

The Messenger

Washington Christian Academy
1820 Franwall Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20902
Tel: 301-649-1070, Fax: 301-649-9863
www.wca1.org

Taking Account

Another school year comes to a close, and this is a good time to take account of the year and thank God for His great blessings. Let's evaluate the progress made in the four goals we established for ourselves in September:

1) To experience an on-going growth in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to model this walk with integrity before each other, our students, and their families. How great and precious is this responsibility! The personal growth is an inward change, but we have seen many examples of resulting conduct that reflected Christ.

2) To further develop a passion for high standards throughout every area of the school. During the year we have conducted a major review of our academic program to evaluate exactly where we stand and what needs to be done for improvement. Attention is being given to those areas needing improvements, as well as to our facility needs.

3) To continue to develop high qualities of professionalism among administration, faculty, and staff. I am so thankful for the quality of these people whom God has entrusted with the awesome task of teaching and loving your students. I have appreciated their responsiveness and strong sense of responsibility before the Lord.

4) To further develop and build the strong base of community throughout the school. Frankly, this goal was the greatest interest to me. God ministered this year in a very significant way to bring healing and fresh vision and enthusiasm to the school community. Our fall Founders' Day Banquet reminded us of the tremendous heritage that is ours here at WCA. The Strategic Planning Committee has worked diligently on establishing a visionary plan for the future. The drive to establish a new campus at Chestnut Lodge energized our total school community to encourage us that with God, big goals are feasible. The spirit among Society members, parents, Board, administration, and faculty has been one of partnership in building God's kingdom.

And now we move energetically ahead this summer and next year to further develop these goals and add new ones as needed. Please join me in praising God for His blessings this year. It has been a joy to be a part of this community with you this year. Have a wonderful summer.

—Ron Whipple
Interim Headmaster

"On Taking the Gospel into the World"

Excerpts from Ken Myers' WCA commencement address on June 1, 2001. See the whole address in the Archives of WCA web site.

...rather than charge the class of 2001 to go out and change the world, I want to call them, along with the rest of us, to take more seriously the call of Jesus to love our neighbors, which may in fact be a more radical task than it first appears, especially in an age marked by radical individualism....

The gospel calls us *into* the world, not away from it, because the gospel is the good news of the Kingdom of God, the making of a people reconciled to God, and called to love and serve the King throughout His creation, not just in the sterile privacy of their hearts.

The good news of the Kingdom calls us away from worldliness, but simultaneously propels us into the ongoing life of human society in God's creation, where we are charged to imitate Christ's love to us; as Paul declares, without love, we are nothing and we gain nothing...Christ-like neighbor-love is the key to both our motives and our methods, but the vocations within which we show that love are incredibly diverse. As doctors or poets, as lawmakers or potters, as teachers and farmers, journalists and soldiers, merchants and microbiologists and meteorologists: in all of these callings, God can be glorified and our neighbors can be loved.

All too often, conservative Christians regard their occupations simply as opportunities for evangelism. But taking the gospel into the world doesn't just mean taking the *message* of the gospel, it must mean taking the *dynamic* of the gospel as well. The good news of the Kingdom of God comes with power as well as truth; we are called not simply to *announce* the gospel of the Kingdom, but to *participate* in the coming of the Kingdom, to serve the King and to enact His ways in all that we do....

The Christian message is about a God who lovingly made all things, who declared them good, and then, out of love for the world He had made, took on flesh, entered history to make atonement on our behalf, to undo the effects of our sin, so that we might enjoy abundant life, now and in the new heavens and the new earth to come.

— continued on next page

Graduation of Class '01

WCA held its graduation ceremony on June 1 at Wallace Presbyterian Church in Hyattsville. Ken Myers of *Mars Hill Audio* addressed the audience and our two graduates with a challenge to live out their faith and exemplify the love of Christ to all (see above). Michael Hollis and Katiana Adrien are a credit to WCA. These two graduates constitute our last “small” class, and as such, were especially honored by us all, by the faculty’s appearance in their academic regalia, with the performance of our Upper School chorus, the cheering of fellow students, and the warm reception that followed. We send them off to college with our love and prayers. Katiana will be studying at Richmond, the American University in London, and Michael at Hampden-Sydney College.



Our graduates, Michael Hollis and Katiana Adrien

ON TAKING THE GOSPEL... – *continued from first page*

Biblical Christianity is not a religion that hates the world of space and time; rather it says that God *made* space and time and all that is *in* space and time, placed *us* in it, and then entered it himself to redeem us and restore His creation. The Church thus carries a message of salvation within a story about creation, within a story about the origin and nature of the world....

The message of salvation as it’s usually told, properly focuses on the cross and on the empty tomb....When God becomes Man in Jesus Christ, and when the God-Man is resurrected on the third day, we can see that our salvation is not away from our humanity, but a restoration of our humanity, and this has cosmic consequences that should affect our view of work in the world.

The main point I want to leave with our graduates, and with their parents, teachers, and friends, is not that they have the possibility of changing the world, nor that the world is a hopeless place because of the shadow of sin. Rather, I want to remind all of you that *the world has already been decisively changed* because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that your lives, in college and beyond, should reflect that decisive difference. The source of hope that we all have is not that the class of 2001 or any other class will be smarter, more dedicated, and harder working so as to change the world. The source of hope is that God so loved the world that Jesus came to redeem us and to liberate the *whole creation* from its bondage to decay....

Christians who take the reality of sin and the necessity of grace seriously are always in danger of over-spiritualizing the gospel, that is, of believing that Christianity is a purely inward affair, that the gospel is about personal salvation and piety, but not about how we

live and work, buy and sell, eat and drink, make laws and write books. Christianity is, in this view, a recipe for happiness and eternal life, but has little to do with the shape of *this* life. If we believe that, it’s easy to be content to live in the Christian ghetto....to go to work so that we can eat, tithe, and commit the occasional act of evangelism, but the calling we have is purely spiritual. That may be an attractive form of religion, but it is not Biblical Christianity...I’m afraid this is quite common, and quite tragic. It is a form of having faith without works. To separate Christian conviction from academic life may appear quite pious, but it is, in fact, a form of worldliness. After all, the most cynical secularists are quite eager to see Christians confine their faith to the home and the church.

We are obliged to love God with all our minds, and I would suggest that the love of our neighbor also requires significant mental effort. For the lives of our neighbors are shaped in no small measure by numerous social and cultural institutions, and those institutions, from government to the media, to the arts, to education and beyond, are all influenced by ideas. And increasingly, the ideas that dominate these institutions are hostile to Christian belief, not just Christian belief about sin and salvation, but Christian belief about meaning and human nature, about history and love and the goodness of Creation. So it is more imperative than ever that Christians commit themselves to a deeper understanding of the significance of Christian truth in all areas of life....

Contrary to what many of the inspirational orators in other commencement addresses might claim, you are unlikely to change the world, but you can commit yourself to love your neighbor in many diverse and creative ways (and if enough believers did that, the world would begin to look different)....

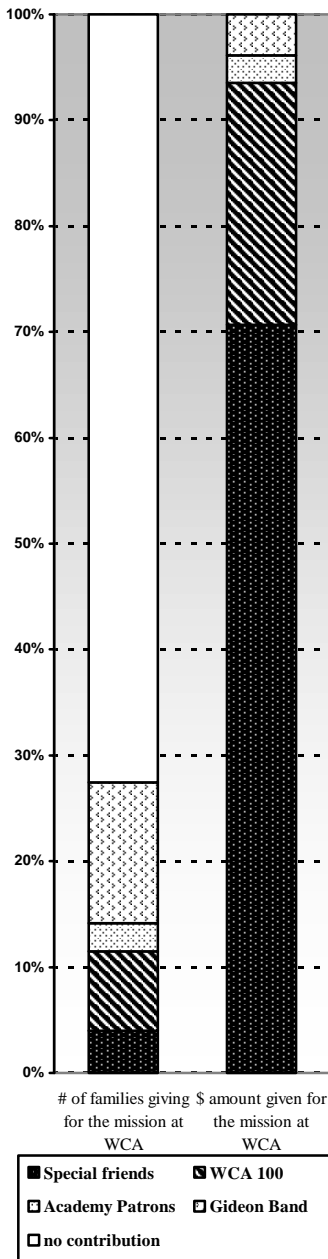
WCA as a Mission/Carrying Each Other's Burden

A parent who normally donates \$5,000-\$12,000 each year spoke to me after seeing the chart in the February Messenger detailing percentages of parents who donate to the school. "Why," asked this donor, "do so few parents direct part of their charitable giving to an institution which must be of enormous significance to their families?," and listed the pressing reasons why all WCA families should contribute.

I would like to pass on those reasons, as you see listed below.

But I want to add this. One of the delightful surprises that awaited me as I began to work in development at WCA was the discovery that giving patterns don't reflect lifestyles as much as you might expect. My first year, I expected that all upper-level donors would be found living in large, beautifully decorated homes and driving shiny cars. I know better now—and I love this about our community. The same economic variety that characterizes our larger community characterizes our donor community. Large sums are often contributed by people who obviously live on a small budget but make a priority of cultivating generosity in their families. Don't imagine that the following comments are made by someone "richer than you."

—Robin Gropp
Director of Advancement



In addition to the above \$133,271 donated by WCA families, another \$101,984 was given this school year by over 120 people who do not have children at WCA

♥ We give to Christian mission in order to teach and disciple people to obey God, whether these people are the children of the next generation or people of faraway places. We are to do the latter without neglecting the former.

♥ We want to support missions that prepare the hearts of the next generation in our own country if we are concerned about the problems of the youth around us.

♥ Tuition covers the education of our own children. We pay for it because we obviously feel it is important for our children to be taught and disciplined. Are we willing to make the same to be possible for other children as well by contributing to the school?

♥ We are to consider contributions to WCA also to help those children to receive Christian education who have special needs, whose parents would by no means be able to carry that financial burden by themselves. Are we carrying each other's burden, or do we refer these special needs children to the governmental schools to educate? The Board is taking seriously the commitment to educate *all* covenant children, but lack of sufficient funds is preventing our school from doing so.

♥ Overall excellence reflects on the excellence of the Lord we serve. Providing for the enhancements of the school outside of education per se, such as the school building, a gym, computer lab, landscaping, etc., serves God's glory. It's not serving His glory to have a "Christian" school in a dilapidated building with leaking roofs.

♥ Our giving (tithe and gifts) should reflect how we feel about these issues. We should not have a "no contribution" space in the column at left; that is, all school families should contribute, even if only a few dollars a year, if they truly believe in Christian education.

Thanks for a Decade of Giving



Dr. David Kramer, after teaching at our high school for ten years, is retiring. He came to teach at SSCA (later WCA) after he retired from his engineering carrier, in order to continue serving the Lord with his talents. He taught math, calculus, differential equations, physics, and computer programming at our school. He himself was part of computer language development, so he had a lot to offer to our students, who valued greatly not only Dr. Kramer's great knowledge and ability to teach, but also his godly,

humble, and gentle ways. He has formed the backbone of our math and science program for these many years and has continually raised the bar for students year after year, drawing out of them gifts they didn't know they possessed. Our students have found themselves far ahead of their classmates as they have gone on to college. Dr. Kramer's service to the school will not be forgotten. We thank him, and ask God's continued blessings on him and on his family.

—Jan Adams
Upper School Principal

Model United Nations

WCA started to participate in Model UN five years ago when a group of frazzled freshmen from George Washington University came to our school to convince equally frazzled seventh and eight graders to attend their conference. That first conference turned out quite well: we won a few awards, learned something, and had a good time. Since then, our team has grown to seventeen people, Lainey Holiday, Michael Hollis, and myself were named Best Delegates (the highest honor one can receive) on several occasions, and we received several honorable mentions. I also was elected the Chairman of the Security Affairs Committee of Model Arab League.

Now, what is Model UN? As the title implies, it is a simulation of the real United Nations. Students either pick or are assigned a country and committee which deals with real world issues. For example, most recently I was able to present myself as Bill Clinton at the Middle East Peace Summit. Other students have had the opportunity to deal with the AIDS epidemic in Africa, land mines in former war zones, slavery in Africa, and other vital issues currently in debate at the real UN, issues which will shape our future. Delegates, as the students are referred to at the conference, must argue the issues from their country's position, and come to a solution that is in line with their country's policy. Participating in these conferences helps one develop a broader view of the world, an ability to argue one's position with clarity and effectiveness, and an understanding of the position of other nations.

—*Avinesh De Silva*
Junior



Model Arab League

In April, a group of WCA students had another opportunity to take on the role of formal representatives at a National Model Arab League (MAL) conference held at Georgetown University. Hosted by the National Council on US-Arab Relations, it is analogous to the Model UN conferences in the areas of parliamentary procedure, committee meetings, and the practice of diplomacy. However, the issues are specific to the Middle East region, such as the future of Jerusalem, enhancement of the international image of Arabs, and repercussions of "technological revolutions" in Arab security. As MAL only consists of 22 countries, the committees are smaller and each of the delegates has an increased importance to act in their country's best interest. With two WCA students in each of the five committees, this year's Model Arab League conference lived up to any political aspiration or desire to improve the world, one problem at a time.

—*Lainey Holiday*
Junior



Studying in our state-of-the-art computer lab

Changing of the Guard

On May 14, the school Society held its annual spring meeting and elected three members to the Board of Directors. Two of these individuals, Andrew Warren and Mark Steimer, are new to the Board, while the third, Sterling Mehring, is a veteran.

Andy and his wife Sharon have three children, came to WCA two years ago, and are members of Derwood Bible Church. Andy is a vice president with Winchester Homes, and brings to the Board practical experience with building and developing that will be helpful as we continue to explore facility options.

Mark and his wife Kathy also have three children, have also been at the WCA for two years now, and are members of Fourth Presbyterian Church. Mark is a public relations consultant.

Sterling and his wife Connie currently have two daughters in WCA, and their son Richard graduated in '98. They are also members of Fourth Presbyterian. Sterling is a realtor, and is a theological seminary graduate. He has served on the Board for 6 years in various roles, including Board president.

We also want to acknowledge and say thank you to those who are leaving the Board this year: Yvonne Hollis, Zoltan Korossy, and Sid Menkis. Yvonne and Sid have served on the Board for the past four years, while Zoltan is ending an amazing 16 year-long period of service to the Boards of WCA and SSCA (before the merger with WCA). This is truly an example of going "above and beyond" the call of duty. We thank them for their many years of voluntary and tireless service to WCA, and we thank God for the blessing that they have been – and know that they will continue to be – to our community and to our children. Please pass along your personal thanks to these individuals the next time you see them.

—*Howard Bushouse*
Board President

Read! Read! Read!

"More and more Americans who can read are choosing not to" according to a recent headline in the Washington Post, Style section. Realizing instantly that there was probably a lot of truth in that statement, I plunged into the story. It featured an interview with a graduate student who claims to "skip around" in his assigned reading, and says that he would not read at all if it were not for school. Citing examples from executives who subscribe to book summaries to children who "know Sim Cities better than *A Tale of Two Cities*," the writer demonstrates that people who are what he calls "aliterate" may be the rule rather than the exception these days.

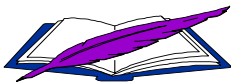
In case we fail to see the danger in this, he quotes Mark Twain:

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them."

Linton Weeks, writer of the May 14, 2001, article also interviewed several experts in the area of books and reading, including Daniel Boorstin, American historian and former Librarian of Congress, and Jim Trelease, author of *The Read-Aloud Handbook*. These and other experts indicated that the love of reading has to be established in childhood.

We desire to foster a love of reading in the students of Washington Christian Academy. For this year's summer reading program, rather than a list of children's books, I will be sending some suggestions to help families find books that they can enjoy together aloud. Look for it with the report cards!

—Nancy Keegan
Librarian



Thanks from the Lindens

This letter is from Julie, Derek, Lara & Karl Linden on the account of Julie's recent double surgery.

Our family would like to express a heartfelt thank you for each and every prayer, meal, card, phone call, visit, and ride home. We are deeply touched by everyone's kindness, warmth, encouragement, and sacrificial giving of themselves.

Previously, the Lord had always blessed us to be on the giving end of life. This was the first time in our immediate family when He blessed us to be on the receiving end. And how much we have learned!! From this hardship we will be better equipped in ministering to others. Having truly walked in "these shoes," it is our hope and prayer that the Lord will bring out every goodness and blessing from this situation for His glory. I've been holding on to Romans 8:28 since my diagnosis, and I have been seeing it to be true. May God bless each and every WCA family.



Do you Know the Right People?

Washington Christian Academy has the following positions available. We trust that God will direct His choice of people to us to fill these vacant positions, and if you know someone who might be interested, please call the office. All applicants must have a commitment to reformed theology in addition to the specific requirements of the particular position they seek.

Office Manager/Registrar – responsibilities include managing the school's main office, maintaining student records, maintaining computer database, administrative duties for Headmaster, greeting visitors, providing information about school to current and potential families. Need to have organizational skills, administrative experience, and clear oral and written communication skills.

Administrative Assistant to Upper School Principal – responsibilities include preparing report cards and transcripts, coordinating Upper School activities, and ordering textbooks and supplies. Administrative experience and organizational skills necessary.

Teaching Positions:

Lower School Physical Education

Upper School Science and Math

Upper School English

Raising Children

Please mark your calendars now for a very special seminar which will be sponsored by Washington Christian Academy in the fall of 2001. On October 13 (7-9:30pm) and October 14 (9am-12:30pm), WCA will offer the "Shepherding a Child's Heart" seminar by Dr. Ted Tripp, author of the book by the same title.

The seminar will be held at the Church of the Atonement in Silver Spring to allow the participation of interested people from other schools and churches as well. It will cost only \$10.00 per person, which amount will cover registration, materials, and light snacks.

Dr. Tripp is a nationally known presenter at Christian school conferences and churches throughout the country. Due to the high demand for Dr. Tripp's seminars, this seminar was booked more than two years in advance and he will not be able to consent to another seminar in our geographical area for at least three more years following this one.

This is a unique opportunity to gain wisdom and insight in Christian parenting of children from infancy through adolescence. Do not miss this opportunity! Put the dates on your fall calendars!

—Carol Parent
Lower School Principal

From Here and There

Our students at WCA are blessed with the opportunity to participate in a great variety of academic, cultural and sport activities within and outside of the school. You may view a selection of these **student activities** in the Archives of our website, and praise God for His rich provision.

Our newest publication, the yearly *AlumNews*, brings information from and about our alumni, as well as news of recent Upper School events. It is sent out to our high school alumni (SSCA or WCA), but you may request a copy from the office if you are interested in hearing about this very special group. It will stir your heart for thanksgiving.

Many school families enjoyed the Shakespeare Theatre's "free-for-all" **King Lear** production at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre. Nancy Keegan organized the event to be a fellowship among WCA families.

Last year, the WCA high school started the tradition of having a **boat cruise** at the end of the year to celebrate the past year and send the seniors off in style. This year's boat cruise aboard the Spirit of Washington proved to be a grand time for all.

The Board invited the **faculty to a picnic** of fellowship and good food in the pleasant surroundings of the backyard of one of the Board members.

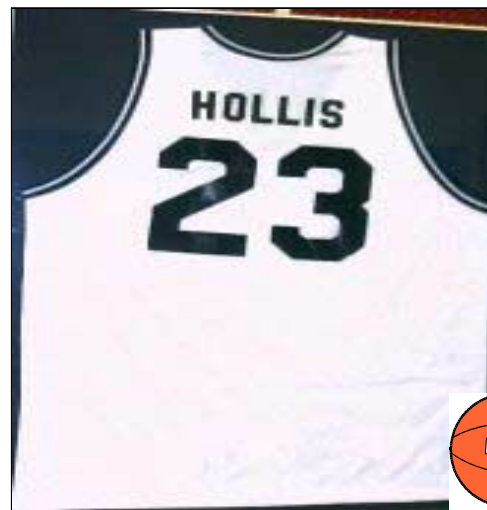
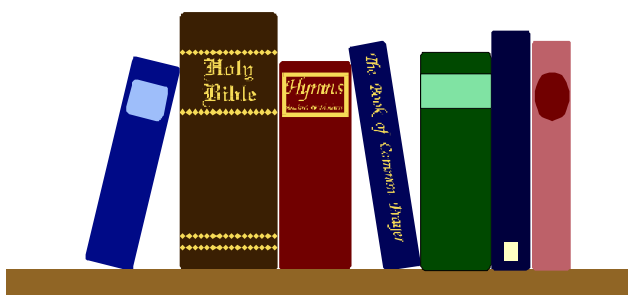
Mrs. Brown's fourth graders studied the physics of **bubbles** ("bubble-ology") with delightful experiments in class and at home.

Help for our Library

Many thanks to the countless people who have donated used books this past year. Some of the books will be added to our library collection either in the lower or upper school, as appropriate. Others will be passed on to classroom libraries or our extended care program.

Also thanks to the Carrillo girls, who donated some of their stuffed animals for our picture book corner. If your family members have outgrown some toys that represent favorite book characters, the WCA library is happy to provide a new home for them. Returning students can look forward to identifying new additions in the fall!

—Nancy Keegan



Michael Hollis's basketball jersey now graces our school's hallway to inspire other students to a similar pursuit of godliness he exhibited

The imaginative **dioramas of Dante's Inferno**, prepared by students of Mrs. Dullnig's World Literature class, were on display again in the library for the delight of other students and parents alike.

On June 6, a number of WCA high school students, teachers, and parents were privileged to attend a **lecture by Phillip E. Johnson** at Capital Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church. Mr. Johnson, whose books and lectures attempt to engage scientists in public debate to show that scientific evidence points to intelligent design rather than evolution as the origin of life. His well-known books include "Darwin on Trial", and his newest, "The Wedge of Truth."

Help reach our goal for the Academy Fund Drive; just \$29,000 more needed by July 31.

To Ponder

Contrary to the predictions of early 20th century social scientists, Christian churches continue to grow. Faith in Jesus Christ is still regarded by millions of people as an important part of their lives. The Church is still a powerful source of hope and meaning for many people. But while basic belief may still be held by millions, the consequences of that belief are not being lived out as they should be. People still have *faith*, but I am not sure that many of them are struggling hard enough to be *faithful*. (emphases original)

—from Ken Myers' recent letter to Mars Hill Audio listeners

Coram Deo