

**June  
2024**

Billings  
Walk  
To  
Emmaus

**W2E Times**

**Important  
Dates!**

**SUMMER GATHERING**

(Ice Cream Social)

June 22, 2024

3:00 pm at FUMC

FALL "KICK-OFF"

September 22, 2024

5:00 pm at FUMC

CHRISTMAS SING

December 12, 2024

TEAM RETREAT

January 11, 2025

9:00 am

MEN's W2E, #84

January 16-19, 2025

WOMEN's W2E, #85

January 23-26, 2025

POTLUCK

February 1, 2025

5:00 pm

**Contact us...**

WEBSITE:

[billingsemmaus.com](http://billingsemmaus.com)

EMAIL:

[info@billingsemmaus.com](mailto:info@billingsemmaus.com)

FACEBOOK:

Billings "Walk to  
Emmaus"

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 1975

Billings, MT 59103

**Let's gather for an**

**ICE CREAM  
Meet & Mingle  
SOCIAL!**



**Saturday, June 22nd  
3:00 pm**

**Brother Van Hall  
Billings First United Methodist Church**

**Join your Walk to Emmaus friends  
for a time of  
fun, fellowship, music  
and ICE CREAM!!**



## BIBLE TRIVIA (people)

Who watched as Moses floated in the basket down the Nile?  
(Exodus 2:4)

Who would have nothing to do with the author of 3 John?  
(3 John 1:9)

In the book of Philemon, who is Paul's fellow prisoner?  
(Philemon 1:23)

James used the example of which Old Testament figure to demonstrate how the prayers of a righteous man can have powerful results?  
(James 5:13-18)

How does the author of 1 John often refer to his readers?  
(1 John 1)

What does Solomon say about sin?  
(Ecclesiastes 7:20)

Who pretended to be mad to avoid capture and death at the hands of an enemy king?  
(1 Samuel 21:13)

Who was the grandson of Samuel?  
(1 Chronicles 6:33)

## More

# PRECIOUS MEMORIES

(continued from last month)

***The Billings Walk to Emmaus began in 1983.***

***This newsletter contains precious memories from some of the folks who participated in the first weekends that were held at First United Methodist Church in the 1980's. We are grateful for their faithful dedication and the legacy they created.***

## WARREN FRANK

Warren Frank's first weekend experience was a Cursillo in Laurel. He values that experience and how it led him and others to begin the Walk to Emmaus at First United Methodist Church. He says that all the men at the Laurel Cursillo slept in the gym. "We didn't get much sleep... except for the snorers. It sounded like a storm in there."

Warren recalls leading a committee that was raising money to start the Billings Walk and they were so successful that they also sent \$1000 to the folks who were starting up a Walk to Emmaus in Helena.

Warren served on team for the 1st Walk to Emmaus weekend at First United Methodist Church. George Schuyler was the first Lay Director. Warren then became Lay Director of the second men's Walk. Warren speaks fondly of Deacon Bill Daum and Father Charlie Gorman who were invaluable spiritual advisers as the Billings Walk was being formed. "They made it possible for Catholics and Protestants to worship and commune together." Warren is especially grateful for the insight that he received from Deacon Bill when he advised Warren to "Remember that you are not in charge of this weekend. The Holy Spirit is beside you and will guide you."

Warren attended theology school and as a result, he served as a Spiritual Director beside Rev. Jim Fitzhugh for 11 or 12 years. He enjoyed this role very much. He said it gave him the freedom to meet individually with those who needed prayer and a listening ear. And he also enjoyed moving about the building during the weekends to thank and pray for all the folks who were busily working in the background. Warren says the meals and the decorations were always excellent.

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## **WARREN FRANK, cont.**

During the early years of the Walk, a spiritual director would lead the pilgrims through the church to the conference room and tell the Emmaus scripture story as they walked.

Warren gratefully recalls the music provided by Dr. Will Clark, a professor from Eastern Montana College, who had an extraordinary low voice and also from Clark Marten who still serves as a musician for the Men's Weekends.

Warren was appointed as pastor of the Methodist Church in Park City. Whenever he had to be gone for training classes and meetings, his Walk friends, Bob McFarland and Ardel Ronning would come to Park City to fill in during his absence. They were capable, faith-filled substitutes.

Warren has always been a part of a Fourth Day men's group. The members have changed over the years. He is currently part of a group that meets at Mission Ridge each week. It includes men who attended the Walk to Emmaus, the Via de Christo and the Catholic Cum Christo.



## **MARJORIE BLANKENBAKER BROWN**

I believe that my husband, Ralph and I attended the second Walk to Emmaus weekend at FUMC. We were sponsored by our longtime friends, Ken and Esther Finley.

It was one of the deepest, heartfelt times of knowing and growing with the Lord. I especially saw how the men had a time of opening their hearts that doesn't come as easily as it does for us 'girls'.

Having follow-up groups kept the flame burning and gave us encouragement in growing deeper in our daily walk with Jesus.

I am eternally grateful to all the giving, loving hearts who made the Billings Walk to Emmaus possible. Thank you so much.

DeColores,

Marjorie Blankenbaker Brown



## NADEEN KOVANDA

We attended the Billings Walk to Emmaus in 1986. These weekends changed our lives. Our church attendance went from just being a routine to following Jesus as a married team. Our boys were 3 and 5 then and it was a turning point for them too. They both eventually sought out Christian activities and groups in high school and college. They married Christian gals and their children are following Jesus wholeheartedly. For some reason, I took a picture of MrK (my husband, Kerry) on his arrival home from his weekend (and I hadn't even attended yet). I was overwhelmed with the change in his demeanor. Sitting on the couch, both he and the boys were beaming at each other. Our older son now speaks to groups, large and small, and he has used that 1986 picture as part of his speeches. The picture still hangs on our refrigerator, 38 years later.

The conference room in 1986 was the FUMC Emmaus Room, maybe 1/3 the size of today's conference room. Seven tables, head table, clergy, podium, musicians and instruments etc. overflowed that room. Such intimacy, really. I just now am realizing that might be why I'm always asking people in small groups to sit knee-to-knee.

Frank Wilson was our sponsor. He had sponsored my brother and wife the year before and after hearing about their weekend, I was sure we would never go as a couple. Frank wouldn't take a "NO". MrK had every farmer excuse in the book to say "No". But Frank wouldn't take a "NO". So, instead, MrK made sure that he had enough money in his pocket to buy a Greyhound bus ride home. After hearing the Priority talk, he was a new man. No need for a Greyhound ticket home.

The year following our 1986 Walk to Emmaus, I was asked to be on an Episcopal Cursillo team. Overwhelmed with wonder, I said yes. I have since worked two Catholic Cum Christos and numerous Walk to Emmaus in almost every capacity of inside team and outside team. I still have my sweatshirt that our decorations leader cross stitched for the decoration team from 1980s work. Going through the head table, I always thought that each of the five positions was the best. They were. Don't make me choose which one. From pre-registration to cleaning toilets to being board chair.... all of my participation has been a joy, knowing why we're doing it, with whom we are doing it, and for Whom we are doing it!

Father Charlie Gorman...if you didn't get to receive his wisdom in your weekend, you may have heard about him. The sweetest Catholic priest I knew, with such a strong Irish brogue. His response to meeting you was, "How's your love life?" to which newcomers would be quickly taken back. To marrieds and unmarrieds... it's was about your love life with JESUS. Personally, he touched us deeply. He gave the marriage talk for years. My favorite response from our initial conversations about MrK's weekend was: "So, what else did your celibate priest have to tell you about our marriage?" The following weekend, I was introduced to Father Charlie and I understood.

***THANK YOU to the folks who contributed to this newsletter. There will be more comments and memories from the early participants of the Billings Walk to Emmaus in next month's newsletter. If you have memories to share from the 1980s weekends, send them to Karen Poling at [karenkpoling@hotmail.com](mailto:karenkpoling@hotmail.com) or give her a call at (406) 670-8570. We are grateful for your part in founding the Billings W2E and we're anxious to hear your stories.***

Mark your calendars for the  
***WALK TO EMMAUS***  
***FALL "KICK-OFF" POTLUCK***

September 22, 5:00 pm  
First United Methodist Church



Please keep our Cum Christo  
brothers and sisters in your prayers  
as their blessed weekends occur this month.  
at Billings Central Catholic High School

Men's Cum Christo Weekend – June 6-9, 2024

Women's Cum Christo Weekend – June 13-16, 2024