



THE HERITAGE CONQUEROR



BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR LIFE TRANSFORMATION

March 2009

*"Forty Years of Memories...
A Gem of a Year"*



40TH ANNIVERSARY
REUNION DINNER
AND BENEFIT AUCTION

You are cordially invited to a gala celebration!

McKinley Grand Hotel Ballroom, Downtown Canton, Ohio
Saturday, April 4, 2009, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

\$35 per person

Visit www.heritagechristianschool.org for information, and order tickets by calling (330) 452-8271. Seating is limited to the first 360 paid reservations. Reservation deadline is March 20, 2009.

Alumni Pre-Dinner Tours!

Alumni and former staff are invited to a pre-dinner reunion tour of Heritage Christian School beginning at 4 p.m. April 4 at Heritage Christian School, 2107 6th Street, SW, Canton, OH 44706. This tour will be finished in time to travel to the McKinley Grand to view auction items, have dinner and reminisce with even more friends. Please RSVP for the alumni tour to kcroston@heritagechristianschool.org or by calling (330) 452-8271.

Heritage has reserved a block of discounted rooms at the McKinley Grand Hotel. Rooms are \$89 per night and are available Friday, April 3, 2009 through Sunday, April 5, 2009. To reserve rooms, contact the McKinley Grand at 330-454-5000. The deadline to book discounted rooms is March 22, 2009.



Martin Pertican, 81, stands next to "The Heritage House" dollhouse he built and donated to our auction. Pertican, a friend of Mr. Howard Pizor's, donated the handcrafted house, which includes variegated wood floors with four coats of polyurethane, two fireplaces, wallpapered walls and real wood molding and roof shingles. This dollhouse is valued at \$800, and is on display in the Main Office.

Classroom baskets for the silent auction are loaded with specialty and themed items. There are at least a dozen baskets valued above \$250. Baskets include treats like donated tickets to Walt Disney World, memorabilia from The Ohio State University, high-quality scrapbooking items and much more.

Also up for auction is a one-week stay at a house in Florida near Orlando, handmade Adirondack chairs, lamps from Andrea's Furniture of Sugarcreek and artwork from Ohio businesses including P. Graham Dunn. Additional auction donors include Harrison Paints, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Heritage Christian School (tuition), National First Ladies Museum, Malone University and Mount Union College. A complete item listing will be available in March at www.heritagechristianschool.org.

HERITAGE HOSTS COMMUNITY INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Heritage staffers and board members have been going "on the road" to promote our school. The next meetings offering general information about Heritage will be Wed. Feb. 25 at the Foltz Community Center in East Canton, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and Thursday, Mar. 5 at the Malvern Library, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please let family and friends know.

Heritage students and staff visited radio station Joy 1520 AM on Thurs., Feb. 5 for a roundtable discussion about Heritage Christian School. They were interviewed by Curtis Perry "CAP III" about their opinions as HCS students. Thank you to **Cory Shaffer** (senior), **Candyce Gillems** (ninth grader), **Jenna Fostyk** (eighth grader), and **Kiersten Hogan** (fourth grader) for representing Heritage and the Lord so well.

VISITATION DAYS

Prospective students and families are invited to visit Heritage during special visitation days coming up soon!

Kindergarten Open House: Thurs., March 12, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Parents of children entering kindergarten in the fall are invited to join us for a kindergarten-led Chapel service, followed by a tour of the building, a morning snack, and an explanation of tuition and enrollment processes. Simple entertainment is available to children during the enrollment explanation. To pre-register, please call (330) 452-8271 by Monday, March 9.

Evening Open House for Preschool through 12th Grade: Thurs., March 12, 7 p.m.

All parents and students interested in Heritage are invited to visit the school for a tour, refreshments and information. Bring friends and check out Heritage. Please RSVP to (330) 452-8271 by Monday, March 9.

6th - 12th Grade Visitation Day, Tuesday, April 7, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students in 5th through 11th grades are invited to see Heritage firsthand, walking through the morning with student and teacher tour guides. Visitors will attend our 6th-12th grade Chapel service, visit classrooms, meet friends, and enjoy a complimentary lunch. Parents of visiting students, please call (330) 452-0671 by Friday, April 3 to pre-register your student.

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SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 20 Second Annual Student Council Carnival
- 25 Heritage Informational Meeting – Foltz Community Center, 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Waggoner Chocolate Candy Bar Sale Kick Off

March

- 5 Spring Picture Day (Dress-up: no uniforms)
- 5 Mom & Me Luncheon in Café
- 5 Heritage Informational Meeting – Malvern Library, 5:30 p.m.
- 6 ACSI Math Olympics, Gr. 3-8 at Heartland Christian
- 7 Work Day, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 12 Kindergarten Open House, 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- 12 Open House for Preschool through 12th Grade, 7 p.m.
- 16 Teacher Record/Report Day – NO SCHOOL for Gr. K-12**
- 17-19 Middle School Nine Week Testing
- 17-20, 23 OGT Testing (Sophomores)
- 20 ACSI Speech Meet, Gr. 1-6 at Warren Christian
- 20 End of 3rd Nine Weeks
- 20, 21 Spring Play, 7 p.m.
- 27 Report Cards go home
- 30 Spring Achievement Test through April 3, Gr. K-8

April

- 3 Spring Achievement Test Ends
- 4 Alumni Reunion Tour, 4 p.m., Heritage
- 4 40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner and Benefit Auction, 5:30 p.m.
- 7 6th - 12th Grade Visitation Day, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 10 Good Friday, NO SCHOOL, PRESCHOOL-12**
- 12 EASTER SUNDAY... Jesus is risen!**
- 13-17 Easter Break, NO SCHOOL, PRESCHOOL-12***
- 20 School Resumes
- 24 ACSI Music Festival, Gr. 3-6 at Medina Christian

May

- 1 Fine Arts Festival and Pasta Dinner
- 2 ACSI Science Fair at Lake Center Christian

*Childcare is available in the Super Room by reservation and for a fee the week of April 13-17 for students Preschool through 5th Grade. Sack lunch required.

FROM THE NURSES' OFFICE

Challenge Kids to Good Dental Health

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Take care of your SMILE! For healthy teeth and gums, and fewer cavities, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children only drink milk or water between meals, instead of other beverages. The AAP also recommends that parents do the following:

- Limit sugary foods and drinks to mealtime
- Allow no more than 1/2 cup of 100% fruit juice a day
- Avoid carbonated beverages and juice drinks
- Encourage meals and snacks from the Food Pyramid Five Food Groups
- Brush teeth at least twice a day at morning and bedtime, for about two minutes each time
- Floss at least once daily
- Visit the dentist every six months

Nancy Parsons, RN

PRESCHOOL PONDERINGS

Upcoming Events, families helped by preschool tree and more (Lisa Rotondo) –still waiting

OHIO ED CHOICE MEETING DATES

The Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program application process is in full swing. **Applications for enrollment should be submitted to Heritage the week of April 6 to allow time for processing.** Heritage has hosted three community meetings about Ohio EdChoice and has been announcing meeting information by mailings, in the newspaper, and on the radio, thanks to the generosity of The Light 95.9 FM.

Families of students who desire Christian education and who attend or would be assigned to certain underperforming Stark County schools have the opportunity to choose Heritage for a Christian education. Students must first be accepted at the participating private school, before applying to EdChoice. Scholarships cover the entire tuition and are renewable annually under certain state guidelines. For information, visit www.heritagechristianschool.org.

SPRING PLAY MARCH 20 AND 21

What do you get when you combine a retired nanny who runs a boarding house, two gossiping nanny friends, a cat "the size of the Louisiana Purchase," and one renter turned bank robber who comes with his own wise-cracking sidekick?

You get a full evening of laughs, classic comedic twists, and surprises! Join us in the HCS auditorium Friday or Saturday, 7 p.m., March 20 and 21. You won't want to miss "Every Little Crook and Nanny," directed by Miss Kristi Kindler, 5th grade teacher.

Play cast is as follows:

Senior **Kayla Baker** as Lillie Scones, sweet, retired nanny; Senior **Brittany Price** as Jocelyn Minnow, "dim" nanny friend of Lillie; Sophomore **Mikala Lipps** as Carmella Dundee, working nanny who is a bit jaded; Freshman **Anthony DeMarco** as Stu Benchley, small-time crook; Sixth Grader **Jake Nowak** as Pat Turgesson, Stu's sarcastic assistant; Senior **Lance Wonderley** as Teddy Hitchell, smarmy man with a secret; Senior **Reina Allbritain** as Betty Collins, Teddy's fiancée, a very bright woman; Seventh Grader **Ali DiMarzio** as Jenny Sims, 10-year-old con artist brat; Sophomore **Michael Smith** as Chief Dan Collins, Betty's police chief father; Senior **Rachel Ondrejko** as Mrs. Sims, Jenny's long-suffering mother. The play is set in the 1990s and was written by Pat Cook and published by Eldridge Publishing Company.

WAGGONER'S CHOCOLATES FOR SALE!

The Waggoner's Candy Sale kicks off Thurs., Feb. 26 and candy bars will go home with students Fri., Feb. 27. The same delicious selection is available this year: almond, crisp rice, caramel and peanut butter. There are 56 bars in each box. New this year is a larger catalog of Easter candy, nuts, Buckeyes, mints and more, along with an order form. Orders for catalog candy are due March 17 and will be delivered by April 2, in plenty of time for Easter. This year the candy bar sale extends from Feb. 27 through April 24, giving you lots of sales weeks before, during and after Easter. Waggoner's is an Ohio-based, locally-owned candy maker and we are glad to support this business. Check the candy sale flyer attached to your candy box for great prizes this year. Families who sell two boxes will receive a pass for each student in the family to attend the "chocolate fountain party," first introduced last year and wildly popular among students and faculty.



Mr. Pizor oversees many areas of the school, including chocolate dipping.

TOP JUBILEE CARD SELLERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$200	Alexis Price, 10 th grade
\$150	Lance Wonderley, 12 th grade
\$100	Natalie Schmitt, 1 st grade and Nathan Schmitt, 10 th grade
\$75	Tevin Williams, 6 th grade
\$50	Jon Skillern, 11 th grade
\$50	David Blanche, 7 th grade and Davina Blanche, 7 th grade
\$25	Emma Gniewecki, Kindergarten
\$25	Trever Heaton, 6 th grade
\$25	Rebekah Wittmer, 5 th grade
\$25	David Bartsch, 3 rd grade, Rachel Bartsch, 4 th grade, Josh Bartsch, 6 th grade, Lydia Bartsch, Preschool

For every 12 cards sold, families were entered into a drawing for a Nintendo Wii. And the winner was...Olivia Weckbacher, 11th grade. Congratulations!

EACH ONE REACH ONE

Did you know that recruiting a new student or family can result in a tuition benefit for your family? Our Each One...Reach One program rewards you for helping to enroll a new student or family by giving the recruiting family \$500 in tuition credit for enrolling one student, or \$750 in tuition credit for enrolling one family (two or more students). To qualify, follow the guidelines for Each One...Reach One, which are listed in our brochure. Brochures are available in the Main Office or by visiting www.heritagechristianschool.org.

CHURCH LEADERS VISIT HERITAGE



Twenty-five ministry leaders and two school administrators representing 16 churches, 1 school and 1 outreach ministry joined our board members and staff for an appreciation breakfast Feb. 13 following the school's French Toast Breakfast. The Spiritual Life Committee organized this event to help connect Heritage's ministry to the work of our area churches, who have Heritage families in their congregations. "We hope to complete the triangle of family, church and school," said Bishop Edward Yarber, Heritage parent and chair of the Spiritual Life Committee. "We want your input as to how Heritage can partner with you to build up students in Christ," he told the group.

The morning began with a complimentary breakfast in the cafeteria. Mrs. Andrea Clemens led the fourth grade students in "Amazing Grace," played on their recorders. She also initiated a time of worship as the 6th – 12th grade choir led the leaders in singing "Mighty to Save."

Several HCS staff and board members toured the pastors through the building, entering classrooms and meeting teachers and students. Finally, everyone convened in the auditorium to view a slide show featuring Heritage. The slide show included moving student testimonies about how Heritage has helped students grow in knowledge and faith in Jesus. Thank you to sophomore **Nathan Schmitt** for the hours he spent editing the elements of the slide show and sound for this event. The visiting leaders received a folder of information about Heritage and a response form about they can participate with us in this ministry of education. They also received a free pass to Varsity Boys Basketball game that night at Lake Center, a stadium cushion, a Heritage pen and a Jubilee Card. We were so blessed to have these churches represented and students and teachers alike were thrilled to see their pastors in our hallways.

Thank you to representatives of the following organizations for attending: Grace Community, Total Living Center, Grace Baptist Church, Greenwood Christian Church, Canton Grace Fellowship, Greater Bethel Apostolic Church, Antioch Baptist Church, First Church of the Nazarene, Church of the Lakes United Methodist, North Suburban Church of Christ, Stark County Christian Academy, Massillon Nazarene Church of God, Sherrick Road Church of God, Church of the Savior, First Assembly of God, Faith Family Church, The Chapel, First Christian Church of Malvern.

2009 E-Z RE-ENROLLMENT

Currently enrolled families may re-enroll online or on paper beginning Friday, March 6. Visit www.heritagechristianschool.org beginning March 6 and click "Enrollment" on the Main Menu to get to the re-enrollment page. Be sure to answer all questions before submitting your information. If you prefer paper forms, re-enrollment information will be sent home in K-5th grade folders on March 6, and will be mailed to families of 6th – 12th graders. If you are renewing an Ohio EdChoice Scholarship, please contact the Main or High School offices to complete your paperwork. Watch for information from the Heritage Board of Education about tuition incentives available to families who re-enroll by early deadlines.

SUPER SOUPER BOWL COLLECTION: OVER THE GOAL!



Heritage families and the community donated a whopping 1,011 food and hygiene items to help people in Canton during the Souper Bowl of Caring collection! During the week before and after the NFL Super Bowl, the Heritage Junior High and Senior High Beta Clubs collected and counted donations brought in by preschoolers through 12th graders and the community. This is part of a national youth-led effort to give and share during the Super Bowl festivities. More than 400 items came in on the final day, taking us over 1,000!

Thank you, families, for your generosity! Donations were given to Turnaround Community Outreach (TCO) in downtown Canton and given to a couple of Heritage families in need. TCO is a non-profit organization that provides groceries, meals, clothing and other free services to people in need. TCO is an outreach ministry of Faith Family Church in Canton. Last year, Heritage families and the community donated 692 items, which were given to TCO.

Members of the TCO staff visited the 6th-12th grade Chapel on Feb. 17 to thank students for giving gifts in Jesus' name, and to present the school with a special certificate, along with hundreds of Box Tops to support our program.

"When (people) come to our building, we not only give them food," Margaret Reaves, director of TCO, told students, "but we are able to pray for them...we are able to love on them with the love of God. And so we just would like to thank you, Heritage Christian School, thank you for everything that you've done to help us help others. God bless you! God bless you! God bless you!"



TCO Director Margaret Reaves, TCO Coordinator Sarah Fearon and TCO Driver Dave Pickar welcomed the donations to Turnaround. Students Jon Skillern and Daniel Corbit, among other Beta students, helped load donations that covered the entire floor of their van with hundreds of items for Canton people in need.

BOOK SERIES WARNING

"Conversations with God" is a book series widely publicized and recommended by some. Two particular books are "Conversations with God" and "Conversations with God for Teens," written by Neale D. Walsch. **Please do not assume that these books are scriptural. They are not.** In fact, respected Christians such as Dr. James Dobson and members of the Focus on the Family board decry the outright New Age overtones and false answers given as answers God would give to questions. For a commentary written by Focus on the Family board member Albert Mohler, please visit http://www.albertmohler.com/commentary_read.php?cdate=2004-03-15. In this article Mohler states: "The publication of Conversations with God was one of the milestones of the New Age Movement of the 1990s. A former reporter, public relations officer, and radio talk show host, Walsch claimed that God had channeled revelation through him in the form of conversations he was then able to produce in written form. As he tells the story, these events began in 1992 when Walsch was experiencing personal failure and deep unhappiness. Intending to write a letter to God, Walsch claimed to have found his pen 'moving on its own.' The result was Conversations with God--and the rest is publishing history."

THE LIGHT PROMOTES HERITAGE EVENTS

Local radio station WN PQ, The Light 95.9 has been regularly running information about Heritage. Senior **Andrew Rohr** and Eighth Grader **Rachel King**, both members of our Beta clubs, were interviewed by radio host Jim Berni on The Light the week before the Souper Bowl of Caring. They did an excellent job of explaining the project and its purpose: to help others in the name of Jesus. The station also gave us "free" advertising in the form of a 30-second public service announcement about the Souper Bowl collection, which ran multiple times. Mrs. Nowak recorded the PSA and also announced HCS EdChoice meetings three different days. Information about our upcoming events including visitation days and the 40th anniversary dinner, also will air on this station. Thank you, to The Light 95.9 FM, for supporting the work of Heritage! Visit <http://www.thelight959.com/> to listen live anytime.

LABEL COLLECTION UPDATES

A HUGE thank you to all of the HCS families participating in this year's collection of Box Tops, Campbell's UPC labels and Tyson A+ labels. Since the school year began we have collected 11,636 Box Tops and 7,127 Campbell labels. In January we received a check for \$939. The money will be used for capital improvements around the school. We will receive another payment in May for the labels collected from November through February. The winner of our January contest bringing in 943 labels was Mrs. McConahay's class. Great job, 4th grade! Keep up the great work. The students really enjoy the jeans pass rewards and class parties.

Have you started your spring cleaning yet? Please remember that the Friends of Heritage are planning their second annual Rummage Sale in June. You may donate your unwanted items to them to sell and raise money for Heritage. Last year's sale brought \$1300 in one day! More information will be coming later in the school year.

THANK YOU TO LINDA SKILLERN

Mrs. Linda Skillern spent countless hours and many years collecting, counting, trimming, peeling, organizing, separating, shipping and calculating Box Tops and other labels collected by Heritage students. She coordinated the program and volunteers to help support Heritage. Thank you, Mrs. Skillern for serving "behind the scenes" in this important way for so many years. Heritage depends on volunteers like you!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NOTES

By Mrs. Andrea Clemens

Sat., March 21: ACSI Jr./Sr. High Music Festival at Cedarville – **Sadie Fellows**, 11th grade, will participate this year in the solo piano category.

Sat., April 4: 40th Anniversary Celebration - H.S. Vocal Ensemble will help celebrate with a parallel between the growth of Heritage and the growth in the Christian Music Industry through the decades.

Fri., April 24 - ACSI Elementary (3-6) Music Festival at Medina – pianists and vocalists from Heritage will have the opportunity to participate.

Fri., May 1 - Heritage Fine Arts Festival - ALL Heritage students will showcase their talents in the ARTS! Put this date on your calendar!!! You won't want to miss it!

Music is alive and well in our Heritage students! Kindergarten through 2nd graders are exploring music basics, 3rd graders are learning piano, 4th graders are learning recorder, 5th grade are learning band instruments, Junior High have Music Appreciation each year and the opportunity to help lead worship in the elementary chapel, and the junior/senior high can increase their musical skills through band, choir and praise team for Jr./Sr. High Chapel.

Jr./Sr. High Parents and students - As you discuss next year's class schedule, remember the music classes that are now being offered.

The students are learning that music is in each of us! It's meant to be used to teach us life lessons of discipline, skill and achievement while giving all the glory and praise to God for this wonderful gift! Parents and staff, thank you for supporting the gift and art of MUSIC in our school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH PERFORMANCES STEAL THE SHOW

by Ashley Mortenson

Eight middle school students competed at the ACSI regional speech meet finals on January 9 at Lake Center Christian School. The students, who had been working on their speeches since October, competed in two rounds, presenting their work for two different panels of judges. The scores were tallied and the results reflected another year of superior performances. **Jenna Fostyk** gathered "Best of Category" honors along with a blue ribbon for her Dramatic Poetry presentation of "Casey at the Bat" and performed the piece again for the audience at the awards ceremony. Also receiving blue ribbons were **Rachel King** (Dramatic Reading) and **Hannah Kasler** (Humorous Poetry). Receiving red ribbons for "Excellent" performances were **Milly Childress** (Dramatic Reading), **Abbey Stafford** (Humorous Poetry) and **Josh Bartsch** (Costumed Dramatic Monologue). Receiving white ribbons for "Good" performances were **Josh Yarber** (Humorous Reading) and **Joey Burns** (Humorous Reading).

HERITAGE HOMECOMING 2009

The 2008 - 2009 Homecoming Banquet took place Jan. 10 at the Perry Heights Party Center Hall. The theme this year was "Lights, Camera, Action!!!" The court was introduced after they had walked the red carpet and were greeted with much accolade and paparazzi. The hall was decorated beautifully complete with a seven-foot gold "Oscar" statue. Dinner was delicious and the event was topped off with dipping delectable treats into several chocolate fountains with all the trimmings.



Congratulations to our court, pictured L-R:

Freshman Ambassadors:

Candyce Gillems and Forrest Filhour

Sophomore Ambassadors:

Brianna Moody and Regal Argueta

2009 Homecoming Queen: Denise Evans

2009 Homecoming King: Cory Shaffer

Junior Ambassadors:

Olivia Weckbacher and Jon Skillern

Senior Ambassadors:

Chelsey Kindy and Andrew Rohr



HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH MEET

There are ten students preparing to compete at the ACSI Regional High School Speech Meet, scheduled to take place on March 24 at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. All high school students prepared and presented pieces in their classes, and several were selected to present their pieces in front of the high school as representatives who would compete at Mount Vernon. Those scheduled to compete are **Matthew Davis**, **Jailynn Paige**, **Candyce Gillems**, **Kate Allbritain**, **Brianna Moody**, **Nathan Schmitt**, **Sadie Fellows**, **Cory Schaffer**, **Reina Allbritain** and **Kalee Graybeal**. Congratulations!

GUIDANCE OFFICE

IMPORTANT DATES

10th Grade OGT Testing will be Tues., March 17 – Fri., March 20 and Mon., March 23. The cafeteria will provide breakfast each of these mornings for students being tested.

SAT TEST DATES FOR 2009

Test Dates	Registration	Late Registration
March 14	Feb. 10	Feb. 24
May 2	March 31	April 9
June 6	May 5	May 15

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html

ACT TEST DATES FOR 2009

Test Dates	Registration	Late Registration
April 4	Feb. 27	March 13
June 13	May 8	May 22

www.actstudent.org/regist/currentdates.html

2009 Heritage Graduation Ceremony: Friday, June 5, Faith Community Church, 7 p.m.

HONOR ROLL

SECOND NINE WEEKS

* Denotes High Honor

12th Grade

Reina Allbritain*
Denise Evans*
Kalee Graybeal*
Chelsey Kindy*
Megan McAbee
Rachel Ondrejko*
Brittany Price
Ariel Randolph*
Andrew Rohr*

11th Grade

Jon Skillern

10th Grade

Kate Allbritain*
Daniel Corbit*
Brianna Moody*
Nathan Schmitt*

9th Grade

Matthew Davis*
Anthony DeMarco*
Forrest Filhour
Mitchell Fritz
Shaun Gentry
Alexandria Jakubiak
Angelia Thompson

MIDDLE SCHOOL

(All A's* or A's and B's)

8th Grade

Austin Caldwell
Abbey Earich*
Jenna Fostyk
Alyssa Frey
Ace Johns*
Rachel King
Jacob Moody
Lauren Randolph

7th Grade

Davina Blanche*
Andrew Boak
Brian Cassler
Joey Corbit*
Nathan Davis
Zach Dickens*
Riley Graybeal*
Nathan Martin
Hannah Petelin*
Luke Schmidt*
Cody Spitale

6th Grade

Kristopher Adkins
Josh Bartsch
Marcus Brittain
Hannah Kasler*
Ben Kourkounakis
Mikaila Miller
Alaigh Moses
Jacob Nowak
Melody Rexrode
Rachel Wade

MAPPING A FUTURE OF SERVICE

By Ashley Mortenson

The senior English classes recently watched "Amazing Grace," a movie capturing the character of William Wilberforce and his tireless ambition for abolishing the British slave trade. This movie captures some of the history of the time period we will be studying in the upcoming semester. In response to this film, which shows the passion of Wilberforce in stopping the injustice of slavery, each of the seniors in the Honors English class chose an injustice of their own to research and discuss. The papers I received were about everything from AIDS relief to child abuse, from the conflicts in Sudan to care of those with physical and mental impairments.

As I sat and read through the papers in the quiet of the morning, the hopes and dreams of these students to help those less fortunate than themselves washed over me. Though the first part of the paper highlighted social justice causes of the twenty-first century and organizations that are working to help, the second part asked each student to reflect on the causes or groups for which they had a heart. They reflected on their future professions as nurses or teachers or physical therapists and expressed their responsibility to help those around them, to educate people about social injustices, and to spread the love of Christ in everyday life to those that desperately need support—to the "orphans and widows" of our current society.

Catching a glimpse of the passion our students have to serve Christ through serving others was a breath of fresh air in a society that can feel so oppressively focused on "self." Reading these papers helped me realize how blessed I am to get to partner with each of my students in his or her education.

Below are excerpted portions of senior English papers:

Denise Evans:

"Ever since I can remember, I always wanted to become a teacher and just a little over two years ago **I felt that God was tugging on my heart toward kids with disabilities...** I want to help them reach their potential, show them that they are important and that they can do many things with their lives. Many of these children are neglected in our society; some might feel that they have no place here. I want to show others that they belong and that they need to be accepted."

Kalee Graybeal:

"I have a lot of sympathy and a strong desire to help those who are both physically and emotionally hurt and drained. In choosing a career as a nurse my entire job would be dedicated to helping those in need... I want to touch people's lives and let them see Christ in me. I am ready to learn how to take my passions and grow in them and do good for others."

Rachel Ondrejko:

"I am most passionately convicted about the neglect of the helpless. **Being an advocate for the young and immature mentally challenged and naïve, old and feeble, and less fortunate and different is the most worthy cause of fighting to me.** These people groups each have a unique handicap which renders them especially vulnerable to the cruelty the world possesses. I do not agree with the mentality of our society that these people's deficiencies give the rest of us the right to mock them, treat them poorly, or make them feel inferior and incapable."

Chelsey Kindy:

"My strongest convictions pull me towards the preservation of life. Whether that life is of a child that is born or unborn, an adolescent, young adult, middle aged person, or an elderly person, all life should be highly valued... I feel that the more society advances its compassion and morals decrease. If I could fix one thing in our world it would be our lack of ethics and consideration... our job is to protect life, regardless of the work that it requires on our behalf, and not take it away."

Cory Shaffer:

"I want to reach the unsaved through sports, and also strengthen the Christian athlete through sports... God has given me a passion for this type of work and I thank Him for it... Although I may not see instant satisfaction and lives instantly changed, I know that I will be planting seeds and doing all I can."



The Fifth Quarter Winterfest Party was slip-slidin' fun. Board members (of all people) iced down the ramps leading into "the pit" and sent students flying down the ice chute on metal and plastic discs. There were games in the gym, rollerskating, concessions and a nice, toasty fire in a firepit outside. Thank you to Mrs. Martin and Mr. Cassler for heading up this unique event!



HCS Board President Mr. Bob Harmelink catches and cares for praying mantises as "Mantis Man." He is pictured here teaching kindergartener Naz-Yiere Summer about this unique and interesting creation of God. Mantis Man visited several classrooms with engaging lessons about these creatures.

SPORTS NEWS

UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

Boys Basketball: Go Conquerors!

OHSAA Division IV Tournament – Heritage Christian vs. Leetonia Mon., March 2 at 6 p.m. If the Conquerors win, they will take on Youngstown Christian at 7:30 p.m. on Fri., March 6.

Baseball:

Coach Kevin D’Ettorre and Coach Tim Smith will be leading the HCS baseball team again this spring. The first home game is Mon., April 6 vs. Holmes County at Bors Field. On Tues., April 7 the Conquerors baseball team will take on Kingsway Christian at Thurman Munson Stadium. The team plans to participate in the OHSAA Tournament this spring.

Track:

Coach Ashley Mortenson will be heading up the Conqueror Track & Field program once again. There is a high school team and a middle school team. The middle school team participates in the Canton-area CYC League while the high school team is involved in OHSAA competition.

Bowling:

Coach DiMarzio and the HCS Bowling Team will compete in the OHSAA Tournament on Sat., February 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at 77 Colonial Lanes.

HERITAGE BEATS LAKE CENTER

The varsity boys had a nail-biter of a game against Lake Center Christian on Fri., Feb. 13. The Conquerors fought hard and beat Lake Center 43 to 41, with Lake Center narrowly missing a 3-pointer in the final second that could have cost us the game. Our crowds went wild with great fan support and HUGE win! Thank you to the High School Vocal Ensemble and Mrs. Clemens for opening the game with a beautifully harmonized version of “The Star Spangled Banner.” HCS senior athletes and their families also were introduced and honored before the big game. Seniors gave their favorite verses of testimony, which were read to crowd before the game. Thank you for being ambassadors for Christ!



Ken Hill and Cory Shaffer perform a smooth hand off to keep the ball in possession.

WINTER SPORTS AND BASKETBALL COVERAGE...

This coverage will appear in the next newsletter following the tournaments and awards banquets.

CORRECTIONS!

Several Fall Sports Awards were incorrectly listed in the last newsletter.

Hannah Kasler won the Scholar Athlete award for Jr. High Volleyball Team B, not the MVP award.

Abbey Stafford won the Most Improved Award for Volleyball Team B. **Skylar Busche** was incorrectly listed as a volleyball player.

ALUMNI REPORTS

Heritage alum **Andy Rowan**, class of '06, is a member of the Malone University Forensics Team (speech and debate). He placed 6th in the Extemporaneous category at the 59th Annual Wilcox Invitational in November. Extemporaneous is a category that requires a 7-minute impromptu speech on current event issues, with only 30 minutes of preparation on the topic. This was Andy's third intercollegiate competition, and other competing institutions included Alderson-Broaddus, Fairmont State, Geneva, Heidelberg, Hillsdale, Marietta, Muskingum, Notre Dame and WVU-Parkersburg.

Andy Rowan and Nancy Shahan graduated from Heritage in 2006 and were married in 2007.

Joshua Pizor, Mr. Howard Pizor's son, will be speaking to the secondary students in Chapel on Tues., March 31 and to the elementary students on Thurs., April 23. Mr. Pizor is celebrating the national "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work" Day April 23, by bringing his grown son in as a guest speaker! Josh Pizor is the youth pastor at The Chapel in Marlboro. Josh graduated from Kent State with a degree in criminal justice.

Heritage alum **Michael Wittmer**, class of '85, will be keynote speaker at Integrate: When Faith and Work Meet, a conference made available by The Chapel in conjunction with the Coalition for Christian Outreach. The event is Sat., March 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at The Chapel's Akron Campus.



Michael Wittmer is the author of "Heaven is a Place on Earth: Why Everything You Do Matters to God" (Zondervan, 2004) and "Don't Stop Believing: Why Living Like Jesus is not Enough" (Zondervan, 2008). He is a professor of systematic and historical theology at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Michael will help bring understanding to questions such as "How do I bring Sunday's faith into Monday's work?"; "Does my vocation have value beyond earning a paycheck?"; "Can my work, in and of itself, be a ministry and a calling?"

Cost is \$25 (\$35 per couple). Register your co-workers together with you, and each additional registration is only \$20. Cost is \$15 for college students. Register online by February 28 at www.the-chapel.org.

Michael Wittmer is brother to HCS parents Tim and Shelley Wittmer and uncle to Rebekah and Jonathan Wittmer. Mike shared these words about his experience at HCS: "What I treasure most about my time at Heritage is (surprisingly) not the Hike or the Fruit Sale but the friends who became like family and the teachers, like Mr. Hontz, Mr. Mundy, Mr. Stedman, Mrs. Asplund, Mrs. Croston, and Mrs. Cole, who poured their lives into mine. They developed both the character and the skills that I needed to flourish."

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