

May
2024

Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus

W2E Times

Important Dates!

SUMMER GATHERING

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...

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Emmaus"

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PRECIOUS MEMORIES



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.

GERRI ROWE

Oh my, here it is 2024 – and the first Walk to Emmaus in Billings began in 1983. 41 years ago!

Don and I attended an Anglican Cursillo in the fall of 1982, and I was asked to serve on the first Walk to Emmaus team with Marty Carlson distributing the Agape! What fun!! I have thanked our LORD many, many times for the opportunity that was given to Don and me, in 1982, as it changed *our* lives. And as the years have gone by, and with the help of the LORD giving me the desire to serve and “give back” to the Walk community, it has been a true blessing to serve in some capacity at each Walk weekend. I know, through the years, there have been many lives changed by attending this very special God given weekend! So, keep sponsoring, keep persevering, and keep serving to help and support the future of the Walk to Emmaus in our community.

Many Blessings, Gerri Rowe



ARDEL RONNING

Ardel Ronning attended an Episcopal Cursillo in 1982. He describes himself as just a “baby Christian” when he served on the team of the first Walk to Emmaus weekend at First United Methodist Church in 1983. The Upper Room had just created the Walk to Emmaus ministry in 1981 so the experience was still very new everywhere. The Billings Walk did not have
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SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

Nothing wars against our sense of joy like the word "more."

Bamboo grows four inches the first three years and eighteen feet in year four.

We are continually challenged to change our lives to fit the truth rather than changing the truth to fit our lives.

The only way to understand the part of the Bible you don't understand is to obey the part that you do understand.

Christians do not love each other because of their great qualities, but in spite of their bad qualities.

The chains of habits are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

Sometimes God's best judgement is to let us have our own way.

ARDEL RONNING, cont.

a lot of guidance from the Upper Room for the first few years. There were no talk outlines for the team members to use when writing their talks, so they borrowed talks from their Cursillo friends and used them as a guide. Ardel described those first years as a pilot who hadn't earned his pilot's license... "We were flying by the seat of our pants! But it was an awesome ride."

Ardel remembers that the conference room was set up in the current Emmaus Room. It was a very small area for that many participants, but there was no need for microphones and a sound system because "We were sitting so close together we could easily hear every speaker."

He speaks proudly of the efforts of the new Walk to Emmaus community at First United Methodist Church who worked diligently to raise funds and provide the labor to build shower rooms in the church basement. He gives much credit to Ralph Blankenbaker and John Mulvaney for that project.

Ardel's lovely wife, Ila, served on the Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors for more than 10 years as the secretary-treasurer. She was also in charge of publishing the newsletter. Ardel remembers spending a lot of time at Kinko's printing newsletters and stuffing envelopes as they prepared each newsletter for mailing.



BARB MULVANEY

My first 3-day weekend began in 1980 when John and I attended an Anglican Cursillo. Reverend Jim and Rosemary Fitzhugh attended also. As a result, Rev. Jim researched and in 1983 the Billings Walk to Emmaus became a reality.

In 1985 as a table leader, I was overjoyed when a pilgrim, a local pediatrician, glowed as she opened her heart in a new way to Jesus. Dr. Marion Jones served God by caring for children as a missionary in Africa many times after she retired.

In 1988, Sherry Evans was preparing to be Lay Director for the 1989 Walk and asked me to be the Assistant Lay Director and to meet weekly with her and Marge McFarlane. That was the beginning of our weekly accountability group. The following year, Joyce Adami joined us. The next member was Jeanne Icenogle. We grouped every Friday morning at

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BARB MULVANEY, cont.

6:30 a.m. for many years. Every time we met, we said the Walk to Emmaus prayer and then we shared the ups and downs of our lives, ending with prayer requests. When Jeanne moved away, the four of us continued. In 2014, Joyce passed away from cancer and Marge passed away in 2015. After Sherry's husband Al, died, she moved to be closer to family. I will always be thankful to Jesus for my Walk to Emmaus sisters' group for 30+ years.

Serving in various ways in the Walk to Emmaus weekends, attending Closings and the Christmas Sing with the Walk to Emmaus family always reminds me of the weekends where we learn that our heavenly Father is a God of grace and love.

I pray that all former candidates and all who have been blessed with a weekend will continue to be involved and the Walk to Emmaus will continue and grow way beyond its' four decades in Billings.



ED TOENYES

I attended the first Billings Walk to Emmaus as a candidate in 1983. The Fourth Day sent me on a wild adventure. From there I went to seminary at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, I noticed that Lexington, where I served as a Young Adult Minister, did not have an Emmaus community. So I got together with one of my seminary teachers who had "DeColores" on his bio write-up. We started a steering committee and organized the first Walk to Emmaus in Lexington, Kentucky. (They are currently planning their 148th weekend.) Seminary students joined in and have started a number of Walk to Emmaus communities all over the world. I was the Lay Director at our first one in Lexington. I still have the cross hung up in my living room that each speaker held while giving their talks. It was the most humbling thing I have ever experienced. I eventually served as a Methodist minister until I was in a terrible accident and could no longer carry on my duties.

The Walk to Emmaus made a lifelong example for me that has made lasting impacts on probably 1000's of people around the world. It is hard to imagine 41 years have passed since that first Walk weekend. It has given me so many wonderful memories.

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 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.