

# GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

## CLASS of 1966

### DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

#### **IT IS CHRISTMAS TIME!**

Maybe you will receive this December 2009 Newsletter before Christmas arrives – at least that is the plan! Hard to believe that 2009 is here, much less over! Time flies at our age whether we are having fun or not. The weather is strange, the economy stranger, we have experienced a strange year in 2009 – and to be honest, I think I am about ready to try out 2010! I know that a lot of you have already become eligible for early Social Security annuities! That is good in some ways, doesn't sound so good in others. I'll work at wishing everyone a Merry Christmas at the end of this December Newsletter, rather than at the beginning – so on with the news!

It is always sad to get news of mothers and fathers of GHS graduates/friends/classmates passing...I received an email from Judy Daniel (Mike Daniel's wife) on November 11<sup>th</sup> that Mrs. Ada (Margie) Daniel, wife of J.B. Daniel and mother of Mike/Jess Daniel passed away at 5:30 a.m. that same morning. The Daniel Family invested so much in Grapevine, and have touched the lives of so many over the years. It is difficult to see these people we knew and admired as children and young adults departing from us...guess we are just continuing to age ourselves. I also sent out an email to most of you about the passing of Mrs. Lavada Roach, mother of David Roach. Mrs. Roach passed away on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

On November 17, Buddy Tanner had a massive stroke while working. Buddy and the Tanner family were all very well known around Grapevine and Southlake...the Torian Cabin on Main Street in Grapevine is the home in which Buddy's grandmother lived. Buddy was placed in Odyssey Hospital Center in Fort Worth, but in just about a week he passed away. Jean Giddiens Soderberg's sister Virginia Giddiens Tanner Thomas' daughter is Buddy Tanner's daughter. Virginia tells me just how close Buddy and his daughter Tracy Herzik truly are. Tracy is in need of a pancreas/kidney transplant. Buddy's passing only adds to the issues that face the family. Please continue to keep the Tanner family in your prayers.

Ole Whiskers Closes... The Ole Whiskers Catfish Buffet in Plano closed their doors at the end of October. A group of GHS grads started meeting there a number of years back and it grew into an expanded group mostly of the GHS Class of 1966. But there were also class members from before and after our class that also attended these "Get Togethers" over the past years. Randy Doty emailed me in

mid-October telling me of the owner's decision to close. It is also the place that started the GHS Class Christmas Parties and White Elephant Gifts. It was sad to see this place close, and we will miss the good catfish too!

There is seldom a month goes by that we don't somehow connect with other GHS Classmates that most from the GHS Class of '66 knew. This past month, I was able to reconnect with Barbara Graham Price (Class of 1965) and daughter of GHS principal Lance Graham and niece of GHS Math Teacher Frank Prindle. I actually ran into Barbara on Facebook and gave her our Class Website info. She emailed me back and thanked me for giving her the website where she spent time looking and reading about those she knew from Grapevine (she and her family moved to Grapevine when Barbara was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade). Her father, Lance, passed away in 1994 and her mother, Jerrene, passed away in 2000. Her mother taught at Colleyville Elementary School while they were in Grapevine. She also asked for Coach Woodson's address and was glad to be able to visit with him again (they lived across the street from Coach Woodson while in Grapevine). Her uncle, Frank Prindle, is living in Louisiana and is in good health according to Barbara.

Our beloved English Teacher, Gayle Shumate, responded to my short note about her returning my Newsletters with "red marks" comment from the September Newsletter. She inferred that I might still be somewhat mischievous...I was never mischievous - the very idea Shumate! Of course she signed it with a factious name to protect herself. I know that Sharon Huffman Smith lives close by Shumate in Commerce and keeps me up on her antics around the town...one of these days, we are going to have to have a "road trip" and go visit her since she has vowed to only return to Grapevine to attend a couple of peoples funerals....(she doesn't know I know that she said that – so I may get into trouble on this statement). Shumate...this is a warning...you may open the door sometime and find a group of us there – lost and confused mostly!

Within the past couple of weeks, Hilda Adams Coker was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. You should have received an email about this from me prior to Thanksgiving week. I do know that Hilda has had at least two chemo treatments by now. I know she needs our prayers and support. Hilda sent me an email the first week of December saying that she had just completed her second chemo treatment. She continues to ask for our prayers that she can continue these treatments as the doctor has planned. Thanks to her sister, Beth Adams Moore, and Cindi Coker, Hilda's daughter-in-law, for keeping me updated on Hilda's condition.

Linda Bowden Cox had a bunionectomy (bunion removals) on both feet in late October (you should have gotten that email as well). She is to be off work for about six weeks and has to wear some sort of heavy boots for a period after the surgery and during some rehab. She will not be able to drive for that six week period. In early November, Linda said that she was doing pretty good...not having much pain and had the stitches removed on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Linda and Jerry and Linda's sister Carol & husband Kerry, along with Mrs. Bowden joined us for the Class Christmas Party and Linda has her boots off and is continuing to do well – except she goes back to work on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>!

James Baber is recovering well from his amputation surgery in mid-September. In mid-November, his wife, Leann, sent an email that he was doing well. He is now driving himself to physical therapy twice a week. He had been told that he would be fitted for a prosthesis in January, but the word came this week that he could expect that to happen before Christmas – boy is James excited about that prospect! Leann said he was ready to get back out and into his workshop! Continue to keep James and Leann in your prayers during his rehabilitation time.

A couple of months ago, I had shared with you about Sharon Cooper's son, Mike, who has Hodgkin's lymphoma. Just after Thanksgiving, I received an update from Sharon saying that the doctors were going to wait three months and repeat Mike's PET scan. Then they will compare the last four before they decide what direction to take. When he had the first needle biopsy on his neck it was negative for cancer, but when they when they went in and got a lymph node it was positive for cancer. So, now they are skeptical because the biopsy they did, where they went through his lung into the lymph node, was a needle biopsy. The next step is to go in and take the lymph node out and dissect it. Please keep Sharon and Mike and the family in your prayers during a terribly difficult time.

Johnnie Mae Washington Braddock has rotator cuff surgery on October 28<sup>th</sup> and she had the staples removed on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. She was doing pretty well when I spoke with her a couple of weeks ago and was preparing to go to therapy (a 4-6 week event). She was relying considerably on pharmaceutical aide due to the pain she was having. I spoke with her again the day before Thanksgiving and she told me that she had some problem near the incision. She went to the doctor who performed treatment, but it only got worse. She had attended about seven therapy sessions and her movement was better and she could write. She now tells me that she has an infection and scheduled for surgery on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. They went back in to clean the area and test the infected area. It was a "deep" infection and Johnnie Mae stayed several days in the hospital. They put in a pic and trained her to give herself injections of antibiotics – which she will have to do for a number of weeks. She was able to attend our Class Christmas Party on December 12<sup>th</sup>! Please keep Johnnie Mae and her doctors in your prayers. I also know that Gail Hutchison Reneau has been helping her and I know how appreciative Johnnie Mae is of Gail's and others help She also told me how much she appreciated the phone calls and visits from our class while she was in the hospital.

As you recall from our September Newsletter, a small group of our class took a short cruise adventure out of Galveston to a couple of ports in Mexico and practically took over the ship during the process – again, refer to the last Newsletter. Well, as a follow-up to that adventure this group and an additional couple struck out on another adventure in October. Jerry & Linda (Bowden) Cox, Gary & Jane Cumbie, Darrell & Donna Faglie, Caroline (Cason) Wilkinson, and Larry & Linda Oliver drove North to Broken Bow, Oklahoma to stay in a GREAT CABIN near Beavers Bend State Park. I can only tell you that the cabin and facilities were exceptional – the weather was great and the company the best! I think we all had a grand time and will want to do this again. We can all certainly recommend that you check out the website at [www.beaversbendadventure.com](http://www.beaversbendadventure.com) and you can see photos of the available cabins and the photos don't do them justice. We had a great time of sightseeing, eating, playing games, campfire, hot tubs, wine tasting, etc....it was just went by all too quickly.

**THE BOYS!**



**THE GIRLS**



On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> we held our Annual GHS Class of 66 & Friends Christmas Party. This year, with the assistance of Butch & Janet Ethridge, we held the luncheon event in the Faith Christian School Cottage (better known to us as the old wooden band hall of our school days). The event had about 40 people present, including special guests, Harlan Jewett, Tom Walker, and Mrs. Bowden (Linda's Mother). This was a "POT LUCK" lunch, and the food was exceptional – the folks preparing the food truly out did themselves this year. It was so good, that we have asked everyone to send me their recipes so we can share them! You will be most impressed when this goes out! Of course we had our "White Elephant" gift exchange which as usual offered some surprises and lots of fun and laughs, I think there may have also been some threats made for future events.

It was great to have Carolyn Cody back in town and able to join us....she called me about a week before, saying she was in Grapevine and wanted to know if the class had anything planned soon....I responded with – "Do I have a deal for you"! Carolyn, we are all excited that you are back in the area and will become a regular participant of our events!

Jean Giddiens Soderberg and husband Mel also drove up from New Braunfels to join in the festivities! It was great to have them here and I know that they had a great time visiting with so many classmates and friends!

I do not want to close on the party without again thanking Butch & Janet for helping secure the Faith Christian School Cottage (i.e. Old Band Hall) for our event. The facility was fantastic and the decorations were equally great! We truly appreciate your getting this for us to use.

Christmas 2009! Who would have considered this point in time during our Senior Year....we were much more interested in things like: "Just how long is our Christmas Holiday from school?" or "What are you going to do over the Christmas Holidays and where are the Parties?"...it was difficult to even try and think about where we would be 44 Christmases later! My how things, people and life has changed. It is actually rather pleasant to think back to those days and those friends and family, and it is especially pleasant to remember Christmases past! Christmases of our youth were a lot different. More Santa, more lights, more reindeer, more window shopping, less crowds, great meals, singing Christmas Carols, Church Christmas Pageants, and we did a much better job of trying to celebrate Christmas by remembering why. As we have become more and more commercialized; we have more ACLU interventions and the like getting into our lives as well as more political correctness – we have lost so much of what made those past Christmas times so special. I hope that during this Christmas Season that you are all able to find the true meaning – feel it – truly experience it. My wish is that you are able to spend time with family and friends; and include time to praise God and truly thank Him for the gift of his Son. May Your Christmas be special and filled with the Joys, the Love, the Family, the Friends, and Christ of Christmas! God Bless you all and the GHS Class of 1966! And by all means don't be afraid to say "MERRY CHRISTMAS"!

Respectfully,  
Larry Oliver