


The General Times

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter

Record Enrollment for 2022-2023 School Year



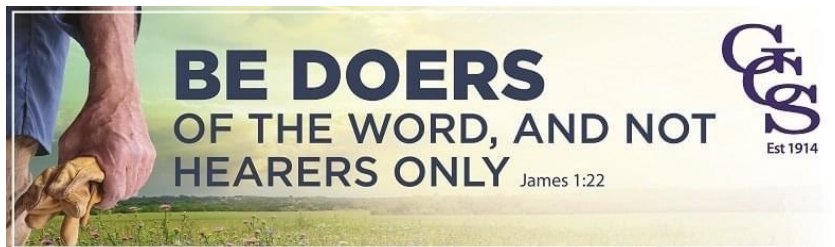
There were new faces absolutely everywhere at this year's Fall Open House, with enrollment topping 365 the week before school started. The rainy night did little to dampen spirits or diminish excitement as students filled Lacey Elrod Gymnasium.

Our theme for this year is "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22), and this year's Open House is a great illustration of those who have worked hard at doing God's will and

manifesting God's word throughout the school year.

This year brings exciting changes throughout the school. In Elementary, Mrs. Christy Smith joins K5 as a para-pro. Mrs. Hope Sprayberry moves up to teach 1st Grade and Miss Kylie Greene ('20) joins her as a para-pro. In Middle School, Mrs. Julie Knapp and Mrs. Miki Mole join us as faculty and Mr. Douglas Frazier joins us to teach Middle School Bible and as a part of our Maintenance Crew. In High School, Mrs. Jennifer Copeland joins us as faculty and Mrs. Jessica Frazier as our Administrative Specialist.

The Class of 2023 includes twenty seniors (shown here volunteering at Open House handing out packets to students), several of whom have attended Georgia Christian since early grades, and several who are multi-generational students. All of them are very special to us, and we look forward to making their final year at GCS a memorable one!



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, 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.

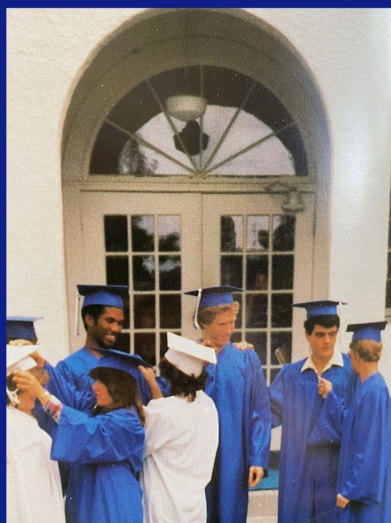


Alumni Association Members: Did you attend GCS? Join or renew today!

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



You can own one or both of these doors that were the gateway to life-changing experiences!



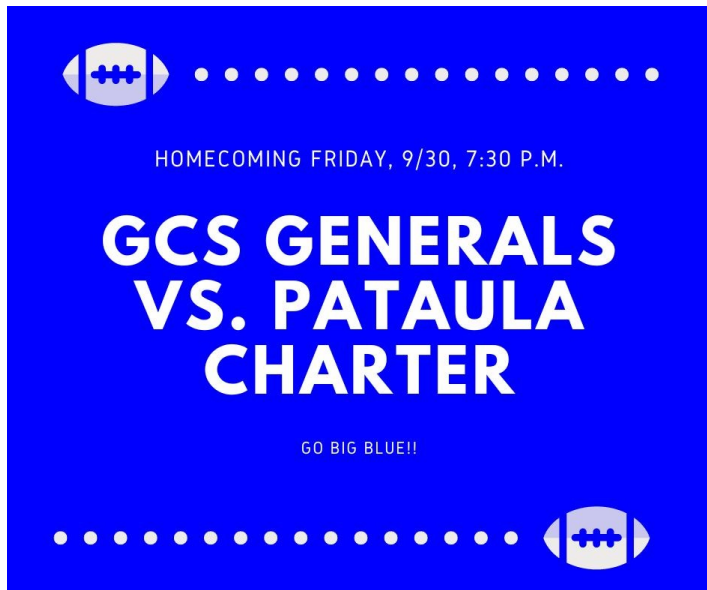
How many times did you walk through these doors?

For 2022, the Georgia Christian School Alumni Project is the **replacement of the Gym Lobby Doors**. All Alumni Dues will go to help with the replacement of the Gym Lobby Doors.

Interested in **bidding on the old High School doors**? Bidding will be open until October 1, 2022. Email jdykes@georgiachristian.org to make a bid on one or both of these doors. All proceeds from the sale of the High School doors will go to the replacement of the Gym Lobby Doors.

If you would like to give online to the **Gym Lobby Doors Project**, the website is <https://www.georgiachristian.org/alumni/alumni-association.cfm>

Save These Dates



HOMEcoming FRIDAY, 9/30, 7:30 P.M.

GCS GENERALS VS. PATAULA CHARTER

GO BIG BLUE!!



12/9 - 12/10

BLUE & WHITE WEEKEND

GO BIG BLUE!!

Lester-Coppage Scholarship Added

“Sampson Lester came from Tennessee to teach school at Dasher Bible. He was soon followed by his younger brother, Robert. Upon his arrival in Valdosta, he disembarked the train in town and then realized he should have waited for the next stop—Dasher Depot. He began walking the seven miles carrying his baggage, but was fortuitously picked up by Perry Wallace McLeod, also a founder of DBS. Robert attended school, but it was he who built the new classrooms in 1928 when he was just 20 years old. The building was named Lester Hall” (from *Centennial Memory Book*, pg. 11).

From building to teaching to serving on the board to sending five generations through Dasher Bible School/Georgia Christian, the Lester-Coppage families have created an enduring legacy that will live on through the creation of the Lester-Coppage Scholarship.



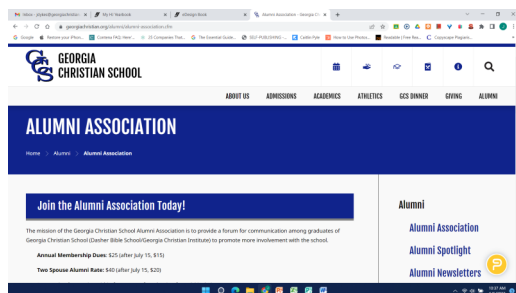
Alumni Parking Available

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!