

The General Times

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter

Congratulations, Class of 2022



Georgia Christian School held a Graduation ceremony steeped in tradition for the Class of 2022 on Friday, May 27. The class chose as their commencement speaker Mrs. Lori Alley ('84), a recent retiree from Georgia Christian. Mrs. Alley served the school in a variety of positions from 2005 to present, and spoke fondly of her memories of teaching members of the Class of 2022 in their early years in Pre-K. Mrs. Alley's advice to the members of the graduating class centered around acknowledging the importance of the people and places God reveals to them in their lives.

In keeping with the theme of tradition, both the Salutatorian and the Valedictorian of the Class of 2022 are children of alumni. Salutatorian Tiffany Taylor spoke of her fond memories of joining the class, and of finding her place within it. Valedictorian Samantha Johnson encouraged her class members to reach ever higher in the next stages of their lives. There are nineteen members of the Class of 2022.

Service Awards were given to Sarah Russell and Drew Horton, with over 200 service hours each. The Class of 2022 collectively completed over 2600 service hours over the course of their high school careers. First and Second Honor Merit Awards were given to Sarah Russell and Evie Hazel as the students with the next two highest grade point averages after the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The award of Mr. & Miss GCS, given to the senior young lady and gentleman considered to exemplify the qualifications and ideals of leadership in the areas of Christianity, scholarship, friendship, and service, were given to Bennett Hatcher and Tiffany Taylor.

The James R. Lee Math Scholarship and the Senior Bible Award were awarded to Samantha Johnson. Mrs. Lori Alley was also named the recipient of the 2022 Pine Embers Dedication.



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 Draughon 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	Brenda Darwin Johnson '67	*Elsa Copeland Barnes '82	*Austin Plyler '07
Geraldine McLeod Thompson '47	Frankie Johnson '67	*Dottie Eckberg Redish '82	*Adam Guthrie '08
*Sarah Copeland '48	Cynthia Jean Watts '65	*Connie Colson Guthrie '83	*Sarah Copeland Lynch '09
Patricia Dicks Lester '49	*Ellen Conway Williams '67	*Lori Copeland Alley '84	*Pamela Brown Kimbrell '10
William J. Long '51	*Tommy Williams '67	*Denise Wright Hammitt '84	*Georgia Thomson '11
*Pat Avants Bishop '53	*Ron Copeland '68	*Daphne DeWeese Warren '84	*Augusta Guthrie '12
*Jo Williamson Guest '53	*Andrew Sykes '68	*Donald Dawkins '88	*Keaton Bentley '15
Ron McCurry '53	Joan Andrews Winn '68	*Christy DeWeese Kilcrease '88	*Morgan Sykes '15
Dr. Sondra E. Wilcox '54	*Ben Vick '70	*Jason Chesser '89	*Erin Copeland Swlley '16
*Paul E. Harris '55	*Jamie Copeland '71	*Lori Dawkins McGuire '90	*Lauryn Russell '17
*Martha Harris '55	*Gayle Sterling Lightsey '72	*Jon Sykes '90	*Lindsey Sykes '17
Wally Colson '55	*Lisa Force Lang '74	*Alison Sykes Cartee '93	*Emmy Copeland '18
*Donna Harvey McLeod '55	*Ginger Copeland Knowles '76	*Michelle Bass Copeland '94	Grant Copeland '20
*M.C. McLeod '55	*Russell Knowles '76	*Audrey Strange Dawkins '96	Evan Copeland '21
Barbara Wisenbaker Colson '56	*Cathy Guthrie Lee '76	*Melissa Lee England '98	Drew Horton '22
*Jimmy Hightower '57	*Cindy Guthrie Horne '77	*Nikki Copeland Warren '98	*Brad Lawson President
*Mary Jean Wisenbaker Armstrong '58	*Mike Horne '77	*Rebecca Thornhill Garbutt '00	*James Lee Faculty
*Julian (Jubie) Copeland '58	*Linda Carol Johnson Brown '78	*Terri Lee Orrell '00	Carol J. McLeod Faculty
*James (JC) McMullen '58	*Greg Brown '79	*Kristin Horne Blount '01	Julie Dykes Faculty
*William Udell '59	*Kent Copeland '79	Vince Hamm '01	*Michelle Iturralde—Faculty
*Harold W. Graham '60	*Tammie Davis Bobbit '79	*Kristin Copeland Dykes '04	
*Charlie Copeland '62	*Deland Guthrie '79	*Leanne Jenkins Hood '03	
*Charles (Termite) Phillips '63	Cleta Colson Eyre '80	*Nicole Renfro Olbricht '05	
*Judy Jensen McMullen '65	*Bonnie Barrett Guthrie '80	*Morgan Plyler Guthrie '05	
*Elaine Graham Stacy '65	*Philip Guthrie '80	*Katie Colson Plyler '06	
*Lynda Wilkins Lawlor '66	*Joey Redshaw '81	*Nathan Renfro '06	

In Loving Memory of Earl Edge

Earl Edge was born April 30, 1924 to Charlie Sylvester & Katie Ida Edge in Searcy, AL. He obeyed the gospel in 1940 after hearing it preached for the first time, and his mother was baptized the next day. He left his home and entered what was then known as Dasher Bible School (now known as Georgia Christian School). He milked cows, cleaned the bathrooms, and humbly did anything that was needed at the school to earn his keep. At the tender age of sixteen he preached his first sermon in Live Oak, FL.

After graduating high school Earl attended Alabama Bible College (now known as Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL). In an effort to help raise funds for this young, struggling school in April of 1946, Earl found himself in the small, middle Tennessee town of Smithville. It was there that he met his soulmate of 64 years, Lorene Duncan. Together, they visited members of the Smithville church and raised a grand total of \$250.

In May, 1946, Lorene graduated from high school and went to Montgomery to live with her sister, planning to attend college there. Earl graduated from college and the two began dating. After a whirlwind courtship, which lasted all of two weeks, on June 8, 1946, they were married. For a short time, Lorene worked in the college office and Earl dug in to locating a congregation where he could preach the gospel. From Montgomery they moved to Robertsedale, AL, to begin the first of many full-time preaching assignments together.

Throughout the southeast, from Alabama to Texas to Florida to Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, Earl and Lorene worked to spread the Gospel as they raised their family, which included their son Timothy and daughters Tanna and Tammy.

After 70 years of preaching, Earl preached his last sermon on April 5, 2010 and was called home on July 4, 2010. His daughter, Tammy Edge Pruett, stopped by the school recently to share her memories of her father and to establish a scholarship in his memory. We were so happy to meet her and to hear about her father's life and great service.

GCS Alumni Games

We hope you were able to join us for our recent Alumni games at GCS. Our 2nd Annual Generals Baseball Alumni Game was held on Saturday, May 14, and everyone had a blast! The much-anticipated Annual Soccer Alumni Game was held on Tuesday, May 31. After some early thunderstorms, the weather turned great and set the stage for some exciting play.



Where in the World are Our Alumni?



Thank you to Savannah Greene ('14) for the postcard from Kansas updating us on where in the world our alumni are. Savannah has been busy since she graduated, joining the Air Force, in college full-time to get her Master's Degree. She said that she and her fiancé own a gym and have a dog named Doug and two cats, Lily and Coopurr. So great to hear from you, Savannah!



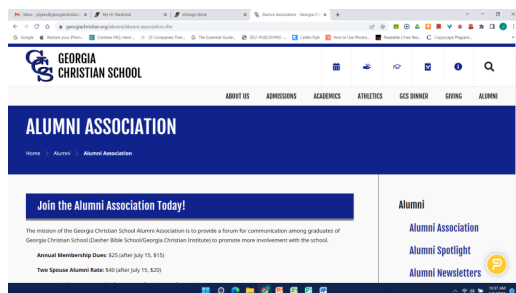
Alumni Parking Now Available for Fall

Skip the long entry lines and the long walk to the gate from your parking spot. The 19:14 Club is now offering reserved Alumni Parking inside the back gate for football and soccer. The cost is \$25 for your parking space, but you must be a current member of the GCS Alumni Association to reserve your spot. Call the school at 229-559-5131 or email jdykes@georgiachristian.org to find out more.



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



Have you seen our updated website?

Check out our updated website, which can still be found at www.georgiachristian.org. Click on the Alumni page to find out how to join the Alumni Association today!