

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1966

MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER

March 2009 – doesn't seem possible, it seems like yesterday that Woody Woodson's homeroom class were running to lunch from the room across from Ms. Bickers' classroom outside by Homemaking and ran over some elementary students, causing one to fall onto the metal shoe bar used to clean your feet – breaking his arm. We all received a swat or two with the board via Mickey Koonce) and then proceeded to be forced to march to lunch for a time. We did it for only a short time however, because we made it a game – marching with cadence, standing at the table until all were assembled and then sat down at the same time to eat our lunch. After we became a spectacle, our sentence was reduced so we would stop enjoying our punishment. I believe we actually sat at the front teacher tables, which forced them out among the students. It is activities like this that made us so well liked ya know! Sorry, not sure why that came to mind, but as we age we do tend to lose some control of that function.

This past few months has been filled with some good news and some difficult news. I guess we continue to age, we spend a lot more time with doctors, hospitals, and attending funeral services which certainly falls into that “difficult news” category. However, we do also have some “Good News” days as well and we do have opportunities to visit with some life-long friends and think back to those days of “yester-year” that make us all feel a little better. I hope these newsletters, emails, and “Get Togethers” help bring back some fond memories and create some new ones for you as they do for me. What a great time we had in December at the old school cafeteria getting to see a lot of old friends – many of which we have not seen for forty years (yeah, that's right 40 years). I hope that some of those contacts are now regular contacts, whether via email or phone or spending some time together. If you've not made some re-connections with some of your classmates recently, I hope you make it a point to do so.

I have recently gotten on FaceBook, it started out to communicate with some of my ex-students from GHS – the Class of 1978 (one of the classes that I taught, but was also a sponsor during their four years of high school). They are a pretty close group, about as close to being like the class of 1966 as I've come across over the past 45 years. Many of them stay in touch and have been graciously keeping me in touch with them as well. As for FaceBook, after being there for a few months now, I have run into a lot of ex-students and a few GHS graduates, some from our class, but a number from those who came before us and a lot that came afterward. It is interesting to see how technology has changed the social life of following generations – some of it is really nice, some a little confusing, and some just strange. But, it is never boring out there – you might want to check it out. From our class you can find several, I'm not going to give out their names, just check it out when you have some time at www.facebook.com if you've not done so already.

In January, I received an email from James Peek (Sue Peek's brother – sorry James, you'd said it so much, it is hard to type your name without adding that line) talking about James Baber's leg surgery, Mrs. Jewett, Diane, and others. He also wanted me to send out a note to his male classmates telling them that he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2007 (which Jim had not

shared before with us). He has had the seed implants (similar to Tom Walker's treatment) just about a year ago. He wanted to share this and encourage all the guys to have those checkups and PSA count-tests so problems can be found early and treatment can start soon and be successful. Jim also shared that he is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on March 23; he had his left knee replaced in 2005. Continue to keep Jim and his wife Jan in your prayers.

On February 4, 2009, Elizabeth Yarbrough, mother of Lynda Yarbrough Hawkins (class of 1967), passed away after a stroke days earlier. I know Lynda wants to express her and her brother's (Ray) and sister's (Becky) appreciation for the cards, notes, emails, flowers, and other remembrances of her mom. I know that they continue to deal with all the issues that follow and they continue to need and treasure your prayers and thoughtfulness.

We also found out that Kay Sharp Wade, daughter of Harold and Betty & sister of Bobby Sharp, fell in January pulled muscle from the bone and had tendon issues and a torn rotator in two places. The doctors said recovery could take three or more months and had several other issues with her pain after the surgery. Please continue to keep Kay and her family in your prayers.

It was in Mid-February that Inez Jewett passed away (Wednesday, February 11, 2009). Inez was such a wonderful lady, so loved and cherished by so many in Grapevine. She was a member of the Methodist Church for 81 years and such a wonderful wife and companion for our teacher Harlan Jewett. Thanks to so many of our class and others who paid tribute to Inez and Harlan. It is going to be very difficult for Harlan to be without Inez – he is in need of your prayers.

Tracy Herzik, daughter of Virginia Giddiens (sister of Jean Giddiens) and Buddy Tanner received a dual kidney/pancreas transplant on January 15, 2009. Unfortunately the body rejected the new organs and they have been removed. Tracy, at last report, was still in Baylor – Dallas recovering. Tracy is to be placed back on the transplant list soon. Tracy is a single mom of one daughter, Katie, who attends Carroll High. Tracy works at Carroll High as the principal's secretary. Please keep Tracy in your prayers during this most crucial and difficult time.

Lois Buckner, mother of James Buckner (Class of 1965) and Patti Buckner Saunders (Class of 1969), has been one of those wonderful ladies that I have known for over fifty years. She has always been one of those special and encouraging parents I knew when growing up in Grapevine – she is one of those special persons in my life. Mrs. Buckner fell in September 2008 in her garage fracturing her pelvis. She was in Baylor for a time and then at Heartland Nursing Facility for therapy. She then got an infection causing her blood stream to become septic and was transferred to HEB Hospital for treatment. The medication caused some other complications and she contracted a bacterial infection and became critically ill, and at the most difficult times developed seizures. She then had irregular heartbeats. She has improved and is back at Heartland where she continued with her recovery...they are hoping that she will be released soon to return home – she has been away from her home for about five months. Please keep Lois Buckner and her family in your prayers as she and they deal with her medical conditions.

It was also in mid-February that I received an email from Hilda Adams Coker (Class of 1967) that her sister Beth (Adams Moore, class of 1970 and wife of Hoyt Moore, class of 1970 and

brother of Doug and Billy) was in the hospital, Baylor Grapevine, with pneumonia in ICU. Wesley Self sent me an email a few days later saying that she was improving and may get to go home in a couple of days. However, she went home, then back in the hospital. I received word on February 27th that Beth is home! I got an email from Beth saying that she was feeling better, and that they believe they have taken care of the pneumonia – but sent her home with some high-powered antibiotics. She is also being treated for high blood pressure and diabetes. She wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and that it was such a blessing knowing that so many were praying for her and the family. I am sure that Beth and Hoyt continue to need our prayers.

On March 5th, I received an email the mother of Evelyn Highnote (Wayne's wife) passed away on March 4th. Evelyn's father had passed away only two weeks before. The service was held in Bremond, TX at Heard's Prairie Church. Please keep Evelyn and Wayne and Evelyn's family in your prayers during this difficult time.

In early February, I received an email from Mary Banks (Class of 1965) concerning her mother. Her mother was very ill. She had celebrated her 98th birthday in December, but had just been hospitalized. Mary's sister Brenda was with her mom at the time. Mary was asking for our prayers. Several days later, Mary sent me an update on her mother – she was doing "SO much better". Larry, Mary and Brenda were all scratching their heads trying to understand such a quick recovery, considering that six days ago they were concerned about losing her. Mary sent and emailed out a note thanking everyone for their prayers during their crisis.

In spite of Mrs. Banks' improvement in February, she passed away the first week of March. The services for Mrs. Banks were held on Monday, March 9th at Lucas Funeral Home in Grapevine with interment at Rowlett Cemetery in Allen. Visitation with the family was on Sunday, March 8th from 3-5:30 p.m. at Lucas Funeral Home in Grapevine. It was good to see Mary, Larry and Brenda, but the circumstances were not as one would hope. It has been thirty years since I have seen Larry – it was at Homecoming 1979. I was president of the Grapevine Ex-Students Association and presented Larry his Distinguished Alumni Award. It was also good to see Tony and Brenda Eubanks and spend a few moments visiting with them. Mrs. Banks and the entire Banks family are a wonderful part of our history in Grapevine. Please continue to keep the entire Banks family in your prayers.

Many of our class and certainly many other classmates remember the Scaff family. Mr. Scaff passed away on March 6th. Please keep the Scaff family in your prayers – Mrs. Scaff (Evelyn), and children: Brad, Gayle, Brian, Katrina, and Brent.

James Baber faced some very difficult and critical times over the past few months. He was facing another surgery on his leg that had lost blood circulation. The prognosis was not good in terms of another surgery being successful, and he was in danger of losing his leg. With many ups and downs, the surgery was performed. At first it was thought to be unsuccessful, but the next day they discovered a strong pulse in his foot. James is home, but continues with a long recovery. He has been out and about some, but he has a way to go. Please continue keep James and Leann in your prayers. I know James is not always the best of patients, so throw in a little extra prayer for Leann!

I received an email from Pat Barnes Stone (Class of 65) telling me that her sister and our classmate Brenda Barnes Dickens (Class of 66) lost her husband, John, on Tuesday, March 3rd. Brenda is in Teague, TX. Please continue to keep Brenda and her family in your prayers.

It was Thursday evening about 7:00 p.m. that I received a call from Donna Faglie (actually, Linda received the call) that Darrell was at Baylor Grapevine in the ER waiting to see a specialist to check out his hand that he had badly injured in a table saw. Linda and I quickly drove to Baylor and arrived to find Darrell in the Emergency Room with the doctor, who had just arrived. His left hand was badly cut – the blade appeared to have traveled down his index finger from the tip all the way up into the hand, splitting the index finger bone/hollowing it out, with significant damage to the cartilage at two of the knuckles. He was able to head for home at about 10:30 p.m. after the doctor spent a long time cleaning out the wound and then attempting to explain to me the damage done, by pointing out places in the finger and hand that were damaged. Of course he used “doctor-words” that I had little knowledge of, however I acted as though I understood everything he was saying. I felt, with all my “uh-huhs and Mmmm’s” that I sounded a lot like Dr. Joe Allison, which may not have helped Darrell’s nerves. At any rate, Darrell is on some good drugs and I talked with him Saturday after lunch (March 7th) and he had just returned from getting his wound cleaned and new bandages. He goes back to the doctor on Monday, March 9th in hopes they will be able to tell him what future surgery might be necessary and what he might expect in terms of use of that finger. Please keep Darrell in your prayers.

I visited a little with Tom Walker recently and he is doing pretty well, but his having some knee problems. Tom said he was going to be calling Dr. Jim Box the week or March 9th to see about some knee surgery. Who would have ever thought??? Please keep Tom in your prayers for his cancer battle and as he seeks consultation regarding possible knee surgery.

I want to also ask that you remember Larry Cox. Larry continues to have heart issues and is in pain most of the time. Please keep Larry and his wife Sheila in your prayers.

Just before Valentine’s Day, Diane Cherry Stacy had her final scheduled treatment. It is hard to believe that this has been going on (the treatments) for well over a year – her first treatment was in September 2007! After the last treatment, her mother told me that she and Rick had taken off to San Francisco! Then about a week later, I get the email we have been waiting on! Rick’s mom (who helps keep me up on so many things and who I love dearly) sent us an email saying the doctor reports were back on Diane and the results show her to be CANCER FREE! The info said that the protocol for this result says that you don’t require further scans. However, the doctor told her that for her peace of mind he would do another in about three months and again in six months after the three-month test. They hope to remove the port where she has been receiving the chemo should happen in March. Praise the Lord and thanks to everyone who has been praying for Diane and the family.

RICK STACY has decided that he is now bored and looking for something to take up his time – So, he has filed to run for Mayor of Southlake, Texas AGAIN! Rick, I am not sure of the motivation, but I hope you know we love you man – and wish you the best in the race! I GUESS

THAT MEANS, if you are a Southlake, Texas resident – you need some yard signs, and find a way volunteer! Tell your friends to **VOTE RICK STACY for MAYOR!**

I checked on Mouse (Randy Flanagan) this week. Pat said he was doing fine. He is off all medication except the breathing treatments and inhaler for the COPD. His lungs are clear of the pneumonia except the scarring it left from being in there so long. His heart will never be totally alright, but he will be okay – Pat said he never used all of it anyway! Please keep Randy and Pat in your prayers!

Around March 6th, I received an email from Linda Bench Yates. Some of you will remember Linda Bench who was in our class for several years, but left prior to graduation. I have not heard from her since that time. Her email was sent asking about her effort to reconnect with her friend at GHS – our classmate, Linda Blevins Ibarra. I had to email Linda Bench and tell her that we had lost Linda Blevins Ibarra some recent years back – that was not an easy email to send. Usually when I get such emails, I can help reconnect the people asking. This was the first time I had to tell of our loss. Linda Bench explained that she had viewed our website and enjoyed the Newsletters and even the photos – but she could not recognize anyone – but, she too remembers her years with our class at GHS and speaks of it being a big part of her life – see her email to me below:

Larry, I really enjoyed the pictures and the information you have given me. I did read the Newsletters and I would love to attend this years class Reunion, even though I didn't graduate with all of you, I still feel as though GHS was a big part of my life. Although I didn't recognize anyone in the photos, I would really love to reunite with the kids I spent a great part of my life with. Seems like yesterday, but it's really been awhile. I do intend to contact Johnnie Mae, bless your heart for going to all this trouble, for someone out of the blue.

I want to share with the GHS Class of 1966 the many kind words I hear on a daily basis for how we have kept in touch and have brought so many other GHS graduates back together – I hear regularly from GHS classmates from the fifties into the early eighties. I even reconnected with Jess Hilliard (GHS 1960) who was in the band when I was in the band – in those days the seventh graders were also in the high school band. I talked with and visited with Marvin Wells a month or so back. I can not tell you what a great feeling it is to talk to these friends and people I have known for so many years, even though many of us have not kept in close contact, it brings back so very fond memories from our past. I want to say “Thank You” to the GHS Class of 1966 for the constant support and assistance whenever it is needed. Thanks for helping support the website and our efforts to keep us all in touch. I think we continue to show that our class was very special during our high school days, and that we have shown that our class has continued to offer service to one another and our fellow human beings in our world after Grapevine High School.

February and March have been extremely difficult months for many of our classmates, but even with all the problems and difficulties, there were certainly some moments of great Thankfulness as well. It is great knowing so many of our classmates continue to support one another at these times of our lives – when we seem to need it the most. It is part of what helps make life worth living and helps us to understand, probably more than ever, the great gift of friendship that the Lord has provided us. **GOD BLESS THE GHS CLASS OF 1966!**

Respectfully, Larry Oliver