

November, 2009 Volume 9, Issue 11 G.R.A.C.E. Website www.gracemmaus.org **NEWS FROM** COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR DEVOTIONAL **FROM COMMUNITY** SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR PRAYER CLOCK CURRENT BOARD CONTACTS, BANK DRAFT OPPORTUNITY BALLOTS FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS, VOTE ON WALK SCHEDULES **GRAND ULTREYA!** (Most Important Gathering of the Year) Nov. 21st, Grace Community Church; Babe Chick training 11 am; Pot Luck lunch- 12 noon; Worship 1:15 pm G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR P.O. Box 132212 Tyler TX. 75713-2212

DEAR G.R.A.C.E.,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior:

As my year of service winds down I want to thank all of you who have been so kind to me this year. I'm a better person for having served our community and I thank you for that opportunity. A special thanks to the board as they endured the 2 + hour meetings as we wrestled with the issues of our community.

We just completed two great Walks. Walk 50 had 19 men and Walk 51 had 35 women. We had a great time at both and the Candlelights and Closings were really uplifting.

Our Grand Ultreya Gathering is coming up soon, 11/21 at Grace Community Church in Tyler (directions on our website at gracemmaus.org). Babe Chick training at 11 AM, potluck lunch at noon, and worship at 1 PM. Please try to be there and support the 54 pilgrims. And this will be your last chance to vote for the new board members and walk schedules.

Please welcome Dan Matthews as our new Community Lay Director starting in January of 2010. He will need your prayers and support in the coming year.

De Colores, Ray Carden

"HAND WRITTEN LETTERS"

A Devotional from Our Community Lay Director

I was driving up a narrow road on the west side of Lake of the Pines. The sign said, "Dead End Road No Outlet." I continued on the road to a tee and turned. I traveled a ways further and turned on a smaller road. Farms with old farmhouses dotted the roadside. I noticed an older woman crossing the road to a mailbox.

She peered inside, removed an envelope and started back across the road towards her house. She stopped at the edge of the road looking intently at the envelope. I don't think she ever noticed me as I past her. I traveled a ways and turned around to find my

way back out.

Looking down the road I could see the lady was still at the side of the road. She was reading what I inferred was a letter. I wondered what the

letter was about. Could the letter be from a sister, brother, child, grandchild or great grandchild that lived far away updating her on current events? Maybe, it was a letter from the church telling about something good about to happen. I wondered as I drove by once again.

Occasionally, I receive a letter. I do not consider collection, advertising or sales brochures letters. I consider letters to be personal. Personal letters seem to be falling to the wayside with the advent of telephone, email and texting. I confess I am part of the guilty who do not write letters.

When I was overseas in the service, letters were my link to home. Mail call was looked forward to with anticipation and anxiety. If there was not a letter I would wonder what happened back home. I could see others without letters, their eyes reflecting abandonment, wondering if they had been forgotten.

Seeing that lady on the side of the road, oblivious to the world as she read her letter made me remember how important hand written letters were to me. Once in my life I received more than five letters at one time. All handwritten, all signed with love, it changed my life.

Can you imagine such a moment?

De Colores, David Mays

Last 2009 Gathering - GRAND ULTREYA

Our last 2009 QUARTERLY gathering in Tyler is called our GRAND ULTREYA. It is on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community and is our biggest, most important Gathering of the Year !



Nov. 21st Grace Community Church; Babe Chick training 11 am; Pot Luck lunch- 12 noon; Worship 1:15 pm

GATHERINGS (2009)

Grand Ultreya Saturday Nov. 21st Grace Community Church; Babe Chick training 11 am; Pot Luck lunch-12 noon; Worship 1:15 pm. This is the last full community Gathering for 2009.

GATHERINGS (2010)

Jan. 23, 2010 Fairwood UMC; Sponsor training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner- 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

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

GATHERING NEWS

As you can see above, we have established the dates and locations for the first two centralized Gatherings for the Community for 2010. We are still in the process of setting up the other two centralized Gatherings for 2010. As soon as we have the dates and locations for the third (Aug 28, 2010) and fourth (Nov. 20, 2010) confirmed, we will share that information with the Community. Please be reminded that the Gracemmaus Board has voted to change the time of day for 2010 Gatherings. Training will start at 4:30PM, Dinner will be at 5 :45PM with worship starting at 6:45PM. Centralized Gatherings will continue to be on Saturdays in the Tyler area.

If you are interested in hosting a local Gathering, any of the GracEmmaus Board members can help you with nearly all aspects of your planning and acquiring resources. If you need an update on the criteria and/or you would like to explore hosting a Gathering, please contact Burton Love <u>Burtonlove@embarqmail.com</u> 903 425 3864 or any of the other GracEmmaus Board members. We will be happy to help with the planning and preparation for these local Gatherings. Dec. is still available for 2009. Wouldn't celebrating your Christian faith be great way to honor the season? Any month except March and October 2010 would be available for local Gatherings. March and October find a significant part of the community busy with the walks.

Burton Love

If you need an update on the criteria and/or you would like to explore hosting a Gathering, please contact Burton Love <u>Burtonlove@embarqmail.com</u> 903 425 3864 or any of the other Emmaus Board members. We will be happy to help with the planning and preparation for these LOCAL Gatherings. July, Sept., or Dec. would be great times to schedule local Gatherings.

(Be sure to check the Gracemmaus web site (<u>www.gracemmaus.org</u>) for additional directions and any updates on these Gatherings).

A GREAT WAY TO GET UPDATED GRACE EMMAUS INFO BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS !

Technology is a wonderful thing but it really drives me nuts sometimes, and it's usually not a very far trip. The website www.gracemmaus.org is getting a lot of attention, thanks for all the hits. The community email is currently having technical difficulties though, it is currently disabled/or dead. But there is an alternative if you feel adventuresome and as of this writing 135 members are and have already joined our new FACEBOOK Group. What's beautiful about Facebook is that I don't have to keep up with all of YOUR addresses. Currently the way the email group works is if someone sent a message to the group and there was a bad address in the group that sender would get a message back about the error, and most of the time others would get it also, and as we all have seen that it would snowball with a lot of replies and a lot of folks getting upset about all the extra emails coming in. But with FACEBOOK you are responsible for your own account with FACEBOOK and if you change your email account you will more than likely update it there too and I don't have to keep up with it. if you would like to join Facebook got to www.facebook.com and signup, it really is a fun way to keep up with all your old and current friends. If you are already a member, look for me, TOM PERDUE, I am in the Tyler/Longview network and befriend me, and I will add you to our group. Ιt really is a much easier way to communicate with a lot of people. A word of WARNING though, there are lots of APPLICATION, GAMES, and GROUPS to get involved with, as with everything nowadays be careful with what you do and the amount of PERSONAL information you post online.

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus and myself will never use any of your information for anything other than Emmaus prayer requests, prayer praises, Community Information about walks and gatherings or conveying other Emmaus needs. No Political or Business posts will be allowed or tolerated. G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus and its board members and myself will not be held accountable for any Identity or virus problems that may occur, but like everything on the internet nowadays Facebook is a good program and there are problems with everything so just be careful.

DeColores, Tom Perdue, Webservant, 903-571-3199, tomdue@gmail.com

THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 72 hour prayer vigils for Walks #50 and #51. Your gift of prayer was a very important part of the success of these two walks. The participation of the community in covering the walks with constant prayer is not only important for the pilgrims and team members, but is way the community can stay connected to the Walks. Even though our community will not have another walk until the Spring, you can continue to give of yourselves through prayer to other communities who are having Walks in November. Please go to <u>www.3dayol.org</u> and pray for some of those who have supported us during our Walks. Again, thank you for being a vital part of the 2009 Fall Men's and Women's Walks.

Judy Hawn

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GRACE Board for 2009

Community Lay Director **Ray Carden** <u>RayCarden@suddenlink.net</u> 903-882-1780 (h) 903-245-9138 (c)

Spiritual Director David Mays david@wcclv.org 903-663-2438 903-374-4766

Treasurer, Agape Dinner **Robin Gillian** <u>bobbilane@aol.com</u> 903-894-3512 (h)

Secretary/ Agape Dinner/ Afterglow Joy Parker bjparker859@yahoo.com 903-768-2892(h) 903-850-2893(c)

Walk Agape/ Publications George Assaf geeassaf@suddenlink.net 903-569-6553 (h)

Prayer Clock, Agape Letters Judy Hawn jacieh2002@yahoo.com 903-681-1565 (c) Babe Chick Training William "Bill" Durr 903-586-1720 (h)

GRACE Crosses/Name Tags John Teegarden johnt58@yahoo.com 903-451-4439 (h)

Nominating/ Team Selection Chair Brent Hooser Brenth12000@yahoo.com 903-939-9528 (h) 903-521-7367 (c)

Assistant Community Lay Director Sponsorship Dan Matthews

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

Newsletter Editor Gail Meadows AgapeGail@Gmail.com 903-240-1223 (c)

Walk Book Table John Norman jenorman@hughes.net 214-803-4074(c) Webmaster, Reunion groups 903-526-3504 (h) **Tom Perdue** tomdue@gmail.com

Registrar Ted & Pam Weaver tpweaaver@yahoo.com

Chrysalis Steering Chairman **Teresa Elliot** tgelliott@suddenlink.net 903-570-5233 (h)

Community Trailer/Cleanup **Frank Copeland** <u>fhcopel@gmail.com</u> 903-723-3420 (h) 903-391-3542 (c)

Music Director **Patti Jones** <u>SheLLie47@aol.com</u> 903-469-3431 (h) 903-288-4550 (c)

Gathering Coordinator Burton Love burtonlove@embarqmail.com 903-425-3864 (h) If you have a desire to see the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community to be able to further the ministry of God through the Walk to Emmaus program and would wish to make a automatic monthly **tax deductible** donation through your bank account, prayerfully consider filling out the form below and mail it back to

GRACE EMMAUS Treasurer P.O. Box 132212 Tyler TX. 75713-2212

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 donating \$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: _____

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 \$ _			
Date	Signature		
Fill out information belo	ow or attach <u>voided</u> check		
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Election Time

The following ballot contains the names of God's people that have said they would be willing to serve on the GRACEmmaus Board of Directors, if asked. They are each willing to make a three-year commitment if elected and serve our community to the best of their ability. Please take time to look over the ballot and *circle the 5 that you choose*. You may turn in your ballot by mailing it to the address on the front of the newsletter or you may bring it to the next gathering or candlelight. Ballots will be available at all events between now and the Grand Ultreya Gathering in November.

Board Nominees 2010-2013



Name: Ken Braswell City: Athens Walk: Grace #44



Name: Tommy Morrison City: Palestine Walk: Signal Mountain #17



Name: Frank Copeland City: Palestine Walk: Grace #40



Name: Joanne Skeen City: Palestine Walk: Grace #39



Name: Diane Frachiseur City: Troup Walk: Grace #41



Name: Joe Tew City: Arp Walk: Grace #36



Name: Kathy Kapka City: Tyler Walk: Grace #4



Name: Jana Whitehurst City: Longview Walk in 1994

GRACEmmaus Walks

It has been brought to the attention of the Board that having the walks on back-to-back weekends can sometimes be a financial burden on Pilgrims, Team and/or Community. Additionally, the travel to and from the walks on back-to-back weekends can be burdensome on much of our community. In reviewing guidelines from Upper Room, we find that it encourages us to have the walks approximately 4-5 weeks apart. We as a board are recommending changing to 4-5 weeks apart, beginning with the 2011 Spring walks. We are asking the community to tell the Board your desire regarding the scheduling of the Walks.

Please place an "x" in the box below that reflects your choice.

Have the men's and women's walks approximately 4-5 weeks apart.

Leave the walks on back-to-back weekends as is.