

January, 2008 Volume 8, Issue 1

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

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### <u>NEXT GATHERING</u>

THURSDAY JANUARY 10, 2008 FIRST UNITED METHODIT CHURCH MARSHALL, TX Gathering at 7pm

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





Hello Emmaus Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that you had a very Merry CHRISTmas... How blessed we are in knowing the real reason for the season. My prayer is that you have the opportunity this New Year to share this wonderful blessing with someone that does not know Christ. I also pray that you will set your eyes on Jesus in this New Year with a resolution to sponsor at least one person on a Men's Walk, Women's Walk or Chrysalis Flight for 2008.

2008 – WOW it is hard to believe that this is already a new year. The time has gone by so fast. As we move into this New Year your board members are looking at what we can do to make things even better this year. Now with that being said we are NOT saying things are bad. We just know that our goal is to continue to improve the process and make it better and better every time we sponsor a gathering, a walk and now a flight.

As board members were asked if there was one thing you could change what would it be? The over all answer was to improve communication. Well that is a big order!!! So we need help from you. That is right only YOU can help in this area. We need to update and validate the data base. Many addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are wrong in our database. It makes it hard to communicate if we can't find you. Here is what you can do to help. If you got this newsletter via the web site... go back to the home page and make sure you have signed up to receive the newsletter and prayer request and up date your information on the web. This is three different steps. Next, if you know someone in your church or circle of friends that does not get the newsletter, does not have email, etc. Print them a copy and see that they get the information. need their information We updated, too. At the bottom of this newsletter you can find a form to fill out and mail (snail mail) to the GRACE Post Office Box and we will give this to the registrar to use.

DeColores and Fly with Christ, Teresa Elliott Community Lay Director

# 2008 Gatherings

January 10 (Thursday) First United Methodist Church, Marshall 7pm

<u>February 14</u> (Thursday) First Christian Church, Mineola 7pm

<u>March 1 and March 8</u> (Saturday) CANDLELIGHT at Disciples Crossing, Athens 8pm

<u>April 10</u> (Thursday) First United Methodist Church, Ore City 5pm Babe Chick Mtg, 6pm Potluck Dinner, 7pm Gathering

<u>May 8</u> (Thursday) First United Methodist Church, Hallsville 7pm

<u>June 12</u> (Thursday) First United Methodist Church, Lindale 7pm

JULY - NO GATHERING

<u>August 9</u> (Saturday) St. Marks United Methodist Church, Marshall 12pm Covered Dish & Gathering

<u>September 11</u> (Thursday) Crossroads Community Church, Longview 7pm

#### <u>October 11 & 18</u> (Saturday) CANDLELIGHT at Camp Gilmont Gilmer 8pm

<u>November 8</u> (Saturday) GRAND ULTREYA at Lanes Chapel United Methodist Church 5pm Babe Chick Meeting, 6pm Potluck Dinner, 7pm Gathering

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"Anyone who wants to be the first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." Mark 9:35

So just how hard is this? Plenty hard to do; especially when you live in a society where you are being bombarded about being #1. Here Jesus is bumping us down to last place. Take a number and go to the end of the line, which is difficult enough to do, but then He asks us to be a servant to everyone in line in front of us!

Even Christ's disciples didn't get it, so don't think the message is easy. In fact when Jesus and His disciples were on the road to Jerusalem for the last time, and Jesus was informing them about what lay ahead- that religious leaders were going to hand Him over to the Romans- and that they were going to mock Him, spit on Him, beat Him with whips, and kill Him- the disciples were so embroiled in a debate over who was going to sit closest to Jesus when He rules the kingdom, that they completely missed what He said. How insensitive could they be? Jesus just told them He was facing punishment and death, and they're arguing over who will get to be #1 in the kingdom? Hello.

So Jesus sat them down and gave them something to remember and pass on to us (Read Mark 10:42-45).

Are these just nice words to speak or are we really going to do this? So how do you serve all of the people in front of you? You start to listen and look. You listen to what they say they need, and look for what they might not say, but need anyway. Yes that takes a lot of effort on our part, but you will find that by engaging yourself in the needs of others, you will have less time to put into your own needs, which sounds pretty good for me.

Hope to see you in Marshall on Jan 10 at our next Gathering.

DeColores

Ray Carden

Asst. Community Lay Leader \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$



COUNT DOWN! The time is nearing for the Pilgrims to arrive at

Disciple's Crossing and we still have WELL OVER 100 30minute slots available on each of the prayer vigils! Your prayers are a vital part of this 72-hour experience through these Pilgrims will which encounter our Lord Jesus Christ in a new and exciting way. Remember how 'in awe' you felt when you were a Pilgrim and discovered that people you didn't even know had been and were still praying for you? WOW! Well it's time to return NFW that feeling to the Pilgrims!

SPONSORS--I challenge you to ask the families and friends who give you Pilgrim letters to fill a slot on the prayer clock as well. PLEASE be in constant prayer for these Pilgrims of Men's Walk #44 and Women's Walk #45 as well as the Team Members, Walk Clergy, and your upcoming Lay Directors Harold Starkey and Susan Stallings, as they prepare their hearts and minds to be used mightily for GOD! You can sign up for the prayer vigil online at http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/ GetComm.phtml Scroll down to

Greater Rose Area Community (G.R.A.C.E.) of Emmaus and click on the Men's or Women's Walk dates OR BOTH. Afterwards, pick а time slot, then click on sign up and fill in the blanks. If you don't have internet access or if you just prefer to talk with a person, you can sign up for a time by calling me @ 903.312.1501 and I will get you signed up in an available slot!

God Bless you for Praying!!! DeColores!

Donna Swenson swensonhome@aol.com

### Chrysalis Corner

I can't believe that

2008 is finally here. What an amazing year this will be with our first two flights of G.R.A.C.E. Chrysalis this summer.

Although the hoot is December was small in numbers, the spirit was there and a great time was had by all.

If you are interested at all in helping or working a flight, please let me know. There are many areas in which you can help.

Also, we are still contacting churches to hold the flights. If you know a church that would be willing to host a flight, please let us know. It must have a big room for the conference room, sleeping quarters for the youth and team, and SHOWERS! We are looking at holding flights either Thursday thru Saturday or Friday thru Sunday – whichever is best for the host church.

The main thing we need right now is PRAYER. Pray for the committee members as we make decisions for the future flights,

We will also be raffling of an afghan that was made by an EMMAUS member. Raffle ticket will be sold for \$2 or 3 for \$5 starting in January at gatherings (in Marshall) and local churches through March.

DeColores and Fly with Christ!!

Leah Huffstetter Leah belle@hotmail.com 903-509-1218 or 903-360-1017





#### **GRACE Board for 2008**

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#### Joy Parker jparker@co.wood.tx.us

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Chrysalis Steering Cute

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#### ATTENTION ALL 4TH DAYERS!!!

Now is the time to put your thoughts into action. Agape is needed and time is short as the 2008 Spring Walks will be the last week of February and first week of March. Needed is agape of all kinds. Get your ideas into motion.

Placemats: Need either 48 (just for pilgrim tables) or 65 (for all); Caterpillars: 65 Bed agape: 36 Conference room: either: 48 (tables only) or 65 (all in room). Whole (team & pilgrims): 65

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**There is** the possibility of an exploratory meeting in late March to consider the possibility of forming a new Emmaus Community under the supervision and support of GRACE Tyler/Longview Community, and of course under the guidelines of the Upper Room.

The new community would consist of 4th dayers from Palestine, Athens, Canton, Payne Springs and surrounding areas. If you have questions, please contact Tom Haygood at

tomhaygood@yahoo.com or 903.570.4123.

or 903.570.4125.

### **REMINDER FOR 2008**

Work has *already* begun for the Spring Walks 2008!!! Please remember that this spring's walks will be held the LAST WEEKEND OF FEBRARY and the FIRST MARCH. WEEKEND OF respectively. This means that all the paperwork and sponsorship duties must begin NOW!!! 

A *Word* from the Secretary....

WORDS are what my job is all about! As Grace Board Secretary, it has been my duty to record the 'goings on' of each monthly board meeting. This job entails putting into writing, brief highlights which detail every pertinent topic discussed. Now I say 'pertinent' because, just like any meeting you may have ever been a part of, we can tend to get off track at times. The ingredients of Grandma's fruitcake has nothing to do with keeping G.R.A.C.E. growing, unless of course, Grandma offers fruitcake as AGAPE. We try our best to adhere to the 'Robert's Rules of Order". We open with prayer and a devotional. I jot

down names of all in attendance, board members as well as guests. The G.R.A.C.E. Community Board of Directors is an open forum and anyone is welcome. I strongly encourage you to visit /sit in on a meeting, especially if you are considering serving the community by becoming a board member. After opening, we follow an agenda and discuss Old Business and New Business and each member's chair or committee. Some changes require a vote so the suggested action must be put in the form of a 'motion' and must be seconded, debated/discussed, and voted on. Sometimes it is hard to keep up with all of the discussions; however, I write down the highlights as quickly as possible and then pray that I can read my scribbling enough to type and present at the next board meeting, at which time these 'minutes' are critiqued and voted to accept as is, or accept with corrections. I have been blessed and priviledged to serve in this capacity for the past year and a half. The G.R.A.C.E. Board Members, just as the community, is like family to me! I welcome your new secretary for 2008, Joy Parker, jparker@co.wood.tx.us. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!

DeColores, Donna Swenson swensonhome@aol.com

Update your Emmaus Community Information: (Please print clearly)	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State and Zip Code:	

E-Mail Address:

Home Phone:

## Walk Information:

Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Walk No: \_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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