
GSMEC NEWSLETTER

July 2019

Gatherings

July – 7/13/19

The July Gathering will be at Beulah Church - 907 Kimberlin Heights Rd, Knoxville, 37920 at 6:00pm

The GSMEC Community is invited to a local catch fish fry for the gathering this month. Awesome fried fish, baked potatoes, hush puppies and slaw will be provided. Bring a salad or desert and a beverage as you are able. We will gather in Beulah Sanctuary for a Lord's Table celebration after the meal.

UPCOMING WALKS/FLIGHTS

8/31-9/2 Chrysalis Flight
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

Would you like to be an important part of an Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flight?

The community now has a new Laptop for use in the conference room for Lyrics and Talk Presentations, among other possible uses. We have MediaShout 6.0, which is a great fairly easy to learn and use platform for this purpose. We need trained volunteers to be the technical person in the conference room for the teams.

GSMEC is asking for volunteers to learn MediaShout so that you can say "Yes, God has led me to serve", when called to serve. I would like to have several Men, Women, Guys, and Gals to train. If you are interested in learning MediaShout 6.0 so you can add your name to the volunteer list, please contact me at mike.ooten@gmail.com and let me know. When we have a few people interested in learning, I will set up a session.

DeColores/Fly with Christ

Mike Ooten - Great Smoky Mountain Community Trainer.

This Article was run this month in the Holston Conference Newsletter
<https://holston.org/about/districts/smoky-mountain/district-newsletter-2/>

Great way to share about Emmaus/Chrysalis:

THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN EMMAUS/CHRYSLIS COMMUNITY

If you are looking for....

- * A renewed relationship with Christ
- * A deeper understanding of Christ's love and grace
- * A community of friendships that hold you accountable on your journey
- * Growth in intimacy with Christ

Consider attending an Emmaus Walk (adults) or a Chrysalis Flight (youth)

WHAT IS AN EMMAUS WALK AND A CHRYSLIS FLIGHT?

The Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis is an experience of spiritual renewal and formation intended to strengthen the local church through development of Christian disciples and leaders. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. Chrysalis Flights are designed for 10th -12th graders.

The walks and flights are a 72 hour short course in Christianity, comprised of 15 talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. There are special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion.

The following is a personal testimony.

"Hi, my name is Stephanie Wasserman and I am a member of the Great Smoky Mountain Emmaus/Chrysalis Community. My experience is a little different than most. When I was a sophomore in high school, I attended Chrysalis with my best friend. This 3-day spiritual growth experience led me to a deeper understanding of God's love. I dove in head first! I served on every flight, attended candlelight for both Chrysalis and Emmaus, sponsored family and friends, and even served on the Chrysalis board. The encouragement to be a leader within my church as well as a community of like-minded peers and adults kept me in church during my college years when it would have been easy to let busyness keep me away. When I got married, I moved to Danville, we landed in a church who supported a strong Emmaus community. I was drawn back into the love of serving and the shared experience of this special weekend. They did not have a Chrysalis community and were not familiar with the similarities, so I attended Emmaus. It was interesting to attend as an adult pregnant with my first child, but God had a plan. When we moved back to Knoxville, I reconnected with GSMEC. I am currently on the board and facilitate our monthly gatherings, which are fellowship and worship opportunities. I love being surrounded by a community that encourages me to serve-with Emmaus/Chrysalis but also with my home church. I am looking forward to serving on the upcoming Chrysalis flight and sponsoring friends on the upcoming Emmaus walks. I believe in what this community has to offer - both for youth and adults. Our God is a big and mighty God and He shows up when we are willing to surrender to spend time in prayer, study and action. God is good all the time! DeColores and Fly with Christ!

To find out how to participate go to gsmec.org

You can contact me, Debbie Pope, Community Lay Director

debbielevepope@gmail.com

Emmaus Registration

REMINDER: NEW APPLICATIONS AND FEES

Please use new applications when registering your pilgrims. Tshirts are now included in the team fees and we need to know the shirt size and color your pilgrim wants. Also, please get your applications in before the last week as last minute shirts are hard to get. Pilgrim fees are now \$99 while sponsor fees remain at \$40.

Reunion Groups

Calling all Reunion Groups!

Here are updates from last month:

Location	Name	Gender	Contact	Phone	Meet Time/Day	Meet Location	Open/Close
Maryville, TN	Brothers of the Carpenter	M	Steve Larrabee	865-567-1950	6:30-8:30pm/Mon	1806 Southcliff Dr. Maryville, TN 37803	Open
Lenoir City, TN		M	Chuck Lammi	865-323-0804	6:30am/Tues	ATC Center, Rt 321N	Open
Lenoir City, TN		F	Sandy Hagan	865-621-8999	6:30 pm first Monday	Central UMC, Lenoir City	Open
Knoxville, TN	Joyful Gathering	F	Suzy Ooten	865-805-8822	6:00pm Tuesday	Trinity UMC, Knox	Open
West Knoxville, TN	Thurs Lunch Bunch	M	Lee Carleston	865-384-2602	11:30am-12:30pm/Thurs	Looking for new loc.	Open
Townsend, TN	Tuckaleechee R. G.	Both	Joe & Brenda Wilson	865-981-1032	6pm/Sun	Tuckaleechee UMC	Open
Clinton, TN		M	Jim Hayes	865-494-7502	9:00am/Fri	Golden Girls Restaurant Exit 122 I75N	Open
Oak Ridge, TN		M	Richard Schulman	865-680-9429	12:00pm - 12:30pm prayer 2:30pm - 1:30pm reunion	Robertsville Baptist Church	Open
Oak Ridge, TN		W	Wanda Schulman	865-680-9429	12:00pm - 12:30pm prayer 2:30pm - 1:30pm reunion	Robertsville Baptist Church	Open
Oak Ridge National Labs		M	Dale Hensley	865-661-2988	12 noon/Wed	ORNL	By Invite

If you have an active reunion group that is not listed here, please send your information to treasurer@gsmec.org. Also, please consider doing agape gifts for the upcoming fall walks. A total quantity of 40 items will cover everyone at the walk. Thank you! Joy Fisher

AGAPE



Agape is more than just the gifts we give the Pilgrims and the snack food they eat.

The definition of Agape from www.gotquestions.org: “The Greek word *agape* is often translated “love” in the New Testament. How is “agape love” different from other types of love? The essence of agape love is goodwill, benevolence, and willful delight in the object of love. Unlike our English word *love*, *agape* is not used in the New Testament to refer to romantic or [sexual love](#). Nor does it refer to close friendship or [brotherly love](#), for which the Greek word *philia* is used. Agape love involves faithfulness, commitment, and an act of the will. It is distinguished from the other types of love by its lofty moral nature and strong character.” So if it has been a minute since your Walk to Emmaus journey, you may not remember what things were unselfishly done for you while you were in the conference room, sleeping or eating. Here is what the Agape Team does during the weekend. And this is really just a taste, as the Agape Team is there to ensure the pilgrim wants for NOTHING!

They make the Pilgrim’s beds, ensure the sanctuary is ready for every session, collect letters for the Pilgrim’s and Team, ensure extra toiletries are out in the bathrooms, ready the conference room for every session by cleaning and restocking as needed, serve meals as requested, clean bathrooms every day, prepare the communion elements each time communion will be served and clean up after each communion, assist the photographer with the photo plates and set up, prepare the coffee station for the Pilgrim’s and team each morning, launder towels each day, ensure the Agape snack table is full and drinks are available, distribute Agape gifts, and run errands into town as necessary, and let me tell you it is necessary several times during the walk! Whew!

It is one of the most rewarding jobs I have done on a walk. It is also one of the most exhausting! But at the end of the weekend once I have recovered I am always ready to do it again! Won’t you help out on the next Men’s or Women’s walk by working the Agape team? Contact me if you are interested!

Sylvia M. Creswell, Agape Board Chair, screswello2@yahoo.com, 865-599-3281.

Prayer Vigils

All of our fall prayer vigils are ready to sign up. Go the following link to sign up for Chrysalis Flight, Men's Fall Walk, & Women's Fall Walk

https://signup.com/group/974390496046?utm_source=group-badge-volunteer-green

We need your help to fill all these prayer times for all 3 Fall Weekends

There is also a link on the website so send your friends there to sign up.

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