CHATTER MATTERS
April 2016

Dayspring Walk to Emmaus

"With cross-shaped blossoms for all to see
The petals shall have bloodstains marked in brown
And in the blossom’s center a thorny crown.
All who see it will think of Me, nailed to a cross from a dogwood tree.
Protected and cherished this tree shall be--
A reflection of all of My agony."
(From “The Legend of the Dogwood Tree” Author unknown)

WALKS UPDATE
The Spring Walks are behind us. Our homes, churches, and communities will be stronger as a result of the Holy Spirit's work in the Pilgrims on Walks #94 and #95.

Mark your calendars for the Fall Walks, #96 and #97:

Men’s Walk September 8-11, 2016
Women’s Walk September 15-18, 2016

Lay Directors for the Fall Walks will be announced as soon as the Board selects and approves the new Lay Directors for these Walks.
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Please be in fervent prayer now for sponsorship, servants, and the Pilgrims God will send on these Walks. Remember we always have a specific need for more couples. The deadline date for Servant applications is May 1, 2016 and Pilgrim applications is July 1, 2016.

To obtain Servant and Pilgrim applications go to: www.dayspringwalktoemmaus.com

Send completely filled out applications to:
Beth T. Akins, Registrar at bethtakins@hotmail.com
(remember the "t" after beth)

Mail to: Dayspring Walk to Emmaus
P. O. Box 1312
Statesboro, GA 30459

Phone: (912) 682-3340

APRIL GATHERING

Our next Community Gathering will take place at Metter United Methodist Church in Metter, GA. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 23, 2016. We will meet for food and fellowship with your favorite covered dishes at 6:00 p.m. in their Fellowship Hall. Worship, music, the Fourth Day speaker, and Holy Communion will take place in the Sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you all there!!! The church is located at 30 West Lilian St., Metter, Georgia.

Child care will be provided.

Helpful Terms to Know

Chrysalis—the youth and young adult version of the Walk to Emmaus. This is for ages 15-18 and is geared toward high school students. The "caterpillars" take their "flights" in June. Girls go one weekend and the boys go the next weekend. The Chrysalis flights in our area take place at Tattnall Campground.

Journey—the young adult version of the Walk to Emmaus. This is for ages 19-24 and is geared toward college age young adults. These "caterpillars" take their "flights" in February of each year. Girls go one weekend ahead of the boys. The Journey flights take place at Tattnall Campground.

Walks—the adult Walk to Emmaus weekends. The adult "walks" of "Pilgrims" take place twice a year. The Spring Walks take place in March and the Fall.
What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

Walks take place in September. The Men's Walk takes place ahead of the Women's Walk. The Walks for our area take place at Tattnall Campground.

Pilgrim's Progress
Doris Cook
Dayspring Walk # 31, Table of Ruth

"When asked to write this, my first thoughts were, "I have nothing to write about"; however, that is not true for me or for any of us who believe in our God. Actually, God is in my mind so often, He is simply intermingling alongside the gazillion other thoughts coming and going in my brain. If my gazillion thoughts could be immediately transported to paper, I would not have enough time to edit, arrange, delete, or decide which to leave for a book, or even these few paragraphs! Therefore, my 4th day progress reminds me of high and low tides of our oceans. Most of my tides are my family. Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 5: 3-5 to care for our family for this is pleasing to God. As a Grandmother, I have to constantly remind myself not to put my grandchildren FIRST in my life!

High tide: one grandson soon to be 16, is flying a plane (with his instructor) landing, taking off, day and night, and properly positioning it back into the hangar when his flying lesson is over! He is also quite the actor, at times chosen for a leading role in his school's drama presentations. He truly is at home on the stage and loves an audience!

Lowest tide ever: losing one grandson at the age of 18, to brain cancer. I had to ask God "WHY" over and over during this low tide. Family, friends, and friends of friends, church congregations, some outside our United States were praying for him, so again why? Surely God knew he was an outstanding Offensive Lineman #70, wrestler, picture of health, and such a sweet son, brother, brother-in-law, grandson, cousin, friend, and a quiet, focused child of God. A difficult lesson learned - prayer is not a wish list. I changed my prayers for God's strength, courage, stamina, determination, His presence to be felt, to beat cancer, and for those of us around him to be guided likewise. Humanly, I could not rejoice when he was ultimately healed July 15, 2014. I have since come to somewhat feel the truth and power of Romans 8:28. His legacy has touched untold numbers of people. And, it continues through a foundation established in his memory and honoring his life. Thumbs-Up Mission is ALIVE; serving families currently battling cancer. II Timothy 4: 6-8 was his "go to" verse as we later learned from his many scribbling notes and marked verses in his Bible. He definitely set us an example. He was the child who "shall lead" them. In heaven, he is creating a bitter-sweet high tide for his Grandmother. (Please like Thumbs-Up Mission FB page. Web site: Thumbs Up Mission/Keaton Franklin Coker Foundation)

High tide: one beautiful and especially thoughtful granddaughter has taken the plunge of leaving the nest to share apartment living while attending a nearby technical college and pursuing a specific vocation. As Dr. Jeremiah says, "I never thought I'd see the day" she would grow up so soon! Surprises never cease.

Low tide: days I allowed a pity party to linger.

High tide: one grandson participates and is quite good in roller hockey and track. Of course, he has never learned to walk - he
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrew 12:8

learned to run instead! And our youngest grandson who is four, keeps us all running and entertained!

Low tide: when I allow my tongue to take over at times when I know it should remain silent. A slight resemblance of the apostle Paul, as alerts us to be mindful of knowing what we should do while doing the very thing we should not do!

High tide: Our oldest grandson marrying a lovely young lady nearly two and one half years ago. God has blessed him with talents, artistically and verbally. He utilizes both in his calling as a Children's Minister. They will parents of our first great grandchild in June.

Low tide: days I do not honor my husband quite like the Bible states.

High tide: two other beautiful granddaughters who are in school and involved in extracurricular activities. One is a senior in college and one in elementary school. Both can bring smiles and tears to this Grandmother!

Low tide: quite the unexpected news - learning cancer had reappeared in five places in my sister's body after 21 years of dormancy. Recently however, following treatment, her cancer is presently not active, but the fear and dread of it is ever present. She daily walks an intense walk with God.

High tide: a football scholarship to the University of North Carolina was awarded to one grandson, who became a red-shirt freshman, then suffered elbow injuries which prevented the fulfillment of his Quarterback dream. He was offered a medical hardship, refused that option and subsequently became a walk-on to the prestigious Tar Heel basketball team as a Guard. He is #13 which is often equated with bad luck and yes, he broke a bone in his right hand, which caused him to attend their ACC tournament games dressed in a suit and tie, and splint! We were elated when he made the team and knew he would keep the bench warm many times but that did not dampen our spirits. However, he did have a few minutes of playing time in several regular season games. Presently, with his healed hand, #13 will be wearing his uniform in Texas - the Tar Heels (at this printing) have made it to The Final Four! Losing his younger brother to brain cancer, athletic stressors, adapting to college life, and being away from the daily physical support of family would have been an extended low tide for him had he not leaned on God and his NC pastor.

Low tide: In October, 2015, I had a sudden attack of amnesia for about four hours - end result was the ER, an overnight stay in the hospital, and many tests and scans.

High tide: I don't remember those four hours. I was completely functional and in no pain. I know now that I am completely and totally in God's hands, whatever the circumstances. My walk with God continues to simulate the pattern of the tides, and I feel closer to God both coming in and going out - I pray both ways! In my Grandmother years I have realized that most of us follow this pattern and that God is the ONLY resource we have, or need, to survive the tides. God is love and loving my nine precious (and the "prettiest of all") grands, with one in heaven, is the greatest blessing one can have. I tend to favor Numbers 13:33 and its address reminds me what #13 can truly mean!"

DeColores!
Doris Cook
But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all.

! John 1:7

We are constantly reminded through sermons and bible study that God's timing is perfect. It must be my stubbornness/human nature/planner side that causes me to lose sight of this from time to time. When my wife informed me that she wanted to go on the Walk, it was God doing his thing at the perfect time once again.

I grew up in church. I was baptized at a young age. I was active in all the youth programs growing up. I was pretty much the "text book" Christian kid. However, all the church activity stopped when I moved off to college. I like to refer to that time as my "Walk About" which now scares me when I look back because I was seriously lost during that time. Finished college, got married to the girl that I've dated since my 9th grade year in high school and even bought a house. If you were to google "Circle of Life for an American," I'm pretty sure my picture would've came across your screen. We also decided to throw another life into the mix so we added a little girl to our family. How awesome it was to have life going according to our plan. Then came the storm.

After recovering from sleep deprivation, due to our tiny little life we had added and with Ashley going back to work, things seemed to be right on track. Then came the curve ball, Ashley lost her job. I know many families have endured and are experiencing much worse, but as you can tell from my lack of obstacles in the past I thought this was a BIG deal. All this happened in April, so as the year progressed, things just started compounding. Then the day came when Ashley said, "I want us to go on the Walk to Emmaus."

On an early fall weekend, I went to this campground that Indiana Jones couldn't even find and found something that I thought I had, I found the "connection." I had gone through life thinking I was with God the entire time, unfortunately, I was not. Thank goodness He was with me because I might not have survived that "Walk About." Up until I went on the Walk to Emmaus, I can honestly say that I never spent time in His presence. I fixed the "connection", which was on my end of the line that I never bothered to establish while living life.

What the Walk has done for me and is continuing to do for me is just AWESOME. It has healed a mother and son relationship. It has strengthened a marriage. It has made me a better parent. But most importantly, it created a servant. Life is still going to throw the curve balls, but I have that "connection" with the greatest coach ever, My Savior, My Lord, Jesus Christ."

God Bless!!!
DeColores
Shortly after my Walk I went through a divorce. I left my home for six months and lived with my older sister. This turned out to be a wonderful time in my life. My sister, her family and I grew much closer and were able to share great times together.

Several months later I received a call from a longtime friend asking if I would be attending a denomination-wide 50th anniversary music event that my "second mother" (who happens to be his mother) started. Her husband was my pastor and her children, who were close to my age, were my best friends!! I even dated her son some in high school and had a big old crush on him from the age of twelve. I was so excited to be asked to participate in a musical tribute and looked forward to seeing so many of my lifelong friends. Little did I know that I would be falling in love with my high school sweetheart all over again!! He and I started talking that week and continued by phone once we went home. A year and a half later we were married!! I am happy to say that he is still my husband and the love of my life! Being with his family was like a family reunion! His sister and her husband had been and still are some of my best friends and share the same faith in Christ! And his mother, WOW! She had been the person, outside of my own parents, who had influenced me so much in my teen years and was the one who instilled my love of music.

My life continued on with all the ups and downs. Through these years, my mother-in-law died several months after being diagnosed with renal cancer, several family members dealt with addiction, job changes occurred, moves happened and many other difficult times transpired.

But, there have been some wonderful times as well! My son married a wonderful, Christian woman. My daughter became engaged to be married in June and I have continued my involvement in a yearly medical mission trip to Ukraine. My husband and I have become more involved in our church and our denomination. Life is good!

Most recently, my dear, sweet ninety-three year old mother became ill, was diagnosed with renal cancer, went to hospice and died within a one week period in December. Of course it was sad, but God was so merciful and gracious. My mother didn't have to suffer and had basically been healthy and independent for all of her ninety three years!! Both of my children were able to visit with her before she died and my sister and I were able to be at her bedside when she went home to be with her Lord. Not only were we there, but my son and his lovely wife were there as well. Watching my son hold her hand, reposition her, rub her back, feed her and just pour out his love to her was such a blessing. After years of addiction and emotional separation from family, it was my son, clean and sober, who was giving back the unconditional love to his beloved grandmother! He spoke at her funeral and his theme was her unconditional love for him and God's unconditional love for each of us!! How awesome!!

Since Mama's death, my sister and I have had to place our brother in a nursing home. My mother had cared for him for almost eleven years, after he suffered multiple strokes. It was a difficult change for him, but it has actually made us all closer. After years of anger and resentment towards my brother for "ruining my mother's last years" caring for him, we are now closer than ever!! My husband and I visit him several times each week and enjoy conversations and memories of family experiences.

Through these experiences of grief, broken relationships, addiction and all the other "stuff", I have learned that I AM NOT IN CONTROL!! When I have a heart full of gratitude, no matter what's happening, I can then see that God can bring good from any situation. When I truly trust God and "lean not on mine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5), I can be serene and peaceful no matter the circumstances. As I learned on Walk #71, I must...
surrender my self-will. Only then can I "Let go and let God". HE'S got this!!

DeColores!!
Diane

Dayspring Communications

There are questions and concerns about "Why don't I receive my Chatter Matters?", "How do I send Prayer Concerns? and "I have a Praise I need to share with the Community." These are just a few. Here are some of the answers! Please share with those who ask these questions. If you don't find what you need please email or call, Miriam Edenfield, 912-682-6316, almimifarm@gmail.com.

Website:  www.dayspringwalktoemmaus.com
This site contains Chatter Matter Newsletters, applications for sponsorship and servants, calendar of events, Journey and Chrysalis information, Board of Directors contact information, Prayer Vigil links and more. Susan Brown is currently our Web servant and serves as a subcommittee of communications. You can find their information on the website should you need to contact them.

Chatter Matters

The Chatter Matters is a monthly newsletter produced by the Dayspring community. It will contain the latest information on our community, Emmaus Walk, Journey, and Chrysalis news, testimonials, notes from the Board of Directors, monthly events, and other updates. To save funds, we send the bulk of the newsletters electronically using email. In this case, BE SURE TO add dayspringwalktoemmaus@gmail.com to your list of personal contacts. This should prevent the newsletters from going to your spam or junk folder. It is best to use a personal email as some worksites do not allow email from other businesses. However, if you do not have email, you have only to ask and we will mail yours using the US Postal Service. Miriam Edenfield is currently our Communications Chair and produces the newsletter. You can find her information on the website should you need to contact her in any way.

Praises and Prayer Requests

The Dayspring community is complete with Prayer Warriors. We believe in staying connected with God and each other through the power of prayer. Should you have any praises or prayer concerns to share, please do not hesitate to email them to dayspringwalktoemmaus@gmail.com so that they can be sent to everyone. Ed Boulineau is currently our Prayer Coordinator and serves as a subcommittee of worship. You can find his information of the website should you need to contact him in any way.

Business Only List and All Other Concerns

You will automatically be set to receive all Dayspring news AND Prayer Concerns/Praises. Should you find at any time that you are receiving too many emails, you may email us at dayspringwalktoemmaus@gmail.com to request to be placed on the Business Only distribution list. The Business Only list still receives all news directly related to the walks, but you will not receive any Prayer Requests or Praises. This is a simple
change in our system and you can always request to go back to receiving everything when you are ready. It is never our intention to overwhelm or frustrate our members. Just let us know.

Should you have any other concerns or questions, don’t hesitate to email us at dayspringwalktoemmaus@gmail.com. We are usually quick to respond and provide the help that you need.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

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Miriam Edenfield, Communications
almimifarm@gmail.com
DWTE #69, Table of Leah

, Dayspring Emmaus Community, P.O. Box 1312, Statesboro, GA 30459

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