

Great Smoky Mountain Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities

June 2018 Newsletter

Gsmec.org

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Upcoming 2018 Walks/Flights

*Fall – Men’s Emmaus Walk #110 – September 20th-23rd,
2018 (Currently 2 pilgrims signed up)*

Fall – Chrysalis Flight – Oct 13th-15th, 2018

*Fall – Women’s Walk #111 – November 1st – 4th, 2018
(Currently 5 pilgrims signed up)*

A HUGE THANK YOU TO

Sandy Hagan and her reunion group who have faithfully and tirelessly volunteered to manage the book table at all the GSMEC walks over many, many years. Sandy and her group have decided to retire from the book table part of the weekend. The group is from Loudon and with our new location in Sevierville, it is a very long trip to make several times in a weekend.

The GSMEC has decided to change course for the book table for future walks. This spring we have tried a new format and it has been met with enthusiastic response. We now offer slightly loved books at the book table for free. The books have been donated by team members who had books to share. Pilgrims love the free books and they have been flying off the tables. With that said, we currently have a plethora of books and are not accepting any more books at this time.

Offering the free books does not require ordering books from a bookstore, picking up those books, hauling books to the walk, setting up the book table, overseeing the book table, collecting money, packing everything up, reconciling sales with the bookstore and GSMEC, returning unsold items to the bookstore.

As you can see above, it is quite a commitment to do the book table. So once again, A HUGE SHOUTOUT OF THANKS TO SANDY HAGAN AND HER REUNION GROUP!

NEW PILGRIM FEES AND NEW PILGRIM APPLICATIONS

Starting with the Fall 2018 walks, pilgrim applications have changed and so have the fees. Since we no longer have the book table as paid sales, that left us with the question of how do we allow pilgrims to purchase GSMEC T shirts? The board decided to increase pilgrim fees to cover the cost of a shirt, increased food costs and a few other items that have increased as well. The new pilgrim fee is \$99. Pilgrim fees have not increased in over 15 years.

Any applications submitted after June 1, 2018, need to be submitted on the new applications with the new fees. There are currently two applications for the men's walk and five applications for the women's walk in the fall. Those applications will be grandfathered at the old rates but they will be offered the option to purchase a T shirt.

We will not accept any old applications. If you have copies of the old applications, please destroy those. If you submit an old application, you will be emailed a new one and asked to complete the application along with the appropriate fees. New applications are now available at gsmec.org/forms

June Gathering

The June gathering will be on Saturday, June 16th at 6:30pm at Trinity United Methodist Church.

5613 Western Ave, Knoxville, TN 37921

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA

Last Fall we had a fun and wonderful gathering at a park in Pigeon Forge. We had a picnic with burgers, dogs, and all the side and desserts you could eat. We also had a bunch of games and contests with gift card prizes. We had a blast. Well we are going to do it again Saturday, July 21st. **Mark your calendars now.**

Details for Times and Location will be coming soon.

Team Selection News

Hey GSMEC Community! We had great teams come together and support Walks 108 and 109 this spring. A huge THANK YOU to all those individuals who stepped forward and volunteered their time and energy to make both these Walks successful!

We are now recruiting men to serve on Walk 110 in September and women to serve on Walk 111 in November. It takes about 40 community member volunteers for each Walk to staff the Conference Room, Music Team, Prayer Chapel, and Agape Team.

We need some folk to step forward and volunteer to serve on these teams to make the recruiting job easier. If you would like to serve on either of these two Walks, don't wait for someone to call you. Please call, text, or email Lee Carleston at (865) 384-2602 or carlestonl@aol.com without delay to indicate your interest and availability.

In putting a Team together, the goal of the Team Selection committee is to recruit Team members using a 1/3 – 1/3 – 1/3 guideline. This means 1/3 of the Team should be new community members who have not previously served on a Team or have served one time. It also means 1/3 of the Team should be persons who have previously served on 2-3 Teams. And finally, it means 1/3 of the Team should have four or more Walks experience (these are normally the persons who serve in the leadership positions). As part of recruiting for a Walk we try to get the Team members from geographical areas across the GSMEC region and we try to get a representation from the various churches and church denominations.

If you were blessed on your Walk as a Pilgrim, I know you will be even more blessed in serving on a Team and being a part of the experience of the new Pilgrims. Think about it this way. If there had not been 40 men or women who volunteered to serve on the Walk you attended as a Pilgrim, you may not have been able to attend that Walk and receive the blessings you received. Right now, there are men and women who have already signed up and there are those who are currently being invited to attend the upcoming Fall Walks. Without volunteers to serve on these Teams, that might affect the experience of those planning to attend. God will use you in a mighty way in the lives of these Pilgrims. Come be a part of these Teams and something special.

DeColores!

Lee Carleston

Progressive Servanthood And YOU!

The Walk to Emmaus Walks are staffed by volunteers from the GSMEC community. And, it takes all the members of the Community to step up and help at some time. Walk team positions are not just for persons who have been in the Community for many years and worked many Walks. Teams also have positions that need to be filled by persons who are relatively new to the Community and do not have any Walk team experience.

The Emmaus model and Team Selection Committee use “Progressive Servanthood” to recruit team members. So, just what is Progressive Servanthood and how do I fit in, you ask.

First off, let me assure you that you are not going to get called to be the Walk Lay Director on the next upcoming Walk. Nor, do we expect you to be available to help with every Walk that is conducted.

Progressive Servanthood is based on Community members participating in Emmaus activities in gradual steps. The first steps are seen in persons coming to monthly Gatherings, maybe getting started in a Reunion Group, coming to help serve a meal or two, coming to work in the kitchen for a meal or two, coming to a Candlelight service, sponsoring someone on a Walk, or participating in a Prayer Vigil. Easy, simple things that do not take any experience or a big commitment, can be fun, and keeps you connected to Emmaus.

The next set of steps comes when you get a call to come and help with a specific activity. Most everyone will get a call to come help on a Walk Agape Team doing behind-the-scenes support work during a Walk. Remember the agape food table? The information and letter packets you received? The clean bathrooms? The agape gift items you found on your pillow or at your place at the table? Again, easy things to learn or tasks to perform but with a little bit more time commitment. Or it might be a call to be an assistant in the Prayer Chapel.

The next volunteer opportunity or step is to serve as an Assistant Table Leader. Again, an easy step to take... you get to sit and literally participate in a Walk as a Pilgrim again. Only this time, you help and learn from the Table Leader and serve the Pilgrims at your table by being a new friend and sharing their experience. Or, maybe if you are musically talented, you might be invited to be a Music Team Assistant.

The next step would be to serve as a Table Leader. And, maybe give one of the Talks.

Only after you have done a number of these things above would you be asked to serve in Walk leadership.

Please, do not think that you are not capable or worthy of such a task. From the Pilgrims on each Walk, we need volunteers to step forward and serve. And, God has His way of preparing you for the tasks that He needs you for. We all have different skill sets and life experiences that can be vital to a Pilgrim’s experience and working on a Walk in some capacity builds your experience and confidence level.