

GRACE TEAMS REPORT: 2009

GOD'S RESOURCES APPLIED CARINGLY BY EVERYONE

Our EBC GRACE Teams currently consist of 8 teams and approximately 100 individual members! We want to thank our team leaders as well as the numerous folks who volunteered their time in 2009 to help those in our church family and, in many cases, those in the community! Your selfless display of love and commitment has made a real difference in those going through some difficult and challenging times. A big thank you goes out to Marcia Park as well for her time and great patience tracking and organizing the team progress throughout the year!

Would you like to be a part of one of the GRACE Teams? There is plenty of room for more volunteers! Feel free to contact any of the team leaders listed below and learn how you too can help be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Romans: 4-8 . . . Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

BEREAVEMENT TEAM.....Cathy Moore (440-969-3223)

GRACE Bereavement seeks to support those in the church family who have recently lost a loved one by assisting with burdening concerns such as light housekeeping, funeral dinners, and house sitting.

TEAM ACTIVITY: The Bereavement Team currently consists of approximately 10 active members. These people make themselves available upon a calls notice to minister to a church family's immediate needs due to the loss of a loved one. Cathy Moore took on the responsibility of heading this team in March of 2009, and we thank her for stepping up to the plate and offering her time, cooking talents, and wonderful organization skills! The team was able to minister on four separate occasions in 2009, either through providing food to family homes or in hosting, cooking, and serving at funeral dinners.

BRIDGE TEAM.....Bill McMinn (440-563-3407, billmcminn@windstream.net)

GRACE Bridge seeks to bridge newcomers into the Eagleville Bible Church by making them feel welcome and connected to the church family.

TEAM ACTIVITY: The Bridge Team continues to work hard at identifying, welcoming, and introducing newcomers to the EBC church family. They do this by keeping direct contact with individuals, inviting them to newcomer socials, as well as making sure they have a personal invitation to upcoming church events. Some new members were added to the team in 2009, and two socials were held with many newcomers in attendance.

CARDS TEAM.....Rita Miklacic (440-474-9555, rmiklacic@windstream.net)

GRACE Cards seeks to see the church working as a caring family expressing concern for each other. The team will send cards to persons or families where there has been a loss, an accident, an operation or serious illness, a major achievement, or to those who have recently been out of touch.

TEAM ACTIVITY: The Cards Team currently consists of approximate 30 people. More than 90 people were reached out to by church family on different occasions in 2009! This team did a great job encouraging and providing “family” support.

HOME REPAIR TEAM.....Tim Phelps (440-992-4582, huntertjp@windstream.net)

GRACE Home Repairs seeks to assist those needing serious small repairs to their homes by providing labor in cases where the family is unable to do so themselves due to financial or physical situations.

TEAM ACTIVITY: Under the guidance of Tim Phelps and 2 – 3 other active members, the team has been able to reach out to some families in the church by helping with duties such as installing windows, fixing a screen door, repairing a sump pump, maintaining furnaces, general clean up, etc. The team continues to serve and has several projects already underway for 2010.

HOSPICE TEAM.....Andrea Rogers (440-563-5048, tnarogers1@windstream.net)

GRACE Hospice partners with Ashtabula County’s Hospice of the Western Reserve to support people at the end of life and their families through companionship, housekeeping, meal sharing, gospel sharing, and prayer.

TEAM ACTIVITY: The number of volunteers for this GRACE Team has dwindled down quite a bit. We currently have only two active members serving. As this is a very important ministry, 2010 will focus on growing this team in order to help more patients at their end of life and in order to provide vigil support as well as physical help for the families caring for these individuals. A training session will be held in March for new volunteers. More information on this training will be found in the February newsletter.

MEALS TEAMCathy Moore (440-969-3223)

GRACE Meals seeks to see people in life changing situations supported by the church family. The team supplies meals where the main meal provider is not able due to a birth, death, illness, an accident, or other difficult circumstances.

TEAM ACTIVITY: The Meals Team currently consists of 34+ members! Meals were provided to families for an extended time period more than 16 times throughout the year. While it is hard to guess exactly how many meals were cooked (as some folks provide multiple meals at a time), we can estimate that number to be well over 70 meals! This team of talented cooks was pretty busy in 2009!

MILITARY OUTREACHTemporarily Inactive

GRACE Military Outreach seeks to support the faith of Christians in military service as well as to encourage those without faith to trust and know Jesus Christ. The team has partnered with the USO in the past to supply materials for ministry and gifts of encouragement for service men and women.

TEAM ACTIVITY: Beth Miller headed up this team for most of 2009. A Bible collection was done in April. Those Bibles, along with other materials, were sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The USO office which EBC partnered with since the beginning of this GRACE Team has since closed down and moved facilities from Madison to Bainbridge. We hope to restructure this team so that we may be able to reach out to the military personnel as a church in the very near future.

VISITATION TEAMTed Miller (440-998-4959, tednsandymiller@aol.com)

GRACE Visits seeks to see the lonely in the church family encouraged. The team visits the elderly, the sick, the hospitalize, and those separated from routine contact with our church family.

TEAM ACTIVITY: Last year, the Visitation Team was able to make more than 28 in-home visits, 20 contacts by phone, and 9 contacts by cards or letters. The Visitation Team has recently gone through some changes and will continue to be restructured in the coming months. Ted Miller has agreed to step up and head this team. (Thank you, Ted!) We plan to expand this outreach opportunity to include many more folks from the church in 2010.