

Volume 1, Issue 4

November 27, 2018

BILLINGS WALK TO EMMAUS

# Emmaus Newsletter

## Christmas Sing



Remember the Christmas Sing Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm First United Methodist Church 2800 4th Ave. N., Billings, MT 59101

### New Emmaus Brochure

Your Emmaus board has developed a brochure which will help you to explain the Walk to Emmaus for prospective pilgrims. This may be used to open the conversation about the Walk, review in a personal face to

face visit, or whatever ways you deem appropriate. It describes the benefits, answers to common questions, gives testimonies, and establishes credibility by counting over 2700 hundred men and women who have had

their lives changed by this retreat. If you would like some copies of the brochure, contact Larry Atkins at 406- 647-2809 or text him at [stoneboat@hotmail.com](mailto:stoneboat@hotmail.com)

## Walk to Emmaus 2019 Calendar of Events

<b>Team and Background Retreat</b>	Saturday, January 12th	9am-2pm
<b>Men's Weekend #76</b>		
Send off and Sponsor Service	Thursday, January 17th	7pm
Candlelight Service	Saturday, January 19th	5:45pm
Rise and Shine	Sunday, January 20th	5:45am
Closing Service	Sunday, January 20th	3:30pm
<b>Women's Weekend #77</b>		
Send off and Sponsor Service	Thursday, January 24th	7pm
Candlelight Service	Saturday, January 26th	5:45pm
Rise and Shine	Sunday, January 27th	5:45am
Closing Service	Sunday, January 27th	3:30pm
<b>4th Day Potluck</b>	Saturday, February 2nd	5pm
<b>Chrysalis Weekend</b>		
Send off and Sponsor Service	Friday, February 8th	9:30am
Candlelight Service	Saturday, February 9th	7:30pm
Rise and Shine	<b>(No Outside Community)</b>	
Closing Service	Sunday, February 10th	2pm

**All Events at First United Methodist Church, 2800 4th Ave N.**

## How to Submit Walk Applications

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1. Go to: [www.billingsemmaus.com](http://www.billingsemmaus.com) .
2. Follow the links on the home page or print a pdf
3. Otherwise, complete application on line and click "submit."
4. Remember, you also need to complete a sponsorship application so go back to: sponsorship registration.
5. Below "registration form" click blue "here" if you want a printable pdf application.
6. Otherwise, complete the sponsorship application on line and submit.
7. You will need to complete both applications before an applicant is registered for the walk. If you have completed printable pdf applications, go on line and fill in on line applications in order that all information is readable. This is important to help out the registration committee.

# PERSONAL REALTIONSHIP OR WALK

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If you have been around church for very long, you have probably heard the phrase “personal relationship with Jesus Christ.” It is a fine phrase, for it expresses many biblical ideas. Our relationship with Jesus is indeed personal: God deals with us on a one-by-one basis. And it is a relationship; like any relationship there will be conflict, arguments, laughter and tears. It can be developed or neglected. And it is with Jesus Christ – who is God in flesh. The only problem with the phrase is that it is not in the bible. When the bible describes how we interact with God, reference is always made to a walk with Him. As believers, we are meant to walk with God. A walk is about moving forward. It is about progressing toward a destination. It is a journey and for believers, life is pictured as a journey accompanied by God. As you walk forward with God, you find that your entire spiritual gait has changed. Is not that what the Walk to Emmaus did for you?



## New Testimony Brochure

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In addition to the "Intro to the Walk to Emmaus" brochure published last year, your board has developed another brochure titled, "Walk to Emmaus Christian Testimonials" brochure. It is composed of 21 testimonies of those who have gone through the Walk. Every potential pilgrim should be able to identify with at least one of these testimonies. Use both of them together and it will be of great help in approaching someone about how the Walk changed your life and the lives of others. If you would like some brochures you can call Larry Atkins at 406-647-2809 or email him at [stoneboat@hotmail.com](mailto:stoneboat@hotmail.com).

## Spiritual Thoughts for Thinking

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1. I gave Jesus countless ways not to love me, but nothing changed his mind.
2. There may be a time when God feels far away, perhaps even nonexistent. In those times, we must rely more on the truths of God's word than the strength of our feelings.
3. Your greatest ministry is not found in your strength but in your weakness.
4. If we show Jesus's beauty with our lives, others will say, "no wonder you love him!"
5. Approach life like a voyage on a schooner. Enjoy the view. Explore the vessel. Make friends with the captain. Fish a little. And then get off when you get home.

As we approach the end of another year, several thoughts come to mind...Thanksgiving, Christmas, the New Year and the 2019 Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis weekends. It is also a time that many of us think about sharing our blessings with others through charitable gifts.

Many of us remember hearing the "Sermon on the Amount" during our Walk weekends. The message of this talk is "pay it forward." We all learned that our weekends were provided to us at no cost thanks to the generosity of 4th Dayers who repaid the blessings of their special weekend by financially supporting our community.

No person, adult or youth, has ever been denied the opportunity to receive the blessings of a Walk or Chrysalis weekend. The W2E Board does not undertake fundraising activities other than occasional freewill offerings...the Board's work is about assuring a meaningful and impactful spiritual experience, not about increasing revenue.

As you consider your end-of-year charitable gifts, please think back to your Walk weekend and how much it meant to you that someone-a person entirely unknown to you-paid it forward and made the experience available to you. Please consider a gift to Billings Walk to Emmaus so that we will never have to tell a pilgrim that there is not enough room at the inn.

Please send gifts to Billings Walk to Emmaus Treasurer, PO Box 1975, Billings, MT. 59103-1975



## A Little Girl

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures.

As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will when I get finished."

## Why I Sponsor

In 1994, I was sponsored to the Walk to Emmaus. I went guarded, not sure if I would trust this group of religious folks with 3 days of my life with no outside communications. Fortunately, outside communication was replaced by communication with the Holy Spirit of God. He spoke to me as we examined our conscience. He searched me and knew my heart, tested me and knew my anxious thoughts and lead me in the way of everlasting.

Sponsorship is an opportunity to change a life for eternity with everlasting and revolutionary change. The focus of grace and faith over 72 hours changes lives for 3 fundamental reasons:

Rarely does anyone in our age spend 72 hours without cell phones, distractions, meetings or events to focus exclusively on God's grace. The giving of one's undivided attention to grace,

spiritual songs and the Holy Spirit changes the heart which changes our lives.

Secondly, when is anyone in our rush, rush world the recipient of direct prayer focuses for 72 plus straight hours? Never. What can God do when one is being prayed for intently for that length of time? Do you ever wonder why Christians don't receive God's spiritual blessings? We don't ask! (John 16:23-24). Ask and God gives!

Third, the Holy Spirit hovers over our weekend. At the start of every talk we ask his presence and He comes and "fills the hearts of his faithful and rekindles in us the fire of His love." Now is the time to sponsor. Set a time TODAY to sit down with someone you care for and sponsor them to the Walk!

Tom McGillvray

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# Missionaries or Members?



More and more we realize that this is not the world we grew up in. A recent survey shows that about 100 churches are closing their doors EVERY WEEK in the United States. The question is can we stay just members of a church or do we begin to think like missionaries and bring our own "spiritual walk" message to those around us. Staying only a member has shown that it gradually brings a

church to the statistic mentioned above. On page 5 of the booklet "What is Emmaus" The opening comment is as follow: "we were reminded that Emmaus is not an emotional bubble-bath. It is essentially a journey with Jesus Christ. The main focus is not how wonderfully close we have grown with each other, but how much closer we are to Christ and how much more effective

we are as servants in his church."  
-Clergyperson from Illinois  
The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. It is my daily prayer that all of us begin to think like missionaries and one way of starting this change is to sponsor someone to the January Walks.  
Larry



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## My Walk Experience

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Greetings, and blessings to my brothers and sisters in Christ,

It wasn't that long ago that January seemed like a long way away, now its just around the corner, and our W2E men's and women's weekends will be rolling along before we know it.

I would like to thank everyone for all of your help and guidance to me in the preparation for this amazing event. Without your help, I know I would be floundering much more than I am!

Remember the overwhelming feeling that you had when you made your first weekend? Now is the time to share this experience with those in your influence circle. Think about those around you that haven't had the opportunity to feel that incredible surrounding of God's love and grace in that three day experience that we know as the Walk to Emmaus, and sponsor them for a time that they will never forget.

Again, thank you for your grace and support.

God bless you and yours,

Rich Swartz  
Lay Director Men's W2E