

The Warrior Bulletin

A Newsletter for Parents, Alumni, Friends, and Family

Grace Christian School • Summer 2010

Middle school students take to the woods

On a beautiful crisp night in late May, 26 GCS middle school boys spent the night sleeping under the stars. However, this wasn't your average camping trip. The event was the culmination of a survival course in which the young men put into practice the skills and knowledge they had learned.

The nine week class, taught by GCS teacher and former Navy SEAL Bill Renton, focused on teaching the basics of survival. Students learned how to survive in all types of situations - everything from being stranded in a snow storm to escaping from a submerged vehicle. In addition, they learned how to avoid hypothermia, what types of food are safe to eat in a survival situation, and how to survive with minimal provisions and supplies.

The boys put their knowledge to the test in the overnight outing. Before leaving the middle school, Mr. Renton and Mr. O.D. Royals, GCS parent and fellow "survivalist", inspected each boys' gear. Students were only allowed to bring a knife, a canteen, a space blanket, a tarp or piece of plastic, and other essential items, like matches and a whistle, that could fit into their small survival bag. The group then headed out to a wooded area behind Mr. Renton's home in Augusta County.

The middle schoolers paired up and spent the afternoon and evening competing for points. They used bows to shoot at deer targets, built shelters out of tarps, and collected water from leaves and plants. Other competitions included knife throwing, observation exercises, target shooting with paint guns, and map drawing.

One of the highlights of the overnighter was a fire building competition. With only matches or a magnesium starter, the boys had 15 minutes to gather wood, start a fire, and burn through a rope that was positioned several feet above the ground.

After sleeping in their shelters with just a space blanket and the clothes on their backs, the boys awoke with a hearty appetite and enjoyed a big breakfast cooked over a camp fire before heading back to the school campus.

"I really enjoyed night patrolling. We didn't have flashlights, and we had to search for our leaders in the dark," remarked 7th grader, David Heishman. "It was fun just exploring the woods - trying to avoid poison ivy and deer ticks!"

"This has become quite a tradition," commented Mr. Renton, who has been teaching the course for four years. "The boys really look forward to the class - and especially to this overnight experience. It's a great opportunity to get them outside and away from their computers and video games and to enjoy God's creation."

"The class encourages the boys to become leaders by being prepared to handle themselves in many different types of situations. What they learn could possibly save their lives - or someone else's - some day," he added.

Mr. Renton joined the Navy following high school and served our country for over 20 years, the majority spent as a Navy SEAL. Although his home base was Little Creek, VA, his tours included Africa, Europe, and Vietnam. Mr. Renton was also a member of the United States Navy Bobsled team from 1973 - 1984. He has coached many athletic teams and taught Bible, history, and physical education at Grace for the past 18 years.



Jacob Montoya and Philip Seaton collect water from leaves.



Justin Bowles, 8th grade, uses his space blanket to keep warm in his shelter.



Seventh grader Will Carlton, with the help of fellow classmates, tries to get his fire to burn through the rope.

Local businesses support Christian education

The GCS Business Partners in Education play a very important role in the school's ability to offer financial aid scholarships to a growing number of our students and their families. We thank these businesses who sacrificially give so that others can appreciate the benefits of a Christian education. Our Business Partners participate at various giving levels - if you would like to learn more about the Business Partners in Education program, please contact Liz Middleton in the Development Office at (540) 886-9109.



Golf tournament a success

GCS parent, Jody Lohr, has a real heart for helping Grace Christian School be the best that it can be. In fact, he believes so strongly in supporting the school that in the spring he planned and organized a benefit technology vendor show and golf tournament.

Jody, who is the technology coordinator for the Waynesboro School system, has attended numerous technology shows throughout his career, most of them geared towards educational institutions. In addition, he is also a sports enthusiast. So, last winter he approached the GCS administration with the idea of combining a technology vendor show and a golf tournament, with proceeds going to GCS.

A number of educational technology vendors participated. Not only did they pay to present their wares to both the public and private school attendees, but they also donated over \$2,000 in computer-related giveaways to educators in attendance.

Following the vendor show, 53 golfers spent the afternoon on the greens at Gypsy Hill Golf Course. Golfers participated in a \$10,000 putting contest, a million-dollar hole-in-one contest, and enjoyed a catered dinner.

Thanks to Jody, his wife Joy, and all of the vendors, sponsors and participants, this year's Vendor Show and Golf Tournament netted almost \$4,500! What a blessing!



John Ray

In-kind gifts appreciated

Heart-felt thanks go out to the following businesses for their contributions to Grace Christian School in the form of gift-in-kind donations. These tax-deductible gifts provide a great savings to the school and are very much appreciated!

- **Beverage Tractor** for discounted repair work on school machinery
- **Blue Ridge Asphalt Maintenance** for line painting the school parking lots
- **Callison Electric** for repair of the icemaker.
- **Costco** for donation of baked goods for Grandparent's Day
- **Eversafe Systems** for yearly security inspection and corrections to security systems.
- **Grains of Sense** for donation of coffee for parent meetings throughout the school year
- **Jack Clem, General Contractor** for snow removal services for GCS campuses
- **Newsome Drywall** for drywall patching and repair work in the middle school computer lab
- **Odds & Ends Jobs** for reduced rates for cleaning services
- **Peace Construction, LLC** for donation of carpet for new computer lab
- **Staunton Walmart** for donation of supplies for Auction
- **Staunton Staples** for donation of supplies for GCS Auction
- **VTM Arborists, LLC** for discounted pricing for tree removal services

Message from the Headmaster

By Rick Richards

This summer marks the end of my first year as headmaster of Grace Christian School. As I look back on this first year, I am amazed at how fast the time passed! It seems like only yesterday that I nervously entered the building for the first day of school feeling some of the same jitters as our students. It was a very memorable year for me; one that I will never forget.

The true joy and blessing of serving as headmaster lies in being around the students on a daily basis. Having the opportunity to experience their energy, their laughter, and their silliness brought a smile to my heart each and every day. I had the opportunity to be a headmaster, a teacher, a mentor, a stern father, a listener - and at times provide a shoulder to cry on. At the high school level, I had the pleasure of watching the spring play, listening to the chorus and PAC teams perform, be part of the student government, barbecue on the front lawn, go on field trips, and help with community service. At the middle school and elementary campus, I attended the Renaissance Fair, Grandparent's Day, many and competed in math contests. And finally, I counted other wonderful happenings. I am staff, the parents and the students.

As we prepare for the 2010-2011 many challenges. Our children are facing pres-never before seen, the nation's economy is more challenging, and maintain-declining standards in public education.

These are daunting challenges for you anything. He gave John Morrison the vision to time at Grace, He has assembled a loyal and provided by Community Fellowship Church, and most importantly, He has given us the strength to overcome challenges, maintain our focus and remain a family.

We - all of us together - are His body of believers. Alone we can accomplish little. Together, trusting in our God there is no end to what we can accomplish. Through much prayer and guidance from the school board, we have set a course for the 2010 - 2011 school year that is aggressive and challenging. As we discussed with our school families in May, we are not raising tuition, miscellaneous fees or textbook fees. Above all, we will continue to insure that our students will receive an excellent Christ centered education.

I am a firm believer in the family of Grace Christian School. I know that we can accomplish all that God has in mind for us if everyday, in every action, we operate as family. Providing a Christian based education has never been more critical as it is in this particular time in history. It is a challenge, but an exciting one. Together with God, you and I have the honor, the privilege, and the responsibility of bringing up these children with a sound biblical knowledge of God and all His greatness.

I look forward to the opening bell on the first day of school, the sounds of students in the halls, and the chain of events that will transpire as we move together through another year here at Grace Christian School. May God bless us as we begin the 2010-2011 school year.

*“Together,
trusting in
our God there
is no end to
what we can
accomplish.”*

chapel, ate lunch with students, read to the lower grades, attended Arts Night, watched 120 sporting events, and truly a blessed man to be associated with this school, the

school year, I am mindful that as a school family we face sure from the world around us at a level that we have far from recovery, fighting the good fight for Christian ing our standards becomes more important in view of the

and me - but not for our GOD. We know that He can do birth this school, He took 62 years to prepare me for this dedicated staff, He has blessed us with rent free buildings

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Mr. Rick Richards, GCS Headmaster, reads a Dr. Seuss book to an elementary class.

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Class of 2010



Class of 2010. (Bottom row) Michelle Stewart, Joanna Waltz, Kali Flavin, Lindsay Shaw, Faith Marinelli, Summer Playfair. (Middle row) Jaime Ballew, Molly Law, Jessica Daggy, Ryan Stiteler, Caitlin King, Colby Pegg-Joplin, Emily Masincup. (Top row) Jacob Penny, Lucas Rexrode, Ethan Grow, David Showker, Paul Stoneburner, Baylor Spotts.



Paul Stoneburner, Class of 2010, receives the “Poolee of the Year” award for Leadership Excellence from Staff Sgt. Brandon Childress at the GCS awards ceremony May 28. Thank you Paul for your service to our country!

2010 graduate enlists

Paul Stoneburner graduated from Grace Christian School on Saturday, May 29. Two days later, he boarded a van and was headed for Parris Island, SC where he began a 13 week program in Marine Boot Camp.

According to his mother, Pam Stoneburner, Paul’s patriotism and desire to serve his country was inspired by Mr. Bill Renton, his middle school teacher. Paul, an avid hunter and outdoorsman, signed up for the military during his junior year of high school through the Marine’s Delayed Entry Program.

After boot camp, the next step in Paul’s military career will be Camp Lejeune, NC, where he will enter the School of Infantry Training. He will then head for Camp Pendleton in San Diego, where he will begin Reconnaissance and Advanced Infantry Training.

His family looks forward to joining Paul for his graduation ceremony on August 27 in Parris Island, where he will officially be a Marine.

Thank you Paul for your service to our country!

Spring 2010 in pictures



Everyone's favorite cavalier a hit

The 2010 high school spring play, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, showcased a large cast of talented thespians. Cyrano, a poet, swordsman, philosopher, and musician, was played by junior Ben Stoll. Other main characters were played by Emily Masincup, David Showker, Ethan Grow, Nathan Williams, and Frankie Leo. The comedy featured daring sword fights, handsome cavaliers, beautiful ladies, a tragic sacrifice, and the ultimate example of a noble heart.

Several hundred GCS family and friends attended one of the two presentations held on the Statler stage April 16 and 17. The play was directed by Ms. Ash White, GCS English and drama teacher.

Students sing in state-wide festival

Music teacher Marie Masincup traveled to Shenandoah University this spring with several elementary chorus members to participate in the All-Virginia Chorus Festival. Fifth graders Shannon Jenkins, Austin Allred, Hope Campbell and Loren Karicofe joined 150 of their peers from across the state for the yearly event.

Prior to the festival, the foursome spent weeks with Mrs. Masincup memorizing and practicing the music. On festival day, participants rehearsed together, later performing for the public. "My favorite part was learning so many different styles of music," shared Austin Allred. "We sang a piece in Latin, and we learned some folk and traditional songs too," he added.



Grandparent's Day a crowd pleaser

One of the most cherished days of the year for GCS elementary school students took place in mid-May as several hundred grandparents visited the campus for Grandparent's Day. Pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade students conducted personal tours for their grandparents, showing off their projects, artwork, teachers and friends. Grandparents were then whisked away to the auditorium where they enjoyed a breakfast buffet.

Meanwhile, students changed into their costumes and grabbed their props as they readied to honor their grandparents with special songs and Bible verses. (Left) Third graders Alyse Shifflett, Anna Burkholder, John Mark Wenger, and Andrew Cal-lison wait for their chance to shine on stage.



Seniors have their day in court

The high school government class toured the historical Supreme Court chambers in Washington, D.C. in early April. In addition, they were privileged to be able to spend an hour visiting with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He talked to the seniors informally and answered questions. The group, accompanied by both Government teacher Jessica McClain and Bible teacher John Morrison, also visited the National Holocaust Museum later in the day. Pictured (at right) are Faith Marinelli, Jacob Penny, Michelle Stewart, Caitlin King, Summer Playfair, Pam Eller (parent), Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Kali Flavin, Baylor Spotts, Lindsay Shaw, and Jessica Daggy.





Chad and Katie Harper Hall ('97), and Thor



Aaron and Katherine Archer Wojtowicz



Derrick and Carianne Marinelli Murray, Audrey and Kaylin



Eric Fitzgerald

Graduates in the News

1993

Amanda Foster and Beau Walker were married June 19 at Berry Hill Plantation in South Boston, VA. The couple met while Amanda was working on Capitol Hill. They now reside in Rogers, Arkansas.

1995

Michael Henry and his wife Emily, and two year old daughter Hattie welcomed baby Grayson Michael, born May 1. The Henrys live in Stanardsville.

1996

Bill Sterrett has accepted a position as a professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He will be teaching Education Administration. Bill and his wife Stephanie have three sons - Will, Jack and Graham.

1999

Michelle Diggins Nelson and her husband Brian have relocated from Florida to Chicago, IL. They have two sons - Chas and Caden.

Dessi Petrova Jackson and her husband Jody live in Newark, Delaware. They have five children: Maria (9), Peter (7), Thomas (6), Nicolas (3), and Julia (18 months). Dessi homeschools her children and leads a homeschooling Boys Club.

Michael Gilbert and his wife Brae have a one year old daughter, Charis Elizabeth. The family lives in Winchester, where Michael is employed by The Shockey Companies, a construction management company.

Ben Paulus is currently working in Vancouver as an assistant pastor. He graduated from Regent University with a PhD in Counseling. He and his wife Annie are expecting their first child in August.

Danielle David Grinnen and her husband Brad welcomed newborn daughter Della into the world this spring. She joins sister Lilly, who is two years old. The family lives in Lancaster, VA.

2000

Heather Combee Michaelas and her husband, Christopher, have relocated to Myrtle Beach. Heather is a full-time Mom of 3 year old Vienne, and 1 year old Jude.

Janelle Miller Greenmun and her husband Jeff became parents for the third time in May. Jessica Dee joins sisters Katie Jo and Aubrey. The family lives in Waynesboro.

Kevin Kennedy has announced his engagement to Rachel Rehm of Charlottesville. The wedding date is set for October 1 at Veritas Vineyards. The couple will reside in Norfolk, where Kevin works as an insurance attorney. He is a graduate of The College of William and Mary School of Law.

2001

Everette Clemmer is a software programmer at Rosetta Stone in Harrisonburg, where he resides.

Jeremy Bailey has been promoted to Captain. He is sta-

tioned at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. He and his wife, **Ali Bell Bailey (00)** have two children, Charlie (2) and Rosie (10 months).

2002

Will Renton works for Digi-co, a video production company in Harrisonburg. He is currently producing several documentaries, including one on camera repair.

Gabe Hochstetler received his Bachelors degree in History from James Madison University. He is currently working on his Masters and hopes to eventually teach history.

Emily Kirtz Hoffman and her husband Brandon have become parents. Ella Worthington was born March 26. The couple reside in Richmond, where Emily works as a registered nurse, a personal trainer and certified health fitness specialist.

2003

Nathan Kinder recently completed an emergency medicine rotation in Portsmouth, VA.



Emily Kirtz Hoffman and Ella



Ray and Ashley Barrett Hunt and Barrett



Ian and Heidi Mancini Fry and Mikayah



Jodi Kanagy Marinelli and Gabriel



Jody and Dessi Petrova Jackson and Family



Beau and Amanda Foster Walker



Nathan Stiteler, Danielle David Grinnen, Lilly and Bella



Joel Smith

He is completing his third year of medical school at Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine at Virginia Tech.

Rana McCormick is working as a certified phlebotomist in the Phlebotomy Department at the University of Virginia Medical Center. In her spare time she also works at Rayz Tanning in Staunton and helps care for her grandmother.

Ashley Barrett Hunt and husband Ray welcomed their son, Barrett, into the world on May 29. Ashley is a pediatric oncology nurse at a hospital in Norfolk.

Tom Paulus has been accepted into graduate school at George Fox University in Oregon, where he will pursue a PhD in Counseling. He currently works at Appalachian Woods. He and his wife Rachel are dorm parents at Stuart Hall in Staunton.

Drew Shawver and his wife Katie have relocated from Toronto to Lafayette, LA. Drew has accepted a teaching position in the architecture department at the University of Louisiana.

Derek Combee is a 1st Lieu-

tenant in the Air Force. He recently completed flight school and is currently training to fly C-17's in Oklahoma. In mid-November, he will be stationed in Dover, Delaware,

2004

Katherine Archer Wojtowicz works full time at Dillards. She and her husband Aaron reside in Columbia, South Carolina.

Erin Betlej is Director of Ministries for Young People at Leaksville United Methodist Church in Eden, North Carolina.

Seth Starkey and Erin Gray were married June 26. The couple live in Austin, Texas.

Mary Helen Clemmer Thorne teaches at the Virginia School of Massage in Charlottesville. She also has her own massage therapy practice in Staunton.

2005

Josh Elmore and Nicki Sparks were married June 26. Josh is employed as an engineer at Dominion Power. The couple reside in Louisa County.

Lauren Hostetler works as

a fitness instructor at Wintergreen Resort and is considering several post-graduate options.

Stephanie Fitzgerald works as an Early Childhood Interventionist at Siskell Children's Institute in Chattanooga, TN. She will begin studying for her Masters in Special Education at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga in the fall.

Sunny Hickin Roche and her husband Pharos spent three weeks in Staunton reconnecting with family and friends this summers. She works at a bank in Brisbane, Australia

2006

Anna Hrovat has transferred to James Madison University where she plans to pursue a degree in International Affairs. She is currently working at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel as a banquet server.

Lindsay France Leahy is a student at Mary Baldwin College, majoring in an Independent Study Program of Sociology and Religion. She and her husband Jordan live in Staunton.

Mark Brill has joined the Army National Guard as a Pri-

vate First Class. His military occupational specialty is Military Police. He plans to attend JMU through the ROTC program.

Heidi Mancini Fry and husband Ian have announced the birth of their son Mikayah. Heidi is a recent graduate of Johnson Bible College with a degree in Elementary Education/ESL. The Fry family reside in Knoxville and are making plans to serve in the mission field in Zimbabwe next year.

Joel Smith graduated Cum laude from Carson Newman University in May with a degree in Computer Information Systems. He is currently pursuing employment opportunities and obtaining Microsoft certifications.

Rachel Stern has announced her engagement to Sam Kirchman. The two are planning a September wedding. Rachel recently graduated from Lee University with a degree in Sociology.

Stephanie Marshall graduated from Lee University in May with a degree in Public Relations and a minor in Business.



Michael and Emily Henry, Hattie and Grayson



Josh and Nicki Elmore



Emily Hoffman Kirtz, Wes Kirtz, David Sayre, Ciara Rankin, Chris Gery



Lyndsey Keegan and Friend

She is currently working at Community Bank in Staunton.

Eric Fitzgerald graduated from Carson Newman University in May with a degree in Business/Health Care Administration. He works as a Client Service Manager for Day and Company in Knoxville, TN.

2007

Jordan Culbertson and his wife Hannah announce the arrival of their daughter Evangeline Arwen. Jordan works at Costco in Harrisonburg.

Ben Miller and his wife, Kelly, and daughter Cassidy are moving to Blacksburg in August. Ben will start classes at New River Community College.

Ashley Sours and **Michael Hogsett** tied the knot on July 24. Both will begin their senior year of studies at Bryan College in Tennessee.

2008

Logan Combee will start his studies at the College of Charleston this fall, majoring in Chemistry Education. He has just returned from a 3-week trip to Taiwan visiting family.

Callie Middleton has been accepted into the Radiology Program at Virginia Commonwealth University and will begin her studies in August.

Jessah Hostetler has announced her engagement to Kyle Colburn. The two are planning a September 2011 wedding. Jessah works in retail in both Charlottesville and Waynesboro, and is working



Bill and Stephanie Sterrett and sons

towards a degree in business/fashion design from ODU.

David Hrovat will be spending a semester abroad in Spain this fall. David is a junior at Bridgewater College, majoring in International Studies.

Charlie Rimel is working as an intern at Henry Funeral Home. He is also attending BRCC and John Tyler Community College in Richmond, where he is studying for a degree in Mortuary Science.

Lyndsey Keegan spent a month this summer in Japan as a photographer with SEND International, a missions organization. She also toured the country on a Japanese bullet train. Lyndsey will be a junior at Virginia Intermont where she is majoring in Photography and minoring in history.

Stephen Marshall is a junior Mechanical Engineering major at Virginia Tech, where he leads a worship band for InterVarsity. He spent the summer as an intern at American Safety Razor Company.

2009

Rachel Hrovat is a sophomore Secondary Education major at Christopher Newport University.

Jacob Stern has relocated to California where he is living with family members and seeking employment.

Jul Kime will start her second year at High Point University, where she is majoring in Human Relations. She is a member of the Equestrian Team.

Sterrett publishes books

For 11 years, he sat in Grace Christian School classrooms turning in homework assignments to teachers, including his father, GCS Bible teacher Clay Sterrett. Today, he turns in manuscripts to Moody Publishers. Dave Sterrett, who attended Grace from 1987 through 1998, has already published two books and has just completed work on a series of books entitled *Coffee House Chronicles*, which will be released in January 2011.

His first book, *“O” God, A Dialogue on Truth and Oprah’s Spirituality*, co-authored by Josh McDowell, was published in 2009. This past spring, *Why Trust Jesus?* hit the bookstores.

Dave, 29 years old, attended Grace Christian School from kindergarten through 11th grade. At 6’8”, he was a starter for the Warriors’ basketball team during his school years. He transferred to Oak Hill Academy his senior year. He received post graduate degrees from Liberty University and Southern Evangelical Seminary.

In the few years he has been out of school, Dave has built quite a resume. He has taught Bible, philosophy, and ethics at the high school level. In addition to writing, he is a conference speaker and partners with *I am Second* and the Josh McDowell Ministries. Along with ministering in churches and college campuses in the Dallas, Texas area where he currently resides, he also serves as an adjunct professor of New Testament, Philosophy, Contemporary Worldviews, and Apologetics at Liberty University. And, if that doesn’t keep him busy enough, he is also pursuing his second Master’s Degree at the University of Dallas.

“As a former student of GCS, I’m thankful that the administration and teachers had a deep love for God and their students. Looking back, I appreciate the discipline that I was shown,” said Dave.

“As I have worked in Christian education, teaching high school students at Prestonwood Christian Academy and now through Liberty University’s distance learning program, I have an even deeper appreciation for those who invested in my life. I remember many of the spiritual lessons that I received from the teachers, but also the personal correction from principal Mr. Morrison. I learned not just to modify behavior but to look to God for forgiveness and guidance,” he added.

“At Grace, I learned that truth, character and God’s principles are more important than money and athletics,” Dave continued. “At the time, basketball was very important to me (probably too important), but as a student at Grace Christian, I learned the Biblical principal that ‘physical exercise profits little,’ but that godliness has eternal value.”

Dave says his goal is to be a full-time missionary and speaker, sharing the gospel and equipping churches and schools around the world.



Grace grads enter medical field

Although many graduates are feeling a financial pinch and discovering a tough job market because of the current economic situation, Grace alumni who enter the medical field are finding job security and plentiful opportunities. And, as baby boomers age, there continues to be a demand in all branches of the medical field - from doctors and physicians assistants to dental hygienists and occupational therapists.

According to the Bureau of Labor statistics, registered nursing is the number one career listed in the "Top Ten Occupations with the Largest Job Growth." Grace graduates are noticing these stats and taking advantage of the demand.

Jody Marinelli Kanagy ('01), graduated from Gardner Webb School of Nursing and is a nurse in the Telemetry Department of Rockingham Memorial Hospital. "I had always been interested in the medical field and saw nursing as a way to help others," remarked Jody. "As a mother of a toddler, I appreciate the perks that the field of nursing has to offer. I have a lot of flexibility and can set my own hours."

"When I graduated from Grace, I had no desire to go into nursing," said **Martia Showker Hevener ('99)**, who received her degree from Blue Ridge Community College Nursing School. "But after a lot of praying, the Holy Spirit pressed strongly upon me that nursing was to be my future." Martia is an RN in Out Patient Surgery at Augusta Health, a SANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) and will soon to be Certified Forensic Nurse.

Another Grace alum, **Grace Hickin Schultz, ('01)**, is an RN on the surgical floor and operating room at Augusta Health. She has decided to further her education and will begin studying for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Virginia in the fall. "Nursing is a great profession. There are so many available jobs and not enough nursing programs," commented Grace. "Getting my Bachelors will open up lots of doors."

Other Grace graduates who have entered the nursing field include **Derek Murray ('03)**, who received his nursing degree from Liberty University and is a emergency room nurse at Augusta Health; **Emily Kirtz Hoffman ('01)**, who has an undergraduate degree from JMU in Kinesiology and a nursing degree from VCU, and works in Neuroscience ICU at VCU Medical

Center in Richmond; and **Ashley Barrett Hunt ('03)**, who earned her degree from Liberty University and is an RN in the Pediatric Oncology Department at Children's Hospital of King's Daughter in Norfolk. "Although I am on maternity leave now, I look forward to going back to work later this month," said Ashley. "Because I work with children who are cancer patients, this is more than a job - it's also my ministry."

In addition, a number of recent Grace graduates are taking advantage of the current demand for nurses. **Megan Cullinan ('09)**, **Carly Kinder ('07)**, and **Sara Showalter ('09)** are all enrolled in Liberty University's nursing program. In addition, **Kristin Kime ('06)** is attending nursing school at James Madison University and **Josh Baker ('08)** is working on his nursing degree at Milligan College.

Grace Christian School boasts one physician. **Joy Knopp Greer ('93)** received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Eastern College. She then joined the Navy and began her studies at Eastern Virginia Medical School. After doing her residency at Portsmouth Navy Hospital, she spent five years as an OB/GYN at the Navy Hospital in Camp Lejeune, NC. She and her family recently relocated to Philadelphia, where she is doing a three year Navy OB/GYN surgical fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

Others who have chosen medicine as their career include **Katie Harper Hall ('97)**, a graduate of Lee University and James Madison University, who is a Physicians Assistant at a clinic in Spokane, WA; **Rana McCormick ('03)**, a phlebotomist at the University of Virginia Medical Center; and classmate, **Ashley Johnston Biggs ('03)**, a dental hygienist at an Augusta County dental practice.

A number of other Grace graduates are currently enrolled in other medical programs. **Jessie Mims deLeon ('04)** will begin working on her degree as a Physician's Assistant at Shenandoah University this fall. **Nathan Kinder ('03)** is completing his third year at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. After he graduates, he will work as a doctor for the Air Force. **Natalie Showalter ('08)** is studying to be an occupational therapist at Jefferson College of Health Sciences. And, **Hayley Corns ('05)** is enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College, where she is studying to be an EMT paramedic.

Many students have taken advantage of Grace's mentorship program and worked at local hospitals and doctor's offices, giving them a semester's worth of experience in the medical field. **Callie Middleton ('08)**, mentored in the Radiology Department at Augusta Health during her senior year. This led to employment at the hospital while pursuing prerequisites studies. This fall, she will begin working on a degree in radiography at VCU. "My mentorship at Grace helped me confirm that this was an area that I wanted to pursue as a career," remarked Callie. "In addition, the mentorship looked great on my resume!"

"I thank God often that I went into the medical field," remarked Martia Showker. "I love what I do. Not only is nursing a great career, but I also get to hold my patients' hands when they cry...and, more importantly make them smile!"

"...this is more than a job - it's also my ministry."



Martia Showker Hevener

Spring Sports

Soccer 2010



(Bottom row) Elizabeth Goodloe, Megan Wenger, Holly Wenger, Alexandria DeLange, Joscelyn Seaton. (Top row) Lindsey Cox (Manager), Mary Hrovat, Sarah Hrovat, Debra Baker, Hannah Middleton, Patti Hrovat (Asst. Coach), Faith Marinelli, Joanna Waltz, Susan Wenger (Head Coach), Janeen Marinelli, Zhanna Craig, Janae Fair, Kelsey Keegan, Hope Kelliher. Not Pictured: Cindy Pullin (Manager)

Baseball 2010

(Bottom row) Nick Grow, Alex Wilson, Grayson Hensley, Caleb Scott, Christian Starkey, Carter Hawkins; (Middle row) Aaron Mallory, David Heishman, Seth Robbins, Micah Mallory, Chase King, Noah Clarke; (Top row) Coach Mike Mallory, J. P. Gorby, Robert Keefe, Connor Nuckols, Quenton Clarke, Josh Oakes, Austin Rice, Asst. Coach Don Heishman.



Students enjoy GCS summer camp



Summer Campers

Over 20 GCS students are spending most of their summer break at school, but instead of readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic' they're playing water games, cooking, and making crafts. The campers are attending Grace Christian School's first-ever summer camp.

"During the early spring, I realized through talking with several parents who work year round, that their summer day-care options were limited," stated Lynn Bailey, co-director of the camp along with Haygon Hooser. "We felt that this was a need that the school could help our parents meet."

The weeks are structured around the theme "God's creation." Any given day might find students studying water, rocks, and air. They've learned about wind and made pinwheels, studied feathers and birds, and even learned about our country's heritage and Constitution.

With the summer heat, the campers have enjoyed a variety of water activities, including trips to the nearby Gypsy Hill Park swimming pool.

Several Grace high school students, including Mary Hrovat, Debra Baker, and GCS graduate Lindsay Shaw have helped out this summer.

"It's been a great summer for the campers," commented Rick Richards, GCS headmaster. "We are very pleased with the quality of the program and hope that it is something that will grow next summer."

Boots and Bandana Benefit Auction 2010



(Top left) GCS graduates Derek and Carianne Marinelli Murray, Peter and Katie Quillen Santana, and Brian and Jenny Watson Fitzgerald introduce their babies to the auction. (Top right) Bidders peruse the silent auction tables. (Bottom left) Dave Middleton and Ethan Grow display a hand made quilt. (Bottom right) Hannah Rich and Christi Goodman, Auction Coordinator, show off a puppy that was included in this year's auction.

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Grace Christian School's mission is to assist Christian parents by providing a sound academic education in a Christ-centered environment, designed to prepare our young people to know God and to live in obedience to His will for their lives.



Connie Murray retires from GCS

After 19 years of teaching at Grace Christian School, Social Studies teacher Mrs. Connie Murray is moving on to pursue other endeavors. She has accepted a Graduate Assistantship in the History Department at James Madison University, where she is completing her Masters in History. Mrs. Murray also works part time as an Archivist at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton.

She started teaching at Grace in 1991, and has taught Government, U.S. History, World History, Geography, English, and Current Events. Her three sons, Brandon, Derek, and Kevin are all Grace graduates. Connie and her husband Dave's family has grown - they have added two daughter-in-laws and three granddaughters.

"Besides teaching from a Christian perspective, what I'll miss the most is the family - staff, students, and families - that I have gained through the years at Grace," commented Mrs. Murray. "I have a feeling that years from now when I look back, I'll probably realize that the past 19 years were the best years of my life!"