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# GSMEC NEWSLETTER

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August 2019

## Gatherings

August – 8/10/19

The August Gathering will be at  
Trinity UMC - 5613 Western Ave,  
Knoxville, TN 37921  
at 6:30pm

Emmaus and Chrysalis friends! We are so excited about this weekend's gathering! The theme will be butterflies since we are going to commission the upcoming flight. Please come support our youth and the adults who serve them.

### 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](mailto: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.

## Mid-Year Financial Update

Thanks to the generosity of the Emmaus community, our financial situation has stabilized since my report at the beginning of the year. We've had several generous donations that will help us continue to provide this important ministry to God's kingdom. Our current bank balance at the end of June was almost \$9,000 (although we have an insurance bill paid in July that will reduce our cash by a little over \$1,000), and our year-to-date surplus was just above \$3,000. We've had a slight growth in the number of pilgrims on the walks and we had a very large agape team on the women's walk, both of which also helped contribute to the surplus. The board continues to work hard at keeping expenses low. We praise God for touching the hearts of our community members and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have helped us in resolving this situation.

Joy Fisher  
Treasurer

### **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.

## Are You a Servant Leader Like Jesus?

Servant Leadership is one of those topics that has a descriptive title but is complex to truly describe. I think that the best way to understand what it means is to study the greatest example of a servant leader, Jesus Christ.

When He was asked by the Father to come down to earth to save His children, Jesus:  
Had a goal - to save us from our sins and establish His Church.

Had a plan - It began with Him being born of a poor virgin girl engaged to a carpenter. For 30 years He grew and matured in relative obscurity, yet lived as the perfect son and young man. The last 3 1/2 years of His life, He turned the world upside down by being the perfect Servant Leader.

How did He accomplish this?

First, He recruited a diverse team of ordinary men to follow Him.

He led them by example, not commands - talking in parables, and slowly revealing Himself as the Son of God.

He trained them to become leaders themselves, to carry on when He would no longer be among them on earth.

He earned their trust by always doing what He said and by removing the obstacles that confronted them and taking the criticism when the Pharisees would come calling. Yet, He was never boastful, never traveled announcing that He was God to the world.

He had great compassion for His followers and those who believed in His mission.

He healed those that were faithful and encouraged all who would listen to His message.

He then sacrificed Himself for us as the perfect act of selflessness to redeem us from our sins and fulfill His role on earth.

And when His followers were at their lowest point, He rose from the dead, appeared multiple times to them, and convinced all of them that He had indeed risen.

He gave them the Holy Spirit, who equipped them with the tools they needed to start His Church and preach the Gospel. The Holy Spirit gave them courage, languages,

other gifts, and the words they would need to convince others that Jesus was the Savior they must follow.

He then completed His Father's plan by returning to heaven, trusting that His disciples had what they needed to continue His work. Over 2 billion Christians in the world today attest to His success.

So what does servant leadership have to do with us?

Jesus said after He had washed His apostles' feet: "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." (John 13:15)

He meant for us to emulate His life and His servant leadership style.

This is what He has called all of us to do: to touch others, to be His shining light, and to serve and lead all His children back to the Father.

We all have opportunities to be servant leaders - in our daily lives, and yes in the Emmaus Community.

As a disciple of Christ, our Emmaus community needs you to emulate Jesus as a true servant leader.

We need help at the upcoming walks/flights:

- Various positions for the upcoming Chrysalis flight (Aug 31st-Sept 2nd)
- Lead the set up for the Saturday night Candlelight Service (Sept 14th men's walk and Nov 9th women's walk)
- Serve a meal or help in the Kitchen/Dining Room
- Help the Agape team
- Sponsor a Pilgrim/Caterpillar

The Emmaus community needs leaders to replace those whose terms are ending. We need board members for 3 year terms starting in 2020 as current members rotate off:

- Community Lay Director for 2020
- Community Lay Director in training for 2021
- Secretary

- Treasurer
- Walk Support
- Agape
- Team Selection
- Communications
- Gatherings
- Reunion Groups
- Candlelight
- Music
- Prayer
- Candlelight
- Registration

This Emmaus Community cannot function without Servant Leaders.

If you are able to serve, please contact any of the current board members through the GSMEC.org website or call/email me, Todd Fisher at 865-228-4853, tafisher15@comcast.net.

Prayer:

Leadership is like a handful of water.

Lord, let us be the people to share it with those who thirst.

Leadership is not about directing and correcting.

Lord, let us remember it is about listening and connecting.

Leadership is not about telling people what to do.

Lord, let us first find out what people need.

Leadership is not about the love of power

It is about the power of love.

Lord, as we continue to undertake the role of leader let us be affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in your son Jesus. Let us walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow.

Let our greatest passion be...compassion.

Our greatest strength...love.

Our greatest victory...the reward of peace.

In leading, let us never fail to follow.

In loving, let us never fail.

Amen.

(Author unknown)

## **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](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.

### **We have also been asked for Prayers for a Central Alabama Emmaus Walk to Emmaus #202**

Would you and your Emmaus community consider signing up for our prayer vigil(see link attached) for Central Alabama Walk to Emmaus Women's Walk 202 which begins October 2 to 5, 2019. I am honored to be chosen as the Lay Director for this walk and am excited about what God will be doing for these precious ladies.

Blessings!!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4aa5ad2da1fb6-cawe>

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*Bonnie Coker*

**CAEW #142**

Have a Blessed Day!

## THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN EMMAUS/CHRYSALIS 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 CHRYSALIS 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 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 are two personal testimonies:

"My Emmaus Walk in the Cleveland TN community - #4, table of Luke - was a transforming experience for me. The sense of trusting God's timing was accepted more deeply, and following God's leading more than my own was accepted more strongly. It was a propulsion for significant areas of ministry beyond the local church.

Through the years, I have valued and continue to be blessed by the relationships with lay persons and clergy in the various Emmaus, Chrysalis, Journey and Kairos weekends I have experienced. Through them I know the joy of Resurrection Life!!

Rev. Don Thomas

Walk 31 Table of Ruth. Emmaus was a time to review, repent and release. It was a time to refresh, refuel and rejoice. The work of the Holy Spirit begun in me as a pilgrim long ago continues to this day. On each Flight that I am privileged to serve, God reminds me that He is mine and I am His. I am grateful for the gift of Emmaus and Chrysalis.

Rev. Teresa Adkins McClure

Debbie Pope, Chrysalis Community Lay Director

Walk 31, Table of Ruth. Emmaus

## 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](http://GSMEC.org/leadership)