

THE Communicator

VOLUME 34:2
MARCH 2022

Lessons on the Trail

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN WILSON, ADMINISTRATOR



Psalms 121 was written for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem for worship. The big idea is an answer to the question, “Who do you

trust?” Should we trust created things or the Creator of heaven and earth? Every Chapel Hill Christian School student knows the right answer to the question, and Romans 1 is clear that it is the “*glorious, ever-living God*” that we should worship (verse 23). But practically speaking, who do we really trust?

The Psalmist says it this way, “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! He will not let you stumble; the One who watches over you will not slumber.” God is watching our foot-fall; He is not taking a nap while we are out on the trail serving Him.

This became very clear to me a few weeks ago while continuing my own pilgrimage on the Buckeye Trail north of Mogadore Reservoir. The trail was blocked by a log (pictured). Usually, I just step on the log and keep running along. This particular log was covered with vines, and some of the vines were sticking up to the level of my knees. I made the quick decision to step on the log and the vines with my lead foot without giving heed to how my trailing foot would make it over the obstacle.

Yes, you’re right if you’re thinking that the foot that I couldn’t see, my back foot, got caught in the vines. The problem is that the rest of my body was airborne at that point, so I came crashing down on that fallen log. Yikes! I “fell asleep” with regard to a blind spot, and it caused me to “stumble.” Obviously, on the way back I paid closer attention to the foot-fall of both feet. It required that I slow down and make sure that neither shoe was caught in the vines, as I ran over the obstacle.

Do you see the Biblical application? It is God that we are to love and worship with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. He is the one we worship! He and “*His Word are the lamp unto our feet and the light unto our path (Psalm 119:105).*” When “*we seek Him and His righteousness first (Matthew 6:33),* we give Him the authority to speak to us about our blind spots, and we come through life’s obstacles without stumbling. While I may not be as conversant with all my spiritual blind spots, God is never asleep and is able to point them out by His Holy Spirit and His Word.



Another wonderful truth is that God gives us one another. Proverbs 27:17 reads, “*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*” I’ve been running with a group of men for almost 20 years. We constantly shout to each other about holes, ice spots, and bicycles along the path.

What a beautiful illustration of how God uses the Body of Christ to warn us of spiritual blind spots! Each week these men share how God is dealing with their souls. They give one another permission to speak God’s truth into any perceived area of weakness. God has given us to each other to prevent “stumbling.”

The application questions are clear. Am I seeking and trusting God as my help by His Holy Spirit and His Word? Do I have His people in my life and do I listen to their words of encouragement and admonition? If we can answer yes to these questions, we are allowing God, the Creator of heaven and earth, to “*keep us from harm and watch over our lives! (Psalm 121:7)*”





NORTH CAMPUS NOTES

From Mrs. Cathy Shafer, North Campus Principal

Our students are truly impressive and love being at school. As principal, one of my favorite

things to do is walk around and pop in and out of classrooms. My observations are very consistent and encouraging. Our students are on-task, showing growth in all facets of their lives, full of enthusiasm, and have a special bond with each other.

Because we are a school, you expect to see learning taking place. The exciting thing is that it is a continuum – all day and in various ways. Students are diligently working on their reading skills, math facts, the ability to express themselves through their

writing, and making sense of the world around them. This is possible because of the priority our parents have made in choosing CHCS for their child's education and in conjunction with our extremely dedicated faculty and staff. Classroom procedures and routines have been established and students are able to jump right into each school day. Our teachers utilize our well-chosen curriculum to support and challenge each child in their growth and development. The spirit of cooperation and community provides a calm setting for learning.

When our students help each other, show kindness and encourage each other, God's love shines at CHCS. Recognizing poor choices and learning to change and humble oneself to

apologize is another aspect of CHCS. We focus on redemptive discipline which is bathed in love and concern for each student. There is a healthy regard for each other as we recognize that each of us is made in God's image. It is a beautiful thing to see our three-year olds to our sixth graders and adults showing God's diversity through our personalities, strengths, weaknesses, and giftings. We continue to be open to God's transforming work in each of our lives. This is a great place to be every day!

“Our students are on-task, showing growth in all facets of their lives, full of enthusiasm, and have a special bond with each other.”

SOUTH CAMPUS GREETINGS

From Mrs. Vicki Keys, South Campus Principal



Today as I stood in Chapel watching and listening to our students singing songs of worship and loudly proclaiming

our school theme, “Love the Lord your God: heart, soul, mind, strength,” I was reminded of how thankful I am to be in Christian Education! In our new family interviews, we talk about Biblical Integration and how we look at everything through the lens of God's Word. But what does that look like? Please walk with me through a school day to “hear” for yourself...

Our teachers gather for morning devotions before the school day even begins. Some mornings we spend time praying for our students – we are going class by class, sitting in the students' desks, praying for every single one, and then writing a note of encouragement to leave on their desk. Listening to our morning announcements coming across the PA system, we start each day with a challenge from God's Word and prayer. What a privilege to point us all to Jesus, first thing!

Let's walk down the hallway past open classroom doors. We hear teachers or students praying and Bible lessons being taught. Can you see me sitting in the hallway on a tiny chair, listening to third graders saying the theme verses to me,

one after another, to earn their Sweet Frog coupon? You can hear the students praying in my office as we work through some challenging situations. As we pass the fourth grade door we can see art work that illustrates the Scripture verses beside them. As we step into sixth grade, we hear a Science lesson being taught, challenging the students to see God's handiwork.

We circle back to Chapel where we hear a third grader lead us in prayer, praying for a hospitalized Preschooler who was mentioned earlier in the week during morning announcements! Wow! I love seeing and hearing God at work in our school and in the lives of our students! What a privilege we have to teach and model Jesus and His Word to our students as it applies to every aspect of their lives. I am blessed to be in Christian Education!

“In our new family interviews, we talk about Biblical Integration and how we look at everything through the lens of God's Word. But what does that look like?”



Sharing Some Love

By Lori Turner, South Art Teacher

Our South Campus first graders got into the Valentine spirit by sharing messages of love in valentines for the residents of Gentle Brook Homestead memory care unit. They crafted their cards with paper hearts and their own drawings to adorn each valentine. The residents were very appreciative of the children's work and care.

Learning the Science of Creation By Kelly Lawson

In September, we were invited to participate in the Cuyahoga Falls Energy Expo Celebration. Since the North Campus fifth graders were studying light and color, it was easy to integrate the importance of the sun into our Christ-centered lesson (How is God's sense of order represented in Creation?) and learn about the sustainable and renewable resources God has provided. The first STEM challenge was to build solar ovens to reach the temperature of 100 degrees to make s'mores using pizza boxes and household items. Our focus was to learn about refraction, reflection, absorption, transparent, opaque and translucent.



Next, we used our new knowledge to build a mini house powered by solar energy. The Cuyahoga Falls Energy Department provided mini solar panels, poster board, tape and transparency film. Students were challenged to gather solar energy to power a light bulb and turn on a "ceiling" fan. The students had to apply their knowledge of reflection and refraction to gather light based on the position of the sun. The success was twofold. The students saw why God created the sun at the beginning of the Creation and they applied their knowledge of angles, refraction and reflection. In October, our pizza ovens and solar house were on display at the Cuyahoga Falls Energy Expo. What a wonderful opportunity to understand the sun, God's amazing gift to us.

Ministry Enriched through Technology By Kelly Foguth

CHCS's **Connecting Hearts Ministry** provides Christian education in Guatemala through student sponsorship. Our campuses each sponsor eight students, one per grade level. The goal is to have students build relationships with their sponsored student as they move through the grades. At the beginning of the year, our students in Ohio sacrifice to bring in offerings to help their sponsored student go to school for another year. During the school year, they write letters and send pictures to their sponsored student, who then responds with a picture and letter.



They get to know one another and "grow together" through the years.

In recent years, a new step has been added, thanks to modern technology. During Missions class, students video chat with their sponsored student. Nataly Rivera, once a sponsored student who works for the ministry, translates. This opportunity has greatly enhanced personal relationships and students' faces light up when they see each other on the screen. Sponsored students share about their life in Guatemala, their families, their likes and dislikes. During question time, all hands are raised as students hope to ask a question.

Students share many things during these calls, both happy and difficult. One sponsored student shared that her dad was robbed and shot while on his motorcycle. He later died in the hospital. The sixth grade room was completely silent as they listened to this heartbreaking story. There have been many sweet moments as well. One first grade boy, at the end of the

session, walked to the front of the room exclaiming, "I love you, Álvaro." What a precious sentiment from this boy to let Álvaro know how special and cherished he is by our school family.

Each interaction brings the students closer. It establishes a friendship with someone similar to them, despite living far away. They love to find things they have in common. When a sponsored student talks about their favorite sport or color, many shout, "Me too!" This bond strengthens over the years and culminates in sixth grade, when some have the opportunity to travel to Guatemala and meet their friend.

These video calls have made the ministry of sponsorship more real for our students, allowing them to personally know the child they pray for each day. It makes offerings they place in a jar very meaningful. Meeting and interacting with a friend in a distant country and hearing firsthand how sponsorship has changed their life impacts the lives of CHCS students forever!

NEW! Buckeye Walk-a-Thon

If you follow *The Communicator*, you've noticed that over the last several months Pastor Wilson has been running the "Little Loop" of the Buckeye Trail. He followed the "Blue Blazes" from Crystal Springs, Ohio all the way to The Mentor Headlands at Lake Erie. He has about 70 miles to go to finish the entire "Loop."



Our CHCS students will join Pastor Wilson on a short portion of the trail right here in North Akron that coincides with the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath. Each student will have their own portal through which family and friends may donate to CHCS. Students could be sponsored for an amount per step or by a flat fee donation.



If you love CHCS but are not directly connected to a student, you can donate through this event by sponsoring Pastor Wilson as he completes the 250-mile "Little Loop." While more information will be provided through letter and video in

April, you can sponsor him on a per mile basis or by making a flat donation.

All proceeds are meant to keep our tuition within reach for every family that should be with us at CHCS. Wouldn't it be such a blessing to greet our new Lead Administrator with a significantly full and overflowing "Let Them Soar" Annual Fund to help families come to CHCS?! Our goal of \$150,000 would be a wonderful "passing of the torch" gift for God's selection of our new leader. Your help in this important time of transition will be such an awesome encouragement!

The 2022 CHCS Annual Charity Golf Outing

This is the time of year that we start thinking about our Annual Charity Golf Outing. The 2022 event will be held at the Fairlawn Country Club again this year on **Monday, June 20**. Last year, we set a new



record for the number of participating golfers. The event was such a blessing! We look forward to doing it again and hope you'll join us!

If you have attended this event in the past, we will be in touch with you shortly to reserve your spot for this year's outing. If you've NEVER golfed with us, THIS is your year! Our Outing Chairperson, Tom



Monday, June 20
Fairlawn Country Club

Orihel, is so truly gifted at putting together a wonderful event. His work, together with the Country Club and our staff, makes this an event that truly gives God glory each year. Registration information will be available on the CHCS website at chcseagles.org soon. See you on the links!

CHCS CALENDAR

March 12 & 15
Community Open House

March 28 – April 1
Spring Break – No School

April 14
Tennebrae

April 15-18
Easter Break – No School

April 25-29
Achievement Test Week

May 6
Spring Concert – ??? Campus

May 13
Spring Concert – ??? Campus

May 26
Students' Last Day of School

June 20
Annual Golf Outing

CHCS is delighted to offer *The Communicator*. If you would like to receive this publication electronically or be removed from the mailing list, please email: info@chapelhillchristianschool.org.

BUCKEYE TRAIL
Follow the Blue Blazes

We are rejoicing! By Pastor John Wilson

You can see by the text of scripture I've chosen above, that we have a great reason to rejoice. Early last year I asked you to join Mr. Jim Swanson, Laura, and me through prayer and generosity to help us complete a campaign that provided major capital improvements for God's School.

The central theme of the **Building on the Vision** campaign was that we would be reminded of the foundation and vision God had given our founders and build on that foundation for God's glory. These pictures became icons for the campaign and show just a bit of what God did through all of you to provide for us out of "His glorious riches" (Philippians 4:19).

The North Campus has been enjoying its new learning center and security and technology improvements, while the South Campus has been blessed by a new campus for the past seven years. Significant improvements were also added to schools with whom we serve in Guatemala.

God has, through your prayers and giving, allowed us to cross the finish line of this \$5.3 million campaign! Your generosity has enabled our joy as \$240,000 came into the school in 2021. The final gift arrived on December 31, 2021. We want you to share in this moment of elation for Chapel Hill Christian School. Paul encouraged the Philippians when he wrote, "Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." Thank you for being one with us in this endeavor to the glory of God! Pause, even now, to give Him thanks!

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again Rejoice! Philippians 4:4



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS

We are thankful for the following gifts given to CHCS over the past few months:

Completing the Vision Fund

- From Beverly Grable in honor of John & Laura Wilson
- From Mike & Debbie Anderson in memory of John Rasnick

Annual Fund

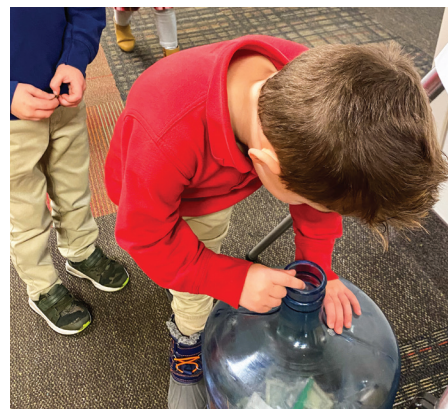
- From Dr. & Mrs. Don Lichi in honor of John & Laura Wilson
- From Nancy Kleckner in memory Mr. & Mrs. David Kleckner

To make a donation to CHCS in memory of or in honor of someone, please go to chcseagles.org or call 330-896-0852.

Blessed at Year's End By Pastor John Wilson

Numbers 6:24 says, "May the Lord bless you and keep you." We certainly felt the Lord's blessing at the end of the 2021 calendar year. Your ministry to us through giving was such a blessing! As the Administrator of Chapel Hill Christian School, I am always deeply encouraged in January to sign your giving statements. At the writing of this letter, I am pleased to share that \$206,000 has been given to the "Let them Soar" Annual Fund or to our "Partners for Tuition" initiative. These donations allow us to keep tuition within reach for every family that truly desires a CHCS education for their children.

You also gave generously to #GivingTuesday 2021! Our effort to increase our ability to send out clear video communications and to involve our students in the ministry of videography was blessed by \$16,000. What a great way to kick-off this program to the glory of God!





Chapel Hill Christian School

NORTH CAMPUS

1090 Howe Avenue
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
330-929-1901

SOUTH CAMPUS

1639 Killian Road
Akron, OH 44312
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(330) 896-0852

chapelhillchristianschool.org/open-house/

Saturday, Mar. 12th – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 15th – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



OUR MISSION: Love... Learn... Launch...
Christ's Greatest Commandment for Christ's Great
Commission: Mark 12:30-31; Matthew 28:18-20

OUR VISION: Chapel Hill Christian School,
in partnership with the home and the Church,
exists to inspire students to love God and love
one another, to reach their highest potential
academically, spiritually, socially, and physically,
and to be launched into God's designed future
with the skills and spiritual maturity necessary
to experience success. Our vision is to create an
environment where their God-given uniqueness
is celebrated, and they are taught to value a
passionate commitment to academic excellence,
Biblical worldview, and service for Christ.

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