

September, 2009 Volume 9, Issue 9

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

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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior.

Team meetings have started for the teams on Walks 50 and 51 during the month of August. By the time you get this note half of the meetings will have been completed. Do you have your pilgrim candidate for either of the two walks? Now is the time to be in prayer for your candidate, to be personally talking with them about what Emmaus has meant to you, and offering to sponsor them for the Fall walks. Please don't wait until the last minute to get started with this most important task. Sponsorship may be the most important role you will ever have in Emmaus. Don't you want to share your Emmaus experience with others? Have you forgotten how you felt at Candlelight or when the letters were given to you?

The leadership teams of Walk #50 (George Assaf- LD, Harold Starkey-Board Rep, and David Diller- SD) along with the leadership team for Walk #51 (Teresa Elliott- LD, Linda Slay- Board Rep, and Jody Windbigler- SD) are depending on God to tell each of us which pilgrims to select for the two Walks and then we are to go get them. Will you do your part? Remember Christ is depending on you.

The Fall Walks will be at Camp Gilmont, outside Gilmer. Men's Walk: 10/8-10/11 and Women's Walk: 10/15-10/18/09. Candlelights will be on Saturday 10/10 and 10/17- please try to come and support our pilgrims.

The board has approved the candidate slate for this fall's election. We have 8 truly outstanding candidates for the 5 board positions to be filled. Their names, photos and walk info are contained in this newsletter along with a ballot for your use in selecting the 5 candidates of your choice. You can bring your completed ballots to any of the Walk functions (sendoff, Candlelight, or closing) this October. You may also mail your ballot to our P O Box as well. I encourage you to exercise your right and duty and vote. We will announce the successful candidates at the 11/21 Gathering at Grace Community Church.

We had a great Gathering at Pollard UMC on Saturday 8/15. If you didn't attend you missed a wonderful talk by our 4th Day speaker, Patti Jones, who also serves on our board. And we had a great worship/communion service led by David Mays our Community Spiritual Director. Our next and last Gathering of the year will be on 11/21 at Grace Community Church in Tyler. Babe Chick training at 11 AM, covered dish at 12:15 and worship at 1 PM. Hope to see you there.

We're still seeking candidates for the community registrar's job. Ted and Pam Weaver will be stepping down after the fall walks. They have done an outstanding job as our registrars and will be missed. If you have computer skills (Access) and feel led to serve please get in touch with any board member and let us know. We need you!

Lastly I encourage you to consider signing up for the bank account drafting detailed on the last sheet of this newsletter. We need your support to keep

our community viable. We have not increased the cost of a Walk (still \$150) for sometime. We're convinced

that to do so would hamper our Pilgrim recruiting efforts. However our costs have continued to increase yearly and now the fee does not cover our out of pocket costs to put on the walks. Won't you consider a small monthly gift to the community? Earlier this year each of the board members agreed to participate in this program, so we're not asking you to do something we don't already practice. Any gift is greatly appreciated, none is too small.

De Colores, Ray Carden

2009 Gatherings

Nov. 21st GRAND ULTREYA GATHERING at Grace Community Church (See website for map) Babe Chick training 11 am, Potluck lunch- 12 noon; Worship 1:15 pm



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 ($\underline{www.gracemmaus.org}$) for additional directions and any updates on these Gatherings).

GATHERING NEWS

We do not have any other local Gatherings scheduled. Although Dec. is available for a local Gathering, we've heard rumors of preliminary talks for a Mineola area gathering (stay tuned for more details). Most of us have experienced the joy of meeting and worshiping with other Fourth Day folks. This includes worshiping God with people who treasure the love of God. The requirements for putting on local Gatherings are STILL not complicated or onerous.

The basics are as follows: Provide a place for the Gathering (most churches have adequate facilities); Identify a 4th day speaker to provide a 10-15 minute witness outlining the impact of Emmaus on their life; have qualified clergy available to administer communion; assure the presence of a GracEmmaus board member to provide Community information and collect a love offering for the Community; assure that there are musicians available to provide accompaniment for singing and the worship responses; allow sufficient time to announce the Gathering by e-mail and Community newsletter, provide childcare (not required but certainly advantageous) 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.

Our thanks go to Pollard United Methodist Church for hosting our August 15th Gathering. Hali Cleveland was a great hostess and representative of Pollard UMC. She truly made things work for our Gathering. We had an attendance of 16 for our sponsorship training approximately 50 for the remainder of our service. We were blessed to have Kathy Melton provide the music and Patti Jones giving our 4th day talk.

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 <u>circle the 5 that you choose</u>. 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 is encouraged 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.

Prayer Vigils for Upcoming Walks By Judy Hawn, GRACE Board

Walks #50 and #51 are on the horizon! The 24 hour prayer vigils are posted online at www. 3dayol.org for you to look at and sign up for a 30 minute or more period of prayer. Maybe you can't work the walk, maybe you can't



make agape, maybe you can't attend candlelight, but you CAN give of yourself in prayer for these pilgrims and team members. Please go to the website and find the section marked Prayer Vigil. Click on "Prayer Vigil" and you will see a list of 3 day weekends all over the world. Not only can you sign up for G.R.A.C.E. Walks, but there are many opportunities to pray for other communities. Consider it....Prayerfully!

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A Devotion from your Community Spiritual Director:

Sunday afternoon is a time Kathy and I love to marvel, a tradition handed down from my mother. Often Kathy and I end up where Kathy likes to marvel the most, antique shops. "For what are you looking," I ask. "I'll know it when I see it," she responds. Yet marveling is not about antique shops.

It is about knowing when it is seen. "What," you ask, is to be found so that it can be known? That is a bit trickier. The way Mom taught, you start out with a sharp eye for creation. It is to find God within God's creation. It might be something new or something that suddenly sprang to life for the first time. Something you notice for the first time or come to see differently.

I can marvel at God's creation seeing the beauty of contrast across the valley. I can marvel at the changes in soil alongside the roadway, where shovels have dug out the hill. I can marvel at the hawk swooping across the field. I can marvel at the swiftness of the deer leaping over the fence to safety. I can marvel at the look in a person's eyes when given a cup of coffee, ice cream cone, a "Thank you" or a word of encouragement. Marveling is being aware of God and giving God the credit for creation.

The next step is to take something that will remind you of that moment. A rock, small leaf, a napkin from the store, a toothpick to remember a flavor, a picture or whatever is placed in a small box and kept until Sunday dinner the next week. Each person, in turn, takes out their memory and shares it with the others so that they may also experience God anew.

Marveling, at its best, is discovering God in others. That is the greatest gift we receive when we choose to give our time and participate in Emmaus. We get to see God discovered anew in a person. The first step is when we feel the tug of the Holy Spirit and release ourselves to the call. It is giving up self desire to be a part of God's desires. It comes as a surprise that we can recognize the call and, for some of us, a surprise to yield to the call.

We become sensitive to the presence of the Holy Spirit and marveling kicks into high gear. We start to look at others and find ways to help them discover the self within them. We become more hospitable and receptive. Having other people around creates opportunity to discover and we open ourselves up to share as an example. In this step we learn self-control.

Self-control is remembering it is not about re-living our discovery. Marveling is not going around finding how many people we can force into listening to our story. It is about holding our story until a moment when another is struggling and looking for guidance. It is about sharing the bare basics of our own story to allow the other to speak, reflect and share about their own story.

Marveling is the blessing we receive when others discover and we are present to observe. After all, marveling is not about re-living the old; it is about discovering the new. Self-control is to be ready to do, say, act, remain silent, pray or whatever is required so that someone else may marvel at God's presence in their life. Self-control is where hospitality begins. Creating a context of awareness and yearning allows others to marvel at God's creation and find themselves a part of that creation.

You may be thinking all this is about the weekend walk. But I encourage you to think beyond a 72 hour weekend. Emmaus is about the local church. It is about making Disciples. It is about discovering God anew in our world. Consider how your experience, awareness, hospitality can help those in your church and your

community discover God in their lives. Put a piece of agape in a box (your heart) and at the called moment, take it out and share how God was found. Marvel at how God can use you to change our world. Marvel at God's new creation.

De Colores, David Mays -Spiritual Director.

Women's Walk #51

WOW – what a wonderful walk this is going to be. Christ has blessed this community with an awesome group to serve as the Team for this Walk Number 51. Can you believe that here in GRACE we have hit a milestone? The men are finishing up with Walk Number 50 and the Women are bringing in the next set of walks with number 51. God is Good All the Time.

As I was trying to figure out what to say to the team and about the team I remembered a section that is in the book <u>Sustaining the Spirit</u>. It talks about that as team members we are looking forward to joy, excitement, and spiritual renewal with both old and new friends. But let us remember the role we each hold is like no other. The selection to be asked to serve on this team and the decision you made to accept was undergirded by prayer. We are called to be the intercessor in a spiritual experience through which lives will be touched and changed. Your ministry as an Emmaus Team Member may be one of the most significant spiritual leadership opportunities of your life.

Please meet the team members of Walk Number 51:

Lay Director – Teresa Elliott, Board Rep – Lynda Slay, Spiritual Director – Jodie Windbigler, Music Leader – Sue Cross, ALDs –Robin Gillian, Leah Huffstetter & Elizabeth Minor, TLs – Carole Crouch, Beverly Chandler, Toyia Urbaniak, Pam Weaver, & Diane Burns, ATLs – Babby Wise, Berita Morse, Maxine Kinder, Cynthia Bellar & Emily Hobson, Chapel Team – Lead by Sandy Collins, Barbara Forsyth, Cindy Owens & Ruth Pickens, Servant Team: Lead by Joy Parker, Roy Parker, Mike Minor, Susan Jeanes, Candi Rye and helping part-time are Chris Callaway, Becky Callaway, Jan Hood & Bryan Jeanes

DeColores, Teresa Elliott

GRACE Board for 2009

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Gathering Coordinator Burton Love burtonlove@embarqmail.com 903-425-3864 (h)

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:

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

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