

G.R.A.C.E. News

Grace For Today

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

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Next Gathering

Thursday

August 11th

@ 7:00PM,

Swan-Wood Springs

UMC, Tyler

G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR
P.O. Box 44
Judson TX.
75660-0044

Dear **G.R.A.C.E.**

Community, Wow, it is SUMMERTIME in East Texas! This temperature and humidity remind me of how HOT we should be in listening and doing what the Holy Spirit is directing us to do. We are called to be "on fire" with the Spirit. How can this "heat" be displayed? We can start by engaging in our churches and doing what needs to be done, listening to the Spirit's prompting, and continuing to ignite others searching for a relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

While we are at it, it would be nice to get commitment from those brothers and sisters who have had the Holy Spirit tugging at their hearts. Tugging them toward an encounter with Jesus through participating in a Walk to Emmaus. We are working diligently to have full men and women walks for October, but this cannot happen unless you are willing to step forward and sponsor a pilgrim. Sponsorship is **THE** most vital element and responsibility that a member of our community can accept. Without willing, active, and committed sponsor, we will struggle to be a viable Emmaus community. Your service, diligence, and actions are need now, **NOT LATER, NOW!** Talk with those members of your church who are ready to engage with Jesus, just where they are and just as they are, in a reawakening, revitalization experience. This walk is not of our doing; it is all about Jesus Christ. You have experienced the walk, you have shared in the face-

to-face encounter, and now you are **CALLED** to give back, to **SPONSOR.**

Sponsorship is nothing that should be taken lightly. Your responsibility does not end once you have a pilgrim application completed and sent in. This is the point that your responsibility begins. Answering all the pilgrims questions, transportation to and from the walk, standing in the pilgrims place to watch over their family during the pilgrims absence, attending sponsor's hour and candle light, **MAKING CERTAIN** that the pilgrim is engaged in a reunion group, **TAKING** your pilgrim to a Babe Chick meeting, and **ATTENDING WITH** them the community gathering are all requirements and expectations of **GOOD** sponsorship. How do you measure up? Are you able to be a willing instrument that the Holy Spirit can use? Please say "**YES,**" commit and follow through as a sponsor. So much is depending on your giving back from what you have so graciously received.

Our upcoming walk dates are: Men's walk #34, October 6-9, at Camp Gilmont; and Women's walk #35, October 13-16, at Camp Gilmont. Mark you calendars now for sponsor's hour and candlelight for both of these walks. Please pray mightily for the pilgrims that the Holy Spirit is sending for these walks, and for your brothers and sisters who serve work in the conference room and on the servants teams.

We will not be having a community gathering the month of July. Everyone is extremely busy and we need to take time for God, family, and let's not forget to celebrate the birthday of our country. However, **August 11 is our next gathering.** We will be

meeting for worship and fellowship at Swan-Wood Spring UMC. Our speaker will be another of your board of directors, Susan Stallings. Aha, you've noticed a pattern to the 4th day speakers. Yes, you are being introduced to your board of directors. This year, we are trying to make certain that you learn about those who are representing you on the **G.R.A.C.E.** Emmaus board. Your directors are sharing with you what the walk has meant to them and what they are doing about it. In this manner, your directors are reaching out to the community and sharing some of themselves. Your participation is needed through attendance to listen, recognize, confirm, and support them. You have elected these individuals, they are your representatives, and they are trying to steer a positive course through all the world's conflicting priorities to assist your community to be successful. It is my pleasure and privilege to work with them as we dialogue, discuss, debate, and agree on actions to be taken in the name and under the authority of GRACE Emmaus community. **Your unrelenting participation and involvement** makes the task of a director meaningful and fulfilling. Thank you for your prayers, love, actions, activity, and commitment to our **G.R.A.C.E.** Emmaus Community. Thank you for lifting up Jesus Christ and making certain that HE is the focus for everything that we attempt. Through Him all things are possible.

Grace and peace

 **Bill Burgdorf**
G.R.A.C.E.
Community Lay Director

 My name is
Linda Bach.

I attended **G.R.A.C.E.** Walk No. 24 in March of 2003 at Camp Gilmont and sat at the table of Rebecca.

Little did I know that God was preparing me through this walk to work with incarcerated youth in Corsicana. Their 3-day weekend is called an Epiphany. It is much like our weekend, except for the restrictions of incarceration.

An Epiphany is different in that it is geared toward young people who don't know who Jesus is. We represent Jesus to them in song, games, talks, chapel worship and good food.

Our next Epiphany is for boys, ages 10-20, and will be held August 5, 6, & 7 in Corsicana, TX. I have been truly blessed since then to be selected as the Lay Director for this Epiphany and lead a team of fellow fourth-dayers into this facility. and would like to invite all of you who want to watch a miracle as God changes the lives of these boys to join me. We still have a few positions available for those persons that God desires to be sharing their lives and our Lord with these children who will be a part of this weekend. My e-mail address is llb1939@cox.net and my phone number is 903-597-2987.


Linda Bach
G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 24

UMARMY Blessing!

I just recently returned from spending a week with 69 High School Youth and adults. Why, you ask, would I want to do such a thing? Because it was a **UM ARMY** trip! **UM ARMY** is an acronym for **United Methodist Action Reach out Mission by Youth**. During this week, youth from different churches, in this case, Lanes Chapel UMC, Chandler First UMC and Mission Bend UMC (near Houston), all came together in Centerville, Texas for a week of sharing Christ's love with our actions. Our Scripture for the week was James 2:14-26, Faith Works. Every night we had worship and a short message centered around putting our faith into action. As James says, "Faith without works is DEAD." This group each pays their own way and spends the week performing light construction work, yard work, painting, clean up . . . whatever the client needs to have done. These are people who either cannot afford or are too elderly to do the work themselves. During the week that we were there we built wheel chair ramps, repaired or replaced porches and hand rails, replaced some doors, and painted some houses, porches and wheel chair ramps. We also had the privilege of replacing a porch and wheel chair ramp on a small church outside of Leona, Texas and then scraping and painting the whole building. In all, we completed 40 different work sites! God was faithful to keep us safe with only a few minor injuries and the behavior of our Youth was beyond reproach. People who claim our youth are in desperate shape have never spent time with the young people that work a **UMARMY** Camp.

Besides being the adult on a work team with 4 youth, I was privileged to lead worship every evening. There is something awesome about being together, worshipping, every night. We should all have just such an opportunity! The blessings were really flowing as the Holy Spirit worked on the hearts of everyone in worship. Serving our Lord during the day and worshipping Him every evening, sometimes up to 2 hours at a time, was an experience that I wish could be duplicated on a regular basis!

Our American way of life seems to get more and more complicated and busy, making less and less time for serving others. I hope and pray that everyone who reads this will find the time, if you haven't already, to go on a mission trip. You don't have to go far unless you want to, there are mission opportunities in our own back yards if we will just open our eyes and hearts to God's leading. Better yet, make your life about serving others in the name of Jesus Christ. God will "bless your socks off!"



Bob Meyers
Asst. Community Lay
Director

WHERE HAVE ALL THE 4TH DAY AND MUSICIANS GONE?

When I went on my Walk back in October of 1999 and attended subsequent Gatherings, there always seemed to be an overabundance of musicians ready and willing to lead worship. There were always at least 4 guitar players and several other singers up front, inspiring and leading us as we worshipped together. Since coming on the Board as the "Music

Guy," nearly two years ago, that number has declined to the point that sometimes I am the only person leading (Thanks Michael May, for also sometimes being the only one leading when I am out of town)! I am not complaining! I love leading worship! It is always a blessing to me no matter how many people are there. What I am wondering is

1) What has happened to all those other musicians? And

2) What has happened to all of the fourth Dayers that used to come to Gatherings on a regular basis?

I know that our lives are busy! Mine is too! Your G.R.A.C.E. Board has been struggling with this dilemma pretty much all year and as next year's Community Lay Director, I am sure we will continue to struggle with the problem of poor attendance at Gatherings. We have around 1000 4th Days in our G.R.A.C.E. Community, but yet we usually have less than 50 at Gatherings!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Have we gotten so busy with our secular lives that we don't make time for worship and fellowship? I realize that I am being rather terse, and I also realize that some of you have church commitments in your own churches, and that is where you should be. I hope those of you who have been absent from the G.R.A.C.E. Gatherings will find the time to join us for the next one on August 11 at Swan-Wood Springs UMC at 7:00 p.m. just across from Tyler Pipe on 69 north of Tyler. If anyone has some ideas about how we can improve attendance at these important events, please

contact one of your G.R.A.C.E. Board Members. You can find their contact information on the G.R.A.C.E. website at www.gracemmaus.org.

Please be in prayer about joining us on **August 11**, be in prayer about **sponsoring** a new pilgrim for the October Men's and Women's Walks at Camp Gilmont and finally, be in prayer for your G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Board as we strive to do God's will for our Emmaus Community!

Yours in Christ,



Bob Meyers
Asst. Community Lay
Director