

NEWS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF TALL OAKS

Special points of interest:

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Fourth Grade Castles



TALL OAKS CLASSICAL SCHOOL

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

Accredited by the Association of Classical and Christian Schools

SPRING 2011

TALL OAKS STUDENT WINS NATIONAL ORATORY COMPETITION

Senior Kelly Weber has been named the winner of the national 2011 Chrysostom Oratory Competition. The Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS) holds this competition each year to “inspire other ACCS educators and students to pursue rhetorical excellence.” The award is named for St. John Chrysostom (347-407), an early church father who served as the Archbishop of Constantinople and who was known for his eloquence in preaching. His name literally means “golden-mouth.”

In order to represent Tall Oaks at the national level, Kelly first won an in-school competition with an abridged version of her senior thesis entitled “Finding Freedom.” Kelly summarizes her arguments: “My thesis was about finding freedom in the modern age. Freedom today is not what freedom used to be in the classical age. We can find true liberty in Christianity, which gives us freedom to become who God created us to be and to be free from sin and death.”

All accredited ACCS schools may submit one entry by a junior or senior in that school. (Tall Oaks

limited its in-school competition to seniors.) Tall Oaks submitted a recording of Kelly’s presentation to ACCS, and the judges from the other five participating schools rated her speech as the best.

Kelly reflects on the experience, “The Chrysostom Oratory Competition was a wonderful experience to practice my thesis and to present it before a different set of judges.”

Kelly received a \$1000 cash scholarship and she will present “Finding Freedom” again at the annual ACCS conference in Atlanta, Georgia in June.

In addition to winning that prestigious award, Kelly’s speaking skills have also been recognized in the Veterans of Foreign Wars “Voice of Democracy” Contest, for which she received \$250 in scholarships for winning the Newark VFW Post 475 competition and placing second in the district with her speech on the topic, “Does My Generation Have a Role in America’s Future?” Kelly has also received a \$12,500 merit and art scholarship from Belhaven University, which she will attend in the fall.



FINE ARTS 2011

This year the Tall Oaks Fine Arts tradition continued with an outstanding event! Students in grades 1 – 12 memorized pieces of poetry or prose and recited them individually before an audience and a panel of judges. For what purpose? Students learn well-written pieces that have withstood the test of time - pieces full of beauty, truth and valuable lessons. They are coached in public speaking and are taught to deliver their pieces with qualities such as vocal energy, clear diction and expression.

Did they respond to the challenge? Did they ever! The students delivered quality recitations that delighted their audience. First and second place awards were given to the top performers in grades 6 through 12. It was an edifying day for all those involved! The results follow:

- 6th Grade:** Calvin Pozsonyi and Kana Turley (tie) - 1st place
- 7th Grade:** Robert Sanders, Grace Baumann and Lily Willis (tie) - 1st Place
- 8th Grade:** AnnaClaire Schmiedel – 1st place
Amy Armstrong – 2nd place
- 9th Grade:** Brandon Walker – 1st place;
Sarah Chaffee and Sabrina Myoda (tie) 2nd place
- 10th Grade:** Courtney Lang – 1st place,
Joshua Brunson – 2nd place
- 11th Grade:** Phoebe Hu – 1st place;
Phillip Chaffee, Megan Palmer and Lydia Stinson (tie) 2nd place
- 12th Grade:** Kelly Weber – 1st place
Brian Davison – 2nd place



THE ASSOCIATION of CLASSICAL & CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
Sine doctrina vita est quasi mortis imago

TALL OAKS DEBATERS TAKE ON OUTSIDE COMPETITION

In the ninth grade Argumentation & Debate class at Tall Oaks, we build on the foundation of sound reasoning ability developed in the eighth grade Logic class by addressing issues of public policy and values. We also offer a debate elective that meets once a week for those who want to keep growing in their debate skills after the ninth grade. The debate formats we use promote careful listening, edifying speech, and an overall demeanor of civility, all as expressions of our Christian discipleship.

Recently, some of our students practiced those skills outside of school by participating in Saturday debates. On February 19, Tall Oaks sent five teams of two students each to Rockbridge Academy in Millersville, Maryland, to participate in the Mid-Atlantic Christian Debate League's Winter Tournament, which also included Summit Christian Academy from Yorktown, Virginia. The topic was: "Resolved: hate crime enhancements are unjust in the United States." Our students developed cases both for and against that resolution; over the course of three rounds they argued each case at least once. The team of eleventh-grader Phillip Chaffee and ninth-grader Brendan Donnelly won third place in the varsity division, while all of our teams learned a great deal from their experience. Ninth-grader Rachael Simmons said, "Debating other schools gives me chances to debate others that I do not know. I don't know what their arguments are going to be, so it gives me a chance to be able to think more on my feet."

One highlight of the preparation period for the hate crimes debate was a special lecture from a lawyer, Mr. Ted Hoppe, Esq., who briefed the ninth-graders about how hate crime legislation came about, how it has been applied in recent cases, and the relevant Constitutional

principles.

Our next opportunity for outside competition came on April 16, when six teams represented Tall Oaks at Sanford School in Hockessin, Delaware, debating: "Resolved: capital punishment is unjust in the United States." In a field of ten teams, three Tall Oaks teams won all of



their debates, so the team points (awarded by judges) determined the winners. Ninth-graders Sabrina Myoda and Jaime Weber won first place, while ninth-graders Sarah Chaffee and Christina Mentzer tied with eleventh-grader Joshua Yoon, Phillip Chaffee, and tenth-grader Colin Bryan for second. Ninth-graders Josh Franck and Brendan Donnelly placed third.

Having two debates almost two months apart gave the students an opportunity to see their skills grow. Jaime Weber reflects, "We can measure our own debating skills by comparing ourselves to our opponents. After our debate at Sanford, I appreciated the excellent training we have been given in class at Tall Oaks. The

debate tournament contributed to our confidence as public speakers to any audience."

Brendan Donnelly notes another benefit of debate competitions with other schools: "My favorite thing about debating another school was that we received the opportunity to debate against those who hold different worldviews, and to see how the definitions of justice and murder would play out." Christina Mentzer adds, "At both Rockbridge and Sanford, there was a challenge to uphold our Christian faith and have a poised and professional manner." The feedback from the judges and parents who observed indicates that our students are meeting that challenge.

FAREWELL DEAR FRIENDS

Three Tall Oaks faculty members will be retiring from teaching at the end of this school year. **Susan Vogelmann** will have served twelve years as a third grade teacher at Tall Oaks. Mrs. Vogelmann was the first stand-alone third grade teacher at Tall Oaks; prior to her arrival, there had been a combined third and fourth grade class. Mrs. Vogelmann will leave behind her a vast repertoire of learning songs set to snappy tunes that helped our students to love their learning! Mrs. Vogelmann looks forward to spending more time with her two granddaughters and being more involved with her church.

Debra Favuzza will also retire this year after serving for six years as our art teacher. Many have marveled at the beautiful artwork that Mrs. Favuzza has brought out of her students—even those who previously thought they had little artistic talent. Mrs. Favuzza looks forward to reading and spending more time with her grandchildren. She plans to stay involved with Tall Oaks and continue to stop by every Wednesday morning to pray for the school.

Louise Shaw will also retire this year. Mrs. Shaw came to us four years ago. She has served as our Athletic Director and taught physical education and science. Mrs. Shaw can be credited with building up the Tall Oaks athletic program from Acorn sports for our little ones to our Titan Varsity teams. Mrs. Shaw looks forward to spending more time with her children and grandchildren and helping in the care of her grandson who is expected to be born this summer with special medical needs.

We are grateful that God has blessed Tall Oaks with the lives of these three godly and faithful women. Each has left a lasting impact on our school. We pray that God will pour down His blessings upon them as they enter a new season of their lives.



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

On March 17, the Western Civilization II and U.S. History classes participated in an in-school National History Day competition. Students completed exhibits, websites, or paper projects on various historical topics related to this year's theme: "Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures and Compromises." Judges came from the Delaware Historical Society to evaluate student work.

Students studied the emergence and cultural effect of jazz music, military debate and diplomacy during the Peloponnesian War, the debate over civil rights and liberties in American society, and the debate over teaching evolution or intelligent design in public schools.

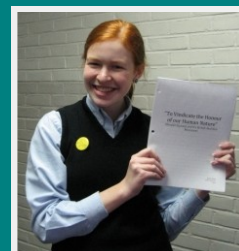
The purpose of the National History Day projects was to encourage students to understand the historical

significance of a particular event, person, or idea by researching primary sources, interpreting and analyzing a wide variety of such sources, developing a thesis, and presenting in a compelling and creative manner. This was a wonderful opportunity for Tall Oaks students to take basic facts (Grammar), relate logically (Dialectic), and express beautifully from a biblical worldview (Rhetoric).

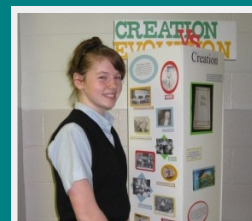
The following students went on to compete with several other schools in the Delaware state-wide National History Day competition on April 9: Audra Baumann, Ase Chioma, Sarah Chaffee, Abigail Pfenninger, Jaime Weber, and Valerie Ziegler.



Sarah Chaffee, Ase Chioma and Audra Baumann



Jaime Weber



Valerie Ziegler



Abigail Pfenninger

DAY OF SERVICE

On Friday, April 15th, the Tall Oaks student body fanned out throughout our community to engage in service projects as part of a lesson in stewardship and Christian service. Students, parents and faculty served sixteen community organizations with projects that ran the gamut from cleaning, yard work, and serving lunch to stuffing envelopes and care packages and interacting with elderly and disabled residents. "We were so blessed to be able to serve," said art teacher, Deb Favuzza.

In the days leading up to the Day of Service numerous drives were held to collect needed items for several of the organizations including 2,500 pounds of clothing, six barrels of shoes and many pounds of canned goods. The students received a tour of the facility at which they were serving and learned about the organization's purpose and goals.

Groups went to the following locations:

- Women's Day Center (Kindergarten and 1st grade)
- Glory Kids Ministry (Kindergarten)
- Forwood Manor (1st grade)
- Food Bank of Delaware (2nd grade)
- Blessings, Dressings and More (2nd and 11th grade)
- Sunday Breakfast Mission (3rd grade)
- Salvation Army (4th grade)
- Shoes 2 Share (4th grade)

- Clairvaux Farm (5th grade)
- Elkton Community Kitchen (6th grade)
- New Castle Senior Center (7th grade)
- Clothing Bank of Delaware (7th grade)
- Penn Farm (8th grade)
- Mary Campbell Center (9th grade)
- Emanuel Dining Room (10th grade)
- A Door of Hope (12th grade)

Feedback from the organizations has been overwhelmingly positive. "What a delight to see the next generation rise up to complete projects in such a mature, competent and light-hearted manner," wrote Carol Doherty from *A Door of Hope*. Sean Chandler from the *Mary Campbell Center* wrote, "We could not have asked for a better crew."

"If you could explore the world of the less fortunate, you would be amazed. We take all of our belongings for granted," said 7th grader Robert Sanders. "The reason we did this was not for the publicity, but to remind us that these people need our help."



David Walczak and Robert Sanders and friends



Adrian Baltar and friend



Julia Collins and friend

CLASS OF 2011



Emery Baumann has enjoyed his twelve years at Tall Oaks Classical School. Over the course of his career here, he has benefited from the numerous opportunities and experiences presented to him. Emery was involved with the basketball program as well as the Student Government in grades seven through nine. He served as President of the Student Government and co-captain of the varsity basketball team during twelfth grade.

Emery is an excellent guitar player and also plays the upright bass. He leads worship at Bethel Baptist Church and has a thriving lawn maintenance business. Emery hopes to minister at the Boardwalk Chapel in Wildwood, New Jersey this summer. He plans to attend The King's College in New York City in the fall majoring in Philosophy, Politics and Economics with a minor in Business.



Brian Davison came to Tall Oaks in the ninth grade. He enjoyed running cross-country in the eleventh and twelfth grades. Brian has also been on the basketball team since his freshman year. He was the team captain of both the cross-country and the basketball teams this year.

During the year, Brian has also worked in various positions at Sandy Cove Ministries and plans to attend Grove City College in the fall majoring in liberal arts. Brian attends Bible Fellowship of Newark and volunteers weekly as an Awana leader. In his spare time, Brian enjoys playing guitar and reading.



Shannon Groth began her studies at Tall Oaks in her junior year. She has enjoyed participating in the art and music programs as well as reading and discussing classical literature and theology.

Shannon tutors foreign students at Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Newark and is an assistant group leader in the youth group. She is also currently employed at Chick-fil-A and will work for Sandy Cove Ministries during the summer. Her future plans include attending the University of Delaware with a major in Languages, becoming involved with campus ministry and participating in the study abroad program.



Doha Jin came to the U.S. from the Republic of Korea. This is his first year at Tall Oaks Classical School. "This school is very suitable in that no one is left alone. At first, I hated the rules that I had to follow. However, I now realize that the rules help us to be more courteous, polite and respectful. I also learned about Jesus and how He loved me in that I am attending TOCS. I am applying to the University of Delaware as a Business major. After my college graduation, my plan is to go back to Korea and work in my father's business for a while. Then I am thinking that I will manage my father's business when I am twenty-five years old."



Karen Shaw came to Tall Oaks in her freshman year. She has participated in the Lady Titans varsity basketball team for four years and the Lady Titans varsity volleyball team for the past three years. She has served as co-captain for the basketball and volleyball teams during her junior and senior years and as class representative during her senior year. She has also been active in vocal ensemble and yearbook.

Karen attends Emmanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church and is very involved in youth group. She plans to attend the University of Delaware to study nursing.

CLASS OF 2011

Kelly Weber has attended Tall Oaks since Kindergarten. She has been involved in Drama, Yearbook, Ensemble and Student Government. Kelly attends Bible Fellowship Church of Newark where she is involved in youth activities. She was blessed to be a part of a missions trip to Bulgaria in 2009 and will be returning to Bulgaria again this summer for the 2011 missions trip.

Kelly has been dancing since she was four and has been studying at the Delaware Dance Company for the past six years. She will be attending Belhaven University in the fall majoring in Dance with possible studies in Business.



Juliann Welch began her academic career at Tall Oaks in her senior year. She has participated in both basketball and volleyball. Juliann is a member of First Baptist Church where she is involved in the youth group. She enjoys cooking and baking and will attend Delaware Technical and Community College in the fall to study Culinary Arts.



Nathan Williams has attended Tall Oaks since seventh grade. He has been on the basketball team since his freshman year and participated in the Running Club from eighth through tenth grades. Nate's other interests include music and he plays in the band, *The Static Reflex*, with a few other Tall Oaks graduates. They have done benefit concerts for organizations such as *Invisible Children*.

Nate also enjoys working at Abercrombie and Fitch and spending quality time with his family. He plans to attend the Rutgers University in the fall.



Jennifer Ziegler has attended Tall Oaks since the third grade. Throughout her years here, she has been involved in activities such as volleyball and basketball. In the tenth grade she was the Class Representative and has returned to Student Government this year as Secretary. She will be attending the University of Delaware (Honors Program) majoring in Accounting. Jenn also works at McDonald's and enjoys the beach.



CLASS OF 2011 – TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED (Over 4 Years)

Emery Bauman:	\$52,000 (The King's College)*
Brian Davison:	\$134,000 (Grove City College*, King's College, PBU and Geneva)
Shannon Groth:	\$64,000 (University of Delaware* and The King's College)
Karen Shaw:	\$8,000 (University of Delaware)*
Kelly Weber:	\$118,000 (Belhaven University* and Towson University) + \$1,000 Chrysostom Award + \$250 VFW
Juliann Welch:	Full Two-Year Scholarship (Delaware Technical and Community College)*
Nathan Williams:	\$48,000 (Florida A & M University and Rutgers University*)
Jennifer Ziegler:	\$220,000 (University of Delaware,* Philadelphia University, University of Scranton, The King's College)

*School student plans to attend.

THIRD QUARTER GRAMMAR HONOR ROLL

Grade 1			Grade 2			Grade 3		
Solomon	Abdullah	All A Honor Roll	Ruth	Praveen	All A Honor Roll	Erin	Babatunde	All A Honor Roll
Teni	Babatunde	All A Honor Roll	Margaret	Schneider	All A Honor Roll	Rose	Brown	All A Honor Roll
Janna	Baltar	All A Honor Roll	Lauren	Scott	All A Honor Roll	Caroline	Ho	All A Honor Roll
Victoria	Barnett	All A Honor Roll	Adaire	Stone	All A Honor Roll	Samuel	Hu	All A Honor Roll
Lydia	Brown	All A Honor Roll	Kierra	Thompson	All A Honor Roll	Nathan	Lu	All A Honor Roll
Justin	Byrd	All A Honor Roll				Rachel	Man	All A Honor Roll
Tyler	Crismon	All A Honor Roll	Dante	Brinkley	AB Honor Roll	Samuel	McGarvey	All A Honor Roll
Elliot	Dunham	All A Honor Roll	Zechariah	Carter	AB Honor Roll	Micah	Pitts	All A Honor Roll
Delaine	Gray	All A Honor Roll	Giovanni	Casagrande	AB Honor Roll	Aiden	Schmiedel	All A Honor Roll
Faith	Hollister	All A Honor Roll	Grant	Gray	AB Honor Roll	Zion	Weeks	All A Honor Roll
Aniya	McAfee	All A Honor Roll	Noah	Griffin	AB Honor Roll			
Kiersten	Mengel	All A Honor Roll	Dru	Johnson	AB Honor Roll	Cody	Brenneis	AB Honor Roll
Abi-Grace	Savizon	All A Honor Roll	Rebekah	Pozsonyi	AB Honor Roll	Jack	Hardcastle	AB Honor Roll
Joslyn	Spedden	All A Honor Roll	Treasure	Sikes	AB Honor Roll	Ja	Haygood	AB Honor Roll
Thomas	Stinson	All A Honor Roll	Razaq	Sola-Rufai	AB Honor Roll	Andrew	Monson	AB Honor Roll
Richard	Turley	All A Honor Roll	Evan	Weston	AB Honor Roll	Katie	Rhoades	AB Honor Roll
			Katherine	Winstead	AB Honor Roll	Katie	Rippon	AB Honor Roll
Maggie	Armstrong	AB Honor Roll				Marc	Sherman	AB Honor Roll
Colin	Jennings	AB Honor Roll				Ryan	Silver	AB Honor Roll
Samuel	Hardcastle	AB Honor Roll				Isaiah	Tucker	AB Honor Roll
Jake	Mercer	AB Honor Roll				Mariko	Turley	AB Honor Roll
Abigail	Pitts	AB Honor Roll				Mae	Willis	AB Honor Roll

Grade 4			Grade 5			Grade 6		
Adrian	Baltar	All A Honor Roll	Lezlie	Gray	All A Honor Roll	Lydia	Collins	All A Honor Roll
Annaleah	daPonte	All A Honor Roll	Hannah	Jo	All A Honor Roll	Sophia	Schmiedel	All A Honor Roll
Alexee	Gray	All A Honor Roll	Naomi	Mengel	All A Honor Roll	Victoria	Taylor	All A Honor Roll
Clarke	Johnson	All A Honor Roll	Ruby	Mercer	All A Honor Roll	Aaron	Weber	All A Honor Roll
Thomas	McGraw	All A Honor Roll				Badia	Weeks	All A Honor Roll
Joshua	Pozsonyi	All A Honor Roll	Trevor	Baines	AB Honor Roll			
Jaylen	Rowe	All A Honor Roll	Daniel	Donnelly	AB Honor Roll	Taylor	Henry	AB Honor Roll
			LaNaya	Garrett	AB Honor Roll	Jordan	Hunt	AB Honor Roll
Nise	Allen	AB Honor Roll	Hannah	McGarvey	AB Honor Roll	Emma	Mercer	AB Honor Roll
Spencer	Armstrong	AB Honor Roll	Natalie	Monson	AB Honor Roll	Benjamin	Schneider	AB Honor Roll
Aidan	Briggs	AB Honor Roll	Merissa	Price	AB Honor Roll	Dana	Sorey	AB Honor Roll
Jalynn	Brunson	AB Honor Roll	Anthony	Roundtree	AB Honor Roll	Kana	Turley	AB Honor Roll
Savannah	Horton	AB Honor Roll	Luke	Sherman	AB Honor Roll			
Jessica	Johnson	AB Honor Roll	Jessica	Silver	AB Honor Roll			
Jacob	Munson	AB Honor Roll	Josiah	Williams	AB Honor Roll			
Mikey	Riley	AB Honor Roll	Eric	Ziegler	AB Honor Roll			
Isaiah	Taylor	AB Honor Roll						

Congratulations to **Lydia Stinson** and **Kassiya Yaravoy** for competing at the **Del-Tech 16th Annual Science Expo!** Lydia placed 2nd in the Health category with her project entitled "Singing and Lung Capacity." Kassiya placed 3rd in the Health category with her project entitled "Will Caffeine Increase Heart Rate?"

THIRD QUARTER DIALECTIC HONOR ROLL

Grade 7

Gabriella	daPonte	Summa Cum Laude
Tabitha	Harvey	Summa Cum Laude
Samantha	Abdullah	Magna Cum Laude
Jazmine	Corley	Magna Cum Laude
Jarinat	Sola-Rufai	Magna Cum Laude
Joy	Brunson	Cum Laude
James	Donnelly	Cum Laude
Michaela	Kelly	Cum Laude

Grade 8

Amy	Armstrong	Summa Cum Laude
AnnaClaire	Schmiedel	Summa Cum Laude
Mary Esther	Winstead	Cum Laude

Join us for the
ASSOCIATION OF CLASSICAL AND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, GA
 June 16 - 18, 2011
 Register at: www.accsedu.org or call 208-882-6101

THIRD QUARTER RHETORIC HONOR ROLL

Grade 9

Hannah	Crismon	Summa Cum Laude
Christina	Mentzer	Summa Cum Laude
Sabrina	Myoda	Summa Cum Laude
Jaime	Weber	Summa Cum Laude
Valerie	Ziegler	Summa Cum Laude
Brendan	Donnelly	Magna Cum Laude
Sarah	Chaffee	Cum Laude
Joshua	Franck	Cum Laude
Abigail	Pfenninger	Cum Laude

Grade 10

Joshua	Brunson	Magna Cum Laude
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Grade 11

Phoebe	Hu	Summa Cum Laude
Kassiya	Yarovoy	Summa Cum Laude
Megan	Palmer	Magna Cum Laude
Lydia	Stinson	Magna Cum Laude

Grade 12

Shannon	Groth	Summa Cum Laude
Karen	Shaw	Summa Cum Laude
Kelly	Weber	Summa Cum Laude
Brian	Davison	Magna Cum Laude
Jennifer	Ziegler	Magna Cum Laude
Juliann	Welch	Cum Laude

Cum Laude = 3.5 - 3.69

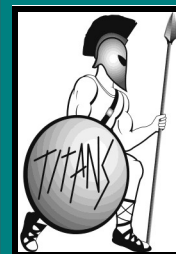
Magna Cum Laude = 3.7 - 3.99

Summa Cum Laude = 4.0

TALL OAKS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT SPRINGS FORWARD

The Athletic department added a new dimension to the sports line up this year with the addition of a spring competitive sport. Under the expertise of Matt Crismon, James Riley and Timothy Babtunde, nineteen girls began soccer practice in early March. Wearing brand new uniforms, the team took to the field for their first game against Elkton Christian Academy in

Elkton, MD. With only one minute remaining our team saw their one-goal lead evaporate and they went into double overtime. The game ended in a draw. It was a great beginning for a very young JV squad. The team currently has a one win, a tie and two losses. The season will finish up in early May.



TALL OAKS CLASSICAL SCHOOL

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May	11	7:50 - 9:00 am	Second Wednesday Tour
	12	2:15 pm	High Protocol
	16	8:15 am	Junior Thesis Presentations
	17	8:15 am	Senior Thesis Presentations
	20	7:00 pm	Spring Concert
	27	8:15 am	Field Day
		11:00 am	Awards Ceremony
	28	1:00 pm	Graduation
June	16 - 18		ACCS Conference, Atlanta GA
July	5 - 29	8:45 am-2:00 pm	Summer Classes
August	18	6:30 pm	Parent Orientation
	22	8:00 am	First Day of School

Stepping Into Glory

Janet Baumann's father, Mr. David Clyde Lewis, stepped into his glorious, heavenly home on March 26, 2011. We offer our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Ann Lewis and the Baumann family and ask you to keep them in your prayers as they walk through this deep valley of sorrow.

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
Matthew 25:21