

Excelsior

February/March 2009

Special points of interest:

- If you have any questions or comments regarding the information in this newsletter, or if you would like to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please contact Crystal Bunts at cbunts@fccschool.com.

Inside this issue:

Why We Do
What We Do 3

Second Quarter
Awards 4

Calendars 4-5

Elementary
Christmas Parties 5

Basketball 6

Music 6

Missions 7

From the Administrator Dr. James V. Garrett

I wanted to take a moment and introduce my wife to you by way of publishing an article of hers. She has been my partner for almost thirty-two years and is clearly an anointed woman of God. She and I recently had the opportunity to speak into the lives of several teachers at a teachers' preparation retreat in Bogota, Colombia. Following is an abridged transcript of her word to these wonderful individuals. I think this word will apply to you as well.

God wants us to walk in total freedom. In other words, we need to be whole so that God can use us ... so that we can become everything God created us to be ... but stuff happens to all of us, and we need both God's inner healing and His freedom in order to be whole.

Remember this: Satan has a plan. John 10:10 records, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy ..." He comes to steal from us our joy, our freedom, and our purpose. He also comes to kill us and to ultimately destroy us. But Jesus has a better plan. John 10:10 continues on to say, "... I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)." In other words, Jesus made a way for us to be free and it's recorded in Isaiah 61:1-7:

The Lord GOD has

put his Spirit in me, because the LORD has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken, to tell the captives they are free, and to tell the prisoners they are released. He has sent me to announce the time when the LORD will show his kindness and the time when our God will punish evil people. He has sent me to comfort all those who are sad and to help the sorrowing people of Jerusalem. I will give them a crown to replace their ashes, and the oil of gladness to replace their sorrow, and clothes of praise to replace their spirit of sadness. Then they will be called Trees of Goodness, trees planted by the LORD to show his greatness. They will rebuild the old ruins and restore the places destroyed long ago. They will repair the ruined cities that were destroyed for so long. My people, foreigners will come to tend your sheep. People from other countries will tend your fields and vineyards. You



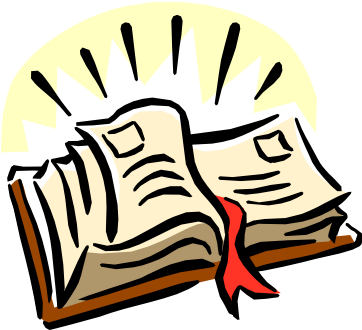
Elementary students traced their feet to make 100 footsteps down the hallway for the 100th day of school.

will be called priests of the LORD; you will be named the servants of our God. You will have riches from all the nations on earth, and you will take pride in them. Instead of being ashamed, my people will receive twice as much wealth. Instead of being disgraced, they will be happy because of what they receive. They will receive a double share of the land, so their happiness will continue forever.

(Continued on page 2)

From the Administrator continued

(Continued from page 1)



I spent the early years of my life suffering through various aspects of abuse. Needless to say, I emerged with very low self-esteem. But I later came to know that God chose me, that He planned for me in love, that He created me fearfully and wonderfully, and I can know He did a good job in creating me and that He has a distinct purpose for me. (He even wrote a book about me before I was ever born.)

Now here is the situation: Satan has a plan. God has a better plan. And you have a choice. No matter how "it" entered your life, whether you walked into it by your own choices, or you were born into it, or it was done to you as a victim, you have a choice: to continue to walk in it or, instead, to walk away from it! You can make the choice to enter God's place of cleansing and He will meet you there and heal you and set you free!

You see, there are many things that bind us up and keep us from being all God created us to be. Sometimes they come by our own choices, sometimes they come from the hands and actions of others and we have no choice, and sometimes they are purely attacks of the enemy. These may include (and potentially produce) unforgiveness, physical abuse, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, sin, poor choices on our part, offenses, tragedies, and generational sins and curses. In Genesis, Joseph experienced many things that could have kept him from his destiny. He had a dream. He shared his dream (probably before he should have). His brothers sold him to mer-

chants and told their father he was dead. The merchants sold him as a slave to Potiphar. Potiphar's wife pursued Joseph and caused him to be thrown back into prison. And Joseph was soon forgotten by the ones he helped. We often find ourselves in a similar place of bondage and "forgottenness." The question that arises for us at this point is: How do we get healed and set free so that we can be all God created us to be? Real freedom comes from knowing the truth and that truth is found in the Word of God. Read what the Word says of itself:

John 8:32 NIV- "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 17:17 NIV- "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." In other words, we must replace the lies of



the enemy with the truth of God's Word. So I implore you to allow God to search you and show you areas where you need healing and freedom. In fact, use the cry of David found in Psalm 139:23-24 NIV: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Also keep in mind that forgiveness is the key to receiving healing and freedom. We have to release unforgiveness, bitterness, hurts, pains, offenses, being wronged, being cheated, and unfairness. And it works reciprocally: just as we are to forgive, so we will be forgiven.

Matthew 6:14-15 NIV tells us "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." So, just get rid of it all: "all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV. God is our avenger AND He gives us power to forgive. Remember that [Psalm 68:35](#) tells us, "You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!"

In other words, we need to learn to trust God and His character and His faithfulness, and He will work it all

together for our good. He can take the good and the bad and work it for our very best. "We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose" - Romans 8:28 (Amp.)

We will continue this article next month, but we have all been given a lot to work with here. Let's put it in to practice together.

to be continued ...

"God has a better plan. And you have a choice."



Why We Do What We Do: A Teacher's Testimony Miss Esther Miller

Is karma real? Is killing still wrong if the person who was killed was evil? If a son could try to take over the power of his father, and Jesus is the Son of God, then could Jesus try to take over the power of His Father? Do good people go to heaven? What is the difference between being good and being "saved"? Why does hell exist? Wow! Would you believe these were some of the questions that one of my fourth graders asked recently?

The third and fourth grade students entered the classroom upon returning from recess in the afternoon, and they still had some work to finish at their desks before we began science – the last subject for that day. I explained to the students that they would have ten minutes to complete their work.

One of the students, who was sitting close to my desk, began asking very challenging and interesting questions, some of which were listed above.

It was at that moment I had to make a decision. Would I say, "Those are *great* questions, but we do not have time to talk about it right now. We need to finish our work and move on to science," or would I take the time to address this student's questions? These two options translate into possibly an even greater question: "Is this student more important than my agenda?"

My answer was "yes." This student is more important than my agenda!

I answered his questions by explaining what the Word of God says in relation to those issues. I pulled him into the

conversation through Bible verses he has memorized so far this year, and I posed the questions back to him through the perspective of what is God-breathed.

In addressing the question of heaven and hell, he recognized that, yes, people who are good *do* go to heaven, but that is not why they go to heaven. People go to heaven to spend eternity with their Savior. Even though a person is "good," he or she may have (most definitely has) done something "bad" in his or her life. This includes people who go to heaven; we have all made a poor choice at one time or another. The crux, though, is that people who go to heaven have a Savior. In their poor choices, one principle choice remains – that he or she is *saved* from that sin. A "good" person simply is not "saved" (from sin) until he or she has embraced the Savior.

After twenty minutes had passed, the student seemed to have enough to think about for the evening, so he was content to finish our day with science. I, too, felt at peace about moving on with the remainder of the afternoon. When the students were dismissed for the evening, I told the student to "think about our conversation tonight," and he responded, "I will."

Finally, the next morning, January 23, we began our day with prayer and a little movement and singing, just as we always do. I asked the students if they had any prayer requests, and this student's arm shot up in the air so fast that I was not sure if this was good or bad. I

asked the student what was his request, and he said, "I want to ask Jesus Christ to be my Savior!"

The student, in addition to praying for his own salvation, wanted to pray for everyone else's prayer requests as well, so I helped him in his prayer, and could hardly believe what was happening! I was in tears, hands trembling, wanting to shout in the hallway, "Guess what just happened in here!" Wow! What the enemy has tried to destroy, our Father makes stronger. He has greater and far superior plans than we can even imagine! We must simply obey and trust that what He tells us is true, and He said himself that He is the Truth! Since this day, I have been constantly reminded and encouraged by the following verses.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."



Andrew Roshko, Yihao Huang, Kait Cline, Lance Miller, and Ben Roshko at Road Trip to Cornerstone University

"...this student's arm shot up in the air so fast that I was not sure if this was good or bad."



Far left: Kait Cline preparing to leave for Road Trip to Cornerstone University; Middle: Elementary students waiting to tape their "feet" on the floor; Right: Mr. Carlin (dressed as a clown) and Mr. Cantu



Mrs. Bunts and Kait Cline at the Grand Rapids Griffins' hockey game while attending Road Trip at Cornerstone University

Second Quarter Awards

Congratulations to all of our students on a wonderful second quarter. With half of the school year completed, we are now focused on finishing the year well.

We are proud of all of our students and their commitment to apply themselves to their studies and to glorify God through their work!

We would also like to recognize those receiving awards for

their second quarter work.

Perfect Attendance: Rachel Broadwater, Zech Kelly, Andrew Roshko, Ben Roshko, and Igor Wilmot

Honor Roll, all A's: Madeleine McMaster and Ben Roshko

Honor Roll, A's and B's: Isaac Andrews, David Clark, Kayleigh Clark, Olivia Dobben, Danyi Hernandez, Yihao Huang, Zech Kelly, Justin Mansfield, Lance Miller, Ethan Phipps, Andrew

Roshko, and Austin Wontroba.

All of our students deserve recognition for the dedication they have shown to their schoolwork. In the second quarter, we have seen students who were struggling begin to pull their grades up. We have also seen fresh friendships formed and a fresh commitment made to truly doing everything (even school work) as unto the Lord (Col. 3:17).

February Dates to Remember

- 1: High school students return from Cornerstone University
- 2-6: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 12: Kindergarten Valentine Party
- 13: Elementary Valentine Parties
- 14: ACSI Spelling Bee in Toledo, OH at Toledo Christian
- 16: No School—President's Day
- 20: Open House, 6-8pm
- 23: Fort Wayne TinCaps Reading Program Begins

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Parents' Night (Sports)	7
8	9 National Latin Exam	10 National Latin Exam	11 National Latin Exam	12 National Latin Exam	13 National Latin Exam; Kindergarten testing; Sports Banquet	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Fort Wayne TinCaps Reading Program Ends; End of third quarter	21 ACSI Music Festival @ Cedarville University
22	23	24	25	26 PM Parent-Teacher Conferences	27 No School—Parent-Teacher Conferences	28
29	30 Spring Pictures	31				

Elementary Christmas Party Recap Kayla Andrews, fifth grade

The elementary classes had a Christmas party at school on Tuesday, December 23. We did a lot of fun things like a craft where we made paper trees that stood up.

We played Christmas Bingo using M&M's for markers. Then we got to eat them when we were done playing. Instead of saying, "Bingo" we said, "Jesus Christ is Born!"

We had personal pan pizzas, pop, and apples for lunch. Mrs. Zuber brought in cupcakes, and we sang "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

During the movie *The First Christmas* we had popcorn. Many kids could be heard saying how very full they were.

Everyone agreed that it was a great day and a great way to celebrate the birth of Jesus

Christ.

Our field trip to Fort Wayne had to be cancelled because of the ice storm we got just before Christmas. We were disappointed that we didn't get to see the show "The Star of Bethlehem." This reporter hopes we can all go see it next year.



Elementary students dancing around during music class

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 SAT testing	8 SAT testing	9 SAT testing	10 No School— Spring Break	11
12	13 No School— Spring Break	14 No School— Spring Break	15 No School— Spring Break	16 No School— Spring Break	17 No School— Spring Break; Atlanta, GA mission trip	18 Atlanta, GA mission trip
19 Atlanta, GA mission trip	20 6pm: TAPS Meeting; At- lanta, GA mission trip	21 Atlanta, GA mission trip	22 Atlanta, GA mission trip	23 Grandparents' Day; Atlanta, GA mission trip	24 Atlanta, GA mission trip	25 Atlanta, GA mission trip
26 Atlanta, GA mission trip	27 Atlanta, GA mission trip; Missions Week	28 Missions Week	29 Missions Week	30 Missions Week; Mis- sions Festival @6pm		

May Dates to Remember

- 1: Missions' Week
- 6: TinCaps Baseball Game
- 12: Junior high/high school field trip to Holocaust Memorial
- 13: Elementary Field Day
- 14-15: Jr/Sr Trip
- 18: Golf Walk
- 25: No School—Memorial Day
- 27-29: Final Exams
- 29: Seniors' last day
- 31: High school graduation

FCCS Boys' Basketball Tournament Miss Jenny Hanson



On Saturday, January 24, 2009, FCCS hosted a boys' basketball tournament. The teams involved included Harlan Hawks, NOCHE Cougars, Bowling Green Lions, and FCCS Fury. We had a really good turnout, and the athletes had fun. Bowling Green Lions won runner-up, and NOCHE Cougars won first place. Each team worked extremely hard and persevered through a tiring day. I am really proud of our FCCS boys for

doing their best!

I want to thank all the staff and parents that were a part of making this tournament a success. I could not have done it without you!

On February 7, 2009, FCCS hosted a girls' tournament.

NOCHE, Harlan, Bowling

Green, and FCCS battled once again, with NOCHE coming out on top and Harlan traveling a close second.

FCCS homecoming week will be Friday, February 13, 2009. This will be an exciting night in which we will celebrate the alumni. The girls will be playing St. Pat's, and the boys will play Freedom Farm. We would love to see you there.



TAPS Information

Help needed for the following:

- **Open House/ Carnival (Feb. 20)**
- **Golf Walk/ Fundraiser (May 18): co-chair needed for this event; committee meeting planned for Monday, February 23.**

If you want to get involved with your student's education, please contact Stacy Carlin by phone at 419-636-3501 or by email at stacy@ceelectronics.com



Kindergarten News Mrs. Julie Andrews

We have had an exciting beginning to 2009 in our kindergarten class here at FCCS. While learning to count money, read a calendar, and add to six, we have also "traveled" to Japan, Kenya, and China. During our recent "visit" to Israel, Mrs. Brown brought in many souvenirs of her time spent in the Holy Land. She showed us pictures of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus frequently taught from a boat, the shore or the surrounding hillside.

The students have made won-

derful progress in their reading and writing skills, but the most awesome lessons we have learned are from our Bible stories. Just since Christmas-time our hearts and minds have been enriched by these truths:

- Jesus is the Son of God
- Jesus obeyed His parents
- Jesus chose twelve disciples to learn from Him
- We can be disciples if we trust and obey Jesus
- Every child is wonderfully made by God

- Jesus loves little children very much
- God has a special plan for each of us
- All people need to be saved
- Jesus saves us

Our class is looking forward to many more fun-filled days with Ms. Ridgeway in Music, Ms. Hanson in Phys. Ed. and Mr. Cantu in Spanish class.

Music Department Miss Barbara Ridgway

Angels were in abundance at our annual Christmas program. December 16, 2008, the FCCS music department lit up the auditorium stage with *Angels We Have Heard*. Kayla Andrews, Matthew Andrews, Rachel Broadwater, Sara Cantu, Madeleine McMaster, and Rachel Short were cast as angels who were given special assignments for their very special mission the night of Jesus'

birth. They were accompanied by an enthusiastic elementary choir of angels who sang with an excitement that made the audience want to join in as well. Also, our junior and senior high students performed some songs, including "White Christmas." Many of us will remember it was quite a white Christmas that evening. Despite the heavy snow, we had an excellent attendance.

Coming soon is our Annual Spring Variety Show. This is fun night where staff and parents can get involved. Very soon we will begin preparing music and drama selections for this show. We are looking for songs, skits, or funny and crazy acts. Parents are more than welcome to schedule to perform with their children. If you would like to participate, please see Miss Ridgway.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Ms. Janice Wohltman

The fifth and sixth grades have had an exciting second nine weeks. They visited the solar system and were able to report on planets that they visited. Each student reported on two planets, describing each planet's surface, atmosphere, composi-

tion, size, distance from the sun, and other interesting information. Did you know that Venus spins backward? Or that Saturn has a hexagon in the polar region? Or that Uranus rotates on its side? After their visits to their planets, they

made models of the solar system as the planets revolve around the sun. They even included the Asteroid Belt. Stop by the classroom and see their fantastic models.



Ella Cummins during gym class out in the snow

Missions Emphasis Mrs. Crystal Bunts

One of the most anticipated events of the school year is the annual Missions' Week, culminating with the Missions' Festival at the end of the week. This year, Missions' Emphasis Week will be April 27-May 1, 2009, and the Missions' Festival will be at 6pm in the school auditorium on Thursday, April 30. Each class is in the beginning stages of raising support for its mission focus.

Kindergarten and first and second grades are sponsoring World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization, serves close to 100 million people in nearly one hundred countries around the world. Motivated by their faith in Jesus Christ, they serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. Kindergarten plans to buy ducks for a family, and first and second grades plan to buy a goat; these gifts will go a long way in helping provide food for a family.

Third and fourth grades are sponsoring Harborside Health-care, a local nursing home. The students plan to visit with the residents a couple of times as well as write letters to them in an adopt-a-grandparent-style program.

Fifth and sixth grades are once again sponsoring The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter. Over the next few months, they will be collecting items needed by the shelter. Keep an eye out for

information concerning requested items.

The junior high and high school students will again be sponsoring *Migdal Ohr*, an orphanage in Israel. They will be mainly focusing on prayer for the children, staff, and families affiliated with the ministry.

The junior high and high school students will also be sponsoring and participating in the mission trip to Atlanta, Georgia. The trip will take place April 17-27, 2009, and the ministry planned will offer the students a unique and varied experience. We will work with two local churches, and the team will experience inner city street ministry, relational evangelism at a local skate park, local church ministry, and some manual labor ministry. The pastor heading this up has been a family friend for many years, and I am confident he will also provide some valuable teaching and training for our team. (Please note that dates are chosen based on the need of the facilitators at the mission trip location.)

We are currently working on the budget for the trip, and **at this time**, it looks as though the cost will be \$125 per student. This may need to be adjusted over the next few weeks. Prior to embarking on this journey, the students will undergo training and discipleship, and on the way back from Atlanta we will stop in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for debriefing

and relaxation.

There are several ways that you can be of help as these students prepare for this trip. Firstly, please begin now to pray for our students to grow closer to God, and also pray for the hearts of those to whom we will minister.

Secondly, the students will be doing a couple of minor fundraisers, and they will also be working to earn the money required for the trip. Please keep them in mind if you are in need of a babysitter or snow removal/lawn service.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please send your check made out to FCCS to the following address:

FCCS
Attn: Crystal Bunts
PO Box 150
120 S. Beech St.
Bryan, Ohio 43506

If you are contributing to a particular student, please include a note stating such; the student's name must NOT appear on the memo line in order for your donation to qualify for a tax deduction. All funds received through donation or fundraiser will be put into the school mission account and used expressly for that purpose. Funds remaining in the account after this year's trip will go towards next year's foreign mission trip.

TinCaps Reading Program

K5-12 grades will be participating in the Fort Wayne TinCaps Reading Program this year. The program runs Feb. 23-Mar. 20, and game day is Wednesday, May 6. Please look for more detailed information from your child's teacher. Last year we had 100% of our students participate, and game day proved to be a time of fun for our entire staff, and student body as well as numerous parents. We hope to see equal participation this year. Let's go out to the ballgame!

**FOUNTAIN CITY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

P.O. Box 150
120 S. Beech Street
Bryan, Ohio 43506

Phone: 419-636-2333
Fax: 419-636-2888

E-mail: jgarrett@fccschool.com

We're on the Web!
www.fccschool.com

Apples of Gold

FCCS's staff is currently studying *The Bait of Satan* by John Bevere. It is a book about dealing with offense, a struggle everyone encounters. Here is a brief excerpt from the first chapter:

One way the enemy keeps a person in an offended state is to keep the offense hidden, cloaked with pride. Pride will keep you from admitting your true condition.

Pride keeps you from dealing with the truth. It distorts your vision. You never change when you think everything is fine. Pride hardens your heart and dims the eyes of your understanding. It keeps you from the change of heart—repentance—which will set you free (see 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Pride causes you to view your-

self as a victim. Your attitude becomes, "I was mistreated and misjudged; therefore I am justified in my behavior." Because you believe you are innocent and falsely accused, you hold back forgiveness. Though your true heart condition is hidden from you, it is *not* hidden from God. Just because you were mistreated, you do not have permission to hold on to an offense. Two wrongs do not make a right!

In the Book of Revelation Jesus addressed the church of Laodicea by first telling them how they saw themselves as rich, wealthy, and having need of nothing, then by exposing their true condition—"wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:14-20). They had mistaken their financial strength for spiritual

strength. Pride hid their true condition.

Jesus told the Laodiceans how to get out of their deception: to buy God's gold and to see their true condition (Rev. 3:18).

A pure heart is like pure gold—soft, tender, pliable. Hebrews 3:13 states that hearts are hardened through the deceitfulness of sin! If we do not deal with an offense, it will produce more fruit of sin, such as bitterness, anger, and resentment. This added substance hardens our hearts just as alloys harden gold. This reduces or removes tenderness, creating a loss of sensitivity. We are hindered in our ability to hear God's voice. Our accuracy to see is darkened. This is a perfect setting for deception.

For more, see Bevere, John. *The Bait of Satan*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 1994.