walk # 70 Camp Gilmont, Gilmer October 2-5, 2014 James Cox

Women's Walk # 71 Camp Gilmont, Gilmer October 9-12 Lanett Moser

Jim and Betty Buchanan G.R.A.C.E. <u>REGISTRARS</u> 306 Cedar circle Marshall, TX 75672

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DEAR G.R.A.C.E.

A NOTE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

We are to give our minds, hearts, hands and feet to God so that we will be transformed, not informed. Romans 12: 1-2

The Fall Walks will be here before we know it. Your board is already hard at work preparing for the Fall Walks. The Walks will be held at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer, Texas. The Men's Walk will be held October 2 – 5 with James Cox leading the Walk. The Women's Walk will be held the following week October 9 – 12 with Lanett Moser leading this Walk. The Team selection committee has already selected a roster of team members for these walks. If you would be interested in working one of these Walks please fill out a Team application form from our Web site, www.graceemmaus.com as we always have cancellations and other reasons that selected members cannot work.

Do you have friends or family that might be ready to experience the Walk? Can you share with them what the experience has meant to you? Prayerfully consider who you could sponsor. Remember that for married couples you should talk with both husband and wife and encourage both to go on a walk

All to often we wait until the last minute to seek others that may interested in attending a Walk. This puts undue stress on the Board of Directors (which ultimately decides if a walk is a go or not), the team, and you the sponsor.

Again, applications to attend, serve, or sponsor can be found on our Web site

www.graceemmaus.com. The cost of these Walks will be \$155.00. Don't wait until the last minute...get excited for others to

share in this great...experience: GET AT LEAST ONE PILGRIM.

Your words have supported those who stumbled; you have strengthened faltering knees. Job 4: 4.

Decolores, Mac Young Community Lay Director

GATHERINGS

May 24, 2014 Greggton UMC – Longview, TX 5:00 – Potluck Dinner 6:00 - Praise/Worship

June – Possibly at Marvin UMC July – Van UMC August – TBA September – Ore City October – Fall Walk November – Lane's Chapel December - TBA

Don't forget that we welcome any news articles from the community. Please submit them by the first of each month for publication in the upcoming newsletter.

johnston karol@yahoo.com

But they that wait upon the LORD...



...shall renew their strength

A WIN/WIN CHOICE

By Tommy Ferguson, Walk # 60

Each spring as we humans pause to assess our lives, we realize that we have moved one year closer to the end of our days, as we know it, on this beautiful planet that God provided for us to live, work, and plan on. For some, leaving this planet will be a blessing, and for some, it will be a sorrowful time. Even though life can be difficult here on earth, life can be disagreeable to us, and life can be wonderful if we "stop to smell the roses."

For followers of the Christ, life should be great with the expectation of getting greater in the future. God created a most beautiful, majestic place for his sheep here on earth, particularly in spring. This old earth renews itself each spring, in spite of the damage done by humans in the other seasons. Scientists tell us that if the earth were left alone for onethousand years after the last human exits, it would completely rejuvenate to almost original shape. Oh, there might be some pieces of granite with inscriptions left for a few hundred more years, no one knows for sure but God. At any rate, there would be little traces that humans ever occupied the planet.

Each spring, as an avid lover of nature, I enjoy spending the quiet of the warm afternoons looking at the tree leaves and other spring plants as they blossom, leave, and grow. The leaves sprout from a bud on the limbs and grow from nickel size to dollar size in a week. The wild flowers that bloom on our highway right-of-ways are a pleasure to watch as the Indian Paint Brush grow and get thicker on the ground and the Crimson Clover heads add a scarlet blanket of color. Later on the Indian Blanket (or Fire Wheel) comes out, and we imagine that God is just "showing off" as he creates these paintings for us to enjoy. The Dogwood with all their symbolism blossom to add a taste of purity (in white) to our world. The warm, southern, breeze in the White Oak (to borrow from Don Williams' song) and our beautiful pines give off a heavenly fragrance and enhance their growth by moving to and fro. Speaking of fragrances, the Wild Hedge, Swamp Myrtle, and Honey Suckle cannot be matched by man.

Like snowflakes (and human beings) God made everything unique; each blossom, each leaf, each plant, (though similar) are completely individual and different in some way. How could anyone be bored in the spring with all of God's creation to behold?

As beautiful, as majestic, and as awe-inspiring as the earth is, God has planned a more wonderful place for those who are "In Christ." That is the secret to a win/win choice. As sad as it is to leave this wonderful planet, we will have a more wonderful place to go when we leave all this pasture. So, how could God's sheep fail to win with the earth to live on and God's house to go to later? We can lose only if we are not "In Christ."

Some years ago, someone wrote and sang a song which talked of "Stopping and smelling the roses"; the depth of that one phrase goes deep into our Christian souls. It tells us that we should appreciate what God does for us in any season, although the spring is more obvious.

Since I have lived most of my life (except college, military, and employment) in this beautiful part of Texas, springs are cherished most by me; the simple things have come to be the most valuable in my life.

These are just a few thoughts and descriptions that bring great pleasure; look for more and you will receive.

Now that Walks 68 & 69 are in the books, as your community treasurer, I would like to encourage the fourth day community to participate in the automatic deposit program (ACH). Currently we have nineteen people that donate between \$5 and \$100 each month. This is the simplest way to help the GRACE community with a monthly donation. Each month on the 15th I draft your bank account for the donation amount you have specified. The form is attached to this newsletter. Fill it out, attach a VOIDed check and send it to me. I will take that to Southside bank and they will set up the ACH. And you can cancel at any time by emailing me or whoever the treasurer is at the time. Even a \$5.00 per month donation will be helpful, especially if we get several people enrolled.

David McPherson

It's never too early to begin to put aside your used Christian books for donation on the Walks! We have had such a great response to offering both new and gently used books. Thanks to each of you who have committed to providing those books you no longer need! If you would like to donate books for the upcoming walks, they can be given to any board member for transport to the walks in October. Thank you so much for continuing to support the pilgrims that God will be sending to us this Fall.

In Christ, Robin Gillian Do you want to work on a Walk? Go to the website and apply NOW. There are places for service on the outside team as well as conference room teams.

CALLING ALL SPONSORS!! Please get those applications in for your pilgrims. Make sure all signatures are on the form and a deposit is sent with the application to hold a spot.

Disciple Crossing Walks for Spring of 2015 will be held:

> Men: March 12-15 TBA

Women: March 19-22 TBA

Team selections are being made for the fall walks in Gilmer. Please be in prayer for James Cox and Lanett Moser as team formation begins.

Did you know there are opportunities to pray for other Emmaus walks in the USA? Check and pray for them as well.

2014 BOARD MEMBERS

Lay Director:

Mac Young Home: 903-451-2804

Cell: 214-282-7593

Assistant Lay Director: Mark Bewley

Cell: 903-522-0782

Spiritual Director:

Rev. Doug Smith 903-968-3833

Assistant Spiritual Director:

Richard Luna 903-597-2571

Secretary:

Karol Johnston Cell: 903-521-0236

Treasurer:

David McPherson Home: 903-316-4272

Music Coordinator:

Mac Walling

Work: 903-885-9803

COMMITTEES

(Board Member is chair of designated committee)

Agape (gift - banguet afterglow):

Carol Derieux 903-445-0295

Agape (wall letters, etc.):

Janis Johns

Cell: 817-714-8208

Babe Chick Training:

Bubba DeBerry Cell: 903-256-7080

Book Table (Scroll consignments):

Robin Gillian

Cell: 903-574-0829

Community Trailer:

Chuck Reed

Home: 903-845-8128 Cell: 903-918-4196

Gathering Coordinator:

Shawn Heatherly Home: 903-297-3005

Newsletter Editor:

Karol Johnston

Home: 903-963-7313 Cell: 903-521-0236

Prayer Vigil:

Janis Johns Cell: 817-714-8208

Publication Coordinator:

Babby Carroll

Home: 903-983-3841 Cell: 903-424-1641 **Sponsorship Training:**

Jim Buchanan

Home: 903-930-2360

Team Selection-Board Nominations:

Mark Bewley

Home: 903-451-2804 Cell: 214-282-7593

Walk Crosses/Dove Nametags:

Elizabeth Minor

Home: 903-657-8112 Cell: 903-720-1740

Reunion Groups:

Tommy Ferguson Cell: 903-256-7296

Non- Board (no restriction)

Positions

Registrar:

Jim & Betty Buchanan

Home: 903-938-1421 Cell Jim: 903-930-2360 Cell Betty: 903-930-2678

Webmaster:

Mark Bewley

Cell: 903-522-0782

Ex-Officio:

Cindy Hooser

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:_____ 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 \$ Signature_____ Date Fill out information below or attach voided check City _____ State ____ Zip ____ Depository Name _____ Account # Transit/ABA #