

DECEMBER 2024 | EDITION 11, VOLUME 4

THE GENERAL TIMES

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter



1928
DASHER
BIBLE SCHOOL

DIALED-DOWN BLUE & WHITE WEEKEND HELD

by Alumni Director Julie Dykes

A more dialed-down, casual Blue & White Weekend was held the weekend of December the 13th through the 15th. Originally planned to honor our past basketball champions, hurricane damage to the gym delayed planning for the weekend. A good number of alumni were still present at the games, and at the Sunday lunch, and, as always, we were happy to see everyone on campus.

We have a limited number of t-shirts available that feature the design of the original high school building, and we have coffee/soup mugs available that feature GCS traditions (see next page for photos of designs. Both are \$20. Contact gcsalumni@georgiachristian.org if you are interested.

We will honor our second Prewitte "Brother C" Copeland Distinguished Alumni at one of our January basketball games. Thanks, again, to everyone who came out!

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**GEORGIA CHRISTIAN
CUSTOM MUGS**

Limited Edition GCS Custom Coffee Mugs –
Perfect for Holiday Gifts!
Stop by the front office to grab yours today!



**Bella + Canvas
Super Soft!**



PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB MEMBERS

~President J.P. Prevatt ('15) Level – \$100/month
(\$1200/year)
Cynthia Watts ('65)
Cleta Colson-Eyre ('80)
Kevin Pittman (Board)

PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB UPDATE

The Presidential Giving Club is one of the easiest ways to give back to Georgia Christian School. You choose your level, make a commitment, and FACTS Giving does the rest. Your gift can really add up! On the GCS website (www.georgiachristian.org), just choose the Giving tab, then click on the Donation link, choose your level, and you're all set! Or just click on the QR Code below to go directly to online giving. And did I mention that your President Giving Club Gift takes the place of your Alumni dues? It does! You never have to worry about your membership expiring again! Join today...

~President W.O. Norton ('39) Level – \$75/month
(\$900/year)
~President Lacy Elrod ('46) Level – \$50/month
(\$600/year)

~President Prewitte "Brother C" Copeland ('53) Level –
\$25/month (\$300/year)
Dr. Sondra Wilcox ('54)
Sarah K. Copeland ('48)
Julie Dykes (Faculty/Staff)
Michelle Iturralde (Faculty/Staff)
Dr. Brad Lawson (President)

~President William J. Long ('61) Level – \$15/month
(\$180/year)
Deland ('79) & Bonnie Barrett ('80) Guthrie



SCAN ME

IN MEMORY OF

CAVA STOREY ('61) DUKE - 10/28/2024
LINDA DARWIN ('65) RAYBON - 10/1/2024
KAREN CARNEY (66) EVANS - 8/19/2024

ALUMNI NEWS

2010

TAYLOR BOSCH & his wife Kelsey are expecting a baby

2013

KATIE BROWN FISH - graduated with an M.S.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University
DILLON GREENE married Ellen Marie Stebbins 12/14/2024

2014

MORGAN MOORE PARKER & husband Clint - new baby Cannon Lee Parker born 9/23/24
MADISON LYNCH CLAYTON & husband Russ - new baby girl Catherine Dale Clayton born 10/25/2024

2015

BLAKE WINTERS - sworn in as a full member of the State Bar of Georgia
BLAKE WINTERS married Reede Johnson on 11/16/2024

2017

HUNTER BLACK & wife Kaytlin - new baby boy Weston Allen Black born 10/11/24

2018

LUKAS SMIDTAS - began his dental school journey at the Dental College of Georgia
WILL COPELAND - SGM SafeCare Award recipient

2019

SAVANNAH CARTER married Cyrus Parrish on 11/2/2024
ANNIE EILDERS - graduated from VSU, M.Ed., CF-SLP

2020

CASSIE PARTIN - received her Master's Degree from University of the Cumberlands in Health & Human Performance in June, 2024
KINLEY TOUCHTON - engaged to Bryce Correll
AJUAH BLANKUMSEE - graduated VSU with a Criminal Justice degree
KYLIE GREENE CARDIN - graduated VSU
TREY HILTON - graduated UGA
ROSA SANCHEZ ALVARADO married Cole McDaniel on 10/27/2024
GRANT GARRETT married Kenzi Eikenberry on 11/9/2024

2021

JENNA SYKES - Senior Class Homecoming Representative and Homecoming Queen, Faulkner University
SAVANNAH HORTON - participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's for The Canopy at Azalea Grove
SABRINA CANADA - joined the US Army

2024

DANIEL NAYLOR - in Welding School and working at Publix in Jacksonville

2024

MADDIE MIRA - signed with Huntingdon College

IF YOU HAVE NEWS, OR KNOW ANY NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI OF GEORGIA CHRISTIAN, PLEASE CONTACT US AT GCSALUMNI@GEORGIACHRISTIAN.ORG OR AT 229-559-5131 OR REACH OUT TO US ON SOCIAL MEDIA. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

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...

~Lester/Coppage Family 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, Bill & Jan Tyler Scholarship (Established '20)
~Carl David, Jr. & Margaret K. Johnson Scholarship (Established '21)

~Mary Louise Black Scholarship (Established '15)
~Dr. Donald P. Jovenaz Scholarship (Established '00)
~Earl Edge Scholarship (Established '00)
~George & Eunice Copeland Scholarship (Established '99)
~Ray Jerkins Scholarship (Established '98)
~Jack & Gwen Brogden Scholarship (Established '20)

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
 Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox '54
 *Martha Harris '55
 Donna Harvey McLeod '55
 *Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56
 Jimmy Hightower '57
 *Mary Jean Wisenbaker Armstrong '58
 Julian (Jubie) Copeland '58
 *William Udell '59
 *Harold W. Graham '60
 *Charlie Copeland '62
 *Charles (Termite) Phillips '63
 Judy Jensen McMullen '65
 *Elaine Graham Stacy '65
 Cynthia Jean Watts '65
 *Lynda Wilkins Lawlor '66
 Brenda Darwin Johnson '67
 Frankie Johnson '67
 *Ellen Conway Williams '67
 *Tommy Williams '67
 Ron Copeland '68
 Andrew Sykes '68
 *Joan Andrews Winn '68
 Mike Black '69
 Patsy Hamm Black '69
 *Elaine Black Dilbeck '69
 *Ben Vick '70
 *Jamie Copeland '71
 *Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72
 Donna Darwin Batchelor '73
 *Cathy Cone Malone '73
 Cleo "Tad" Williams '73
 *James Lee Naylor '73
 *Lisa Force Lang '74
 *Jason Wisenbaker '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
 *Eisa Copeland Barnes '82
 *Dottie Eckberg Redish '82
 *Connie Colson Guthrie '83
 *Lori Copeland Alley '84
 *Denise Wright Hammitt '84
 *Daphne DeWeese Warren '84
 *Norma Jean Peterson '86
 *Johnny Peterson '86
 *Donald Dawkins '88
 *Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88
 *Jason Chesser '89
 William D. Christie '89
 *Lori Dawkins McGuire '90
 *Ellis Shiver '90
 Jon Sykes '90
 Alison Sykes Cartee '93
 *Michelle Bass Copeland '94
 *Audrey Strange Dawkins '96
 *Melissa Lee England '98
 Patience McMullen Lawson '98
 *Nikki Copeland Warren '98
 *Sarah Fiveash Wickstrom '00
 *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
 Kristen Byers Hartman '03
 *Kristin Copeland Dykes '04
 *Lydia Thornhill White '04
 *Nicole Renfro Olbright '05
 Morgan Plyler Guthrie '05
 *Katie Colson Plyler '06
 *Nathan Renfro '06
 *ShaCourtney Thomas-Jenkins '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
 Kaitlyn Williams Leblanc '15
 *Erin Copeland Swilley '16
 Allison Dasher '16
 *Laurn Russell '17
 Lindsey Sykes Redmon '17
 *Emmy Copeland '18
 *Hunter Cardin '19
 *Katie Guest '19
 *Grant Copeland '20
 *Kylie Greene Cardin '20
 Kyla Watson '20
 *Evan Copeland '21
 Jenna Sykes '21
 *Karsyn Black '22
 Drew Horton '22
 *Christian Powell '22
 *Tiffany Taylor Harris '22
 *Braylon Black '23
 *Clancey Carter '23
 *Seth Copeland '23
 *Casey Crowder '23
 *Corbin Evans '23
 Emily Hernandez '23
 Austin Knapp '23
 Reagan Lawson '23
 *Lexi Lewis '23
 *Garrett McQuaig '23
 *Katie Moss '23
 *Katie Mullins '23
 *Jenna Plymel '23
 Heidi Rowan '23
 *Kaden Sanders '23
 *Ainsley Tucker '23
 *Austin Van Ausdall '23
 *Liz Walden '23
 *Lindsey Warren '23
 *Destiny Alaniz '24
 *Helen Bundrick '24
 *Tristan Butler '24
 *Stella Cofield '24
 *Tristan Corbin '24
 *Noah Corbitt '24
 *Corbin Delk '24
 *AnaGrace Gunsolus '24
 *Deacon Hazel '24
 *Kayden Hicks '24
 *Jonah Houser '24
 *Levi Kelley '24
 *Jake Kilcrease '24
 *Masie Kinsey '24
 *Katelyn Kotterman '24
 *Makalyn Meyer '24
 *Mariana Munoz Palacios '24
 *Daniel Naylor '24
 *Linh Nguyen '24
 *Kaylea Noland '24
 Tanner Rayfield '24
 *Kyllynn Root '24
 *Hunter Shelton '24
 *Will Wisenbaker '24
 *Elle Shiver '24
 Jordan Barber '25
 Kaila Barney '25
 Mac Bowling '25
 Athen Bradford '25
 Olivia Brown '25
 Tyson Copeland '25
 Gentry Dees '25
 Conner Downing '25
 Briceten Gaines '25
 Benji Galindo '25
 Davey Grizzle '25
 Logan Guest '25
 Jett Guilliams '25
 Nick Guthery '25
 Andrew Hutcheson '25
 Bella Iturralde '25
 Sam James '25
 Rowan Lawson '25
 Hannah Lissimore '25
 Ellie Lewis '25
 Bo Miller '25
 Maddie Mira '25
 Presley Pittman '25
 Cameron White '25
 William Wilson '25
 Brad Lawson President
 Kevin Pittman Board
 *James Lee Faculty
 Carol Naylor Copeland Faculty
 Carol J. McLeod Faculty
 Julie Dykes Faculty
 Michelle Iturralde Faculty
 *Robert Jeffords Faculty
 *Teresa Jeffords Faculty
 *Kim Moss
***Please renew your Alumni Association membership**

GEORGIA CHRISTIAN WELCOMES PETE HEGSETH TO ITS 17TH ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER



The 17th Annual Benefit Dinner featured FOXNews Weekend Host and bestselling author Pete Hegseth. The dinner was held at the Valdosta State University Student Union Ballroom on Thursday, November 21, where attendees learned more about the school and its impact through videos and interactions with student ambassadors, faculty, staff, and the Board of Directors.

Distinguished guests at this year's dinner included Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk, Lowndes County Manager Paige Dukes, Lowndes County EMA Director Ashley Tye, City of Valdosta Chief of Police Leslie Manahan, and City of Valdosta Fire Chief Brian Boutwell.

Dr. Brad Lawson hosted a moderated Q & A session with guest speaker Pete Hegseth. Hegseth is the former co-host of the weekend edition of Fox & Friend on FOXNews, a New York Times bestseller, and decorated combat veteran. He has been recently nominated as the Secretary of Defence to the incoming Trump-Vance Administration.

The discussion highlighted various topics culled mainly from Hegseth's five books, including thoughts on classical Christian education, the military, and history. Dr. Lawson indicated his favorite book from Hegseth was *In the Arena*, which was based on the famous truths of Teddy Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" speech. Each table at the dinner featured questions from our country's citizenship test, which allowed dinner guests to test their knowledge of American history, government, and civics.



A pitch was made during the evening to help the school cross the finish line on fundraising for the new Jeffords Family High School, which will house nine classrooms, a media center, office space, and a 550-seat auditorium.

The school also honored Nikki Warren ('98), who was responsible for planning the annual dinner for 16 years. Mrs. Warren was able to take the annual dinner from a "let's give it a try" to Valdosta's premiere entertainment and fundraising event.



Join the Alumni Association today!

- Annual Membership Dues: \$25
- Two-Spouse Alumni Rate: \$40
- Recent Graduates (within 4 years of graduation from GCS): \$10



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, 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, click on the Giving Tab and follow the link to Online Giving to find out more.

