Grace For Today

January, 2011
Volume 11, Issue 1

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

Inside this Issue

1 WORDS FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR AND OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

2 GATHERING NEWS
MEN'S SPRING WALK
CHRYSALIS

3 FUTURE LAY DIRECTORS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4 BANK DRAFT FORM

NEXT GATHERING

Saturday, January 22, 2011
Fairwood UMC, Tyler
Sponsorship Training @ 4:30
Potluck @ 5:45
Worship @ 6:45

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE

YA'LL COME!!

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

✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞

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

My name is Burton I. Love. Yes, that really is my name and I am blessed and humbled to have the opportunity to work as your servant and Community Lay Director for 2011. I went on GRACEmmaus Walk # 38 at beautiful Camp Gilmont in the fall of 2006 and sat at the table of Saint Paul. My wife, Martel and I worship wherever we can and attend Payne Springs United Methodist Church. I am comforted to know with respect to myself "God does not call the qualified but rather qualifies the called."

I have completed two years out of my three year term on the Board and it has been a real privilege to see the passion with which members of this Board serve God and the Emmaus Community. The New Year means that we will be loosing some Board members but gaining others. Everyone's very special thanks should go to Teresa Elliott (Teresa stepped in to help us fill a short term vacancy on the Board) Brent Hooser, Joy Parker, and Dan Mathews (Dan will continue to assist the Board in an Ex Officio capacity).

Welcome to our incoming board members: Jay Edwards, Cindy Hooser, Tom McDonald, Phillip McKanna, and Elizabeth Minor. You had the opportunity to read about them in the Dec. Newsletter. You can clearly see that we are very blessed to have such talented people committed to serve God and the Emmaus Community.

I suppose I should admit right here that I don't believe in New Year resolutions. I do believe in God, Jesus Christ and making affirmations about what we expect the future to look like. Resolutions are more like wishes not commitments. Although the following affirmations have not been shared with the Board, here is an early look at some of the things that we can affirm and make happen in the GRACEmmaus Community:

More involvement in walk activities by Community members.
Reconnect with former leaders of our Community
Focus on leadership training for our Board and Walk Directors
Continue the improvement of the quality of our walks
Devise outreach opportunities to better inform people of the blessings of Emmaus

The Walks to Emmaus with which I have had the blessing to be involved, provided a true picture of the Love of God as expressed through the activities of humans. I believe we have no choice but to commit ourselves to their continued improvement and wider distribution.

DeColores

Burton

Community Lay Director

✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞

FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Every time I hear or read the words, 'Spiritual Director' in conjunction with my name, I get a little nervous. If you are like me, 'spiritual' is something you deeply desire but sure haven't accomplished, and 'director', well, just ask those who know me best about all the times I've gone in wrong directions. The idea of directing someone else seems intimidating if not quite ridiculous. I really resonate with Paul's description of himself- that he was chief among sinners. What is even more amazing is that Paul was not talking about his life *before* Christ- he was talking about his life while he lived as one of the greatest missionaries the world had ever known. That's where I find myself (and not the greatest missionary the world has ever known part).
But if those two words make me fidget a bit, there are two other words spoken boldly that make room for sinners such as me. These are the words that identify we are as an Emmaus people. The first is 'grace' as in the grace of God that overflows in streams of

justice and mercy. We're here as sinners given new hope and new life in Christ. We are the redeemed called to a ruthless trust as Brennan Manning likes to call it, and obedience like no other. No one, Paul would claim, can boast in themselves. I sure can't. Start the year off right, admit it. Confess it. Celebrate it. We are sinners graced by the presence of God.
If grace is the first word, the second word is 'community'. I choose this simple definition: People who show up for each other through thick and thin. That's why sharing our lives in our churches, in our reunion groups, and Emmaus gatherings is HUGE. That's why remembering that we are all sinners in need of God's grace and helping each other along the way is the hallmark of this thing called faith. As we begin this New Year together, let me share this prayer from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals.
O Lord whose patience is beyond comprehension, we pray that you may never tire of helping us grow in faithfulness. Though we fail more often than we succeed, raise us up each morning to follow after you again. Guide us today for your glory's sake. Amen.

Ricky

✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞

GATHERING NEWS

On Saturday Dec. 11. we had the final Local Gathering of the year and our first Gathering in the month of Dec. Golden United Methodist Church hosted this first of its kind event. We had approximately 42 in attendance and we all had a great time celebrating the Christmas season. It is always easy to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season if you are with other Christians. Sandy Collins organized the activities by Golden UMC. On top of that, Sandy did a great job of providing the piano music for the service. Because of the season, we praised the Lord with Christmas Hymns led by Cynthia Bellar, the Lay Leader of Golden UMC. Cynthia also gave us an inspirational Fourth Day Talk. I suppose the folks in Golden are just naturally multitalented. Jim Pickens, Pastor of Golden UMC (and two other churches), guided us during our worship service with the assistance of other Clergy, Jarrett Major, and Susan Smith. Dan Mathews, Community Lay Director, provided the overall guidance for the Gathering. He was even able to squeeze in a happy birthday wish for Robin Gillian who was "39" on Sunday Dec. 12. Dan did a great job in guiding the Gathering just as he has done is guiding the Community during 2010.

Make sure you are making plans to attend our next Gathering on Saturday, January 22, 2011. This quarterly Community Gathering will be hosted by Fairwood United Methodist Church. Laquita Showen and the members of Fairwood UMC do an excellent job hosting these events.

If you would like to plan a Gathering, contact George Asaaf at (903) 569-6553 or geeassaf@suddenlink.net. 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 GRACEmmaus Gatherings in the near future.

DeColores

✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞

Men's Walk Spring 2011

Greetings from Bill Durr, a disciple of Jesus Christ by the Will of God. I am very excited to have been asked by the Grace Emmaus Community Board of Directors to serve our Lord as Lay Director of Men's Walk 56. It is my intention to lead, follow, and stay out of the way. I pray that God will help me fulfill my goal. God has blessed this Walk with willing servants with willing hearts. God's servants for Walk 56 are:

Bill Durr – Lay Director
Frank Copeland – ALD
David McPherson – ALD
Tom McDonald – ALD
Philip McKanna – ALD
Mike Cline – Spiritual Director
Loren Lykins – Music
Snow Bush – Music
Bryan Jeanes – TL
Scott Howard – TL
Jerry Halpain – TL
Billy Bass – TL
Michael Johnston – TL
David Barnard – TL
C. J. Cox – ATL
Scott Shultz – ATL
Bob Elliott – ATL
Drew Seidel – ATL
Roy Drewett – ATL
Bill Lute – ATL
Roy & Joy Parker – STL
Jerry Bach – CT
Gene Skeen – CT
Derreck Hamm - CT

If you have questions about the list, please call me at 903-586-1720. The whole community needs to be in prayer for the teams, sponsors and pilgrims of Walks 56 and 57. Remember, these Walks are for the pilgrims and their relationships with God. Please don't miss an opportunity to invite qualified pilgrims to take part in this life-changing experience!

DeColores, Bill

✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞

CHRYSALIS

I would like to extend an invitation for the GRACE community to send their Youth to the Northeast Texas upcoming Chrysalis Flights.

Boys Flight #42 led by Darius Samuels at FUMC- Paris, TX. Dec.31- Jan. 2, 2011 (New Years Eve)

Girls Flight #43 led by Mindy Shook at FUMC- Mt. Vernon, TX. Jan. 15-17, 2011 (MLK weekend)

Decolores! Fly With Christ!
Tim M.

Chrysalis applications can be found on the web site for North East Texas Emmaus - NET
www.netemmaus.org

If you have questions you can e-mail this community at
netemmaus@gmail.com

✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞

Lay Directors for upcoming Walks

Men's Walk #56,
Disciples Crossing
March 3-6, 2011
Lay Director: Bill Durr

Women's Walk #57,
Disciples Crossing
March 10-13, 2011
Lay Director: Toyia Urbaniak

Men's Walk #58,
Camp Gilmont
September 29-October 2, 2011
Lay Director: David McPherson

Women's Walk #59,
Camp Gilmont
October 27-30, 2011
Lay Director: Cindy Hooser

✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞

GRACE Board for 2011

Community Lay Director
Burton Love
burtonlove@embarqmail.com
903-425-3864

Assistant Community Lay Director
Treasurer
Jo Anne Skeen
joanneskeen@gmail.com
903-723-2189 (h)
903-391-1664 (c)
903-723-6143 (w)

Spiritual Director
Ricky Ricks
rjricks@fumchenderson.org
(903) 657-6588

Secretary
Cindy Hooser
andysue13@yahoo.com
903-939-9528 (h)
903-530-5174 (c)

Newsletter Editor
Philip McKanna
pmckanna@osisoft.com
903-663-2155 (h)
903-746-5628 (c)
903-353-9052 (w)

Gathering Coordinator
George Asaaf
geeassaf@suddenlink.net
903-569-6553

Team Selection/Nomination Chair
Walk Clean-up Coordinator
Ken Braswell
braswellsbb@aol.com
903-677-3341 (h)
903-288-5949 (c)

Trailer/Clean-up
Reunion Group Coordinator
Frank Copeland
fhcopel@gmail.com
903-723-3420

Wall Agape/Prayer Vigil Coordinator
Jay Edwards
jedwards@eastman.com
903-844-2412 (h)
903-235-6935 (c)
903-237-5460 (w)

Book Table Coordinator
Diana Frachiseur
Tdhbe05@yahoo.com
903-842-3030 (h)
903-571-2646 (c)

Gift Agape Coordinator
Judy Hawn
Jacieh2002@yahoo.com
903-681-1565

Babe Chick Training
Patti Jones
Shellie47@aol.com
903-469-3431 (h)
903-288-4550 (c)

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

Music Coordinator
Tom McDonald
tom@tommc.net
themcdss@sbcglobal.net
903-534-4911 (h)
903-571-8011 (c)
903-894-8116 (w)

Woodworking Coordinator
Publication Coordinator
Elizabeth Minor
mnm-design@msn.com
903-657-8112 (h)
903-720-1740 (c)

Sponsorship Training
Tom Perdue
tomdue@gmail.com
903- 740-2706 (h)
903-571-3199 (c)

Agape Banquet/Afterglow
Joe Tew
joe@tylerrosenursery.com
903-859-3385

NON-ELECTED POSITIONS

Registrar
Philip & Lynda McKanna
lmckanna@beerwells.com
pmckanna@osisoft.com
903-746-5628 (c)

Webmaster
Tom Perdue
tomdue@gmail.com
903- 740-2706 (h)
903-571-3199 (c)

✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞✞

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 below or attach <u>voided</u> check

Depository Name _____**City** _____ **State** ____ **Zip** _____

Account # _____ **Transit/ABA #** _____

Email Address: _____

Return to:

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

✞ ✞ ✞