

The General Times

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter

Once Upon a Time at Homecoming

Homecoming week culminated with the crowning of the 2021 Homecoming King and Queen at the October 15 Generals football game vs. John Hancock Academy in Dasher. The theme for this year's Homecoming was "Once Upon a Time", which coincided with this year's school theme, "Perhaps you were created for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

This year's Homecoming Court included 9th grade representatives Maddie Mira and Fidel Cortez, 10th grade representatives Masie Kinsey and Jonah Houser, and 11th grade representatives Liz Warren and Jacob Gallegos, and all of the Class of 2022.

The Class of 2022 includes senior boys Mason Finney, Hendrix Grimes, Bennett Hatcher, Drew Horton, Micah Houser, Michael Miller, Christian Powell, Tyler Reed, and Bob Schmidt. The Class of 2022 includes senior girls Paige Bass, Karsyn Black, Anna Copeland, Evie Hazel, Nicole Hernandez, Samantha Johnson, Allie Lott, Sarah Russell, Tiffany Taylor, and Liberty Vickers.



Perhaps you were created for

**Such a
Time as This.**

Esther 4:14



Established 1914

Homecoming King and Queen, selected by the student body, are Drew Horton and Liberty Vickers.

We Are Living in Unprecedented Times!



How many times have we heard that phrase in the last eighteen months? And yes, these are unprecedented times that we are living in. However, consider this fact in a different but equally true context. According to an online article from the *Wall Street Journal* (July 2, 2021), "the greatest transfer of wealth in modern history has begun." The article also says that Americans age 70 and over have a net worth of nearly \$35 trillion. That is more than the current National Debt (almost \$29 trillion). Talk about unprecedented times!

It is often said that one never sees a U-Haul in a funeral procession. This illustrates the obvious that we cannot take our possessions with us. So what will happen with the nearly \$35 trillion? It will be up to those who have stored it up to determine. Those that have a plan will pass on

their wealth to their family, friends, charities and/or projects. Others who do not have a plan will leave it in the hands of a surviving spouse, adult child or other court appointed representative to carry out what they believe to be their wishes. Unfortunately, most fall in the latter category. A recent statistic says that nearly 70% of Americans do not have an up-to-date will. Having a will has several advantages, including:

- Nominating your executor
- Nominating guardians for your minor children
- Nominating caretakers for your pets
- Instructions for debts and taxes
- Distributing specific assets and property
- Establishing your legacy by giving to nonprofit organizations

Deciding what to do with our possessions after we are gone is usually uncomfortable at best. However, planning ahead of time saves time and stress for our loved ones. If you are in the 70% that do not have an up-to-date will, consider making that a priority.

Georgia Christian School has been blessed recently with Alumni who have included GCS in their planned giving. Some have left gifts for named scholarships (housed in the Betty Louis Draughton Scholarship Endowment) and some to the Misty Hardin Annual Fund Endowment. Others have included restricted gifts towards a certain program or project. Still others have included unrestricted gifts that can be used in a variety of ways to fulfill the mission of Georgia Christian School.

If you have included GCS in your planned giving, thank you! These gifts will ensure that the mission of providing a Christian foundation can continue in the long term. If you have thought about including GCS in your estate planning but have questions, feel free to reach out to our Chief Financial Officer and Certified Public Accountant, Michelle Iturralde or to Brad Lawson, GCS President. Having a will and taking care of your family (even four-footed members) is important. It is our hope and prayer that you will consider making Georgia Christian School a part of your planned giving as well.



Alumni Association Members: Did you attend GCS? Join or renew today!

*Cecil H. Phelps '47	*Elaine Graham Stacy '65	*Cleta Colson Eyre '80	*Leanne Jenkins Hood '03
*Geraldine McLeod Thompson '47	*Lynda Wilkins Lawlor '66	*Bonnie Barrett Guthrie '80	*Kristin Copeland Dykes '04
*Sarah Copeland '48	Brenda Darwin Johnson '67	*Philip Guthrie '80	*Nicole Renfro Olbricht '05
Patricia Dicks Lester '49	Frankie Johnson '67	*Joey Redshaw '81	Morgan Plyler Guthrie '05
William J. Long '51	Cynthia Jean Watts '65	*Elsa Copeland Barnes '82	*Katie Colson Plyler '06
*Pat Avants Bishop '53	*Ellen Conway Williams '67	*Dottie Eckberg Redish '82	*Nathan Renfro '06
Jo Williamson Guest '53	*Tommy Williams '67	*Connie Colson Guthrie '83	*Austin Plyler '07
Ron McCurry '53	*Ron Copeland '68	*Lori Copeland Alley '84	Adam Guthrie '08
*Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox '54	*Andrew Sykes '68	*Denise Wright Hammitt '84	*Sarah Copeland Lynch '09
Paul E. Harris '55	Joan Andrews Winn '68	*Daphne DeWeese Warren '84	*Pamela Brown Kimbrell '10
Martha Harris '55	Ben Vick '70	*Donald Dawkins '88	*Georgia Thomson '11
Wally Colson '55	*Jamie Copeland '71	*Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88	*Augusta Guthrie '12
*Donna Harvey McLeod '55	*Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72	*Jason Chesser '89	*Keaton Bentley '15
*M.C. McLeod '55	*Lisa Force Lang '74	*Lori Dawkins McGuire '90	*Morgan Sykes '15
Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56	Ginger Copeland Knowles '76	*Jon Sykes '90	*Erin Copeland Swilley '16
*Jimmy Hightower '57	Russell Knowles '76	*Alison Sykes Cartee '93	*Lauryn Russell '17
*Mary Jean Wisenbaker Armstrong '58	*Cathy Guthrie Lee '76	*Michelle Bass Copeland '94	*Lindsey Sykes '17
Julian (Jubie) Copeland '58	*Cindy Guthrie Horne '77	*Audrey Strange Dawkins '96	*Emmy Copeland '18
James (JC) McMullen '58	*Mike Horne '77	*Melissa Lee England '98	*Brad Lawson President
*William Udell '59	*Linda Carol Johnson Brown '78	*Nikki Copeland Warren '98	*James Lee Faculty
*Harold W. Graham '60	*Greg Brown '79	*Rebecca Thornhill Garbutt '00	Carol J. McLeod Faculty
*Charlie Copeland '62	*Kent Copeland '79	*Terri Lee Orrell '00	Julie Dykes Faculty
*Charles (Termite) Phillips '63	*Tammie Davis Bobbit '79	*Kristin Horne Blount '01	*Michelle Iturralde Faculty
Judy Jensen McMullen '65	*Deland Guthrie '79	Vince Hamm '01	

Thank You to Our Donors...

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, we have been able to completely renovate the gym floor in the Lacy Elrod Gymnasium over the last couple of months. If you missed the big reveal on social media, it's worth going back for a look! Thank you to all who contributed: Wally & Barbara Colson, Wendy & Gina Colson, Phil & Kelsey Corbett, Dhweah 1 Inc. & Drishna 1 Corporation, Brad Eyre & Cleta Colson-Eyre, Billy & Kay Hilyer, Austin & Katie Plyler, Ellis & Peggy Shiver, Jon & Brandy Sykes, Bill Wheeler, Max & Marilyn White, Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox, and William Wright.



2021 Annual Benefit Dinner Impresses



It was great to return to a face-to-face Benefit Dinner this year, and wonderful to present former White House Press Secretary, political commentator, *New York Times* No. 1 best-selling author, and co-anchor of Fox's *America's Newsroom* and *The Five* Dana Perino as this year's speaker.

Ms. Perino graciously offered a women's-only event with our top-tier donors that was hosted at the Converse Dalton Ferrell House before the dinner, then entertained the crowd with a "Fireside Chat" question-and-answer session with Dr. Brad Lawson, President of GCS. *The Valdosta Daily Times*, in its feature story about the event, focused on several alumni and parents of the school, and highlighted our family-friendly orientation that goes back generations.

Impressed with what she saw at the Benefit Dinner, Ms. Perino featured Georgia Christian as her "One More Thing" in the popular segment at the end of *The Five* on the following Tuesday. You can catch a video of it on the school's website at www.georgiachristian.org.



GCS Students Shine at Academic Competition

Congratulations to our High School academic bowl teams, who recently traveled to Greensboro, Georgia to compete in the GAPPS Math Bowl and History Bowl competition. Although our Math Bowl team did not place, team member Emily Hernandez was the high scorer of the day. The rest of the Math Bowl team was rounded out by team members Liberty Vickers, Sarah Russell, and Linh Nguyen.

Our History Bowl team was there to defend their State title from the previous year, and they did so tremendously. They went undefeated all day, easily taking the State title for a second year in a row. The History Bowl team included members Evie Hazel, Reagan Lawson, Deacon Hazel, Rebecca Lancaster, Tanner Rayfield, Jake Kilcrease, and Jett Guilliams. History Bowl was coached and sponsored by Dr. Westley Hazel.



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.

Georgia Christian School
4359 Dasher Road
Valdosta, GA 31601



Forever a General...

Check out the GCS Spirit Store at www.gcsmerchandise.com, where you will find lots of Generals attire and more. Support Georgia Christian and all your Generals teams!