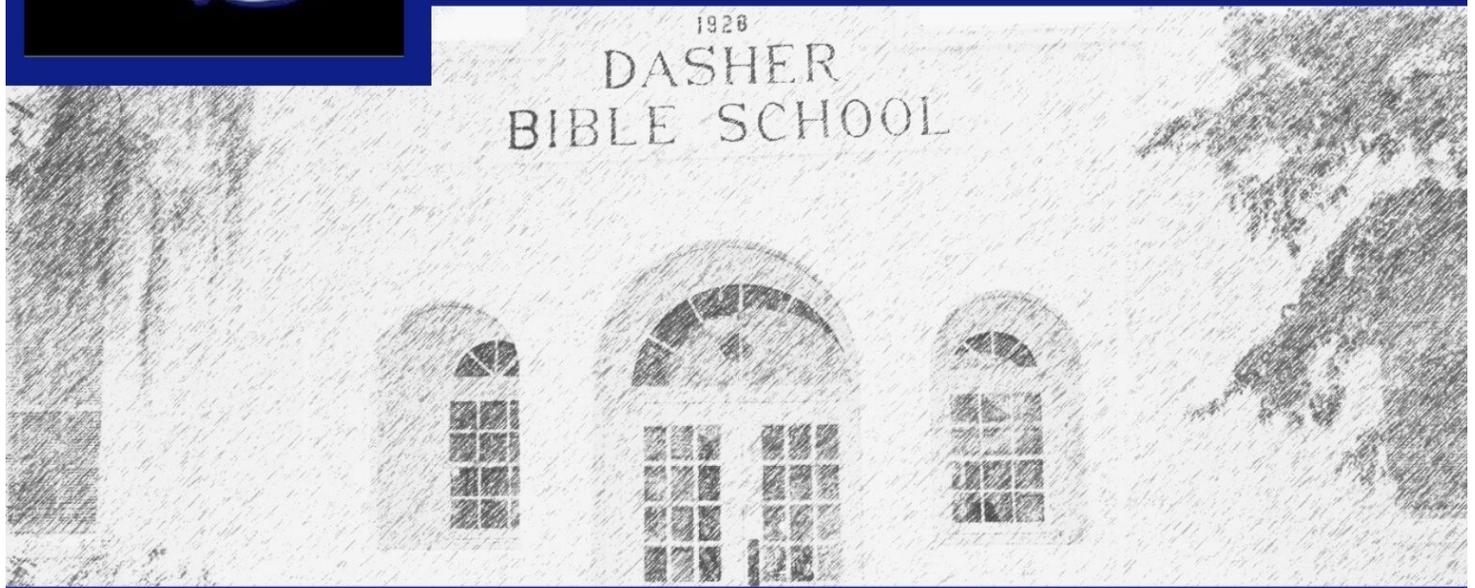


SEPTEMBER 2023 | EDITION 10, VOLUME 3

THE GENERAL TIMES

GCS Alumni Association Newsletter



JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING THIS YEAR!

by Alumni Director Julie Dykes

Homecoming is always such a great season to be on campus at Georgia Christian, and this year will not be an exception! We have been planning since last year for you, our alumni, to have an action-packed weekend full of fun activities. We hope that you can join us for some or all of the planned activities, or just swing by to see what changes have been happening around here (for more on the changes that Hurricane Idalia brought us, see pg. 5).

Watch your mail for a "Save the Date" postcard coming soon. Here's the plan for this year's Homecoming weekend:

Thursday, 10/26 Fall Festival 5:30 p.m.

Friday, 10/27 GCS Generals vs. Pataula Charter 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 10/29 Sunday Lunch at noon

We will be crowning our newest Homecoming King & Queen before the Friday night game. Hope to see you there!

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CLEANUP**



PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB UPDATE

The Presidential Giving Club is one of the newest and easiest ways to give back to Georgia Christian School. It allows you to “set it and forget it”. You choose your level, make a commitment, and FACTS Giving does the rest. For as little as the cost of that Starbucks cup of coffee each month, you can help make a difference at GCS! Your gift can really add up! And did I mention that your President Giving Club Gift takes the place of your Alumni dues? It does! 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)

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

PRESIDENTIAL GIVING CLUB MEMBERS

~President J.P. Prevatt ('15) Level - \$100/month (\$1200/year)
Cynthia Watts ('65)



Ben Shapiro



2023 Benefit Dinner Speaker

Georgia Christian School is proud to present the the co-founder and Editor Emeritus of The Daily Wire, host of The Ben Shapiro Show, the largest conservative podcast and radio show in the nation and New York Times best-seller as this year's speaker on Tuesday evening, October 24!

ALUMNI NEWS

IN LOVING MEMORY

FRED HENDRICKS

2006

SHACOURTNEY JENKINS - promotion with the Department of Veterans Affairs; received a Master's in Health Care Administration, now pursuing a Doctorate in Health Care Administration

CHAELEI NELSON WISENBAKER - new baby girl, Jane Elizabeth Wisenbaker

2007

CHRISTOPHER BROWN - promoted to Marines Gunnery Sergeant

DUSTIN JEFFORDS - new baby boy, Henry Callender Jeffords

2010

KAILYNN JEFFORDS GROW - new baby girl, Collins Marie Grow

2013

CAITLIN BROWN JARRIEL - Teacher, Decatur County Schools, Bainbridge, GA

CHRISTIAN MOORE - & wife are expecting a baby boy

2015

JAKE ELLIOTT - married HALEY GARRETT ('16) 6/9/2023

2016

ERIN COPELAND SWILLEY - new baby boy, Callan Thomas Swilley

HALEY GARRETT - married JAKE ELLIOTT ('15) 6/9/2023

2017

JARED STRACKBEIN - Teacher, Lowndes County Schools

2018

BEN RENFRO - received a Bachelor's in Homeland Security, GMC

2019

KATIE GUEST - top July Sales Associate Rugs-a-Bound

GRACEY SHERLEY - engaged to John Leverett

SAVANNAH CARTER - Valdosta State University Dean's List

LEXIE STANFILL - graduated and licensed in Cosmetology

2021

JENNA SYKES - Disney Epcot Greeter

AMELIA DAWKINS - Disney Epcot Greeter

2022

EVIE HAZEL - Freed-Hardeman Dean's List

Faculty/Staff

HOPE SPRAYBERRY - new baby boy, William Henry Sprayberry

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
 Paul E. Harris '55
 Martha Harris '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
 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
 *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
 Ellis Shiver '90
 *Jon Sykes '90
 Alison Sykes Cartee '93
 *Michelle Bass Copeland '94
 *Audrey Strange Dawkins '96
 *Melissa Lee England '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
 *Kristin Copeland Dykes '04
 Lydia Thornhill White '04
 *Nicole Renfro Olbricht '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
 *Erin Copeland Swlley '16
 *Lauryn Russell '17
 *Lindsey Sykes Redmon '17
 *Emmy Copeland '18
 *Hunter Cardin '19
 *Katie Guest '19
 Grant Copeland '20
 Kylie Greene Cardin '20
 Evan Copeland '21
 *Karsyn Black '22
 Drew Horton '22
 Christian Powell '22
 Tiffany Taylor '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
 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
 Stella Cofield '24
 Tristan Corbin '24
 Jonah Houser '24
 Masie Kinsey '24
 Kaylea Noland '24
 Tanner Rayfield '24
 Hunter Shelton '24
 Elle Shiver '24
 *Brad Lawson President
 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

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. Jovenaz Scholarship (Established '00)
- ~Earl Edge Scholarship (Established '00)
- ~George & Eunice Copeland Scholarship (Established '99)
- ~Ray Jerkins Scholarship (Established '98)

Hurricane Idalia Modifies Our Campus



If you follow the Georgia Christian Facebook page, it's not a surprise to you that Hurricane Idalia made some major modifications to our campus. A Category 2 storm, the eye wall traveled right through our area and wiped out many of the old trees and limbs on campus. Thankfully, the school was closed, and our faculty, staff, and students were all safe at home, and no one was injured during this major weather event in our area.

Huge pine and oak tees were blown over and snapped off across the school grounds. It was impossible to get through the campus and the front of the high school had multiple trees crossing the sidewalk. Fencing on the playground was destroyed by fallen trees and the Elementary Building had two trees hit one corner. The roof of the home dugout at the baseball field was ripped off as well as metal roofing ripped up on the back of the gym. The duplex that so many have lived in over the years had one side smashed by two trees. The house beside it (now our Maintenance House) still has a huge pine tree on the roof.

Like most in the area, we were without power for several days. During that time, the turnout of volunteer labor was unprecedented! Everyone from non-profit groups to faculty and staff to parents, students, and alumni turned out to help move fallen limbs and debris, rake, clean up and return our campus to its functioning condition. We are beyond grateful for every one of them and their selfless service.

As you can see from the before-and-after pictures, a massive amount of work was completed by these volunteers, and work continues to be completed at the printing of this newsletter.

We have spent some time since returning to school without functioning Internet service, and that has challenged our usually technology-heavy curriculum. We have been especially fortunate that local churches have hosted our students for on-line classes during the school day until we can get our Internet service restored.





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.

