

# GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1966

## DECEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

*I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Wonderful, Joyous, and Prosperous New Year. Yes, it is December 2005....It was 40 Christmas Seasons ago since we celebrated Christmas as High School students...can you say "40"?*

*I hope your Christmas is a time of celebration. A time to celebrate the birth of Christ....a time to truly thank God for all the blessings we have and have had and will have...a time to celebrate family...a time to give...a time to appreciate...a time to bring special joys to children (maybe grandchildren or great grandchildren)...a time to treat people as we should all the time...a time of forgiveness...a time for so many wonderful things. However, it is also a time of depression for many. With all the joys and activities of Christmas, many are depressed. A feeling of loneliness can easily creep into one's thoughts. So, I challenge each of you to help make this Christmas a special time for those who may not see and feel all the joys of Christmas that so many do. Be mindful of those you see and greet during this holiday season...help make this Christmas as special as the GHS Class of 1966. Try greeting people with "Merry Christmas" and avoid some of the politically correct greetings (personal editorial). The true joy is in remembering what we truly are celebrating and giving – giving can be a smile, a greeting, a touch, even a knowing look. So share Christmas from your heart and your soul this year - that is always the best gift to those you meet, those you care for, and especially those you love and cherish.*

*Time seems to move quickly these days...and who would have ever thought some from our class would still be getting COAL in their stockings...like Yancey, Lipscomb, Faglie, Wilkins, Stevenson, Florence, Stacy, Havran, Grider, Linthicum, Box, Cumbie, and others. Most of the guys have managed to continue to refer to one another via last names. But, if you said Gary, John, Darrell, James, David, Bob, Rick or such...how would you know who you were referring to? That could be a carryover from Mrs. Stubblefield or with Larry-C, Larry-R and Larry- O for a number years. Larry Cox, Larry Robinson and I didn't really enjoy that so much. Or, in a later time – maybe all of this "last name" reference came from Mr. Jewett over the years or Tom Walker or Mickey Koonce, Helen Lucas or Woody Woodson...who knows?*

*It is also time to start planning for our 40<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion. Please mark your calendar. Plans are for the weekend of June 24, 2006...a mere six months away! More on that at the end of this Newsletter.*

I hope that this Newsletter finds you and your family doing well. I know that these past several months a number of things have happened that are worth mentioning:

Since our last newsletter, Jean Giddiens Soderberg's Mother passed away, former GHS teacher, Tom Jane Nowlin passed away on October 11<sup>th</sup>, former GHS student, Distinguished Alumni and renowned artist, Tony Eubanks continues to fight cancer, it wasn't until late October that Gaye Reed Johnson let us know that she had lost her oldest son seven months earlier, Janie Lipscomb (Joe's wife) lost her father this month, we re-connected with Carol Smith Strange and discovered that she has a muscle disease that limits her mobility, recently found that Betty Derby Vandiver's husband, Bill was scheduled for colon cancer surgery and upon pre-op checks discovered that he had a heart attack sometime between that day and September, we watched on TV the horrors of two hurricanes.

An event that I am not sure I shared was the terrible fire at the Woody Woodson home. In an email from Rick Stacy's Mom – "On Thursday morning, August 25, 2005 at 4:00 a.m. we awoke to discover that our house was on fire. By 6:00 a.m. we were completely homeless." – a terrible experience related to the Stacy family in an email from Mrs. Woodson. As an update they have recently purchased a new home in Chandler, Texas and are continuing to re-establish their home. Please keep Coach Woodson and his family in your prayers as well.

By the way, Bill Vandiver has been able to reschedule his cancer surgery for January 4, 2006...please keep Bill, Betty and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

For those who don't know, Alice Bufford Perkins has moved from the Metroplex to Arkansas and started a new job in Little Rock in November.

Sharon Huffman Smith's mother celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> with a party at their church for family and church family in Commerce, Texas.

I thought you might like to read an email I got from Carol Smith Strange after she found the ghsclassof1966.com website:

*Larry, I had a chance to go through all of the reunions and newspaper clippings and it was wonderful. I couldn't remember everyone, but I did know most of*

*you. This site is a trip through memory lane from the beginning to the end. The old memories just came flooding through my mind. We were so blessed to have grown up in that time frame when times were simple and fun. Just for the record, I have one daughter Tara and two grandsons, Corey and Justin. My daughter lives in Watauga and is only 7 minutes from me. My dad Perry Smith passed away in 1987 and mom Anna Smith passed away in 2001. I do miss them but I know where they are. My husband's name is Glen and we have been married twenty wonderful years. He has been helping me since 1996 when I was diagnosed with severe fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome; I don't know what I would have done without him. Keep sending the Newsletters because I enjoy them so much. Sincerely, Carol Smith Strange.*

On Saturday, December 4, 2005, a number of our classmates and friends had a little "Christmas Get-Together" at the home of Darrell and Donna Faglie. In attendance were the following classmates: Caroline Cason Wilkinson, Larry Cox, Gary Cumbie, Betty Derby Vandiver, Barbara Ethridge, Darrell Faglie, Donny Young Faglie, Darla Eubanks Cooper, Randy Flanagan, Lavoy Grider, Mary Lynn Millican Fuller, Doug Moore, Van Morrison, Larry Oliver, James Peek, Terry Stephens, and Johnnie Mae Washington Braddock – of course spouses were also present along with some special guests: David Barnes, Cindy Frye Barnes, Lynda Yarbrough Hawkins, Pat Tillery, Barbara Hudson Musik, James and Leann Baber. The event had lots of good food, deserts, and snacks. All were also treated to a visual experience with the beautiful decorations at the Faglie's that included hundreds of Snow Village pieces! After snacks, viewing of the decorations, eating dinner, and lots of talking we had a White Elephant Gift Exchange that brought some significant excitement to the evening. Be sure and ask Jim Peek about his "brief" case and Cyndi Frye Barnes about her "light bulb" that got away! A Great time was had by all...it is always a special time when members of the Class of 1966 gather together! Thanks to everyone who attended for their attendance, gifts, and wonderful time of visiting. Hope to have some photos of this event on the website soon...keep checking.

We also want to tell Ron Stever, a special guest from Illinois who has never attended one of his own high school classmates get-togethers or reunions...he is just about our age (actually a little older, but he won't mind me saying). At any rate, he told me that he had called his sister in Illinois and told her that he was coming to his next class reunion – we made him view things differently and he asked me to tell everyone what a great time he had meeting everyone – and, he wants to be invited to our Ole Whiskers Get-Togethers in the future.

We hope for future Christmases that we can attract more of our class to attend! I know you'd have a great time!

By the way, since we had our last Newsletter, Kathy Barnes Dirmeier (now) has gotten married! Maybe this should have been the number one item in the

Newsletter! She was married to Mike Dirmeier on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005. I know that each of you join me in wishing Kathy and Mike happiness and the best life has to offer. Send her a note when you get time to wish her well.

[OK...Mark your calendar...make all the necessary plans to attend ---](#)

## **THE 40<sup>th</sup> YEAR REUNION of the GHS Class of 1966 Weekend of June 23, 24 and 25, 2006**

Plans are still being finalized, but tentative plans have been – for some time to have a place that those who are able can come on

### **Friday evening, June 23, 2006**

Social Time - to gather and visit from 7p.m. until 10 p.m.

### **Saturday June 24, 2006**

Brunch – serving from 9-10 a.m. for those who can attend.

Dinner, Music, visiting, Saturday Evening, 7 p.m. until midnight.

### **Sunday Morning, June 25, 2006**

Breakfast for those who are able to attend.

***STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.  
JUST BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN ON BEING WITH  
OUR CLASS IN JUNE 2006!***

Please keep in touch or let me know if you change mailing address, phone numbers, etc.....and, if you know the address of anyone we do not have a good address for, please let me know.

As of today, I THINK that I do not have a mailing address, phone number or any way of contacting the following:

**Doris Jean Jones**

**Jerry Bates**

**Gail Defibaugh**

**Janice Jordan McElroy**

**Jill Carlson Williams**

**Pat Bates**

**Betty McQuade**

**Jim Stockton**

**Dobie (Evelyn) Gill**

**Quentin Hix**

**Randy Doty**

**Jackie Morgan**

**Bill Tutt**

**Kenneth Hughes**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!**

**Larry Oliver**