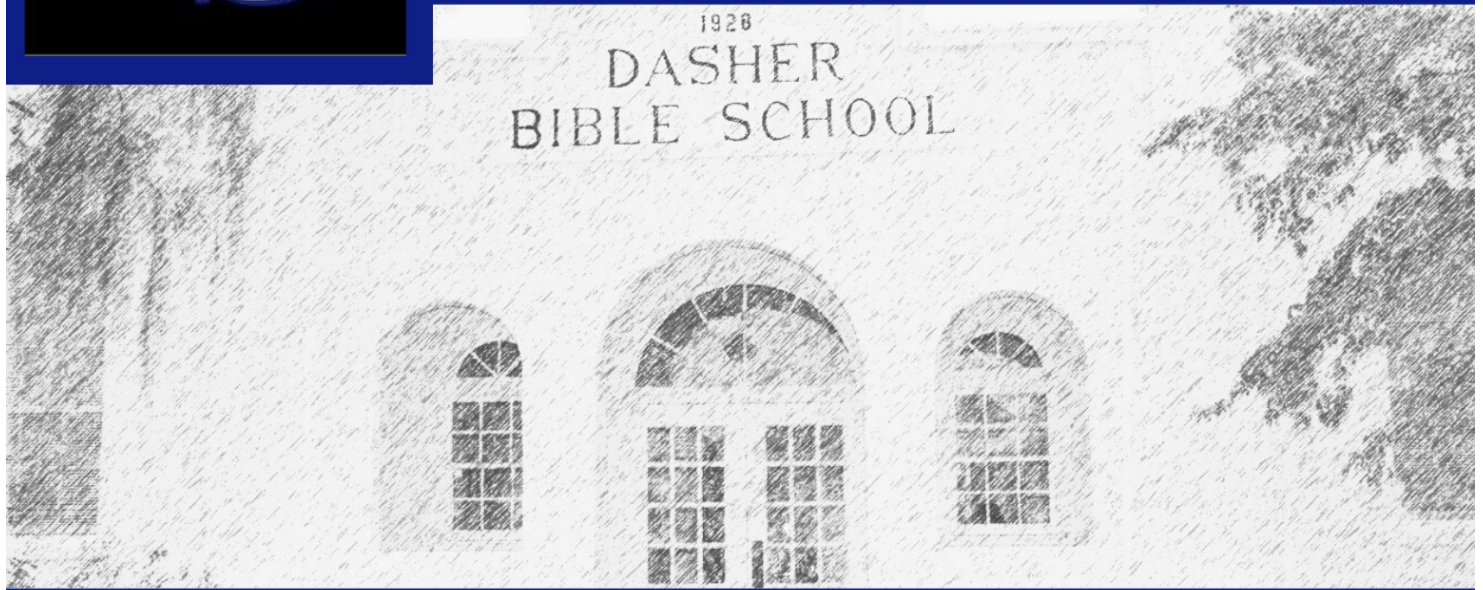


DECEMBER 2022 | EDITION 9, VOLUME 4

# THE GENERAL TIMES

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND IMPROVED NEWSLETTER!

*by Alumni Director Julie Dykes*

There have been lots of exciting changes going on in the last few months with our Alumni Association, and we hope you have noticed! It's all for you, our Alumni. We want to continue to remind you that you are such an important part of our community, in the past, present, as well as in our future.

We want to continue to provide you with a glimpse of what is going on today at Georgia Christian, but we want our Alumni newsletter to be more Alumni-centered, so you should see more news related to your class members. We invite you to update us regularly on what's going on in your life. Whether it's as simple as just a change of address or as major as a wedding or new baby, we want to know! You can reach out to us by calling the school at (229) 559-5131, e-mailing us at [gcsalumni@georgiachristian.org](mailto:gcsalumni@georgiachristian.org), or by messaging us on Facebook.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
RELAUNCH**

**2022 HOMECOMING  
COURT**

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**15TH ANNUAL GCS BENEFIT  
DINNER FEATURING  
ARCHIE MANNING**

We want to help you reconnect with your class members! I have already reached out with some of you via social media to update your e-mail and mailing addresses. We have also published a Reunion Planning Guide. These two tools will help your classes more successfully plan and execute regular reunions and social functions. And we will always be here to help you in any way you need to reconnect with the school.

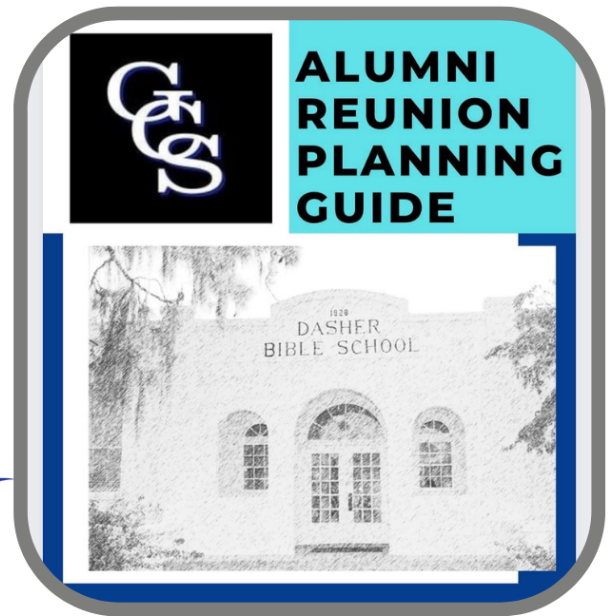
The mission of the Georgia Christian School Alumni Association is to provide a forum for communication among graduates of Georgia Christian School (Dasher Bible School/Georgia Christian Institute) to promote more involvement with the school. We want you, our Alumni, to remain "Forever a General"! If you haven't thought about joining our Alumni Association before, now would be a perfect time to become a part of it. I invite you to join today.

The easiest way to join is through our website, [www.georgiachristian.org](http://www.georgiachristian.org). Click on the Alumni tab, then the Alumni Association button. You can pay your dues right there online. I hope you will join today.

## 2022 HOMECOMING COURT

The theme of this year's Homecoming was "Homecoming Games: May the Odds be Ever in Your Favor", and the focus was on having a Homecoming inspired by The Hunger Games. Due to an unfortunate late-season hurricane, our regularly-scheduled Homecoming football game was cancelled. After several rescheduling hits and misses, Homecoming was presented this past Friday night, where most of our ladies were escorted by their fathers, and our gentlemen were escorted by their mothers.

Homecoming Representatives from 9th-11th included Kenna Mira & Gibson Rayfield, Jordan Barber & Jett Guilliams, and Linh Nguyen & Tanner Rayfield. Senior Representatives included ladies Eliana Bullard, Clancey Carter, Emily Hernandez, Lexi Lewis, Katie Moss, Katie Mullins, Jenna Plymel, Heidi Rowan, Mariah Sanders, Ainsley Tucker, Liz Walden, and Lindsey Warren, and gentlemen Braylon Black, Seth Copeland, Corbin Evans, Austin Knapp, Reagan Lawson, Kaden Sanders, and Austin VanAusdall.



### What's New?

- We've redesigned the newsletter to focus on you!
- We've improved the GCS Alumni Facebook page
- We've developed a Reunion Planning Guide for you
- We've improved the Alumni presence on [www.georgiachristian.org](http://www.georgiachristian.org)
- We've established the Presidential Giving Club (see pg. 6)
- And much more to come...



The 2022-2023 Homecoming King and Queen, voted on by the student body of Georgia Christian, are Mr. Seth Copeland and Miss Lexi Lewis. Seth is the son of Paul ('87) & Tasha Copeland and Lexi is the daughter of Travis & Camille Lewis. Congratulations, Seth & Lexi!

ALUMNI NEWS

**1947**

In loving memory of CECIL PHELPS - Cecil Phelps passed away Tuesday, April 6, 2021 in Salisbury, NC, at the age of 92.

**1953**

In loving memory of RONALD MCCURRY - Ronald McCurry passed away on Thursday, March 31, 2022, in Dallas, GA, at the age of 86.

**1955**

In loving memory of M.C. MCLEOD - M.C. McLeod passed away on October 16, 2022, in Valdosta, GA, at the age of 85.

**2009**

ALLE FORTES CARTER - Awarded US citizenship

**2010**

GRANT COLSON - engaged to Shelby Joyner wedding date 12/10/2022

KAILYNN JEFFORDS GROW - married Tyler Grow August 20, 2022

MATT MCCOY - engaged to Dana Ricciardi wedding date 10/13/2023

**2012**

RACHEL SWILLEY JOHNSON - new baby girl Price Anne Johnson born September 19, 2022

**2013**

CHRISTIE NEWSOME BARRETT - new baby boy Tripp Boss Barrett born September 22, 2022

**2014**

KYLE WATKINS - married Emme Watkins October 1, 2022

**2016**

CANDY SEASHOLTZ SILLS - married Zach Sills September 17, 2022

HALEY GARRETT - White Coat Ceremony, October 21, 2022

KAITLYN JONES - Recipient of Employee of the Quarter Award, CrossPointe Preschool, October 12, 2022

**2017**

HUNTER BLACK - engaged to Katie Lankford on October 14, 2022

**2018**

BRIANNA BOONE - engaged to James Mulgrew on June 30, 2022

WILL COPELAND - recipient of the November 2022 Daisy Award SGMC

LOGAN HORNSBY - engaged to Mallory Black on July 5, 2022

DALTON RIZER - married

**2019**

HUNTER CARDIN - married Kylie Greene Cardin ('20) on September 23, 2022

**2020**

GRANT GARRETT - engaged to Kenzi Eikenberry on 12/4/2022

CASSIE PARTIN - inducted into Psy Chi, Psychology Honor Society, University of the Cumberlands

KYLIE GREENE CARDIN - married Hunter Cardin ('19) on September 23, 2022

**1955 (con't)**

In loving memory of WALLY COLSON - Wally Colson passed away on November 22, 2022 in Valdosta, GA, at the age of 85.

**1967**

In loving memory of BILL NAYLOR - Bill Naylor passed away on November 11, 2022, in Valdosta, GA, at the age of 73.

**1992**

In loving memory of HEATH MCFERRIN - Heath McFerrin passed away on December 3, 2022, in Hoxie, AR, at the age of 49.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Geraldine McLeod Thompson '47  
 \*Sarah Copeland '48  
 Patricia Dicks Lester '49  
 William J. Long '51  
 \*Pat Avants Bishop '53  
 \*Jo Williamson Guest '53  
 \*Ron McCurry '53  
 Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox '54  
 Paul E. Harris '55  
 Martha Harris '55  
 Wally Colson '55  
 \*Donna Harvey McLeod '55  
 Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56  
 \*Jimmy Hightower '57  
 \*Mary Jean Wisenbaker  
 Armstrong '58  
 Julian (Jubie) Copeland '58  
 James (JC) McMullen '58  
 \*William Udell '59  
 \*Harold W. Graham '60  
 \*Charlie Copeland '62  
 \*Charles (Termite) Phillips '63  
 Judy Jensen McMullen '65  
 \*Elaine Graham Stacy '65  
 \*Lynda Wilkins Lawlor '66  
 Brenda Darwin Johnson '67  
 Frankie Johnson '67  
 Cynthia Jean Watts '65  
 \*Ellen Conway Williams '67  
 \*Tommy Williams '67  
 Ron Copeland '68  
 Andrew Sykes '68  
 Joan Andrews Winn '68  
 Mike Black '69  
 Patsy Hamm Black '69  
 \*Ben Vick '70  
 \*Jamie Copeland '71  
 \*Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72  
 Donna Darwin Batchelor '73  
 \*Lisa Force Lang '74  
 \*Ginger Copeland Knowles '76  
 \*Russell Knowles '76  
 \*Cathy Guthrie Lee '76  
 \*Cindy Guthrie Horne '77  
 \*Mike Horne '77  
 \*Linda Carol Johnson Brown '78  
 \*Greg Brown '79  
 \*Kent Copeland '79  
 \*Tammie Davis Bobbit '79  
 \*Deland Guthrie '79

Cleta Colson Eyre '80  
 \*Bonnie Barrett Guthrie '80  
 \*Philip Guthrie '80  
 \*Joey Redshaw '81  
 \*Elsa Copeland Barnes '82  
 \*Dottie Eckberg Redish '82  
 \*Connie Colson Guthrie '83  
 \*Lori Copeland Alley '84  
 \*Denise Wright Hammitt '84  
 \*Daphne DeWeese Warren '84  
 \*Donald Dawkins '88  
 \*Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88  
 \*Jason Chesser '89  
 \*Lori Dawkins McGuire '90  
 \*Jon Sykes '90  
 Alison Sykes Cartee '93  
 \*Michelle Bass Copeland '94  
 \*Audrey Strange Dawkins '96  
 \*Melissa Lee England '98  
 Nikki Copeland Warren '98  
 \*Rebecca Thornhill Garbutt '00  
 \*Terri Lee Orrell '00  
 Tony "Travis" Taylor, Jr. '00  
 \*Kristin Horne Blount '01  
 \*Vince Hamm '01  
 \*Leanne Jenkins Hood '03  
 Heather Cobb Johnson '03  
 \*Kristin Copeland Dykes '04  
 Lydia Thornhill White '04  
 \*Nicole Renfro Olbricht '05  
 \*Morgan Plyler Guthrie '05  
 \*Katie Colson Plyler '06  
 \*Nathan Renfro '06  
 \*Austin Plyler '07  
 \*Adam Guthrie '08  
 \*Sarah Copeland Lynch '09  
 \*Pamela Brown Kimbrell '10  
 \*Georgia Thomson '11  
 \*Augusta Guthrie '12  
 \*Keaton Bentley '15  
 \*Morgan Sykes '15  
 \*Erin Copeland Swlley '16  
 \*Lauryn Russell '17  
 \*Lindsey Sykes '17  
 \*Emmy Copeland '18  
 Grant Copeland '20  
 Evan Copeland '21  
 Drew Horton '22  
 Christian Powell '22  
 Tiffany Taylor '22

\*Brad Lawson President  
 \*James Lee Faculty  
 Carol J. McLeod Faculty  
 Julie Dykes Faculty  
 \*Michelle Iturralde—Faculty  
 Robert Jeffords - Faculty  
 Teresa Jeffords - Faculty

**GCS NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Did you know that a named scholarship can be created for as little as \$10,000? See pg. 6 of this newsletter for more details...*

~Coppage/Lester Scholarship (Established '22)  
 ~Jack & Gwen Brogden Scholarship (Established '20)  
 ~Tom & Lynn Walker Scholarship (Established '18)  
 ~Mary L. Landis Scholarship (Established '16)  
 ~Paul & Adene Baldwin Scholarship (Established '16)  
 ~Adam McSween Scholarship (Established '16)  
 ~Mary Louise Black Scholarship (Established '15)  
 ~Dr. Donald P. Jouvenaz Scholarship (Established '00)  
 ~Earl Edge Scholarship (Established '00)  
 ~George & Eunice Copeland Scholarship (Established '99)  
 ~Ray Jerkins Scholarship (Established '98)



## GEORGIA CHRISTIAN WELCOMES ARCHIE MANNING TO THE 15TH ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

The Georgia Christian Annual Benefit Dinner has become the premier fundraising event for the region, and the 15th year, featuring Archie Manning, was no exception. Held in the Valdosta State University Student Union, the event holds something for everyone. Whether you're looking for an exciting formal dinner with top-notch entertainment, or a warm, family-oriented affair, everyone finds that little "something special".

With a speaker like Archie Manning, it wasn't surprising to find football in all of the details. Mr. Manning was kind enough to speak with the GCS Generals football team at the school's gymnasium earlier in the day, the Generals' helmets featured prominently in the table decor, along with old-school football mums and field-diagram table numbers. A QR-code on the back of the table numbers allowed guests to open a digital program that featured a photo of Mr. Manning from early in his career along with his biography along with the program of events and menu for the evening.

Several videos opened the program highlighting the progress the school has made in key areas, and, in a true highlight of the evening, the school's three-time champion Trio performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" *a capella* (Lexi Lewis, Katie Moss, and Lindsey Warren).

A moderated Q & A with Archie Manning and Ryan Warren was the highlight of the evening. The session included a wide range of questions, from those about Manning's career to those about his family, his faith, and about his thoughts on sports, in general.

Archie Manning, while known as All-American Quarterback and NFL Icon, is more recently known as the father of two other former NFL quarterbacks, Peyton and Eli Manning, and the grandfather of one of the highest-rated recruits in college football history, Arch Manning.

Our Student Ambassadors for the evening included seniors Lindsey Warren and Reagan Lawson, juniors Klynn Root and Jonah Houser, sophomores Jordan Barber and Will Fetters, and freshmen Kenna Mira and Gibson Rayfield.

The role of our sponsors and alumni who attend our Benefit Dinner cannot be overstated. We simply could not do it without you. Thank you so much for all you have done over the years to help us grow. Thank you also to our Benefit Dinner Committee, Dr. Brad Lawson and Ryan and Nikki Copeland Warren ('98).





## GCS: A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

Georgia Christian School has survived for 100 years because good people have been willing to give of their means. GCS has been the setting for countless memories of so many people throughout the world. As we stand on the shoulders of those who helped us get this far, we need your help to continue our founders' mission. When you give to our Annual Fund Endowment, our Scholarship Endowment, or towards a capital project, you can be sure that your donation is going to impact children's eternal destiny!

The Betty Louis Draughon Scholarship Endowment was established in 1996 in order to provide annual scholarships to students in need. Since then, several named scholarships have been added to the endowment. If you have wondered how you can help Georgia Christian School continue providing a Christian foundation, please consider a named scholarship. For a minimum gift to the Scholarship Endowment, a plaque of the named scholarship and date established will be added to the recognition piece in the lobby of the high school building. See page 4 of this newsletter for a list of named scholarships currently in place at GCS.

When you give to the Misty Hardin Annual Fund Endowment, you are ensuring that we can keep our tuition affordable, increase our teachers' pay and keep our programs up to date with technology and quality facilities. Our donors expect us to be good stewards of the gifts we receive.

The short and long-range plans of the GCS Board of Directors ensure that we continue to "live within our means" as we grow the school. Your gift will ensure the long-term viability of Georgia Christian School. Knowing the impact that the school has had over the last century, you can be a part of the next 100 years of impacting lives for Christ.

There are several ways to donate to the Misty Hardin Annual Fund Endowment. While cash gifts are the simplest and most common form of giving, gifts of real estate, securities, or insurance are also ways to donate. All of these provide potential tax-deductible savings. This can be accomplished through your estate planning as well.

You may also choose to donate towards capital projects. As improvements are made to the school via capital projects, they are only made possible through the generosity of donors like you. The vision of our leadership has provided measured guidance on our growth capabilities, and every dollar that we raise brings that vision closer to reality. You may learn more about our Strategic Planning for the school by visiting the About Us Tab on the school website, [www.georgiachristian.org](http://www.georgiachristian.org), then clicking on Master Plan.

Memorial donations can be made online in memory of someone who has passed on or in honor of someone still with us. On the school website, [www.georgiachristian.org](http://www.georgiachristian.org), click on the Giving Tab and follow the link to Online Giving to find out more.

## BE A PART OF THE NEW PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB

*For as little as the cost of that Starbucks cup of coffee each month, you can help make a difference at GCS! Choose your level and the amount to auto-draft each month. Your gift can really add up...*

~President J.P. Prevatt ('15) Level - \$100/month = \$1200/year

~President W.O. Norton ('39) Level - \$75/month = \$900/year

~President Lacey Elrod ('46) Level - \$50/month = \$600/year

~ President Prewitte "Brother C" Copeland ('53) Level - \$20/month = \$240/year

~President William J. Long ('61) Level - \$15/month = \$180/year