

October  
2023

Billings  
Walk  
To  
Emmaus

W2E Times

## Important Dates!

### CHRISTMAS SING

December 14, 2023

### RETREAT

January 13, 2024  
9:00 am

### MEN's W2E, #82

January 18-21, 2024

### WOMEN's W2E, #83

January 25-28, 2024

### POTLUCK

February 3, 2024  
5:00 pm

## Contact us...

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### PRAYER REQUESTS

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## The Gift that Keeps on Giving



A lot of people use the phrase "the gift that keeps on giving" in a negative or sarcastic way. What we really mean when we say this is, "You gave me something that I didn't want and now it just keeps bothering me ... thanks a lot." Today, though, I would like to discuss a gift that truly does go on and on in a positive way.

I am talking about **sponsoring a pilgrim to attend a Walk to Emmaus weekend**. My wife and daughter sponsored me for the 2005 weekend, and I treasure that gift every day. Those 72 hours changed me and my life in profound ways, not the least of which is that the weekend introduced me to the W2E community that has become such a valued part of my life.

If you have never sponsored anyone, let me put your mind at ease: it is not as hard as you think it might be. The most fundamental reason that sponsorship is easy is that you are not alone. We always say that God selects the pilgrims and the teams for our weekends. We simply need to be open to His messages to us and to act on them.

Have you ever had something nagging at the back of your mind that seems to hang on and on until you actually do something about it? Those messages are often, in my opinion, nudges from God. We, of course, have freewill to act or not act, but God is patient and persistent. If we ignore those cues, He will just keep nudging and nudging until we figure it out!

Robin and I have sponsored a number of pilgrims over the years. The process begins with a thought – seemingly out of nowhere – that maybe this man or that woman is ready for a Walk weekend. That thought sticks around and sticks around until we contact that person and talk about the weekend, asking if they would like to be a participant. Sometimes the answer is an immediate "yes" and off we go! Sometimes the answer is an immediate "no" and we accept that and wait. (Just for the record, I was a hard "no" when I was first approached but Robin accepted the invitation and when she came back on Sunday night, I made the decision that I was going the next year ... God uses different approaches and messengers to make His point!)

Most often, though, the initial answer is along the lines of "I am not sure ... maybe" which is our opening to talk about the weekend, the community, the joys, the fact that nobody is required to do anything they don't want to do, etc. In other words, it is our opportunity to share our experiences and our enthusiasm. It is our chance to close the "make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ" loop.

Once your person says "yes", the process is straightforward and not at all intimidating. In fact, it is actually a lot of fun as we work with our candidate to prepare them for a life-affirming and life-changing experience. There are lots of people who can help you with the details. You have done the hard work by being open to God's message to you and acting on it.

One last thing: please don't wait too long to talk to the person God has put on your heart. The process is not hard, but it does take a little time. Also, we want to be sure that we give our prospective pilgrims time to make arrangements for work and family.

We have learned that forgiveness has profound impacts on both the forgiven and the forgiver. Sponsorship is the same way. When you sponsor a pilgrim for a Walk weekend you give a gift to the candidate and yourself ... and it is truly a gift that keeps on giving!

John Felton

NAME ABOVE  
ALL NAMES  
(cont. from last month)

In MATTHEW Thou art  
The Christ, the Son of  
the Living God

In MARK He is  
The Miracle Worker

In LUKE He's the  
Son of Man

In JOHN He is the  
Door  
by which everyone of  
us must enter

In ACTS He is the  
Shining Light  
that appears to Saul  
on the road to  
Damascus

In ROMANS He is our  
Justifier

In 1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS  
He is our  
Resurrection

In 2<sup>ND</sup> CORINTHIANS  
He is our  
Sin Bearer

(cont. next month)



The annual **Walk to Emmaus KICK-OFF Potluck** on September 17<sup>th</sup> was a joyful gathering of many Fourth Day friends. THANK YOU to the **83** people who attended. The food was abundant and delicious. We were inspired by messages from our Lay Directors, Jim Birkelo and Angie Klier and from our sponsorship coordinator, Ryan Wittman. We joined together in song, led by Dave Oltrogge and Pastor Tim Hathaway. And we were blessed by the sharing of communion. It was a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for the upcoming weekends and we were challenged and inspired to participate in the weekends by volunteering, sponsoring and praying.



Our Walk to Emmaus community is grateful  
for the spiritual guidance, music ministry  
(and antics 😊 )  
of Pastor Tim Hathaway & Dave Oltrogge.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVING LEADERSHIP.**



# **Are you looking for ways to serve during the Walk to Emmaus weekends?**

## **Decorations**

You are invited to join the Decorations Committee as they prepare the Dining Room for each meal during the Men's and Women's weekends. This committee will meet at First United Methodist Church on October 14 at 9:00 am to work on items for the beautiful table decorations. Come to the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. door and join us as we enjoy refreshments, fellowship and work on various craft projects.

Call Jule (406) 855-4059 or Leanne (406) 591-1299 for more information.

## **Kitchen**

The Walk to Emmaus weekends are always blessed with delicious meals. Our kitchen coordinators would welcome your assistance with meal preparations and dishwashing. The pilgrim's souls will be nourished in the conference room and their bodies will be nourished by the wonderful meals. If you would like to help in the kitchen, call...

Virginia (406) 671-2171

## **Cleaning**

During both weekends, many volunteers work behind the scenes to keep the building clean and sparkling. If you would like to serve by cleaning before, during or after a weekend, please call...

Murray - Men's Lay Coordinator (406) 855-6614

Patsy - Women's Lay Coordinator (406) 698-0462

## **Prayer**

You can bless the Walk to Emmaus weekends by participating in the 96-hour prayer vigils. You can sign up for ½ hour slots on our website, [billingsemmaus.com](http://billingsemmaus.com). Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page and click "SUBMIT" in order to save your selections. You can pray in the privacy of your home or wherever you go about your day.

Call Carol & Dennis (406) 860-5252 if you need assistance

# Put me in, Coach. I'm ready to play!

Be honest. Are you sitting on the spiritual sidelines? Are you riding the pine? Our Coach, the Lord Jesus Christ, wants to put you in the game. He wants to use your life to make a difference in His kingdom. "But I'm scared!" you confess. Everyone is a little bit, especially at the first. It always is a little scary when you initially enter the game and teach that class, share your faith, sing that solo, do that deed in His name, and make that stand for Christ. But the good news is He will be with you every step of the way.

"But I don't have the ability!" you counter. Well, here is a great truth. **God is not looking for people with ability. He is looking for people with availability.** You see, the best ability is simple availability. God wants people just like you to say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me wherever You want me to go. I am surrendering myself to You. Use me, Lord, as You see fit." That is a prayer God longs to answer.

**Jesus is looking down the bench today to see who will lock eyes with Him and say, "Put me in, Coach. I'm ready to play!"**

