



Common Ground

December 2009

Emmaus Board

Bill Carr
Aaron Dowdy
Ben Boone
Lynda Karnes
Debbie Ferguson
Bill Hay
Mark Mullins
Kathy Farley
Glen Durham
Brad Colson
Christina Fields
Jamie Lee
Kate Johnson
Bob Alexander
Monica Lindsey
Tommy Waldrop

Chrysalis Board

Debbie Bushart
Greg Godby
David Atkinson
Jeana Berry
Nannette Durham
Jeanie Carlton
Greg Gunter
Emily McCollum
Micah Blackwell
Tommy Lynn
Anne Hannock Reno
Russ Kegel
Logan Hanes
Katelyn Rice
Clark Waldrop
Logan Davis
Jacob Paul
Mike Gentry

From the:

Community Lay Director

Servants,
Hello to All,

I pray all had a great Thanksgiving and weekend with loved ones. This is a reminder of our Board Meeting and Christmas Gathering next Saturday Evening. We will meet at Benton 1st UMC, Board at 4:30 and Potluck dinner at 6:00, (Fried Chicken is provided) with Gathering at 7:00. Please come if possible and bring someone with you!!! Please be in prayer for the spring walks, for the LD's, pilgrims, team members, and our community.

There will be three new board members coming onto the board come January, please be in pray for our board as we make plans for our community. We also welcome Rev. Ben Boone to the board as Community Spiritual Director in Training. Ben is serving at Lone Oak UMC at this time.

Let us all be still and put some very serious thought into Christmas. What are we doing for Christ this Christmas, It is his birthday. Will we do anything that will bring joy to his name. How do we honor him in the way we treat others. I would ask you all to do something for those less fortunate that we are!!! If you need some ideas, Salvation Army, Angel Tree, and last BUT not least Project Christmas House. This is a project that several of us in the community are involved with. We are going to D'iberville Ms. the week after Christmas to build a home for a Katrina victim. If you would like more info please contact Brad Colson, David Norwood, Bob Alexander or Bill Carr.

I have keep this till last, the entertainment for the gathering will be one of our own that we will be welcoming back home.

Please come to Gathering. May God Bless You and Yours !!!!

In Christ Service
Bill Carr
Community Lay Director



From the Chrysalis Lay Director

Dear Community,

It's time!!!! Time for what, you ask? Time to get down on those knees and ask God whom you should sponsor for the upcoming Chrysalis flight. So far we have 6 girls (with 3 other possibilities) and 2 boys (with 3 other possibilities). You can see that this is not enough for a flight. It's time to give it to God to see who needs to be on this flight.

Diane Bach and Jim Greenwell and their teams begin team meetings on Nov. 30. Please be in prayer for the teams as they begin to bond, hear talks, and worship together.

Also, it's not too late to vote for the Chrysalis elections. Votes will be counted on Saturday and announced at the Chrysalis/Emmaus Christmas gathering this Saturday, Dec. 5.

And you might want to begin talking to your family, reunion group, church, etc. about coming out and serving meals at Chrysalis. The dates are Jan. 16-18. Hope to see you then.

Fly With Christ,
Debbie



From the Boys Lay Director of Flight #32

Purchase Area Chrysalis

Flight #32

May I first start out with praise and thanks to our Lord and Savior for loving us, using us in His plans and providing and equipping us with all we require to serve Him. He has again provided our community with another Team of men and women (some younger at heart than age and many younger in both) who are willing and ready to work on the upcoming Flight. Please pray for each of these individuals and their families as they serve Him.

Also, please be in prayer for who should attend Flight #32 and for those for the future. There are so many young men and women who can benefit from a personal encounter with Christ. It truly starts with you and your prayers. Ask God who you should reach out to, and then invite them to come. Sponsorship is the final position to be filled for any Team. We pray that God will place someone on each of your hearts.

An awesome revelation struck me as the Team selection process began. God has reached out and touched so many people through previous Flights and Walks! He has so many people who can serve, and He selects only a few to work. It is so much more apparent to me that it is truly a privilege to serve in any capacity on a Team. Please remember that the next time someone calls you. They are calling you because God has instructed them to do it. It truly is God calling you to serve Him. The theme verse selected for Flight #32 comes with a similar message. The Flight Theme is from 1 John 1:3 "What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." The theme places an emphasis on our desire to share our belief and faith in God with the Caterpillars and their families, and our fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We pray that this is your desire as well.

Have a blessed day, and a spiritually filled Christmas.

Fly with Christ (He is counting on you!)

Jim Greenwell

From Greg Waldrop Chrysalis Flight #32

Anybody busy? Anybody on this Flight too busy? Busy-ness is not the equivalent of holiness even if all we are doing is Godly. Sabbath rest was God's first way of reminding us how important it is not to be too busy, reminding us how important rest is. John Wesley used to say that hurry was not of the devil, it is the devil! One of the reasons we all take off our watches on the Flight itself is to get away from any persistent busy-ness that our schedules include and to introduce us to the notion of "kairos" time--time moving at the speed of grace and attending to the call of God. There is much we are able to do for God but the big question is what we are called to do. Doing more than God calls risks taking holy work out of someone else's hands and exhausting us for the work God truly needs us to do. I have heard college presidents advise entering freshmen wisely to be less busy if they want to get the most out of college. When my daughters were pre-school, I was asked how I liked parenting--after thinking a moment I replied that I liked it a lot as long as I wasn't tired or in a hurry. After thinking a moment more I realized that everything is better when we are not tired or in a hurry. Busy-ness is not our business and busy-ness is not a sure sign of faithfulness. Our business for life and for the Chrysalis weekend is holiness and holiness comes as we live the life God has given us to live, as we do the part of life and the part of the Chrysalis weekend to which God has called us.

The holidays that approach tempt us to busy-ness. Work hard not to be busy; rather be attentive to God's call on our lives, to engage God's means of grace, and to encounter the delightful people and situations God puts in your life during the season. Receive all the blessings God gives so we can be the blessings God needs us to be without being in a hurry. Trust in God's time and call..

Blessings!
Gregory Waldrop

Notes from the November Board Meeting:

Dates:

Spring walks:
Men's April 8-11 and the
Women's 15-18

This is a change due to the quilt show.

Dec gathering 12/5, Board meeting at 4:30 and potluck gathering at 6:00.

Jan gathering 1/17, Board meeting at 6:30 at Broadway UMC and gathering will be at the Chrysalis candlelight.

Important News from Basic

I put this in last months newsletter but it bears repeating.

The "Smoking" policy at BASIC will be strictly enforced for the Spring 2010 walks. The ONLY place smoking will be allowed is in front of the Conference Room where the "Butt Cans" will be placed. There can be no more smoking in front of the Manna House or in front of the Ark. This is for the health and safety of everyone.

A Devotion from Bro. Steve Web

Scripture Romans 13:¹ Accept those whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat everything, but another person, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted that person.

Observation: I think the church sometimes spends a lot of time judging others for what is really a personal belief or misinterpretation of where God is on a matter.

Application: If we practice Wesley's general rules--Do no harm, Do good, and Stay in love with God--there will be no time for becoming a stumbling block to someone trying to fill that hole in their heart with something that is lasting---say the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I believe that the church should learn to love God first and foremost and to love one another as one's self--just as we are.

If these things are practiced to the fullest then when Christ comes to bring us home we will have a place in that journey too.

Prayer: I pray today that the church universal is able to come together someday in your will for you glory.

Yieldedness: I yield to doing my best to do no harm, to do good whenever and wherever I can, and to doing all in my power to stay in love with God who has loved me first and who keeps me in mind constantly.

Rev Stephen Webb

Notes from the newsletter editor:

When Skip sent the notice for November's Newsletter he mentioned that it had a new name. Well, he was partially correct. Common Ground was actually the old name. When I got the template for the newsletter it had the Common Ground name at the top and I just kept it. If anyone can suggest a more appropriate name I will ask the board for permission to change it. As always your input to OUR newsletter is always welcome.

That being said, this is where I solicit additions, notices, articles and other input for OUR community newsletter. These can be notices of activities in your home churches that might be of interest to community members, such as seasonal celebrations such as Harvest Parties, Christmas Concerts or anything of that nature.

Clint Talmadge - Newsletter Editor Email me @ unclebudd@bellsouth.net