



# Courage for the Call

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

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**WOMEN'S & TEEN GIRLS' SPRING RETREAT**  
April 1-3, 2016 • Crandall, Georgia

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# WELCOME



Dear Ladies,

Woo hoo! If you're reading this welcome letter, that means you made it, you are here!

Welcome to this year's retreat and to the beautiful campus of Cohutta Springs Conference Center. Some of you are seasoned retreat attendees, but others of you are about to experience a retreat weekend for the first time. This is a special weekend for you to enjoy great speakers, music, food, fun, and fellowship! But most importantly, it is an opportunity for you to focus on your walk with God.

I hope you've been a little curious about the theme chosen for this year's retreat weekend: *Courage for the Call*. What might that mean? Webster's Dictionary defines courage as "the quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face difficulty, danger, pain without fear; to have confidence, resolution, and bravery."

If we look at Scripture, there are many stories of people who lived out their calling for God. I think of:

- Moses, called to lead God's people out of Egypt
- Joseph, called to save God's people
- Esther, called to save God's people
- John the Baptist, called to save God's people

I'm sure there are many others you can think of, but they all had the same theme: to follow God's calling on their life, and that calling had something to do with saving His people.

Some of you may be at a crossroads in your life, asking God for clarity and direction. Some of you may think, "God has nothing for me." *Not true!* Some of you may already be sensing that God is calling you on to something new. My prayer for this weekend is that you will not fear or run from your calling, but instead look for, embrace, and accept this calling.

Warmly,

JO Dubs  
Director

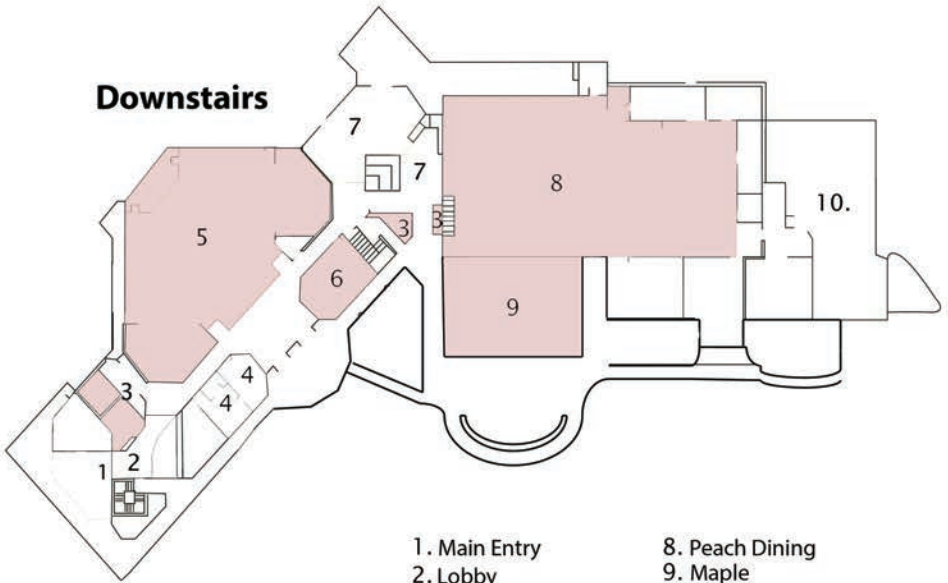


Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many were influential; not many were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29**

# MAP

## Downstairs



1. Main Entry

2. Lobby

3. Restrooms

4. Office

5. Magnolia

6. Willow

7. Fireplace Lobby

8. Peach Dining

9. Maple

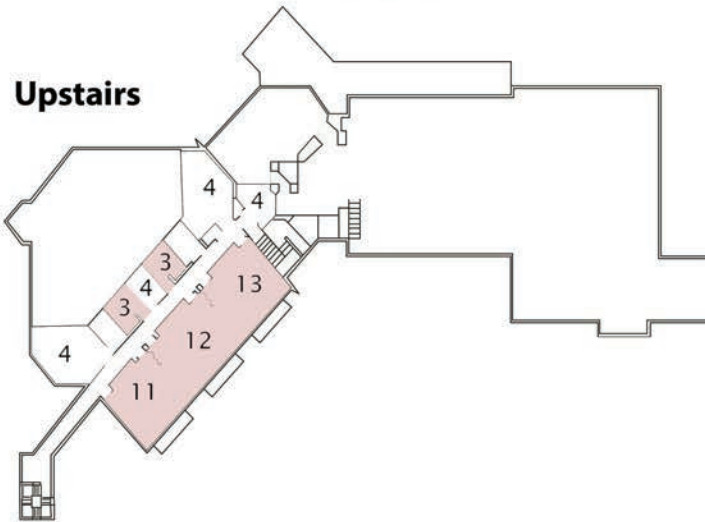
10. Kitchen

11. Dogwood North

12. Dogwood Central

13. Dogwood South

## Upstairs





# SCHEDULE



## THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. Registration  
7:00 p.m. God in Shoes Organizational Meeting - Camp-side Cafeteria

## FRIDAY

7:00 a.m. Breakfast (group going to YMCA, make your lunches)  
8:00 a.m. Board Bus/Depart for God in Shoes Outreach  
3:00 p.m. Bus Returns to Cohutta Springs  
4:00-7:00 p.m. Registration  
5:30-6:30 p.m. Supper

### Session 1 - Magnolia

Praise and Music - Amy Medina & Paulette Greene  
Opening Remarks - Jo Dubs  
Introduction of Speakers  
Prayer of Dedication  
Theme Song  
Message: Voices (Courage) - Bonita Shields  
Announcements - Donna Crandall

7:45 p.m.

### Teen Session 1

Ages 11-13/Grades 5-8 - Britney Verduzco & Sierra Wendt - Dogwood South  
Ages 14-17/Grades 9-12 - Kristina Dubs - Dogwood North

## SABBATH

9:00-10:00 a.m. Brunch  
10:15 a.m.

### Session 2 - Magnolia

Praise and Music - Amy Medina & Paulette Greene  
Welcome - Jo Dubs  
Marietta School Hand Bell Choir  
Theme Song  
Message: A Failure of Self (Character) - Bonita Shields  
Announcements

11:05 a.m.

### Teen Session 2

Ages 11-13/Grades 5-8 - Britney Verduzco & Sierra Wendt - Dogwood South  
Ages 14-17/Grades 9-12 - Kristina Dubs - Dogwood North

12:30-3:30 p.m. Free Time  
1:30-2:30 p.m. Crafts (teens only) - Dogwood Central  
2:00-3:15 p.m. Seminar: Money Matters - Bonita Shields  
3:30-4:30 p.m. Lunch



### TEEN CELL PHONE POLICY

No cell phones or other electronics will be allowed during the teen sessions. They will be checked at the door and returned as they leave. No exceptions. Thank you for your understanding!

## SABBATH CONTINUED

- 5:00 p.m. Marietta Hand Bell Choir  
5:15 p.m. Ministry Highlights  
5:45 p.m. **Session 3 - Magnolia**  
Praise and Music - Amy Medina & Paulette Greene  
Offering  
Theme Song  
Message: Gaslighting (Confidence) - Bonita Shields
- 6:10 p.m. **Teen Session 3**  
Ages 11-13/Grades 5-8 - Britney Verduzco & Sierra Wendt - Dogwood South  
Ages 14-17/Grades 9-12 - Kristina Dubs - Dogwood North
- 7:15 p.m. Light Refreshments  
8:00 p.m. Game Night - Camp Cafeteria  
Adventist Book Center Sale - Willow

## SUNDAY

- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast  
9:15 a.m. Special Feature - Kellie Czaykowski  
10:00 a.m. **Teen Session 4**  
Ages 11-13/Grades 5-8 - Britney Verduzco & Sierra Wendt - Dogwood South  
Ages 14-17/Grades 9-12 - Kristina Dubs - Dogwood North
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Check Out  
10:45 a.m. **Session 4 - Magnolia**  
Praise and Music - Amy Medina & Paulette Greene  
Message: Bold Words (Consecration) - Bonita Shields
- 11:45 a.m. Theme Song and Time of Commitment

*On-campus shuttle service is available. Please ask at the front desk for the schedule.*



### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS - SABBATH AFTERNOON

You, the women of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, are amazing! Because of your interest and passion for others, you are making a difference in connecting and building relationships. Come listen, learn, and be inspired!

Gods <sup>in</sup> Shoes  
Ministry

### SABBATH OFFERING

The monies collected during the retreat will help support the God in Shoes Ministry. In June we will be going to Clarkston, GA, a city just outside Atlanta, which is home to almost 10,000 refugees. Time magazine called Clarkston the most diverse square mile in America due to the massive influx of refugees, from more than 40 different countries speaking more than 60 languages. More details will be shared in our Special Feature on Sunday morning. Your generosity is making a difference in the lives of others! If you have brought a pair of shoes to donate, please bring them with you to the Sabbath evening program.



## FEATURING



### ADULT SPEAKER - **BONITA JOYNER SHIELDS**

Bonita currently serves as the associate director of stewardship for the North American Division. She most recently served in the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, where she was as an editor and assistant director of discipleship for more than eight years. She previously served for five years as an assistant editor of the *Adventist Review* and for almost seven years as an associate pastor of the Spencerville Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. Bonita received her undergraduate degree in theology at Washington Adventist University (formerly Columbia Union College) and her graduate degree in pastoral ministry from Andrews University.

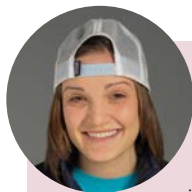
"'Courage for the Call' resonates with me because fear has kept me from many good things in life. I ran from my calling for years because of it," she says. "As we spend time together this weekend, my hope is that as I share elements that I believe are essential for our journeys—calling, courage, confidence, and commitment—that they will help to empower you to embrace your calling. Our callings may be different, but it's the same God who works in us and through us to accomplish His purposes."

Bonita lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with Roy, her husband of almost 32 years.



### TEEN SPEAKER (AGES 14-17) - **KRISTINA DUBS**

Kristina is passionate about helping teen girls fall deeper in love with Jesus. She has pursued that passion having worked 5 summers at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, served a year as a Student Missionary teaching high school, and has completed her Masters Degree in Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Kristina works as a registered nurse but enjoys connecting with people and hearing their stories even more. She currently ministers along side her best friend for life, Nate Dubs, as he pastors in Southern Georgia. They love time with family, traveling, reading books together on long car rides, hiking, playing music, cooking (and eating!) new recipes, loving their dog (Loki), and looking forward to their first baby this May!



### TEEN SPEAKER (AGES 11-13) - **BRITNEY VERDUZCO**

Britney is a nursing major at Southern Adventist University. She answers the call to adventure through rock climbing, piano playing, exploring nature, and exercise in general. She has a passion for individually connecting with those around her and doing her best to connect them with Jesus as well.



### TEEN SPEAKER (AGES 11-13) - **SIERRA WENDT**

Sierra is a religious studies major at Southern Adventist University. She likes capturing the world around her through words and photography, going on outdoor adventures, and taking longboard excursions. Her goal is to build a solid relationship with God and invite as many people as possible to join her on the journey.



### SPECIAL FEATURE SPEAKER - **KELLI CZAYKOWSKY**

Kelli is the executive director and founder of F.R.E.E. (Friends of Refugees Providing Education and Empowerment) and is a professional occupational therapist and owner of Czaykowski Hand Surgery Center located in Lawrenceville, Ga. As a healthcare practitioner, Kelli is qualified to ensure the health and wellness of the refugee population and properly assess their quality of care by interpreting laws and policies related to the well-being of children and adult refugees. In addition, she is the primary point of contact, functioning to connect the families with the appropriate medical care. This would also include ensuring that immunizations are up to date, proper education of the female population per women's health, HIV and STD awareness, prevention of chronic diseases, and general hygiene.

You will want to hear Kelli's story of how God placed a burden on her heart and gave her "courage for the call" as she reaches out to this diverse population.



### MUSICIAN - **AMY MEDINA**

Amy loves playing the piano in music ministry for her local church and has frequently shared her gift of music at the conference women's retreats. Amy is a nurse and alumna of Southern Adventist University. It was at Southern that she met the love of her life, Daniel. They have been married for three years and live in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Amy's hobbies include kayaking, cooking, and gardening.



### MUSICIAN - **PAULETTE GREENE**

Paulette has enjoyed singing all her life and has always found joy through music. An alumni of Southern Adventist University, she is the business office manager at her local assisted living and memory care facility, where she is blessed every day by her residents. On weekends, she enjoys spending time with friends or team teaching in the youth Sabbath School at her home church. Her favorite pastimes are reading most anything and spoiling her cats and dog.

# 2016 CALENDAR

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS FROM WOMEN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES!

April 29

**God in Shoes**

Pikeville Church  
Pikeville, TN

July 24

**God in Shoes**

Vise Grove Church  
Heflin, AL

June 22-29

**God in Shoes Mission Trip**

Clarkston, GA

August 26-28

**S'MORE Camp**

**(Single Moms' and Kids' Retreat)**

Cohutta Springs  
Crandall, GA

July 16

**enditnow March**

Centennial Olympic Park  
Atlanta, GA

October 28-30

**Marriage Retreat**

Location TBA

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS WEEKEND SPECIAL!

**Women's Ministries Team**

Mary Lou Buoymaster  
Brenda Dubs  
Peggy Hagan  
Shelby Husted  
Frances McCarter  
Heidi Melton  
Cyndra Peggau  
Tracie Read  
LeShel Taylor  
Karen Tillotson

**Presenters**

Bonita Joyner Shields  
Kristina Dubs  
Britney Verduzco  
Sierra Wendt  
Kelli Czaykowski

**Other Special People**

Amy Green Medina, musician  
Paulette Greene, musician  
Marietta School Hand Bell Choir  
The Cohutta Springs staff



**GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE**  
Women's Ministries