
GSMEC NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Gatherings

Our Gathering Schedule has changed for 2019. We have now set our Gatherings to be the 2nd Saturday of Each month. There were several of the 3rd Saturdays that fell on a Holiday this year. So be sure to update your calendars with the new Gathering Schedule.

We are also going to start having a rotating location of our gatherings around the community area. If you would like to host a gathering at your church or other location, let Stephanie Wasserman know at gatherings@gsmec.org.

February Gathering – 2/9/19

The February Gathering will be at Trinity United Methodist Church - 5613 Western Ave. Knoxville, TN 37921 at 6:30pm

The GSMEC Board of Directors has made a decision to implement a new Board Structure for our community which will streamline and unify our Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis programs. Please come to the February Gathering to hear a brief presentation about the change and have any questions answered. We will still have our Pot Luck dinner and fellowship.

UPCOMING WALKS/FLIGHTS

- 2/16-18 Spring Chrysalis Flight
3/14-17 Men's Walk to Emmaus
4/25-28 Women's Walk to Emmaus
9/12-15 Men's Walk to Emmaus
11/7-10 Women's Walk to Emmaus

Walks/Flights are held at
Sevierville First United Methodist
Church
214 Cedar Street, Sevierville, TN

Team Selection Report

The team for men's Walk 111 is nearly all recruited and Team meetings start Feb. 2.

The team for women's Walk 112 is starting to come together. Debbie Bunch will be serving as Lay Director and Elizabeth Stooksbury has accepted the invitation to serve as the Lay Director In-Training. The Team Selection meeting for Walk 112 is scheduled for Jan. 29 and call lists for ALDs, TLs, ATLS, Music Team, Prayer Chapel, Clergy, and Agape Team will be developed then. Recruitment calls will start soon after. If you get a call, please prayerfully consider serving on this team and the Pilgrims that God is lining up to attend.

Leadership positions for the fall 2019 Walks are being confirmed and preparations for those Walks have already begun. If you would like to be considered for serving on Walk 113 (men's) or Walk 114 (women's) please contact Lee Carlestone by email, phone, or at one of our monthly Gatherings. Without the participation of the whole GSMEC Community it would be impossible to conduct our Walks.

If you are one of the many who have gotten rid of an old-fashioned land line and gone to just a cell phone, please let us know your new cell or contact number. Over the past few years, with the changeover to cell phones, many of the contact numbers that are in our database are out-of-date, out of service, or have been reassigned to new customers. If you have a new number, please send it in to me at team_selection@gsmec.org

Thanks for your support!

DeColores! - Lee

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CHRYSALIS

The Next Chrysalis Flight is on February 16th – 18th. They still have a few needs from our Community for this Flight to be successful. The person in charge of the Candlelight is on a Flight team and they need some more help setting up for Candlelight on Sunday Night around 6pm.

They can still use more Caterpillars so if you know of any youth who have not been on a Flight and can sponsor them, go to gsmec.org/forms and get an application and let Herb Piercy know at [\(865\) 414-7040](tel:8654147040).

Prayer is also a big part of every weekend. Our Prayer Vigil still has spots available. Go to the [Prayer Vigil](#) and sign up to pray for the flight in 30 minute time slots. This is the best support you can give.

As always you can keep up to date on Chrysalis info at our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/GSMECKnoxville/
Or at our website GSMEC.ORG

Send Chrysalis Questions or requests to help to info@gsmchrysalis.org

Chrysalis Weekend Schedule

Saturday February 16th

Start 8am

Sunday February 17th

Candlelight 8pm

Monday February 18th

End 5pm

Sponsors – Call to Action

At the January GSMEC board meeting we reviewed walk attendance data from Emmaus walks #11 through #110. What jumped out at us is the sharp decline in pilgrim attendance starting around walk #103. This just happens to be the walk I attended and I pray that the attendance decline has nothing to do with me being there! Since that walk, with one exception, we have been below the average attendance and also below our financial breakeven point for each walk. Finances aside, we have not been assisting the number of pilgrims becoming true disciples for Jesus that we have in the past.

To be honest, the board is not sure why this has happened. We brainstormed a lot of ideas and will be putting action plans in place to redouble our efforts to give every Christian in our area an awareness of this great opportunity to get closer to our Lord and Savior.

But one thing we know for sure, we cannot have a pilgrim, if we don't have a sponsor first. Sponsors are those that have attended an Emmaus walk or Chrysalis flight and have recognized a member of their personal or church family as a potential pilgrim. The sponsor gives the pilgrim their first taste of true agape love that will be demonstrated over and over on the walk. The sponsor not only prayerfully recommends a pilgrim, but stands in for them should their family need anything while they attend the walk. The sponsor also attends candlelight and closing and ensures that the pilgrim attends 4th day.

We have an Emmaus community of over 2500 pilgrims who have experienced a more personal love of Jesus by attending an Emmaus Walk. Won't you consider sponsoring someone who could benefit from what you already know? As of our January board meeting, we have only 1 pilgrim committed to the spring men's walk starting on March 14th. Now is the time to pray for approaching and encouraging potential pilgrims to attend the spring men's walk. Please see the website at GSMEC.org for applications and additional information.

De Colores, Todd Fisher - Community Lay Director

2018 GSMEC Financial Report

Greetings, blessings and peace to everyone in the community!

I've recently taken over the role of treasurer for GSMEC, and while we didn't quite break even this year, we see some upside for 2019 as the new board is generating new ideas and programs to bring new enthusiasm to our community.

We had cash receipts in 2018 of \$10,896, of which 82% was from walk/team fees. This also included \$922 of donations from the community, which accounted for 8% of our collections.

Our biggest expense is food for the walks, and we also have significant administrative expenses for walk supplies, crosses, T-shirts, Upper Room fees, photography, donations to Sevierville First United Methodist church, etc. We also had a larger than normal expense for information technology in 2018 – we had a 5-year renewal for the website and had to purchase a new computer to accommodate media for the walks. Other administrative fees (music licensing, Secretary of State fees, insurance, post office box, etc.), added to the total. Two areas of concern are filling up the walks and attendance at the Gatherings. We need to fill up the walks (20 pilgrims) to break even, and we rarely break even on the expenses for the Gatherings, mainly due to child care expenses. Here is a summary of income and expenses for 2018:

INCOME:

Walk/Team Fees	- \$8,929
Food/General Donations	- 922
Gathering Collections	- 825
Miscellaneous:	- 220
TOTAL INCOME:	-\$10,896

EXPENSES:

Walk/Gathering Expenses	- \$7,765
Administrative	- 4,067
TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$11,832

NET LOSS: - \$935

So how can you help?

Prayerfully consider how you might get involved, whether it be through your time, talent or treasures. One of the most impactful things you can do is sponsor pilgrims for the walks. And please come to the Gatherings! You'll be seeing new programs on how we as a community can reach out beyond ourselves to help others.

De Colores!

Joy Fisher
Treasurer

CONTACT US-

AS ALWAYS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR YOUR GSMEC BOARD, PLEASE LET US KNOW. YOU CAN SEND EMAILS TO

COMMUNICATIONS@GSMEC.ORG

Also our new board positions and contact info are at GSMEC.org/leadership