

---

---

# GSMEC NEWSLETTER

---

---

April 2019

## Gathering for April

We are planning to start having a rotating location for our gatherings around the community area. If you would like to suggest a location, let Stephanie Wasserman know at [gatherings@gsmecc.org](mailto:gatherings@gsmecc.org).

### **Bake Off**

We are going to have a bake-off fundraiser at our gathering this Saturday! Categories are best pie, best cookie, best cake, and an overall favorite. Voting will be done by placing dollar bills in jars next to each dessert.

We will still need dinner. So bring a dish or side to share. Drinks will be provided.

Sponsors, please remind your previous pilgrims and butterflies to join us. Let's help remind each other the importance of community.

### **April– 4/13/19**

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

## UPCOMING WALKS/FLIGHTS

**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

A huge "Thank You" goes out to all the men who made the commitment to serve on the Walk 111 Team for the weekend. And, much appreciation goes to the four men who stepped up last minute to serve as the Agape Team and served behind the scenes. You all made a lasting impression on the Pilgrims whom you served.

The Team Selection process is getting ready to start up in the next few weeks for the team for mens' Walk 113 which will take place in September. If you would like to serve on the Team and are willing to commit to attending several team meetings, the Walk weekend, and the Fourth Day follow-up meeting, I would love to hear from you. We need about 30 men to make up the Conference Room Team and Agape Team. If you would like to volunteer to serve, please contact Lee Carleston via email at [carlestonl@aol.com](mailto:carlestonl@aol.com) or call 865-384-2602 ASAP.

A brief note on the commitment to serve on a Walk Team... the Walk leadership expectation is that team members will attend all meetings and the 72 hours of the Walk weekend. Although there may be some last-minute unplanned emergencies that arise, planned meetings for other organizations and weekend retreats should NOT be considered an excuse for missing an Emmaus Team meeting. Over the last few years, there have been a number of instances where folk are trying to serve on an Emmaus Walk team while at the same time serving on a Chrysalis, Kairos, Kairos

*continued on page 2*

## CHRYSALIS

Chrysalis is planning to have a flight over Labor Day weekend in the fall. We are looking for a Boy's Lay Director for this weekend. Anyone who is interested or have an idea of someone who may be, let us know.

Contact Debbie Pope

[info@gsmchrysalis.org](mailto:info@gsmchrysalis.org)

[865-254-9229](tel:865-254-9229)

Outside, or other church event with conflicting dates. And, they make the choice to not attend an Emmaus meeting because they "have to" be at the other event, thinking it will be OK for them to miss. That absence hurts and detracts from Walk Team training, team building, and preparations for all that have committed to serving on that Team. That is why when you receive a call to serve, we ask that you prayerfully consider serving and look at your calendar before saying "Yes".

Again, thanks to all who are making the commitment to serve on Walks and the new Pilgrims who attend. You are blessing!

DeColores!

Lee Carleston

### **Thank You**

Thank you, Emmaus community, for allowing me to share at the Gathering about my brother's battle with ALS and how this disease affects, not only the patient, but the families that love and care for them. As I mentioned, this is a very expensive disease that there is no cure for at the present time. Thanks to your generosity, a donation of \$200 has been made to The ALS Association Tennessee Chapter in the name of The Great Smoky Mountain Emmaus Community. Thank you for this gift and your prayers as we continue to search for a cure.

Don Manley

## Emmaus Community Lay Director

Your Testimonial can change a Life

As Christians we have heard people give testimonies of how Jesus transformed their lives when they became believers. As we listened, we felt encouraged that God was moving in people's lives. We knew that He was still in the healing business when we learned of a cure that the doctors could not explain. We rejoiced when we heard of family members or friends that were saved by the forgiveness of God through Christ's death and resurrection.

Remember how the Walk to Emmaus lit a spiritual fire in you and how you testified that it brought you closer to Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. I'm sure you told your friends and family about how wonderful it felt to be spiritually renewed.

We need to bring those testimonials to a wider audience. We would like to put your words on the GSMEC.org website. Rev Stephen Burkhart, our new Community Spiritual Director started this process by asking for testimonials for a brochure. Let's keep it going. Send your testimonials to [cld@gsmec.org](mailto:cld@gsmec.org). You can sign them, or we could use just your first name, or you can keep them anonymous. It is up to you. We would also like to see some videos. If you want to make one, we'd love that also.

Let's reach out to those needing His touch of comfort and forgiveness. Let's tell the world that their walk will change their life!

De Colores, Todd Fisher

## My Emmaus Walk Testimony

Hello! My name is Roxy England and I was a pilgrim on the Women's Emmaus Walk #110 in November, 2018.

As many of you may or may not know, I was not feeling well for several months. I think it started last spring around the time I was dealing with skin cancer, but I wasn't just physically sick. I had been sick in my spirit as well and had been consumed by negative thoughts and anger for quite a while. My heart was broken and the devil was certainly enjoying himself at my expense! I let the cares of this world weigh me down and I dug a hole for myself that just got deeper and deeper as the days went by. But thankfully, GOD wasn't done with me yet. He brought one of my TJ Maxx customers, Lola, into my life to be my friend (her husband, Gerry, is pastor of Bethel UMC in Kodak). My days are always better when I get to see Lola and, as I've gotten to know her, I have found her joy for the Lord contagious. We were talking one day about the Emmaus Walk and about how much it helped my sister with her grief after her son died and Lola asked me if I would like to go on one. Needless, to say, I said "yes" and here I am!

For me, the Emmaus Walk was a 72-hour experience that helped my faith be renewed and restored. My pastor's wife calls it "a spa for the soul" and I have to agree! It was a weekend of Bible study, faith-sharing, activities and singing that is meant to rejuvenate our love for GOD and remind us of why we decided to follow Him in the first place. And the food...I think I gained 5lbs, lol! We also sang a Spanish folk song called DE COLORES every time we went to eat, and even though I didn't understand the words

*continued on page 4*

## **Walk Weekend**

The Women's Walk is April 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. If you would like to help please contact us at [communications@gsmec.org](mailto:communications@gsmec.org) and we can tell you where we need helpers.

There are also a few opportunities to help with the walk in person throughout the weekend.

Schedule of Events for the Community

Send-off - Thursday, starting at 6:30 pm

Candlelight - Saturday, starting at 7:45pm

Closing – Sunday starting at 4 pm

As always you can come and help serve at any of the meals or help with the Agape Team.

The location for the walk is:

SEVIERVILLE FIRST UMC

214 CEDAR STREET

SEVIERVILLE, TN 37862

Thank you for all your prayers and support on this and all our Walk Weekends.

very good or why we had to sing it, we had fun singing it anyway. For the first time in a very long time I experienced genuine agape love, acceptance and forgiveness and am now learning again to “let go and let GOD”. It's easier said than done, but every day is better than the day before and, with GODs guidance, I am trusting Him more and more and giving Him all the things that are bothering me. GOD is sooo very good!

As Christians, I think our faith needs to be refreshed continually during our walk with GOD. And even though a new car or a new house or even a new job can do wonders for our mental health, those are only temporary things. We don't always think about our relationship with GOD, but His love and guidance is what we REALLY need, don't you agree? Being reminded of why we chose GOD (or He chose us) is what warms our hearts on the bitter cold days of life when we feel like giving up...GOD will always be our ray of sunshine!

Since my walk, GOD has given me the opportunity to help with the Chrysalis Flight in February and the Men's Walk a couple weeks ago and now I'm preparing to serve on the Women's Walk in April...what a blessing! I will be forever grateful to Lola for taking the time to share her experience with me and help me to become a member of this fabulous and loving Emmaus community!

De Colores!

Roxy

If you would like to share your Emmaus testimony, please send them to [cld@gsmec.org](mailto:cld@gsmec.org)

*Date: May 18, 2019*

*Time: 4:00*

*Spring*



*Extravaganza!*



*Sandy Springs Park  
Maryville, TN*

*Join us for worship,  
fellowship, games,  
and more!!*

**Hamburgers, hot dogs, and  
drinks will be provided.  
Please bring a side or  
dessert to share.**

*Bring a friend—*

## 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](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@GSMEC.ORG)

Also our new board positions and contact info are at [GSMEC.org/leadership](https://GSMEC.org/leadership)