

W2E Times

Billings, MT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



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Sponsorship Update

The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus states on page 14 that “sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus.” The dictionary definition of a sponsor is “one who takes responsibility for another.” Sponsoring a W2E pilgrim is simple and straightforward, and certainly not scary! It starts with prayer, then a time of presentation, then waiting for a decision, and finally working to actively support the pilgrim. Like many things we undertake, how we perceive the effects of choosing to sponsor an Emmaus pilgrim depends on how we approach the task ... it can be exciting, mentally taxing, physically exhausting, or spiritually enriching. Sponsorship is a dynamic partnership, involving you and your pilgrim but inevitably led by God. Sponsorship is an opportunity to revisit our

own W2E experience. Think back about your response to your weekend and words like renewing, transformative, and spa for the soul will come to mind ... who wouldn't want a friend, neighbor, church family member, or co-worker to experience the same joy? The Billings Walk to Emmaus Board has developed two brochures to support your sponsorship work. One explains the Walk program and provides some history, while the second is full of testimonials from real people who took their own Walk to Emmaus. These resources will help you present the life-changing wonders of a Walk weekend and support your sponsorship efforts. Please contact Mike Brown (406-855-1588 or mbrown@wtp.net) for more information.

New Registration Process

We have new online registration forms for pilgrims and sponsors ready to go for the 2020 Walk to Emmaus weekends. The pilgrim application can be completed online with your pilgrim applicant, or you can download a PDF and ask your candidate to complete it manually. If you use manual forms, please enter the pilgrim and sponsor information into the online form as soon as possible ... we can only process online applications! Too many handwritten applications are hard to read and create the risk of errors.. We are here to help so if you have any questions about the application process please contact Becky Muller (moegirie63@outlook.com). Please send fees to W2E at PO Box 1975 Billings, MT 59103-1975.

IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES!

- 2019 Homeward Bound (MTR Women's Prison): 11/1—11/3
- 2019 W2E Christmas program (FUMC): 12/12 at 7 PM
- 2020 Men's W2E: 1/16—1/19
- 2020 Women's W2E: 1/23—1/26
- 2020 Fourth Day potluck (FUMC): 2/1 at 5:30 PM
- 2020 Chrysalis: 2/7—2/9
- Homeward Bound singing service: 11/2/19, 5:30 PM (south side of MT Women's Prison)
- Men's and Women's events
- Sponsor service: Thursday 7 PM
- Candlelight: Saturday 5:45 PM
- Rise & Shine: Sunday 5:45 AM
- Closing: Sunday 3:30 PM

Pigeon Walk

Have you ever wondered why pigeons walk so funny? It's so they can see where they are going! Their eyes can't focus while their head is moving, so the bird brings its head to a complete stop between steps to refocus. It's clumsy, ,, head forward, stop, head back, stop. Some-

times our spiritual walk with our Lord we need to do the same thing: stop and refocus! We need to restore our focus on His will and Word while we have a quick chat with God. That's not to say that we cannot make a single decision without praying about it (I think God has better

things to do than decide “dreamy or chunky”) but we cannot forget that our Walk with Jesus does need to include a pattern of stopping and refocusing. So we can see more clearly before moving on. Let's learn from the pigeons: Looking good isn't nearly as important as seeing well!

Board Chair Notes! (by Dan Poling)

Web:

billingsemmaus.com

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info@billingsemmaus.com

Facebook:

Billings "Walk to Emmaus"

Mailing address:

PO Box 1975, Billings, MT 59103

Welcome, 4th Dayers, to the 2020 Walk to Emmaus season! What a blessing it is to be a part of a weekend that changes the lives of those who attend. Our involvement is very important, whether it's sponsoring a Pilgrim, working the background, helping in the kitchen, participating in the Prayer Vigil, or attending the Candlelight Walk, every phase of the weekend is very important. It is vital that all of us support the weekend. The heart of the volunteer is the strongest and steadiest beat. Each of us is called to do what we can to make the weekend a success. Please be generous with your time, effort, and love during the upcoming weekends.

I want to make you

aware of an information system issue we are experiencing at this time. Our database is administered by the Upper Room headquarters in Nashville, TN. They are currently transitioning to a new database system. As a result, some of you are receiving emails and newsletters and some are not receiving these communications. We are working through this time of transition and ask for your patience until the new system is in place. In the meantime, please access our [website](#) for more information about upcoming events.

Please note: all Pilgrim applications and sponsor forms must be completed and submitted on the website. Please do not email applications this year.

I pray that God continues to bless our Walk to Emmaus and brings us many Pilgrims whose eyes will be opened and hearts will be burning as they experience his Grace.

DeColores!



Prayer Vigil

The Prayer Vigil during the Walk weekends are a significant part of each weekend. If you are interested in signing up for an

hour of prayer for the pilgrims, team members, and background people, call Tracy Neary at (406) 697-3424 or email her at

tracy.neary@icloud.com. Tracy is also available to answer any questions about the Prayer Vigil.

Women's Team Notes! (by Patsy Guenther)

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name. You are mine. ... For I am the Lord, you God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Isaiah 43 has been a favorite scripture., starting with my own Cum Cristo experience and extending into my W2E experiences. When Christ speaks my name, it brings me pure joy! He has my complete attention and I would do anything for him.

But when he says "You are mine" my heart just melts as I feel His love wash over me.!

Fourteen beautiful ladies have said "yes" to His call and His love to form our W2E 2020 women's team. Spir-

itual directors Pastors Tim Hathaway and Jody Felton, along with Board liaison Kris McFadyean will provide us guidance. We are becoming a true team as we have completed two meetings. Our head table is completed with Vice Lay Director Karen Poling and Assistant Vice Lay Director Angie Smart. All three of us thank our entire Walk community for the your love, support, and Prayers ... we couldn't do it without you!

I am humbled by the faith, strength, and love this team shares with each other, and that they will soon bring to our pilgrims. Please pray for us as we undertake this journey together, Our team includes Beth Ayers, Julie Berve, Linda Boyer, Anna Brewer, Melissa

Donahue, Tanna Harman, Brittney Johnson, Cassie King, Janell Kulla, Julie Palmersheim, Sibyl Schug, Linda Shelton, Shelly VanWey, and Bunnie Weickum.

Our musicians are Suzie Garcia, Sherry Dompier, and Carolyn Story ... they add so much to our Walk experience!

Please also pray and share our gratitude with everyone working in the background. Their work is true agape!

Men's Team Notes! (by Murray Brumwell)

Our 2020 Walk began in April when our head table team to develop a list of potential team members. After prayer and discernment, 14 awesome men answered God's call to form our team. God brought together a mix of very experienced W2E leaders, including former lay directors, and some youthful newcomers. Together this team will be a great blessing to our pilgrims!

Our pilgrims will be blessed by the presence and guidance of spiritual director Pastor Tim Hathaway and our incredible

musicians, Dave Oltrogge and Tom Blankenship. Clark Marten will be out of town but we will all feel his prayerful support and presence.

Our head table is filled out with Board liaison Dan Pooling, Vice Lay Director John Felton, and Assistant Vice Lay Director Jim Birkelo. I am grateful and our pilgrims will be blessed by this leadership team. The background team, led by Bob Wood and Rich Swartz, will make sure that our pilgrims have everything they need to bask in the glory of God's immeasurable grace. Our team includes Dave Bergeson, Eddie Gabel, Fred Gunville, Matt Ladd, Doug McBride, Rion Kulaga, Larry Atkins, Jon

Steffanson, Glenn Paulson, Dave Mosdal, Mike Brown, Thad Daniels, Ryan Wittman, and Bernie Hedrick. I am so grateful these men, now busily preparing their talks, said yes to God's call as they will be a tremendous blessing to our pilgrims.

Please pray for us and don't forget to sign up for the prayer vigil for our weekends!

May God richly bless you all and our Walk community. You and the W2E experience have truly changed my life

From the Chrysalis Team! (by Nikki & John McFerran)

Chrysalis weekend is February 7-9, it starts at 8:30 Friday morning for the candidates and runs to early afternoon on Sunday. This wonderful weekend is for kids that are high school freshmen through senior. Candidates are needed! Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a youth to attend this upbeat, amazing, God-filled weekend. Also, we are looking for adult volunteers for table groups. These volunteers help facilitate group activities and help the kids stay engaged. If you are interested in volunteering in any manner, please contact this year's adult head table leaders, John McFerran at 406-672-0610 or Nikki McFerran at 406-690-0878 if you can volunteer or if you have any questions.

Update your contact info!

Over 130!! Between the Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis weekends, our community has successfully held over 130 retreats! **How can we keep in contact with everyone? Call your friends.**

The Upper Room computer system is in revision and our email ad-

resses may not be up to date. Call your friends and ask if they have received this newsletter. If not, they can call Becky Muller at 406-672-1194 and leave her a message. You may also drop a note to our mailbox (PO Box 1975, Billings, MT 59103).

