

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS of 1966

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

It is December 2008 – who would have thought we would be here? I guess it will be 2009 before we can blink, and I know everyone is busy and getting over Thanksgiving and preparing for Christmas - so, let me get to our December 2008 Newsletter!

For those of you who attended the **DEC. 7th EVENT** at the old GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL site - 730 E. Worth Street, I hope you left feeling as refreshed and rejuvenated as I did – it was so great to see so many friends we knew in the mid to late 1960s at Grapevine High School. There were a number of you that said you saw people you had not seen since you graduated from GHS. Thanks again go out to Butch Ethridge (GHS 67) and Janet Huseby Ethridge (GHS 68) for securing permission from Faith Christian School to allow us to utilize their cafeteria, but also for allowing us to tour the school. It was especially fun to see the old stand alone Band Hall that we occupied in the very late 50s into the mid-60s that has been brought back to the original site by Faith Christian School. It was a time of great fellowship, wonderful food, and a little fun with our REVISED “White Elephant” gift exchange. I want to thank my class – GHS 1966 – for forgoing our usual “class only & by special invitation” Christmas Party to expand it for those from 63 – 71 who also attended. I want to thank Butch & Janet Ethridge; Darrell & Donna Faglie (66); Terry Stephens (66); Gary & Jane Cumbie (66); Linda Hamlin (67) and my wife Linda Ethridge Oliver (67) for all their help before and during and after the event. I think it was a grand time and I hope you saw the Newspaper article on our event – Fort Worth Star Telegram (December 10th) and the Grapevine Courier (December 12th) – and thanks to Charlie Young (Class of 1964) for getting us the newspaper coverage. I also want to thank Kathy Lipscomb Pirkle (64), Gail Hutchison Reneau (65), Cindy Frye Barnes (68), and many others for helping get other classes interested in the event.

Check out the photos at our class website – www.ghsclassof1966.com - click on the REUNION & PARTIES tab and check out the [Christmas 2008 photos](#) – hopefully they are posted by the time this newsletter. There are no names – so you are on your own trying to figure out who some of these folks are – I will tell you that there are graduates from 1958, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1976 present....plus about 25 spouses & guests – including special guest Tom Walker (he looks younger than some of the others!).

For those of you who were unable to attend, I am sorry you missed the Event – I think you would have certainly enjoyed it. If you have doubts, I suggest you talk to someone who was there – and, hopefully, if we ever gather up enough energy again – we will have to try it in the future. I thought I would share a few comments from emails received that night and the next day below:

Thanks for all the hard work everyone did in prep for tonight. We had a great time. Loved seeing everyone. I forgot who had the special slippers and would love to get a copy of the note that was with it. I thought it was the funniest!!! Tommy (64) and Gretchen (65) Shultze Ramsey

WOW!!!! Let me repeat that WOW!!!! That was a great Christmas Party. Thank all of you so much for putting this together and a special thanks to whoever thought of having it at the old school cafeteria. Everything was perfect even the reworked white elephant gift procedure. Larry, our class is so blessed to have you and we can not express our gratitude for all you do to keep us together. Times like last night gives us a chance to reflect back and realize how fortunate we are to have grown up in Grapevine when we did. We reminisced over the many blessing that we had and the good and bad times as well. Bobbie Mitchell what a great Prayer, the food was certainly blessed. And God has certainly blessed our city and our region. Thanks to everyone that traveled to come, I know it is difficult on Sunday evening to get back home and go to work Monday morning. Hope it was worth the time and effort because we all enjoyed seeing each other. Darrell(66) and Donna Young(66) Faglie

That was a great and wonderful time! I wouldn't have missed it for the world! Hope to see all of you again very soon. Thanks to All Who Coordinated this extraordinary event! ps. My Ronny and the Daytona's GTO album looks good lying on the console of our 69' Goat ! Thanks Mike Frye. Van Morrison (66)

What a great time I had last night at the party. It was so good to see everyone last night...some I had not seen since I graduated in 1967. I want to personally thank all those that were responsible for setting things up and all of the hard work put into this celebration to make it such a success. Going to Grapevine high school my junior and senior years absolutely changed my life and I am so grateful for getting to share in that Grapevine Spirit. It felt kind of like "homecoming" last night. May everyone have a very "Blessed Christmas" as we remember Christ who is responsible for giving us that love we feel so deeply for one another during this time of year. Thanks again, Gary "Buzz" Briscoe (67)

We agree with everything that has been said and then some. Larry, Linda and everyone else involved with the planning and sitting things up, thank you for all your work. GREAT JOB!!!! We had a great time, Lavoy(66) & Jeannette

The class of 65 wants to thank the class of 66 for sharing the evening with all of us. I can speak for everyone I was with that it was so much fun and such a blessing to see our old friends from the past. Also Larry thank you especially for keeping us informed of everything that is going on. God bless you and Linda. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. Love, Gail (65) Hutchison Reneau

Butch and I had a wonderful time seeing everyone as well. Faith Christian School was excited and honored to have you back in the building. We hope you enjoyed the tour and the opportunity to reminisce a little. Working here, I reminisce often and also appreciate the many building improvements GCISD made back in the 90's, such as indoor hallways! I, too, hope you have a very blessed Christmas and look forward to our next get together in 2009. Blessings, Janet(68) Huseby Ethridge

I'd like to say that all the work and planning to put this party together was a spectacular success! I especially enjoyed the awesome slide show viewable on two giant screens was a real treat and I know just how much work involved in putting something like that together can be, so a very big pat on the back and a huge thank you go out to those who worked so hard on that. I feel extremely blessed to be able to be a part of such a wonderful bunch of people who can all claim to be the graduates of a very special school at a very special time in history. We ARE the generation that refuses to grow old and we proved it last night. What fun we had! Thanks go out to Larry Oliver once again for doing what he does so well. Bringing us once again, together with a spirit that only Grapevine High could have instilled in us all. In kindest regards, Jackie (65) Santos Jenkins

Thanks to everyone and all the work that was done to make this a wonderful time for all of us! Merry Christmas to All and may God continue to Bless you and yours! Love ya! Bobbie (66) Benson Mitchell

As everyone has already said last night was a great time I think for everyone. As one of the "younger" guests, I want to thank Larry Oliver and the class of 1966 for asking us to come and help celebrate the season and all of the great things that Grapevine instilled in us. I make jokes about not knowing things that I should and that I went to school in "Grapevine" pre airport and how it was such a small place but I would not give a million bucks to have grown up anywhere else. Last night

just goes to show you all of the good things that living in a small town does for you. Happy Holidays to all of you, Gayle (70) Scaff Kregel

Here are the pics I took of the three classes. The one labeled 66 is really 65. The other one labeled Larry is your class of 66. We had a great time at the party. What a lot of work you put into a great event!!! Sandra (64) Polovkas Stephens

Larry and all. I just want to thank you for all that you have done for our class. I know that it takes a lot of time and energy to put on something like this and I just want you to know how much it is appreciated. And to have it at the old high school was the best. I am so glad that so many people took advantage of this event and I'm sorry that those that didn't make it missed a wonderful night of friendship, wonderful food and all of the many laughs. Especially those special house shoes and the special lighting effects that I'm sure Johnnie Mae will get a lot of use out of. Merry Christmas to everyone and hope to see you all again in the near future. Darlene (66) Kee Spann

Great event! Kudos to you and the class of 1966 for hosting this wonderful gathering, and opening up your traditional get-together to the rest of us. It was a very poignant evening for many people, I know. Many thanks,
Charlie (64) Young

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR INVITING THE CLASS OF '64 TO BE PART OF THE FUN LAST NIGHT. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO HELPED MAKE THE PARTY POSSIBLE. YOUR CREW MADE EVERYTHING GO SO SMOOTHLY FOR THE REST OF US. IT WAS GREAT TO WALK DOWN THE HALLS AGAIN, AND I HAD SO MUCH FUN SEEING EVERYONE! THE OLD PICTURES WERE A REALLY GOOD IDEA, THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS, THE GIFT EXCHANGE WAS SUPER FUN, AND THE COMPANY WAS THE BEST OF ALL. IT WAS A GREAT NIGHT! THANKS SO MUCH! KATHY (64) LIPSCOMB PIRKLE

Thanks to you and your crew for putting on a great gathering, I know it was a lot of work...even if it was a labor of love. You did the classes of 63-70 proud! thanks, Linda (69) Dush Mills

Our sincere thanks to everyone who worked so hard to prepare a wonderful party !! Larry (66) and Sheila Cox

Thanks. It was so nice of you to include the class of '70 in the event, and I don't think you need to apologize to anyone. You just added a little additional spice to the White Elephant exchange!!! Have a Blessed, Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2009. Ruth (70) Poindexter

Thanks to everyone who took part in having such a great Christmas Party! It was so awesome to be at our old school and to see all our classmates again. Isn't it amazing how we all look the same - I think we all look pretty darn good. We are all so blessed to have gone to a small school and we all share a special bond. Our "Little Grapevine" has sure grown, but last night in the school it seemed like it did years ago. Hope everyone has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! Rah, Rah, Rah - Mustangs Fight.....Mary Cal Yates Johnson - Class of 1971

I WANT TO INSERT AN EDITORIAL COMMENT HERE – I tried my best to cut down Cindy Frye Barnes comments, but as you can see that is almost an impossibility...Just have some sympathy for Mike Frye who had to grow up and live with her as a sibling and St. David Barnes who has to put up with her now - END OF EDITORIAL.

David and I would like to thank LARRY and LINDA for ANOTHER GREAT GHS EVENT! I heard from FAMILY members that Butch really gave an informative and interesting TOUR of the school...plus the SLIDE SHOW was a HOOT! Such a GREAT ASSORTMENT of FOOD...DECLICIOUS! I don't cook at our house much, so David was ECSTATIC to actually have a HOME COOKED MEAL! ha. Personally, whoever thought of the charts on the wall with the names of those attending from the different classes is to be commended.....THAT WAS GREAT! You could then search the room to find them! Now, as far as the WHITE ELEPHANT portion of the event.....It went VERY SMOOTHLY and also was fun for the spouses of the Alumni...let us see who they were and got them included in the festivities..... BUT.....I have not found out yet who donated the GIFT I RECEIVED.....which would be the SLIPPERS! REMEMBER? They are absolutely PRICELESS! LITERALLY! ha. Thanks to Bobbie Mitchell for such an INSPIRING

**PRAYER.....LOVED IT and FELT IT! I think we could all feel our GOOD LORD'S presence! It was so good to get to visit with members of my own class.... CLASS OF 68! We had an entire group of VERY TALENTED ALUMNI in attendance from our class.....we all LOVED MUSIC during High School and learned from Mrs. Hemley!as I'm sure many of you did also! David and I are very fortunate to be Grapevine High School Alumni and we are also very fortunate to be married to one another.....How many ALUMNI do we have out there that are STILL married to one another! (Better not ask about those who USED TO BE MARRIED to another Alumni...but that would be interesting also)! ha. Merry Christmas to ALL.....and let us not forget those who have PASSED AWAY.....GOD BLESS! Let's all get together again soon!
THANK YOU LARRY for BEING YOU and for TRULY CARING ABOUT ALL OF US!!!
Love you, Cindy Frye Barnes - Class of 68**

**To all the hard workers of this wonderful event. The Class of '66 outdid themselves!!! Thank you so much for letting all the other classes join in such a fun event. Everything was great -- from the slide show, the lists of classmates, White Elephant gift exchange, visiting with everyone, and of course the food. It was such fun to see those I don't see all the time!! Maybe since we behaved ourselves and didn't have fights on the premises, y'all will let us come back next year!! Thanks for all your help...
Robin (65) Henderson Robbins**

I want to thank you for a wonderful party. It was nice to have so many classes together. The slide show was great. My annuals are packed and I did not have a chance to go down memory lane. Thanks for the trip. I haven't been out much and needed to connect with the past again. May the person who came up with name tags be for ever blessed. I have always been awful with names. The "White Elephant" gifts were a lot of fun too. Thanks for sharing the GHS class spirit!! Having the party at the old high school brought so many fond memories. I know it took a lot of time and effort. Great fun! Thank's again. Rebecca (65) McNutt Milam

GHS Official Homecoming was this past October. Congratulations to my wife – Linda Ethridge Oliver for being inducted into the GHS Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumni this year! She was inducted along with John Agnew (63) as another Distinguished Alumni. Over the 102 years of Grapevine High School there have been 53 Alumni selected as Distinguished Alumni – so – I never pass up an opportunity to mention that the GHS Class of 1966 has the most inductees – over 11% of the inductees (six so far) – just to let everyone know we do other things besides having GET TOGETHERS!

As usual there was the (now Thursday) Homecoming Parade followed by the Bonfire and Community Pep Rally. On Friday morning in the GHS Library, and after the Pep Rally, there was the Ex-student Association Tea where the Hall of Fame Inductees were recognized. Also during this several day event, Mrs. Inez VanDeventer Morrison was honored as a “Coming Home Queen” from the GHS Class of 1938. Van’s (and Debbie’s) mom was also introduced at the pre-game ceremony of the Homecoming Football Game on Friday night. She celebrated her birthday the day of the Homecoming Parade!

Immediately after the tea Friday morning, there was a special ceremony in the GHS Campus Garden to unveil a Marker to celebrate the life and contributions of Ruth Ann Henderson Lloyd (GHS 1966), who taught English for many years at Grapevine High School. Ruth started the first grade with many in our class and I certainly know first-hand what a wonderful teacher she was at GHS. I want to thank Dr. Jerry Hollingsworth, GHS Principal, for his support of Homecoming and his personal efforts in making it a success, and to especially thank him on behalf of the GHS Class of 1966 for his efforts in recognizing one of ours, Ruth for her contributions to Grapevine High School. She is missed by many at GHS, her family, ex-students, the Community of Grapevine and certainly her classmates. This special event was also to establish a marker in memory of Robin Fehmel, who recently passed away. Robin was the Grapevine High School Secretary after the passing of Carolyn Frank. Robin was as loved by the GHS staff as

Carolyn was, and she is missed so much by her friends and colleagues. Robin's mother and other family members were present as was Ruth's daughter and Ruth's mother.

On Saturday evening of Homecoming weekend, the annual Ex-student Association Banquet was held at Austin Patio Ranch in Northeast Grapevine...it is still there! It was not so well attended by the Class of 1966, but there was a significant crowd. I was so pleased to see many of my ex-students from the Classes of 1978 (one of my favorite groups), students from 1974 (another favorite group), and 1976, 1975, 1984 and a large group from the class of 1968 (I did NOT teach any of that group). It was a great evening and a very nice ending to an action packed long-weekend.

I guess it is also time to send out a VERY SPECIAL "THANK YOU" to Mr. Russell Kidd, Class of 1980, for all his work in getting everything in place and working for the GHS Homecoming 2008. Russell, I hope everyone tells you just how much we appreciate your work and efforts in getting things put together. I know it can seem rather "thankless" at times, but the Exes are fortunate to have you working so hard for us! GHS HOMECOMING 2008 WAS A SUCCESS!

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, kind words and support for Donny and Beverly Kaker these past months. Donny returned home the week of December 8th. At my last report, Donny is continuing to improve from his early December bypass surgery. And, Beverly is continuing to recover from her knee surgery as well. Continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Thanks to Russell Kidd (Ex-student Association President) for keeping me posted on Donny's condition.

I wanted to let my classmates and others know that we have re-connected with Evelyn "Dobie" Gill! She and I have been exchanging emails and she has been checking out our class website for a number of weeks. She also wanted to me say "HI" to everyone and that she was sorry she was unable to attend our Dec 7th Event. It is always good to reconnect with our classmates and I can attest that Dobie (Evelyn is more appropriate) was happy to do so as well. She has had many nice things to say about her high school time at GHS and what fond memories she has of those days...not unlike the rest of us.

I have also (I think) discovered Jackie Morgan (who we have lost for a number of years). I think I have narrowed him down to a town in Virginia and have attempted to contact him via email – he has yet to read it...not sure if it is him, because he has just not checked or maybe he recognized my name! Anyway, I hope to soon have made that reconnection for our class.

Diane Stacy, at last report is continuing to improve and has about completed all the treatments. Rick said that she is still pretty "zapped" from those treatments. Continue to keep Diane, Rick and their family in your prayers – it has been a long road to recovery.

In mid-October, our good friend Dennis Roberts (of Cumbie Electric and then Dennis Electric of Grapevine), after a stress test showed some blockage, had heart surgery. He has been home for a number of weeks, and at last report was continuing to improve.

On November 6th, I received an email from Donny Huber (Class of 1968) informing me that his mother had passed away after a very long fight with Alzheimer's. Mr. and Mrs. Huber have been in the Woodridge Nursing Home (Dover Rd. in Grapevine) for a number of years. I know that Donny, Jerry and their dad appreciated everyone's kind words, cards, thoughtfulness and prayers.

I have also been in email contact recently with John Mitcham (Class of 1963). I know my class knows very well John's mother, Ms. Virginia Mitcham who was one of our pre-high school teachers at Grapevine. Most of us also know and attended school with Richard Mitcham and many know their younger brother Tim. I said that to explain that John Mitcham now goes by Bart Mitcham (I won't try to explain, other than to say it was due to numerous issues with his dad's name being John also and military issues). At any rate, Bart (John) was in Maxton, North Carolina in early November with his younger brother Tim attempting to break his previous old land speed record on a vintage motorcycle. Bart (John) said this would be the first time two brothers would hold land speed records on motorcycles. Tim was going to make his run for 175 mph license and Bart (John) was going for his 250 mph license. They were both driving bikes from the Bart (John) Heath racing team out of Atlanta. He was hoping for calm winds...I would be more concerned with being calm myself at 250 mph!

We sit poised to end 2008 within days of this December 2008 Newsletter being posted. I hope that your 2008 was a good one. I know that it has been especially difficult over the past six or more months for many in terms of the economy – gas prices have been at record highs (they are certainly better today), most regular living expenses have increased this year and if you had stock investments or retirement funds – you've certainly been frightened. And, many have lost and many more will likely lose jobs in the coming months. We have elected a new president, who will take office within a few weeks. We see a lot of difficulties in our country and throughout the world. I hated to start off or end the Newsletter with such a dark and negative tone, but there is hope you know!

This month we celebrate that hope - Christmas – the true meaning of Christmas. In spite of all that we hear, feel, and experience on that negative side, we have to find peace and understanding in our Faith and our Blessings. So, it is my wish to my wonderful friends and classmates that you find your Faith strong these days and in the coming months. We have all experienced so many wonderful blessings our Lord has provided to us, our families, classmates, and friends. It is always time to seek "Good Will" toward one another. It is always time to help one another, support one another, and pray for one another. It is always time to pray for our leaders and the leaders of others. It is always a time to "Wish Peace On Earth" for one another. It is always a time to say "Merry Christmas" instead of "happy holidays"! Christmas is so much above the commercialism and material gifts – it is about Faith, Family, Friends, Blessings, Salvation, and Worship. It is about each individual's trust in the Lord and your trust in your brothers and sisters in Christ. So, as we enter and go through this Christmas Season and enter into 2009, may you continue to find that "peace" in your Faith, may you continue to seek the Lord's will in all that you do, may you continue to praise God for all your blessings, and may you know that you have many friends and people who love you, that were a part of your life in Grapevine, Texas during the mid-fifties and through the mid-sixties – they are still there. Thank God for them – God Bless each of you, God bless the GHS Class of 1966, and wishing a very Merry Christmas to my classmates and to all our friends and classmates from other classes!

Most respectfully,
Larry Oliver