

Rooster Tails. Feb 2025

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Arizona Walk to Emmaus Newsletter
Rooster Tales

February 2025

Happy New Year AZ Walk to Emmaus Community, What is Sponsorship in the AZ Walk to Emmaus Community?

When you went on your AZ Walk to Emmaus Weekend, you had a sponsor who supported you through the whole weekend. Whether it was through food, transportation, gifts, a banner, their presence at Candlelight and Closing or through prayer, they were there for you. They encouraged you to go on this great journey for a weekend. They explained what would happen and how much you would likely gain from going. They asked crazy questions about you, your family, your friends, your favorite color, your favorite Bible verse, your likes and dislikes, etc. They left you wondering what that questioning had to do with a weekend retreat. They gave you an application. You had to have your pastor sign it. Hmmm.....They then came to the hard part, the application fee. They may or may not have agonized over that. Pilgrims are expected to pay the fee. I paid my own fee, just as I had done for other retreats. Some sponsors have gone to paying the fee as a pay it forward gesture. But that is not necessary and not an expectation of a sponsor. If a Pilgrim cannot pay their own fee there are scholarships available. Please contact the Registrar or Treasurer about scholarships. They took you to dinner before and after the weekend. Dinner is a nice thing to do if you can. But, it is not mandatory of the sponsor. If you can provide dinner, that is great. If not, that is OK, too. They took you to a facility where the Walk was happening and dropped you off at what may have been a strange place. They left you with a bunch of strangers. But your sponsors were reassuring and some of the strangers, who were welcoming, knew them. They sent you letters, cards, notes and small gifts. They reminded you about how much God and they care about you. They also arranged for family and friends to send you notes. Nice cards and notecards can be purchased at the Dollar Store along with some other great gifts. There was always lots of general agape created by the crafty hands of the various folks who are Grouping or just individual donors. Please call your Grouping brothers or sisters for help with agape. Ask the Community for help. They gave you a banner! Can't afford the banner materials or have no artistic/crafting talent? Ask your Group, your church or members of the Emmaus Community. Recently, I received a request from a sponsor who reported that she had

no crafting talent whatsoever. Even after I sent them a picture of my banner which is simple in nature but deep in meaning, they said they could not begin to put one together. I reached out to my Grouping sisters who I know have sewing talents and supplies. A great banner was created. God is so good. As it turned out, my Grouping sisters knew the person for whom they made the banner. They also showed up for Candlelight and Closing. If you want to sponsor someone and do not like to or cannot drive at night, please ask for help with transportation. We recently had a Pilgrim sponsored by someone out of state. When the Board reached out, a Community member stepped up. The bottom line of this lengthy narrative is that the AZ Walk to Emmaus is a community. It is a gracious and generous community! No one is alone in sponsoring a Pilgrim or anything else for that matter. If you need help with any or all of sponsorship, please reach out. The AZ Walk to Emmaus Community is here to help.

De Colores,

Marsha McClintock - Community Lay Director

A Message from Carl Peterson - Community Spiritual Director

A little late but - Happy New Year and welcome to 2025. As I write this, I am thinking about the 130,000 people who have had to evacuate their homes in the greater Los Angeles area as fires sweep through populated areas, driven by hurricane-strength winds. I am thinking about the people in 30 states who are impacted by the arctic cold front that brought freezing temperatures and above-average snowfall in many areas. I am thinking about the families that have to deal with frozen water pipes, no electricity, limited transportation options because roads are not cleared and safe. I am thinking about the persons who spent some or all of Christmas in the hospital, either being treated or sitting with loved ones who were being treated. And I think of those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

Of all the things we have in the world, it is our relationships that are the most valuable and the hardest to repair or replace. In our lives, we tend to form relationships first with our mothers, then with other parental figures in our households, then family members. As we grow we form relationships with others at school, in organizations, in our neighborhoods, and eventually in our workplaces or community life. Later, we might start romantic interests and form different relationships that sometimes lead to new families. Somewhere, amidst all the relationship formation that is going on, we form a relationship with ourselves (i.e. our self-image or ego) and perhaps we have formed a relationship with God.

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual retreat that offers the opportunity to experience the real presence and love of Jesus Christ, but it does not presume to start with a blank slate. We require that pilgrims be baptized, be active, and have a basic knowledge of Christianity before attending. While it is said that the Walk to Emmaus is a short course in Christianity, it is not an introductory course. Pilgrims already have relationships with sponsors and other church members. Hopefully, the bonds of friendship that are formed on a retreat weekend will continue when everyone has returned to their home churches, especially with those persons from the same congregation. Our highest ideal, though, is the strengthened relationship with God.

As we celebrated Christmas, we are reminded of the story that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to be with us. God was among us in the form of Jesus Christ. Through the Resurrection, we receive the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Through our grouping with others who have shared the experience of the Walk to Emmaus weekend, we are refreshed and reminded of that presence in our lives. Our faith grows as we share it with others.

As we enter into this new year, I pray that you are grouping and sharing the love of Jesus with others. I pray that you have taken the experience of the Walk to Emmaus back to your churches and are building excitement about the love of Jesus. I pray that you are praying to discern new pilgrims who will get to experience the kindling of that fire in our hearts for Christ. The perfect candidate to be a pilgrim on the Walk to Emmaus is a person who is committed to Christ but perhaps is without direction in the church as to how to put their skills to use or who has been over-used and needs the rejuvenating energy of a Walk weekend. The perfect candidate is a person just like you, who you would like to be in ministry with in your church.

May your new year be blessed and filled with joy that the love of Christ brings to all.
De colores.



UPCOMING WALKS. please go to <https://azemmaus.org/emmaus-registration/>. to download registration forms – Mail into the address below with a \$35.00 deposit check.

Both walks are at Sierra Vista UMC –

Men's. #265 – March 27th through 30th 2025

Women's #266 April 3rd through 6th 2025

Please get your applications in asap.



We are looking for a communications Assistant - to work with the Communications Board member - interested? email cld.azwalk2emmaus@gmail.com for more information.

Are you in the North !!!! We need a Northern Rep - this is a board position. Help us build the community in the North Part of this great state.

AZ Walk To Emmaus | PO Box 86309 | Phoenix, AZ 85080 US

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