



VOICE

THE MAGAZINE OF CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 2011-12 • ISSUE 1





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Barry Giller

Chief Financial Officer
Terry Efird

Lower School Principal
Sharon Humphrey

Middle School Principal
Amanda Poole

Upper School Principal
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A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS, MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL CHOIRS



VOICE

THE MAGAZINE OF CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2011-12 • ISSUE 1

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Dear Charlotte Christian Community,

"Where everyone knows your name..." That was the theme song of the popular television show *Cheers* which dominated the network rankings in the 1980s. A group of misfit Bostonians gathered daily at a local establishment where they shared their life stories with one another. I think we all truly long for a place where at least someone knows our name. The immensely popular coffee chain, Starbucks, sells more a sense of community than coffee. Is there a better feeling then when you walk in and your local barista already has your order ready by the time you get to the cashier?



In our overly busied and harried lives we all long for a sense of community. We rapidly race from appointment to obligation to meeting without making deep connections, all in the name of getting ahead and keeping up with the Joneses. With these cultural trends in mind, I added to our list of senior staff goals this year the desire to build community within our school. In our all school devotions on Monday mornings, I have been walking our team through Paul's words in Romans 12.

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not have the same function, so we, though many are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them..."

A true community celebrates differences and relishes learning from one another. A true community recognizes that God blesses each of us with different skills, talents, and assignments. This fall each of our senior staff members spent an entire day in another department or division as part of our *Undercover Boss* initiative. We traded our offices for a day with the nurses, or on the physical education fields, or in the classrooms, or in my case, with the Extended Day staff. We did this to learn more about our organization, but more importantly to build community and spend time with those in our midst who indeed have different skills and assignments. Our findings did not surprise us. We are blessed as a school with tremendously talented, passionate, and caring employees who daily go the extra mile to make our school a success.

True community is not one where everyone knows your name, but rather one where everyone serves one another through humility. May our school be this type of community.

As always your prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

God Bless,

Barry Giller
Head of School



UNDERCOVER BOSS

Each week on the very popular television show, *Undercover Boss*, a different executive leaves the comfort of their own job for an undercover mission to examine the inner workings of their company. While working alongside their employees, they see the effects their decisions have on others and where the successes and failures lie within their organization all while discovering the unsung heroes who make their company run.

While watching the show last summer with his family, Head of School Barry Giller decided he wanted to undertake a similar project with the school's senior staff and thus the Charlotte Christian School Undercover Boss initiative was born.

"Every time I watched the show, it was eye-opening to see the leaders of an organization interact with people they would not normally see and learn about their stories," said Mr. Giller. "The bosses would often come back with ways to help the job be done better. Typically those of us in the leadership positions do not see how the day to day operations work, and this was a way for us to get in the nitty-gritty of the school's daily activities."

Though senior staff members couldn't truly go undercover, it was decided they would take a day out of their normal routines to spend in a different area of the school. During employee orientation week in August, Mr. Giller randomly drew the name of a senior staff member from a hat and then paired it with a randomly drawn department/employee name. Members of the senior staff were responsible for contacting their assigned staff member to make arrangements for the day they would spend together, and they were expected to actively participate in whatever the job entailed.



Once their assignment was complete, the senior staff members had to report back to the leadership team during their weekly meeting about how their day went, what went well, and come up with a suggestion or two on how the senior staff as a whole could better support the people in those various departments or divisions.

"One of the school's main initiatives for the 2011-12 school year is to build community, and we thought this would be a fun way to accomplish this and be visible," said Mr. Giller.

Some of their assignments required staff members to truly leave their comfort zones and try things unfamiliar to them. Among other things, Director of Admissions Cathie Broocks helped install a gutter on one of the cottages, learned how to use a socket wrench, and painted areas in the fine arts complex.



"My day serving on our facilities team provided a wonderfully varied and sometimes fast-paced glimpse into the workings of this team and their responsibilities," said Mrs. Broocks. "I was grateful for the assignment, the welcome I received from this team and the BENGAY® at nightfall."

During his day in first grade, Upper School Principal Allen Nielsen played four square, taught Bible and math lessons to his students, walked them to the music cottage, and learned what red and green cups mean when they are turned over on the lunch table.

"It was a great day, but it was an absolutely exhausting day," said Mr. Nielsen. "I didn't know what to expect so I showed up there about 7:40 a.m. and they start at 7:45 a.m. I was immediately struck with all she (Mrs. Baum) has going on. I was amazed at the structure and yet the freedom the kids had in the structure."

"I was quite surprised that he was totally able to relate with our students and even got several hugs from them," said Mrs. Baum. "Since Allen is a granddad, I should have known he would be a pro with students of all ages."

"I feel like we got some good things accomplished coming out of the experience," said Mr. Giller. "On Monday mornings (in staff devotions) we have been studying Romans 12 which talks about how everyone has specific gifts and talents, and we should be able to use those in the body of Christ. Several of our senior staff members reported back with an appreciation for the gifts of their co-workers who do things each day that they themselves are not necessarily equipped to do."

Not only did the senior staff members learn and benefit from the experience, but the people with whom they spent their day also were impacted in the process.

"The employees appreciated that we were willing to spend a day with them to give up our time and to ask questions and learn from them," said Mr. Giller. "The nurses thought it was

great to have Mr. Jamerson with them. Not only did he pitch in, but he was also willing to ask how they did certain things and what some of their biggest hurdles were. For me, after spending the day with the Extended Day staff, I think they enjoyed knowing that I can now understand the stresses of the afternoon and how long their day can be."

"Our willingness to be vulnerable was important so that our staff could see we are not just sitting in our offices making decisions that will impact them without considering them. We are all part of the same team."

In addition to the positive experiences for the employees, all agreed that the students benefitted from the Undercover Boss project as well.

"Our students were able to see our senior staff, and many of them don't know what we all do, so it was healthy," said Mr. Giller.

Many of the lower school students did not recognize Lower School Principal Sharon Humphrey, who spent her day in the dining hall, as she served them their lunch. They enjoyed seeing her in that capacity.

"I got a lot of 'Miss Humphrey....is that you?' while I was working with the FLIK staff," said Miss Humphrey. "Not only did I learn what hard workers we have in the dining hall, but it was fun to see the looks on the students' faces when they figured out it was me behind the counter."

Many positive things came out of the Undercover Boss initiative, but one of the things that stood out most to Mr. Giller was the high caliber of individuals who have been called to work at Charlotte Christian School and collectively make up the faculty and staff.

"We are blessed with passionate, dedicated and talented people."

SENIOR STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

Head of School Barry Giller	Extended Day
Chief Financial Officer Terry Efird	Jason Coles, Middle School P.E.
Lower School Principal Sharon Humphrey	FLIK, Dining Hall
Middle School Principal Amanda Poole	Dean Hardy, Senior Bible
Upper School Principal Allen Nielsen	Anita Baum, First Grade Teacher
Director of Academics Theresa Kasay	Shelley Wallace, Lower School Art
Director of Admissions Cathie Broocks	Derek Drummond, Facilities
Director of Athletics Tom Jamerson	Nursing Staff
Director of Communications Laura Goodyear	Judy Myers, Middle School Office
Director of Development George Courtney	Diane Steffens, Grade 2 Assistant Teacher
Director of Human Resources Shannon Edwards	Teresa Barbour, Grade 7 Math



Knights Student Blog

This blog allows Charlotte Christian upper school students to share their perspective and insight into the "day in the life of an upper school student." In the fall of 2012, the Upper School English Department selected students with writing programs to participate in this opportunity.

Knights Student Bloggers

At graduation we often hear about our seniors' accomplishments, accolades and college choices, but we rarely have a chance to hear what they are truly thinking about all the changes in their lives. To really hear their voice, you need to be in the hallways, sit across from them at lunch or hang out near the lockers. There is a new blog available on the Charlotte Christian website where a group of seniors have the opportunity to share their thoughts on what makes them happy and the situations they are wrestling with. The Knights' Student Blog offers eight different perspectives into the lives of an upper school student. Here are some excerpts from recent blog entries and college essays written by this diverse and talented group.



"People said that I could not be a good basketball player because I was too small. I learned to shoot well and play hard-nose defense. Some people said I could not do well in school. I learned to study hard and to push myself. People said I could not change the way I treated other people. I learned to think before I speak and to have an open mind. Defying the odds and thoughts of other people defines me. Without that drive, I would not be who I am today." — **Ian Ebert**

"He told us, "education is not how much knowledge you have, but how you are able to process the world." Nabeel himself has completed medical school and received two master's degrees, which gives him plenty of expertise in the area of education. He says that it would be impossible to remember everything he has learned, but his learning has transformed the way he views the world. Simple tidbits of wisdom such as this have in turn reminded me to be grateful for my own education at Charlotte Christian."

— **Monica Galletto**

"At first glance, one can see that students love to talk about their daily lives with Flik's employees. Throughout the years, students have developed friendly relationships with them. Personally, I have learned many life lessons from these employees such as: not talking with my mouth open, always saying ma'am and sir, and most importantly, taking care of my body and being conscious of what I put inside it. I have also grown spiritually thanks to these hard-working people. They emulate what God means when He says "serve others." And not only that, but they truly care about those around them." — **Mark Igbinadolor**

"But even though the competition process can be stressful, it is not without its fair share of bonding. Whether we are listening to music in the car, talking at the hotel, or laughing over Italian food, competition provides an opportunity for an already close-knit team to grow even closer. Getting away from school and homework allows us to fully focus on what we love to do, and meet people who love theater too." — **Shelley Leazer**

"As I intend to major in Creative Writing (or, more broadly, English), books have a certain authority to me. I could write tomes mentioning every book that has developed my psyche in some way. I have my parents and teachers to thank for such variety in literature. They have given me books and helped me, as Dawkins has, to learn how to think, and Chekhov has shown me how to break the rules." — **Evan Marcey**

"I had always been a class clown, but after watching him (Mr. Boythe), I learned that there was a time to be funny and a time to be serious. Without even realizing it, he was transforming me into a person who exhibited self-control. This "new me" felt more confident because I became better liked by the teachers while actually making more friends since people knew I could have deep conversations as well as humorous one-liners."

— **Ryan Potocnik**

"Recently, I have found myself struggling with wondering how God is using me right now. Often times it feels like we are all just waiting for our lives to start. "As soon as I get to college..." or "As soon as I graduate..." then what? Then we will start fulfilling God's plans for our lives? Then we will remember to love our neighbor? Then we will make an impact? Certainly His plan isn't just to keep us in a holding room until we graduate and then He will let us go out and do His will." — **Hannah Richards**

"I am a high school senior girl, drowning in college applications and wishing I could be on a beach somewhere. Parents, are you looking for advice from a learned 17 year old? I understand the majority of those reading this shall most likely answer "no." But, for the few out there with children nearing the high school age, I warn you: prepare yourself. Do not, I repeat, do not encourage your child to apply to more than 10 colleges. You will hurt them and hurt yourself. I recommend a healthy range of four to six schools. You see, I am applying to 12." — **Kate Williams**



Miss Sharon Humphrey: A DAY IN THE LIFE

What is a typical day like for Charlotte Christian's new lower school principal, Sharon Humphrey? Whether it's playing four square with her students or meeting to discuss curriculum with Director of Academics Theresa Kasay, the typical day for Miss Humphrey is that it is usually different than the one before it.

Her day at school begins before 7 a.m. when she arrives and heads down to the dining hall to visit with the students who come to school early. Then, rain or shine, she moves outside to morning carpool to welcome students as they arrive.

One of Miss Humphrey's new initiatives, the lower school's daily morning devotion and announcements, requires that she leave carpool a little early to be ready for the fifth grade student that will read the announcements from Miss Humphrey's office via the intercom.

Once all her early morning responsibilities have been taken care of, the day begins to vary somewhat in how it will take shape.

"My day is never the same," said Miss Humphrey. "I am in the dining hall with students during lunch and in a lot of meetings. This first semester I have been trying to learn the lower school, and I have been trying to get to know the teachers, students and parents."

Miss Humphrey has three weekly administrative staff meetings and one bi-weekly lower school faculty meeting to attend regularly. She also meets on an as-needed basis with parents, teachers and students and regularly with Miss Kasay.

"Theresa and I spend time evaluating the lower school to ensure we are following our mission statement, Mr. Giller's vision, the board's vision and most importantly, raising up kids for the Lord."

Miss Humphrey is a passionate advocate for her teachers and works hard to spend as much time in the classroom as possible.

"I want our community to see how great our teachers are, how hard they work and that they do wear a lot of hats. I am continuously amazed at the quality of our teachers and that I get to be a part of it. They do the hard stuff."

Besides being an ardent supporter for her teachers, Miss Humphrey desires to be personally involved with the students.

"I don't want them to see me only when they are in trouble," said Miss Humphrey. "I want them to see me as an advocate and that I am somebody they can talk to. I'll go out during recess and play football (which I am good at) and four square (which I am not very good at). I am really trying to get to know the kids. They have been so welcoming."

During her first nine weeks on campus, Miss Humphrey has enjoyed experiencing the blessings of working in a Christian school.

"The thing that makes the lower school run is that Christ is the center of it. We can always bring the focus to Him, and that is what is so wonderful about working here. That is the desire of every faculty member that I have met."

On a personal note, Miss Humphrey has also enjoyed her move to Charlotte though she is still looking for a place to land permanently. She enjoys attending her weekly Bible study and spending time with her sister and nieces in Gastonia.

Most of her time, though, is spent getting to know Charlotte Christian and searching for God's guidance in the direction He wants the lower school to go.

"There is a lot that I want to do," said Miss Humphrey. "I am really excited about where we will be in five years and just the fun it will be to get to that point."



CAN YOU NAME THE CHINESE REVOLUTIONARY WHO WAS AWARDED THE 2010 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
FOR HIS NON-VIOLENT APPROACH TO ADVOCATING REFORM?

OR

DO YOU KNOW WHAT ORGANIZATION, ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF AN HISTORIC UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, TOOK OVERALL COMMAND OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MARCH OF 2011 TO
PROTECT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE AGAINST COLONEL MUAMMAR EL-QADDAFI'S OUTRAGEOUS ATTACKS?

(see below for answers)

Eight Charlotte Christian students knew the answers to these questions and many like it as part of their participation in the 2011 Academic WorldQuest competition sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte (WACC). Seniors Emma Grant and Jongmin Park along with juniors Allen Crosby, Houston Culpepper, Chase Howard, Jared Odenbeck, Scott Ortlip and Josh Stater made up the school team that spent countless hours over three months preparing for the event held at the Westin Hotel on Nov. 17.

The Academic WorldQuest is a global knowledge competition for high school students in the greater Charlotte area. Approximately 215 students from 24 teams participated in this year's event, and Charlotte Christian came away with 13th place. This was remarkable considering the group members only met once a week as a group during lunch to prepare.

This fast-paced competition consisted of eight rounds of 10 questions each with typically 30-seconds for every question. Each team collaborated to answer the questions and submitted their answer sheet at the end of each round. Teams knew ahead of time what the categories would be and were able to research and study in those areas. The "Geography of South America," "Flags of the World," "Current Global Events," and "Arab Spring" were just a few of the examples.

Led by Upper School Language Arts Teacher Renuka Szymborski, who was assisted by Upper School History Teacher Donn Headley, the team divided up the categories, and each student volunteered to become "experts" in two of them. In the weeks leading up to the competition several obstacles came up that required flexibility and resourcefulness on the part of the team.

"I am proud of this team because they rose to the occasion and competed for the sheer joy of it," said Mrs. Szymborski.

ANSWERS: LIU XIAOBO AND NATO



Serving On and Off the Court

The Charlotte Christian volleyball program is consistently serving up successful seasons and 2011 was no different. After graduating five seniors last year, this predominately underclassman-filled squad learned how to bond together and develop attitudes of leaders. Varsity Head Coach Jamie Arnold started off the year leading her team to two quick tournament championships in the "Volley with the Knights" at North Raleigh Christian Academy and the "End of Summer Slam" at Forsyth Country Day School.



"I am most proud of this team's growth," said Coach Arnold. "Over half the team was pulled up from the JV squad so they had to learn how to play at the next level. Their maturity and how they progressed just impressed me. This was an extremely dedicated group – playing year around, going to camps, entering beach tournaments - they play all the time on their own."

The team wrapped up this season with a 25-12 record and a third place finish in the state tournament. Junior Sydel Curry and sophomore Kyrie Pennington earned all-conference honors and Sydel was named to the all-state team. Success trickled down throughout the entire volleyball program as every team – grade 7, grade 8, junior varsity and varsity – had a winning record this season.

Part of the success is attributed to year-round play. The team trains in the spring as well as the summer, attending two summer team camps, in addition to team members playing club volleyball in the off season. In addition, summer open gym time as well as weight training schedules provided by Coach Estep allows the student-athletes to improve their skills and strengthen themselves in preparation for the season.

This summer they took time out of their training schedule to serve more than volleyballs. The team volunteered at 2xSalt ministry's "Summers Best Week" aimed at connecting and ministering to children through sports.

"We took a week off of training to work with the kids at Summers Best Week at 2xSalt," said Sydel. "Coach Arnold is really passionate with reaching out to others and ministering to little kids. We played sports with them like basketball, arcade games, soccer and dodge ball. We then spent time in chapel and were able to mentor to the kids during small group devotions. It was a lot of fun. The kids were so sweet. It was great to show Christ's love to them."

"My team is very driven as far as academics and they are focused athletes. Sometimes we can get too focused on ourselves and what we want to accomplish. It is good to take a step back, take everything into perspective and see what's really important. Serving allows us to turn our focus on helping others," said Coach Arnold.





Athletic Mentoring Program

This fall the athletic department began a mentoring initiative in an effort to build unity among the teams of each program. Varsity and junior varsity team members met with their middle school counterparts to build relationships and encourage one another.

"There were several goals of the program," said Director of Athletics Tom Jamerson. "We wanted to help our upperclassmen to see their role and responsibility as a leader on campus for their respective program. It was also to teach and train those upper school athletes how to build in to the lives of our middle school students. Lastly, we wanted to help our middle school students to understand and feel part of the total program."

The varsity football and cheerleading programs took part in the mentoring project this season. Football met with the middle school team three times parlaying their weekly devotions on character trait building into a chance to relate with the younger athletes.

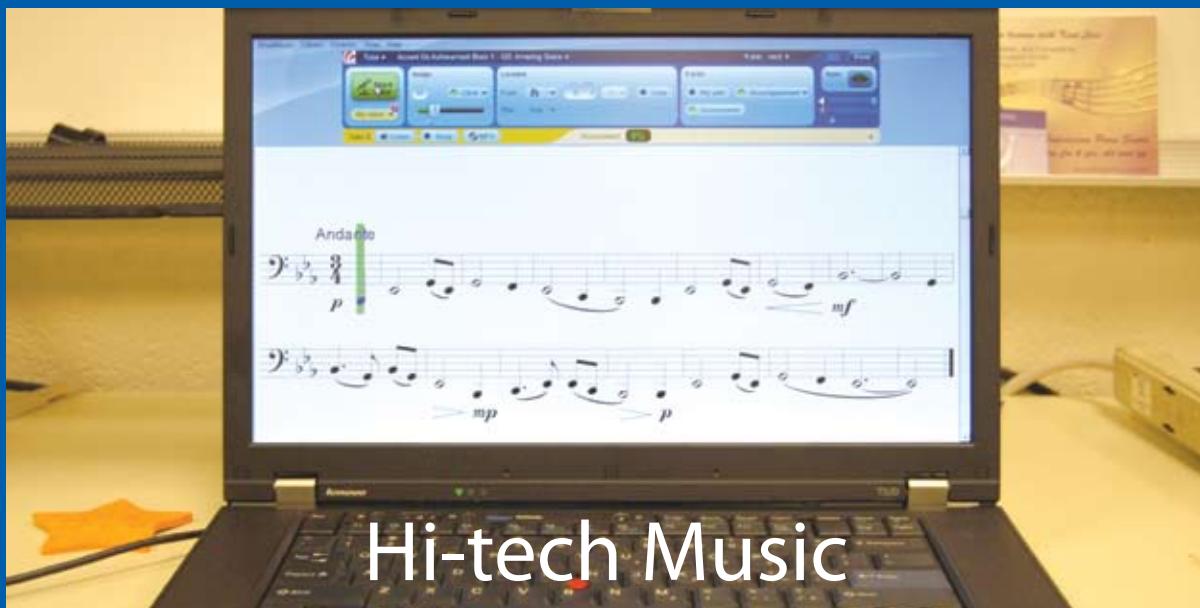
"It was a good opportunity for us to be able to show the middle school students that we are not just a bunch of people that play football but that we also like to live what we learn at CCS," said senior Jay Patterson. "We try to be a good example for them to look up to."

Eighth grader Chase Broadway appreciated the opportunity to spend time with the older athletes. "It was a good thing for us to go through because it showed us what we could possibly turn in to. They mentored us and talked about what they went through at our age and the lessons of football and leadership."

Each varsity cheerleader was also paired with a middle school cheerleader for the season. The cheerleaders would put encouraging notes in their lockers and attend some of the middle school practices and games to watch their routines and give helpful feedback and encouragement. The sentiment was reciprocated with signs made for the varsity squad during Homecoming week.

"We did this a few years ago with big sister and little sister so it was nice to bring it back," said senior Carrie Frances Daniel. "I remember really liking it when I was in middle school, that it was so cool that a varsity cheerleader hung out with us. It's good for the seventh and eighth graders to get to know those on the varsity squad to see a familiar face as they move up to the varsity team next year."





Band and orchestra students are benefiting from advanced computerized techniques in the classroom and at home thanks to creative teaching on the part of Band Instructor Jane Mendlik and Orchestra Instructor Don Humphries.

Practicing band assignments is fun, entertaining, and high-tech with the SmartMusic online program. Charlotte Christian band students in grades six through eight and jazz band students in grades six through nine use the web-based tool to aid in their at-home rehearsal time. Instead of practicing alone in a quiet room, students can play along with their computer and receive an immediate assessment of their progress.

"I think it is really fun to practice online," said seventh grade tuba player Jeremy Hart. "I can practice my music on my own time, and I think it has helped me."



Each student has their own account which allows them access to thousands of music arrangements. Mrs. Mendlik assigns each student their selection which can be practiced alone or with accompaniment. Notes appear in green if played correctly or red if played incorrectly. Students can rehearse until they are pleased with their work and then send their best recording to Mrs. Mendlik, who grades the assignment and responds online with helpful comments and suggestions.

"SmartMusic is wonderful way for our middle school students to practice their music and get immediate



feedback on their successes," said Mrs. Mendlik. "We all enjoy working with the program and it's encouraging for them to see improvement in their performance."

Don Humphries has gradually integrated a Macbook Pro and a SMART Board into every orchestra class he teaches. "It has become an integral tool in my teaching as I am now using it as an accompanist in middle and upper classes," shared Mr. Humphries. "With a USB keyboard, I play the piano, guitar, bass, or any other necessary part into Apple software's Garageband or Logic and then have an instant arrangement to use with each group's practice or performance."

Using the computer during practice helps the students play more confidently and in tune, and the built-in metronome is used to improve the student's counting and rhythmic skills. "I am excited to show how orchestral instruments can integrate technology like this to perform a wide range of musical styles – everything from Mozart to the Beatles to Christmas music by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra," said Mr. Humphries.

The SMART Board allows him to keep his students on task and to use rehearsal time wisely. When students arrive, the pieces of music and other details are posted on the board in a visual presentation that catches the students' attention and allows for an efficient class flow. "I am excited and thankful to have this equipment in our studio," shared Mr. Humphries. "Anything that can deepen the students' musical experience and appreciation is a must in this era of technology."

Director of Visual Arts Eva Crawford draws the analogy of a tree to describe her vision for the campus-wide visual arts program at Charlotte Christian. Picture a tree, she shared. Just as a tree begins with a firm foundation before it can grow strong and be fruitful, that is how we approach teaching visual arts students at Charlotte Christian. Lower school is likened to the roots of the tree, a place of nourishment that exposes young artists to the basics and builds a firm footing for the elements and principles of art. Middle school serves as the trunk of the tree where time is spent solidifying knowledge of principle building, drawing, studying art history, and learning to see and think without being inhibited. Upper school is similar to the fruit-bearing part of the tree, providing an opportunity for students to explore, create, and develop their own personal voice.

From the roots up: growing artists at Charlotte Christian



Kendall McGowan, Grade 5



LOWERSCHOOL

Shelley Wallace, Charlotte Christian's new lower school art instructor, teaches 389 students each week from grades junior kindergarten through grade five. Miss Wallace finds that her students have a genuine love for art and are enthusiastic about expressing their ideas, especially when paint is involved. While junior kindergarten students focus on exploring different media and following directions, kindergarten students are developing their fine motor skills and learning concepts like cubism and making Picasso portraits. First grade students have studied artists like Georgia O'Keefe and created close-ups of flowers while third graders have experimented with creating tessellations. In all of her classes, Ms. Wallace works on the principles of good design. "I want to teach my students how to communicate ideas visually and help them learn techniques for making their art interesting and eye-catching," she shared.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Teaching students an appreciation and awareness of their visual environment and their own imagination is a priority in the middle school art classroom. Mr. Pete Baglia has taught art for the past 24 years, with the last 13 at Charlotte Christian as a middle and upper art instructor. "I want our students to be more amazed and more aware of the world around them," he said. Middle school art students continue to grow and strengthen their fundamentals by developing basics like perspective and shading and learning to balance the creative with technical in all of their compositions. Mr. Baglia teaches his students a concept called "eye training," or helping the students to see everything in their internal and external environment. Middle school students create projects like ceramics, mixed media art, and

ink wash pieces, some of which have gone on to win regional and national honors in the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition and other art contests in the area.



Chris Lohoff-Gaida, Grade 6

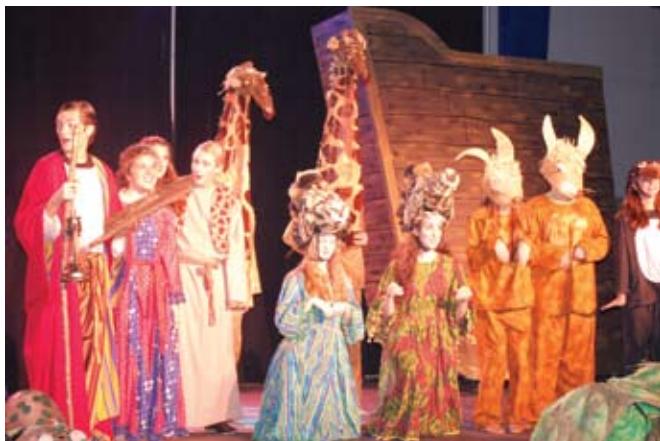
UPPER SCHOOL

Upper school art students have a wide variety of art classes available including Art I & II, Honors Studio Art, Painting I & II, Digital Photography, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and two Advanced Placement courses: AP Art History and AP Studio Art. Classes are taught by Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Baglia, and Mrs. Carol Grubbs and encourage students to explore their creativity and branch out into the various competition options. "Students continue to learn and develop their technical skills and smart about art," shared Mrs. Crawford. "Our art curriculum offers a nice balance for both the beginner and the advanced art students." Students regularly participate and are consistent winners in the various art competitions in Charlotte. Upper school artists have won major honors in the Matthews ArtFest, Patriotic Art Competition, Congressional Art Competition, and the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition. In the last two years alone, students have earned more than 80 gold and silver keys in the Scholastic competitions including two national gold key pieces that have gone on for display in New York and Washington, D.C.



Julie Morrison, Senior

The Art of Acting



Lori Anne Sword, Charlotte Christian's new director of theatre, began her first year with much anticipation and a full schedule which included teaching several theatre classes and directing both the ACT 1 upper school drama team and the ACT 3 lower school drama team.

"Charlotte Christian has a pool of talent like no other school, and I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with our students," said Mrs. Sword.

Rehearsals began over the summer for the 34 members of the ACT 1 competition drama team as they prepared for their fall double-feature of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Children of Eden*, shows they would later take to the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC) High School Play Festival in November. With Mrs. Sword's guidance, the team took a different spin on the traditional Shakespearean concept and presented *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a spa setting, an idea which was well-received by audiences and the competition judges. *Children of Eden*, a colorful musical which followed the time of Noah and the ark, presented the age-old conflict between parents and children as they grow up and head out on their own.

At the regional NCTC competition held Nov. 4-5, the ACT 1 team won multiple awards and *Children of Eden* was selected as one of two distinguished plays to advance to the NCTC state competition Nov. 17-18 at Greensboro College. Senior Bethany

Klinec and freshman Chad Damon both won Excellence in Acting Awards for their roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Bethany, who played the role of the "mischievous Puck," shared that she really liked the different portrayal of the classic comedy which helped audiences "join along in the ride."

"We have a lot of great new talent on the team this year and everyone did really well," said Bethany. "It is great to see everyone growing together like a family."

Mrs. Sword also directs budding young thespians on the ACT 3 lower school drama team. This year, the team is working hard to use their God-given talents to impact others for Christ. The audition-only group includes 20 fourth and fifth graders. "I adore working with the lower school students and helping them learn about theatre at an early age," shared Mrs. Sword.

The ACT 3 team practices every Monday after school to prepare skits and human videos (pantomimes to music) designed to draw people to Christ. For the Veteran's Day chapel, the team dressed in fatigues and performed a moving human video to the popular Mark Shultz song, "Letters from War."

The team plans to continue their performances in the spring with additional chapel appearances and a visit to the Sharon Towers Retirement Community.



ACT 1 AWARDS

REGIONAL AWARDS:

Excellence in Acting for
A Midsummer Night's Dream:

BETHANY KLINECT
CHAD DAMON

Excellence in Visual Concept:
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Excellence in Directing for
Children of Eden:

LORI ANNE SWORD

Artistic Director

MINDY DAMON

Music Director

LINDA BOOTH

Choreography/Assistant Director

STATE AWARDS:

Theatre Arts Award:

COSTUME DESIGN FOR CHILDREN OF EDEN

\$30,000 Theatre Education Scholarship

Award to
Greensboro College:
ANNA FARISH



Maturing in Christ

This September lower, middle and upper school students were given special opportunities outside of the regular school day to grow in their relationships with Christ. At an all-school chapel in October, students from each school division shared their experiences from the lower school S.L.A.M. week and the middle and upper school's Windy Gap retreat.

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND MEANING (S.L.A.M.)



The lower school participated in a week that centered around the theme "Springs of Life," derived from the school verse Proverbs 4:23. Students enjoyed interactive ways of teaching and object lessons. Ask any lower school student and they will tell you what it sounds like to enter the presence of God or why it is best to start your day out with God.

Fourth grader Katherine Neil shared the following:

"On day one we learned that God made us special and unique. On day two we learned that choices are important in life and that you should hang out with people that are good influences. On day three we learned to be loving and kind to your friends."

WINDY GAP

Eighth grader Avery Williams had the following to say about Windy Gap:

"I can't even think about Windy Gap without feeling excited. It is a moment in time that brings out the best of us. It is a time when we are more likely to live out how God wants us to live every day. I can't help but to think that Windy Gap has the potential to show us a glimpse of what Heaven may be like - all of us working together while worshipping openly and freely."

We learned to be BOLD – build it; own it; leave it; and do it. We worked on building our faith and our relationships with one another.

We are free to own it because we are surrounded by a community of faith. And we find it easy to leave the bad things in life behind because we are in a Christian environment. Then we do it. Not to go back to our old lives when we returned from Windy Gap. To live a life that is pleasing to Christ is easy to do at a place like Windy Gap. To live a life that is pleasing no matter what environment you are in, is not as easy. The lessons we learn at Windy Gap show us that this is possible and much easier if we do it together as a community. Teamwork is important no matter what the challenge."



Senior Maggie Blank shared this about the upper school Windy Gap experience:

"I've attended Charlotte Christian since sixth grade. Something about this year was different. Senior night I was listening to my classmates reminiscing about high school and its experiences and realized how much this class means to me and how awesome these people are. Over the three days of high school Windy Gap, just bonding with friends, I realized that some of these people are going to be lifelong friends of mine and be there for me through college and beyond and help me grow in my faith."

"Beyond winning dodge ball and being in the film for middle school, beyond all of that, was just a spiritual bond that is at Windy Gap. The praise and worship time, to be surrounded by friends and feel God's presence and just let loose and be like, hey, I love Jesus and don't be afraid to show it."



In the school's on-going desire to impact the culture for Christ, students in grades JK-12 participated in a school-wide Operation Christmas Child project in November. This Samaritan's Purse-led effort has been an annual Christmas tradition for many Charlotte Christian families, presenting an opportunity for families to band together to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world.



Charlotte Christian met this year's goal of 1,000 boxes during the three-day collection period, the most shoeboxes ever collected in the school's 12 plus history of participation. Barry Bucks were given to the group (within each school division)

that brought in the most boxes. The winning groups with either 100 percent participation or the most boxes brought in were the junior kindergarten and kindergarten classes for the lower school; Mr. Damon's and Dr. Koch's advisories for the middle school and the freshman class for the upper school.

It was a true school-wide effort as everyone left boxes under the Christmas tree in the Middle School Atrium. Classes were encouraged to write letters to and pray for the children that will receive the boxes. Students in the middle school's National Honor Society also collected boxes from around the school. Members of the upper school's National Honor Society counted and then delivered the boxes to the Operation Christmas Child collection site at Calvary Church.

"Participating in this project gives legs to our mission statement of impacting the culture for Christ," said Mrs. Allycia Brown, director of student life for the lower school. "It's an opportunity to do something hands-on at home. I think that for the kids it gives them a sense of accomplishment, being a part of something bigger than them, and just the overall feeling of I'm able to help somebody. It's the big focus of the drive. We are





blessed with so many things; it is our opportunity to bless others in need. That's the bonus of it."

Fourth grader Taylor Calkins and her brother, Jack, packed 10 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. "I think we should do Operation Christmas Child boxes because most people who are receiving these boxes have nothing and we have a lot, so we should do this so it could spread the joy of Christmas and be a blessing to those children."

Taylor packed special items such as toys, My Little Ponies, dolls and a new soft stuffed animal in her box. She prayed over her boxes and wrote a note to the child hoping that they would enjoy them. "I hope they feel like we love them and we know that they have gone through a lot and I hope they feel joyful and happy and that we love them."

"It makes everyone realize how fortunate they are and how packing a little box can help people, even though we might think it is just a small thing," said Jay Patterson, upper school student body president. "The students are excited to be able to help people and to impact all the people that get the boxes."



COMMUNITY IN ACTION

- At birthday parties, instead of receiving gifts, students packed shoeboxes.
- A family donated an abundance of supplies for the Early Education Building so that the students could pack shoeboxes in their classrooms. They had their own processing stations, packing 85 boxes.
 - Several middle school students brought in more than 20 boxes each.
- NHS members packed their cars full of shoeboxes to transport to the OCC collection site.





Website: Q & A

Q: HOW CAN I UPDATE MY PROFILE INFORMATION?

A: It is important that all parent profiles be current. In addition to the weekly *Focus*, this is also how we communicate priority information such as emergency school closings. Please visit www.charlottechristian.com and sign in with your username and password. Once you have signed in, you may edit your profile on the parent portal page under "My Account." The parent username and passwords carry over from year-to-year.

Q: HOW DO I SIGN UP TO BE NOTIFIED OR REMINDED OF AN ON-CAMPUS EVENT?

A: When viewing the calendar, you can sign-up to receive e-mail or text message reminders about important events specific to your family. To sign up for an alert, click on the "bell" icon next to the event of interest. You may choose to sign up for alerts for a specific event or for an entire calendar category. You will receive an alert if there is a change, postponement or cancellation. For further assistance, access the Alert Notification video from the links menu to the right.

Q: HOW CAN I SEE THE PICTURES FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOL EVENTS?

A: One of the great features of our new website is the online Media Gallery. As different events take place throughout the school year, we will be creating photo albums for you to view. This year we have created albums from Operation Christmas Child, Homecoming, Windy Gap, the Hendrick Chapel, ACT 1 shows and summer mission trips. In addition, we select three pictures to show each week in the *Focus*. We hope you will enjoy this glimpse of campus life!

Q: WHERE CAN I FIND ARCHIVED ISSUES OF THE FOCUS?

A: Once you have logged in as a member of our community, you may view past all-school e-mails or archived issues of the *Focus* by clicking on "E-mail Communication Archive" on the left-hand side of the screen of the Parent Portal page.

Q: CAN I GO TO CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN'S FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PAGES FROM THE SCHOOL WEBSITE?

A: Yes, at the bottom of any page on the school's website, you may click on the Facebook and Twitter icons, and this will take you directly to our Facebook page and to our Twitter feed. In addition to the school's main Twitter feed we hope you will also follow our athletic department (@CharChristAD) to receive updated scores and news.

Q: HOW CAN I VIEW THE SCHOOL CALENDAR ONE MONTH AT A TIME?

A: You may toggle between a list view and a grid view of the calendar. To the right of the alerts button at the top of the calendar is a "toggle view" button. If you click this you can view the calendar in a different format. You can also click the "calendar" export button to the right of the toggle button, and this will export the calendar directly into your computer.

Q: WHERE CAN I VIEW THE FAMILY HANDBOOK?

A: The Family Handbook can be viewed online or downloaded and printed for later viewing. You can access the handbook on the far left hand side of the parent portal page.

Q: WHERE DO I FIND OUT THE LOWER SCHOOL'S DAILY COLOR SCHEDULE OR IF IT IS AN A OR B DAY IN THE MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL?

A: The daily schedules can be viewed under the "daily schedules" tab on the parent portal page. You may also download and print the entire year's A/B day schedule. The daily schedule tab also lists the middle and upper school bell schedule and the arrival and dismissal times for lower, middle and upper schools.



IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

The Charlotte Christian nursing staff provides professional and loving care to hundreds of students each week. However, in addition to treating traditional stomachaches, headaches, scrapes, bumps and bruises, the nurses have teamed up to provide emergency response training to teachers, coaches and administrative staff members.

Throughout the first quarter of school, the nurses met with all faculty members to teach comprehensive emergency response procedures. Part of the training included how to respond to a student with an anaphylactic allergic reaction, how to recognize signs and symptoms of an asthma attack, how to respond to a student experiencing a seizure, and how to help a student experiencing diabetic complications.

"Most teachers, assistants and coaches are going to be the first responders on campus or on field trips if there is a student experiencing a medical emergency," said Head Nurse Lisa McCorkle. "We want them to know the signs and symptoms of potential problems so they know how to respond."

The training paid off immediately when the week after the lower school staff was trained a teacher had to respond to a student choking on a piece of hard candy.

"The teacher knew exactly what to do," said Mrs. McCorkle. "We have also had teachers respond to students with broken bones, lacerations and seizures and in all cases they knew what not to do."

Besides educating teachers on how to recognize basic signs and symptoms, the nurses also provided hands-on demonstrations on how to use an epi-pen and how to use an aero chamber with an inhaler.

Not only has the training provided an immediate benefit to current students and faculty, but according to Mrs. McCorkle, the training has also been something visitors to Charlotte Christian have been pleased to see.

"The admissions staff often brings prospective parents into the health room when they are giving tours and they frequently ask us how we as a school are equipped to handle their child's special needs or illnesses," said Mrs. McCorkle. "They know the nurses are ready, but they are always thrilled to hear that our teachers are trained in emergency procedures as well. It makes them feel a lot more comfortable knowing that in addition to the incredible education their children would receive here, there are also people equipped to take care of them in an emergency situation."

In addition to the emergency response training, the nursing staff has also taken the initiative to provide first aid and CPR training several times throughout the year. Courses are offered on campus, through the American Heart Association, and certification lasts for two years. Approximately 70 percent of faculty and staff have been trained, including all Extended Day teachers who are required to be trained in CPR and first aid.

Partnering with Parents



In an on-going effort to partner with parents, Charlotte Christian School has provided several opportunities for them during the first semester to learn more about issues students are facing today and how to assist them with making wise choices.

In September, the school hosted national speaker and author Vicki Courtney who spoke to parents about the difficulties of parenting in a “tech-savvy generation.” Mrs. Courtney struck a chord with parents as she provided sobering facts and statistics regarding the situations kids are facing today in the areas of cell phones, social media, video games and more.

“I learned so much from Vicki Courtney’s seminar, and I am so thankful that our school brought her to speak to us,” said Shannon Collins, a Charlotte Christian mother of lower and middle school students. “She provoked a lot of discussion amongst my family and my friends.”

Mrs. Courtney also spoke to students the following day in middle and upper school chapels, and she challenged them to “behave in such a way as to bring glory and honor to God” by constantly checking and guarding their hearts. A constant theme she stressed was “Who is your master?” and she related to the

students by asking them if technology was controlling them or if they were controlling their use of it.

Along the same lines, Middle School Principal Amanda Poole held two of her “Swimming with Poole” sessions during the first semester. “Swimming with Poole” is a series of meetings offered to parents of students in grades 5-8 to discuss issues facing pre-adolescents today. Her first one entitled, “Sleep: How Busy Families Can Overcome Sleep Deprivation,” helped parents to understand the importance of helping their students get enough sleep each night and the dangers of what happens when that doesn’t occur.

Mrs. Poole’s second session was an overview of “No Regrets,” an interactive program led by medical professionals that presents the spiritual, medical, physical, emotional, and social issues and risks associated with adolescent sexual activity. This program is presented annually to eighth graders, and Mrs. Poole’s meeting allowed parents the opportunity to hear the same information so they can follow-up with their students and also better understand how to help them avoid unhealthy choices, create dating standards, and deal with peer pressure.

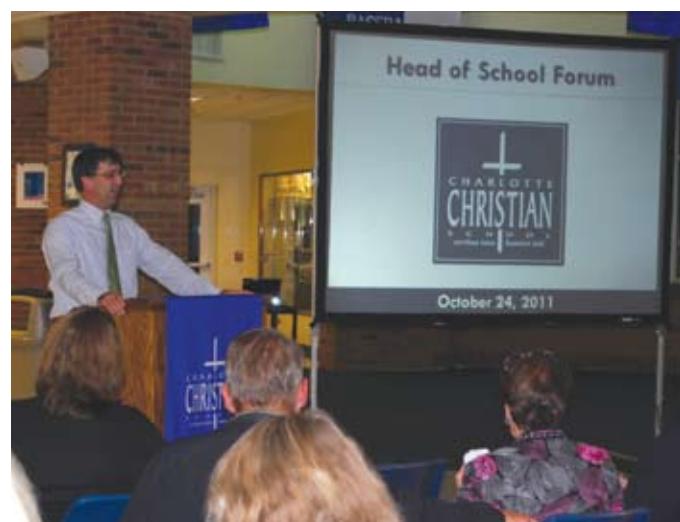
Head of School Forum

Did you know that Head of School Barry Giller has given his senior staff members six school-wide “hot topics” to research or that 44.9 percent of Charlotte Christian families have both parents working outside the home or that *Quitter* by Jon Acuff was on Mr. Giller’s list of books recently read? If you missed the annual Head of School Forum on Monday, Oct. 24 then you missed hearing about these things and more.

During the meeting, Mr. Giller presented information on the school’s enrollment and annual budget, the developing strategic plan, and God’s vision for our students. He also provided updates from each school division on the exciting things taking place in their respective schools.

“It was a great night to hear about the exciting things happening at Charlotte Christian School,” said Lower School Parent Nancy Drummond.

Mr. Giller was joined at the meeting by members of the senior staff, and members of the board of trustees, who assisted in answering questions during an open time of questions and answers.



The next opportunity to hear more about what God is doing at Charlotte Christian is the State of School Address on Monday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. in the Lamb/Johnson Gymnasium.

ENRICHING EXPERIENCES

Charlotte Christian's upper school students spent their summers doing a wide variety of activities. Here are just a few:

- **DANIEL ARMBRUST** interned at the Hayes Performing Arts Center in Blowing Rock
- **TYLER BLEVINS** spent a month at the Master Works Festival theatre program in Chicago
- **CARSON BRANNOCK** participated in a film program at North Carolina School of the Arts



- **HAYLEY BUCKNER** attended a pre-vet camp at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro
- **KATELYN DECHERD** spent the summer in NYC auditioning for modeling jobs
- **EMMA GRANT** and **MARI PILLMORE** went to Africa for two weeks on a mission trip
- **MARK IGBINADOLOR** interned in the photography department at the Charlotte Observer
- **CLAY JOHNSON** spent three weeks hiking and kayaking in Alaska
- **JENNA LANDERS** volunteered at the Levine Children's Hospital
- **ELLIE AND MOLLY MCADAMS** shadowed a number of physicians/medical professionals



- **LAURA HOGAN** was a counselor at Camp Barnabas, an overnight camp for disabled kids in the Midwest
- **AMANDA PANOUSIS** worked at Old Baldy Lighthouse in Wilmington in the gift shop where she gave tours/information and helped plan special events
- **ALEX PAYNE** volunteered for Habitat for Humanity
- **KEVIN RAMSEY** spent five weeks at Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) in a summer program on website design
- **ZACH WHITE** interned at Mecklenburg Community Church with the arts director
- **KATE WIENS** went to Jamaica on a mission trip with her church
- **ASHTON WISE** went to Africa for two weeks
- **42 CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN STUDENTS** participated in school mission trips either to the Dominican Republic or to Sea Island, Georgia for Habitat for Humanity



ACADEMICS

HENDRICK SCHOLARSHIPS



Seniors **AMANDA HUGDINS** and **KEVIN RAMSEY** were named the 2011 recipients of the Jennifer and Kimberly Hendrick Memorial Scholarships during an all-school chapel held Oct. 13. The scholarships were established by Mrs. Cathy Hendrick in May of 2005 to provide full tuition to two seniors at Charlotte Christian who exemplify a humble, Christ-like spirit, and heart of service to the Lord. The scholarships are in memory and honor of her twin daughters, Jennifer Marie Hendrick and Kimberly Paige Hendrick, both Charlotte Christian graduates of the Class of 2000.

NCTE SUPERIOR WRITING AWARD

Congratulations to senior **EVAN MARCEY** who was selected as one of eight winners from the state of North Carolina for the 2011 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Achievement Award in Writing. Evan was nominated last February by his language arts teacher, Mrs. Renuka Szymborski, and was the only winner from Charlotte. The NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing is a school-based writing program established in 1957 to recognize excellence in writing by high school juniors.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS & COMMENDED SCHOLARS

Congratulations to senior **RYAN POTOCNIK** on being named a semifinalist in the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Ryan will compete with more than 16,000 scholastically-talented high school seniors from across the nation for one of the 8,400 Merit Scholarship awards to be given out next spring. Seniors **EVAN MARCEY** and **AMANDA PANOUSIS** have been named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program and are part of the 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation who are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

2011 SPELLING BEE



Congratulations to eighth grader **KERSTIE PHILLS** on winning the 2011 Charlotte Christian Spelling Bee. Thirty-five students representing grades three through eight competed in 12 challenging rounds on Dec. 2. Congratulations also to eighth grader **ELAINA CLONINGER** who was the runner-up in the bee. Kerstie will go on to represent Charlotte Christian in the Mecklenburg County Independent School Spelling Bee on Jan. 24 at Charlotte Country Day Middle School.

READING KNIGHTS

Reading Knights is an optional reading incentive program for lower and middle school students designed to build excitement and interest in reading. The program is in its 12th year and encourages students to read books on a variety of topics and to develop a habit and love of reading. Students are recognized at the end of the year during a special chapel.

For more information on how to get your student involved in the Reading Knights program, please contact your child's teacher or Marcia Craig in the Petty Media Center at (704) 366-5657, ext. 6601 or marcia.craig@charchrist.com.

READING PAGES

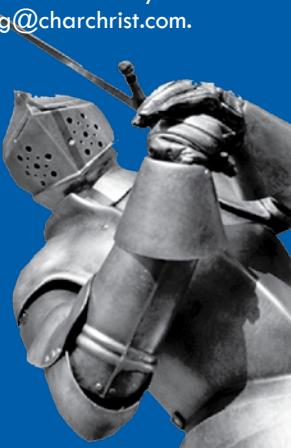
(They have read 25 books and gave an oral report on one of them.)

Jake Buzanowski • Brandon Drury • Cailey Duguid • Macyn Eubanks • Lily Golzar
Gracie Hanna • Donevin Knight • Elena Ong • Anna Phalen

READING SQUIRES

(They have read 50 books and gave and prepared a written report on both a fiction and a non-fiction book.)

Brandon Drury • Cailey Duguid • Macyn Eubanks • Gracie Hanna
Donevin Knight • Ava Smith • Kaitlyn Snyder



ACADEMICS

NATIONAL AP SCHOLARS

AJ CALHOUN
HOPE FOSKEY
MATTHEW HASSELBERG
JOHN HUMPHRIES
CATHERINE JARRETT
EVAN MARCEY
JAKE YOUNTS

AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION

DAVID ANDERSEN
BEN ANTHONY
AJ CALHOUN
RILEY DAVIS
HOPE FOSKEY
DANIEL GOLDSTEIN

JOHN GOOD MATTHEW HASSELBERG

JOHN HUMPHRIES
CATHERINE JARRETT
EVAN MARCEY
JAY MCCREARY
AMANDA PANOUSIS
ADAM PRICE
JAY PUTNAM
DANI VON GNECHTEN
GRANT WILSON
JAKE YOUNTS
STEPHEN ZITTRUER

AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS

JOHN ALHERT
MAGGIE BLANK
JULIA BUWICK
ELLIE GREEN
JOE HORNE
MICHAEL LENAHAN
ALEXA OWENS
HANNAH RICHARDS
MAC WATKINS
RYAN WATKINS

AP SCHOLARS SARAH BROTHERTON MATT CORISH DAVID FORESMAN

KATY FORREST
CONNOR HAINES
CHRISTINA HANEGRAAFF
ZACH HART
CLAIRE HILTON
POLLY HILTON
AMANDA HUDGINS
AMY KEMP
MORGAN KIRK
SHELLEY LEAZER
JONATHAN MCCORKLE
WILL PADEN
RYAN POTOCHNIK
MARK RUSSELL
GLORIA TAYLOR
NATHAN WALKER
MADDISON WOOD

FINE ARTS

STUDENT APPEARS IN NATIONAL BROADWAY TOUR



Charlotte Christian sixth grade student **CAROLINE FARLEY** was selected for the national Broadway tour of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas: The Musical*. Caroline left for New York in October to begin rehearsals for the classic Christmas show which stopped in cities throughout much of the United States. She is playing the role of "Susan Waverly," the granddaughter of the retired general in Vermont. Caroline continued her studies with tutors while on tour and will return to school in January.

PATRIOTIC ART COMPETITION WINNER



Congratulations to junior **KATE CONDON** on winning first place in the Carolinas Freedom Foundation Patriotic Art Competition for the independent schools high school division. Kate won the award for her piece entitled, "Never Forget," and was honored along with her parents at the annual US Airways Freedom Breakfast held on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, at the Blake Hotel. Kate's award marks the fifth year in a row that Charlotte Christian artists have earned accolades in the competition.

MATTHEWS ARTFEST WINNERS

Senior artists **MONICA GALLETO** and **JULIE MORRISON** both won scholarships and prizes in the 26th Annual Matthews ArtFest held Oct. 1-2. Julie won the first place senior scholarship of \$500 for her piece, "Tribal Glow." Monica won the People's Choice Award \$150 scholarship for her piece, "Isabella Sunshine," and a \$75 honorable mention for "Colorful Explosion." The festival is a Fine Art and Master Craft Show featuring juried work including a senior art competition showcasing some of the county's best senior artists.

HONORS BANDS

Congratulations to the following Charlotte Christian musicians who were selected to perform in honors bands:

Auburn University Honors Marching Band
SEAN LINDSAY

Coastal Carolina Honors Band
HARRISON HAMER
INDIA LINDSAY

RACHEL REDMOND
MORGAN YEARGAN

NCAIS Honors Band
ANDREW T. LOOKER, JR.
GERLEA PATTON
JEREMY TIMPERIO

GRIFFIN WILSON
ABBY YOH

Piedmont Artist Series Honors Band
MATTHEW BOELKINS

PAUL GREEN

University of Alabama at Birmingham
HARRISON HAMER

Winthrop University Honors Band
WES FOSKEY

CHRIS MCCORMICK

ATHLETICS

ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES

FOOTBALL
JEB BLAZEVICH
SAM DEXTER
DES LAWRENCE
WES MEDEIROS
ALEX PAYNE

MEN'S SOCCER
JARED ODENBECK

VOLLEYBALL
SYDEL CURRY

ALL-STATE ATHLETES

CHEERLEADING
CARRIE FRANCES DANIEL
MOLLY HAIR
AMANDA HUGDINS
BAILEY THOMPSON

MEN'S SOCCER
JARED ODENBECK

LADIES' TENNIS
REBECCA HARRIS

CROSS COUNTRY
JOHN GOOD

VOLLEYBALL
SYDEL CURRY
KYRIE PENNINGTON

FOOTBALL
JEB BLAZEVICH
SAM DEXTER
DES LAWRENCE
WES MEDEIROS
ALEX PAYNE

FALL 2011 ATHLETIC SIGNING



Congratulations to senior **WILL STILLMAN** who signed a national letter of intent to play baseball at Wofford College during the NCAA National Signing Day ceremony held Nov. 15 in the Lamb/Johnson Gymnasium.

SOCcer HONORS

Junior **JARED ODENBECK** was named to the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association (NCSCA) All-Region soccer team. Jared was also selected to participate in the 2011 U.S. Soccer Development Academy Winter Showcase held Dec. 2-6 at the Premier Sports Campus in Sarasota, Fla. Jared is an all-state, all-conference member of the men's varsity soccer team and also trains and plays in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy with Charlotte Soccer Academy.

OASIS ALL-STAR SHRINE CLASSIC

Seniors **SAM DEXTER**, **WILL GRIGG**, and **JAY PATTERSON** were all named to the 2011 NC Independent Schools Association Shrine Bowl Team. The All-Star Shrine Classic was held Nov. 25. All senior football players were nominated by Coach Estep and the North Carolina Shrine Bowl selection committee selected three players to represent Charlotte Christian.

JUNIOR EXCELS AT DIVING & SAILING



Junior **ALLEN CROSBY** is a lifer at Charlotte Christian who has focused his natural drive and determination into the sports of competitive diving and sailing. Allen began diving competitively at the age of 7 and has not looked back, now with more than 35 wins under his belt. His is a sport requiring amazing determination and hours of practice. Allen leaves school every day for a one hour drive to the Carolina Diving Academy in Huntersville where he practices three hours each day, five days a week. In the summer, practice time increases to seven hours a day, six days a week. Training has paid off for Allen who competes in the National Diving Program, a building block for the Pan Am Games and the Olympics. He is currently ranked in the top 20 in the nation for his age group of 16-18 year olds.

Allen also has a love for sailing, a sport he learned from his grandfather at the age of 6. He recently worked to purchase his own boat and after recruiting some fellow Charlotte Christian students to help with the refurbishment, he and his crew were able to qualify for the summer sailing nationals in Annapolis, Md. in July of 2011. Allen's crew members were junior Alex Johnson and 2011 graduate David Andersen. At the time of the competition, Allen was the youngest competitor in 10 years to qualify for the nationals.

Amidst all of his training and practice, Allen also explored the field of politics and volunteered as a page for N.C. Representative Bill Brawley and is considering a run for the Matthews Town Council when he turns 18. After graduation, Allen would like to attend the U.S. Naval Academy where he hopes to compete as a diver and major in U.S. and World Military History.

ALL AMERICAN BOWL SELECTION



Congratulations to eighth grader **RYAN GILMARTIN** who was selected to play in the Eastbay Youth All-American Bowl at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio, Texas on Jan. 8, 2012. Ryan's honor was announced by Coach Jason Estep and Chris Garris of Football University during a special presentation held Dec. 8 on campus. Congratulations also to eighth grade athletes **CONNOR MAITLAND** and **JOHN TURLEY** who were selected to represent Team Charlotte in a national tournament sponsored by Football University.



CLASS OF 1991

HOECOMING WEEKEND

OCTOBER 7-8, 2011

Homecoming reunions weekend was once again a fun-filled weekend reconnecting and celebrating together on campus Oct. 7-8. More than 100 alumni and parents of alumni attended the reception at the alumni tent prior to the start of the home football game. The attendance throughout the night represented class year's from 1975 to 2011.

Head of School Barry Giller along with Charlotte Christian's board members, senior staff and faculty made their way to the tent to help us welcome back our alumni.



CLASS OF 2001

Class of '86 celebrated their 25 year reunion in May 2011, but came to the tent to enjoy Homecoming festivities and tour the campus.

Class of '91 celebrated their 20 year reunion with a family picnic on Saturday, Oct. 8 followed by dinner at Red Rocks Café later that evening.

Reunions

Class of '01 celebrated their 10 year reunion on Saturday night with a dinner at Blue in downtown Charlotte.

Save the Date:

Next fall

Class of '92 and '02
will be celebrating their reunions
during Homecoming weekend.
More information to follow.

Quality Plus Fund

donors as of December 6, 2011

As we sat in carpool a few weeks ago, we watched with gratitude as an upper school mother spent her afternoon planting shrubs and flowers in the beds around the parking lot and Middle School Building. When we thanked her for her work, she simply replied, "I enjoy doing this." We drove away smiling because we are so blessed at Charlotte Christian to have an amazing group of faculty, staff, coaches, and parents who "enjoy doing this." In our many different capacities, we come together every day to work for the glory of the Lord and for the benefit of our children. This is a great example of the theme of our Quality Plus Fund campaign this year – Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.

Over the past 19 years, the Charlotte Christian community has come together to support this annual fund, which benefits every area of our school. Think of your favorite parts of the school and you will see Quality Plus dollars at work there. If you love our faculty, QPF provides dollars for faculty development and classroom technology. If fine arts or athletics are your passion, QPF provides equipment and supplies to make those programs soar. Look anywhere on our campus and you will find areas of our school that are enriched because of the support from our generous parents, faculty and staff.

Our campaign is off to an amazing start this year and to date we have \$355,120 in pledges and 44 percent parent participation. We are so thankful to the many families who have generously joined in! While that is a great beginning we do not want to stop there - our goal is 100 percent parent participation. No matter the size of the gift, we would love to have every family show their support for the school by participating. What an amazing affirmation and encouragement that would be to our teachers and our staff!

So as your family celebrates the Christmas season, we hope that you will count Charlotte Christian among the many blessings for which you are thankful. In that spirit, we would ask that you prayerfully consider your support of the Quality Plus Fund. It is not too late to become members of the Dream Team!

With joy and thanksgiving,

Kevin and Erica
Donnalley
2011-12 QPF Chairs



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 Bill and Jackie Walker
 Gregg and Ann Walker
 Shelley Wallace
 Philip and Dana Walton
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 John and Kay Warner
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 Benny and Elaine Yeargan
 Jeff and Suzanne Yoh
 Michael and Julie Youmans
 George and Dawn Young
 Charles and Laura Zinger



Learning About Prospective Career Fields

The Development Department and the upper school partnered to coordinate the first annual Career Day, aimed at bringing to campus experts in their career field to speak to upper school students. Following PSAT exams, upper school students had the opportunity

to attend their choice of three sessions pertaining to vocational fields of interest. Speakers presented additional perspectives for students to consider, and shared their journey from high school to where they are now. A variety of areas were represented including education, ministry, culinary arts, business, and science. We are grateful to the 27 speakers who volunteered their time to be a part of the day for our students. Speakers included alumni, parents of alumni, current parents, school employees and community friends.

"I want to be an environmental scientist when I grow up and do something with nature conservation," said sophomore Claire Parsons. "I was excited to hear Jason Johnson ('92) speak of his passion for environmental science. It was really nice to hear a real perspective about the job - how to get there and what I need do to academically. I appreciate the opportunity to have access to these speakers and especially to see an alum working in that field."



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CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN'S *Ladies* TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The first annual Ladies Tennis Tournament was held on Friday, Nov. 4 at Providence Country Club in Charlotte. Fifty-two participants from the school community enjoyed round robin play while interacting with a silent auction. The morning ended with a catered lunch provided by PCC. More than \$4,000 was raised towards the annual Quality Plus Fund. Thank you to the chairs and volunteers who made this a success.

"We were extremely grateful to Providence Country Club for donating the court time and going the extra mile the morning of the tournament to get the wet courts in playing condition. God cleared the skies for us and we were able to play some tennis," said Lori Fuqua, tournament co-chair. "We had a good group of players in the tournament and non-players who were there to

socialize and shop. Libby Sarvis and I had a wonderful tennis committee who solicited our title sponsor, Carmen! Salon e'Spa, court sponsors and worked hard to supply more than 70 silent auction items and gift card giveaways. I had lady after lady say how excited they were to be there and that it was a great idea. It was such a fun time and we look forward to next year's tournament."

TENNIS COMMITTEE

Lori Fuqua, co-chair
Libby Sarvis, co-chair
Diane Combis
Todd Jesso

Tonya Jesso
Julie Peach
Sally Weller
Jill Vance

Class Notes

2011

KYLER BROWN is a freshman at Duke University and redshirted his first year on the football team.

MORGAN KIRK was recognized in Aug. 13, 2011 on the field at a home Panthers' game as the 2011 Sam Mills Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient. She received this award for her determination, dedication and leadership in her athletic endeavors while at Charlotte Christian School.



2010

KELBY BROWN is a sophomore at Duke University and plays on the football team. His freshman year he was named to the ACC All-freshman team, Academic All-ACC team and Freshman All-American. He posted 63 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks, four fumble recoveries and five QB pressures. He led the nation in fumble recoveries per game (0.44).

CAMERON KALLIANOS spent this past summer in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a five week missions trip with Summer Project through Campus Crusade for Christ. She created a blog to document her experience at camkall.blogspot.com. A sophomore at Appalachian State University, Cameron is majoring in Public Relations with a concentration in Communications and a minor in Photography. She is a Bible study leader through Campus Crusade Ministry, leading a group of freshmen girls.

BETHANY MITCHELL served with Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) on summer project in Virginia Beach, Va. this past summer.

BLAYDES MOORE was inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi this fall as a member of the College of Business and Behavioral Science at Clemson University. To become eligible for membership in the Clemson Chapter, a junior student must rank in the upper 7.5 percent of the class. Blaydes is also a student assistant football coach for the Clemson University football team for the 2011 season.



2009

DJ FARIS spent the first part of summer 2011 studying abroad at the American University in Cairo. He returned to Washington, D.C. for the second half of summer where he was an intern at the Environmental Defense Fund. DJ is currently a junior at Princeton University majoring in Near Eastern Studies.

2008

JEN JOHNSON graduated from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy Summa Cum Laude and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Summa Cum Laude in May 2011. Jen is attending The University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas.

DANIEL SIRCAR, a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill, won a \$1,000 scholarship from Google to attend the 2011 Online News Association Conference in Boston, Mass.



2007

SARAH GRACE TRUEH graduated cum laude from Appalachian State University in May 2011. She was awarded the Clinical Scholar Graduate Assistantship to continue her studies at East Carolina University. Sarah completed her second summer as a Student Speech Therapist at the Meadowood Springs Speech & Hearing Camp in Pendleton, Ore. The camp is offered for underprivileged children in need of speech therapy to have an opportunity for assistance and a positive summer camp experience. She has begun her thesis work and absolutely loves her graduate studies. She hopes to follow in her grandparents'

and parents' footsteps and save enough money in the next two years to travel with an Operation Smile team or a similar medical mission charity traveling to a third world country to help children.

ALEX GOLEY graduated from NYU in May 2011. He was cast in an off-Broadway production of a children's theatre show called Berenstain Bears Live! and earned the lead role of "Brother Bear." He was also selected by NYU to audition for a one-night show called "Broadway's Rising Star," a show that highlights recent musical theatre graduates from across the globe that could be the next Broadway star. He passed the audition with flying colors and performed with 18 other graduates on Broadway.

PRESTON GORDON graduated from Vanderbilt University in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human & Organizational Development. In August he moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming to work for the Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole in the young adult and youth ministry. He is adjusting to small town life but loves the access to endless outdoor activities. He is loving working in the church and hanging out with kids and talking about Jesus for his job.

Class Notes



KERRY TIPPLE WATKINS married **WILL WATKINS** ('07) on May 28, 2011. Kerry graduated from College of Charleston and Will graduate from The Citadel this past May. The couple now resides in Greenville, S.C. Kerry is working in retail management and Will is working for Greenville County Sheriff's Department.



2003

TIFFANY CHIN married Richard Shin on April 9, 2011 in Monroe, N.C. Tiffany received her Doctor of Medicine degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2011. She is training in pediatric medicine. Richard graduated from Duke University with a Doctor of Medicine degree, and he is specializing in urologic surgery. Richard and Tiffany also spent time this year working at Tenwek Hospital, a mission hospital in Bomet, Kenya.



ZENUS WILSON graduated from Davidson College in May 2011 with bachelor's degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Zenus is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta (Pre-Med Society) and is now attending medical school at UNC-Chapel Hill. Zenus played football while at Davidson. He also participated as a lab assistant in the chemistry lab assisting other students in running experiments and helped with lab material and equipment preparation. He volunteered in the HHMI Bridge Program Biology Department teaching, mentoring, and demonstrating biology lab techniques to high school seniors. Zenus also shadowed with cardiologist Dr. Kenneth Weeks, observing and learning about cardiac-related illnesses and therapies. He also traveled to Nairobi, Kenya with the Davidson College pre-med group. While in Kenya the students observed and participated in hospital and clinical duties.



SARAH HETHERINGTON KENNY

married Thomas James Kenny on July 23, 2011 at Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Sarah graduated from Elon University in 2007 with a degree in Corporate Communications. While in Charlotte, she was employed by Charlotte Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Associates as the Corporate Communications Specialist. TJ graduated from The United States Military Academy in 2007 with a degree in Economics and serves as a Captain in the United States Army. Sarah and TJ currently reside in St. Robert, Missouri with their soft-coated wheaten terrier, Sydney.



2002

MERIDITH GOMBAR CREEDEN married Court Creeden on April 30, 2011 in Charlotte.



2005

NICK GORDON married Jane Slatton from Baton Rouge, La. on July 23, 2011. The couple now resides in Winston-Salem, N.C. Nick is the operations director for the non-profit CARE for AIDS (www.careforaids.org) and Jane is in graduate school at Wake Forest University.



2000

BROOKE HOPKINS POWELL and her husband welcomed a baby girl, Parker Jean, on Oct. 6, 2011 weighing 6 lbs 7 oz and was 21 inches long. She is a joy and blessing to our lives!

Class Notes



AMBER BAUM MCTEE

and her husband, Tim, welcomed a boy to their family on Dec. 5, 2011. Isaac Phillip weighed 7 lbs 2 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. He joins big sister Sage.

1991

ANNE WILSON JORDAN and her husband, John, welcomed a baby girl to their family, Molly Anne, on March 11, 2011 in Charlotte. She joins her brother Wilson, 5, and sister Elisabeth, 8.



CAROLINE WILSON GUIN is affiliated with HM Properties specializing in residential real estate. She is licensed in North and South Carolina and is currently living in Charlotte with her husband, Tripp, and their three girls. She enjoys competing in triathlons and training.

Her husband Tripp is a commercial real estate broker with CB Richard Ellis and was given the prestigious award of 40 under 40 in the business community. Tripp and Caroline celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary this year with a wonderful trip with the family to Paradise Island in the Bahamas. Caroline had a great time seeing everyone at the Charlotte Christian 20 year reunion.

1990



JODY CHAPMAN helped coach his son's Stanley All-Stars coach pitch baseball team to win the Dixie Youth North Carolina AA State Championship title this summer in Dunn, N.C. The Stanley All Stars went on to the Regional tournament and ranked sixth in the region. Jody's family, wife, Amanda, daughter, Lily, and son, Cody, are all doing well.

1989

PETER KRUZAN graduated from the Moody Bible Institute in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Mission Aviation Technology. In 1997 he joined Wycliffe Bible Translators. In 2000 he went to the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) Papua New Guinea Branch to work in SIL's Aviation Department as a maintenance engineer. In 2003, Peter married Birgitta Uringa (The Netherlands / SIL literacy specialist) in Charlotte. In 2005 he became the Maintenance Controller for SIL PNG's fleet of eight aircraft. Two years later he became the SIL PNG Regional Center Manager - Buka Center (Autonomous Region of Bougainville). Starting in 2010 he was named the SIL PNG Regional Director for Bougainville and the Bougainville Advance Project Manager. Peter and his wife, Birgitta, are currently overseeing SIL's language development and Bible translation work in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

CALLING THE CLASS OF 1992

Mark your calendar!

October 2012 is our 20th reunion
and we would love to have
100 percent participation!

Stay tuned for more details to come.

E-mail matt@franklincpas.net and alumni@charchrist.com to indicate:
 - whether or not you can come
 - current address, e-mail, phone,
 along with a recent picture
 - Marital status, children, occupation, accomplishments, etc.

WEBSITE: Visit www.charlottechristian.com for news and upcoming events.

HELP US STAY IN TOUCH: You can send any changes or updates to your contact info to alumni@charchrist.com.

For any questions, ideas or suggestions, please contact George Courtney at george.courtney@charchrist.com.

Alumni Profiles

We are excited to offer our newly formatted Alumni Profile section in this issue. We look forward to introducing you to more of our alumni and where God has taken them since graduating from Charlotte Christian School. If you are interested in participating in one of these features, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@charchrist.com.

Becky Cerullo Henderson '96



EDUCATION

Grade entered Charlotte Christian School: Grade 10

Colleges attended & majors:

UNC Charlotte, major in Psychology and Art; Oral Roberts University, major in Public Relations and Advertising

PROFESSIONAL

Professional Field: Television

Employer: Halogen TV

Recognitions and awards:

- Multi-Channel News 40 under 40
- Women in Cable Television Rising Leader
- Women in Cable Television Red Circle: Women to Watch
- Charlotte Business Journal People on the Move.

FAMILY

City/state where you reside: Wesley Chapel, N.C.

Family: I married Chip Henderson 12 years ago at Walt Disney World. We have two boys, Samuel, 11, and Matthew, 9, and a golden doodle named Abby.

Name of school your children attend: Charlotte Christian School

Church you currently attend: We enjoy attending Hope of Israel and Bethany Church of Weddington.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

I work on behalf of Halogen TV to partner with our viewers and cable/telco operators to bring attention to many social justice causes. Dear to my heart are some original shows:

- Tainted Love which deals with the domestic sex trafficking of minors
- Roadworthy, a glimpse into the life of a roady with Invisible Children fighting to stop the war of child soldiers in Africa
- The Freedom Awards, a red carpet celebration gala honoring modern day anti-slavery heroes.

MORE ABOUT ME

Best memory of Charlotte Christian School: My best memories would have to be just having fun with my friends.



How Charlotte Christian School prepared you for college and your professional field today:

I can say with confidence I carry life lessons I learned from my teachers and coaches at Charlotte Christian School.

Bill Caldwell '01



EDUCATION

Grade entered Charlotte Christian School: Grade 7

College attended & major:

Carson-Newman College, major in Business Administration/Minor Business Law. Degree obtained: Bachelor of Science

PROFESSIONAL

Professional Field: Construction

Employer: State Building Group

Recognitions and awards:

- 2011 Standout Charlotean - Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- #1 Green Builder in the Carolinas & 2011 Top 20 Under 40 Nomination – Engineering News Record
- #4 Fastest Growing Firm in Charlotte - Charlotte Business Journal

FAMILY

City/State where you reside: Charlotte, N.C.

Family: I have three brothers who also are CCS alumni

Church you currently attend: Warehouse 242

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

I have been involved with Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Cookies for Cancer, YWCA, Classroom Central, American Red Cross and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. I am a former board member of Engage Charlotte and Club Red. I am a member of ULI, USGBC, CoreNet International, AIA Charlotte. I also volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

MORE ABOUT ME

Best memory of Charlotte Christian School: My best memory is actually of the people that I was fortunate enough to have known while at Charlotte Christian. I still to this day am best friends with several classmates from school.



How Charlotte Christian School prepared you for college and your professional field today: One of the most important lessons I learned at Charlotte Christian was managing my time wisely. In college, I played football all four years and was very fortunate to have good time management skills which allowed me to be a successful student.

First Day of School



Back-to-School Kick-Off



Homecoming King & Queen



Nativity Scene



KnightFest



Christmas Creations



First Day of School



Super Hero Day



Veteran's Day



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JANUARY 2012

- 2 No School -
Faculty In-Service
3 Classes Resume
16 No School - Martin Luther
King, Jr. Holiday
17-20 MS Stepping Up
Week (Grade 5)
23 Rising Grade 1
Parent Meeting (8 a.m.)
State of the School
Address (7 p.m.)
24-25 MS Ladders to Success
(Grade 8)
24 Rising Grade 2
Parent Meeting (8 a.m.)
25 Rising Grade 3
Parent Meeting (8 a.m.)
26 Rising Grade 4
Parent Meeting (8 a.m.)
JK-12 Open House (7 p.m.)
27 Re-Enrollment
Contracts Mailed
Rising Grade 5
Parent Meeting (8 a.m.)
31 ERB Testing Grades 2-8
Rising Grade 6
Parent Meeting (7 p.m.)

FEBRUARY 2012

- 1-3 ERB Testing Grades 2-8
2 Rising Grade 9
Family Forum (7 p.m.)
7 Rising Grades 7 & 8
Parent Meeting (7 p.m.)
16 Re-Enrollment Contracts Due
17 No School -
Faculty In-Service
20 Presidents' Day
21 Rising Grade 6 Parent
Breakfast #1 (8 a.m.)
22 Rising Grade 6 Parent
Breakfast #2 (8 a.m.)
27 Employee Appreciation Day
28 Rising Grade 6 Parent
Breakfast #3 (8 a.m.)
29 Men's Fellowship League
(7 a.m.)

MARCH 2012

- 1-3 LS Spring Musical
2 Grandparents' Day
LS Early Dismissal (11 a.m.)
MS Early Dismissal (11:30 a.m.)
4-8 Senior Experience
9 End of Third Quarter
12-16 No School - Spring Break
19 Classes Resume
28 Men's Fellowship League
29-31 US Spring Musical

APRIL 2012

- 5 LS Easter Program (9:30 a.m.)
LS Early Dismissal (11 a.m.)
6 No School - Good Friday
9 No School - Easter Monday
17 National Junior Honor
Society Induction (7 p.m.)
20 US Prom
Grade 6 Middle Ages Day
23 National Honor Society
Induction (7 p.m.)
National French Honor
Society Induction (7 p.m.)
25 Swimming with Poole (8 a.m.)
25 JK-12 Open House (10 a.m.)
26-28 MS Spring Musical
26 National Spanish Honor
Society Induction (7 p.m.)
27 PTF Tailgate & Donate

MAY 2012

- 1 US Awards Assembly
3 National Day of Prayer
7 Golf Challenge
LS Stepping Up Day
7-16 AP Exams
9 NEW Parent Coffee (9:30 a.m.)
17 US Fine Arts
Awards Assembly
21 LS Field Day
21-23 Senior Exams
24 MS End of Year
Recognition Chapel
25 US History Day
25-31 US Exam
28 No School - Memorial Day
29-31 MS Exams
31 Grade 5 Promotion (9 a.m.)

JUNE 2012

- 1 End of Fourth Quarter/
Second Semester
MS/US Exams
Senior Breakfast (9 a.m.)
Baccalaureate (11 a.m.)
Grade 8 Promotion (7 p.m.)
2 Class of 2012
Commencement (10 a.m.)