

The Messenger

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LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

WCA parents and friends gathered again this year to celebrate the heritage and mission of the school. The Friends of the School Banquet was held on Oct. 20 at the Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church. Excerpts from the inspiring lecture by David Hicks follow:

“On Thursday evenings I teach a Bible class at a local prison holding roughly two thousand inmates... Usually I am assigned Cell Block T-2. Twenty-three men of mixed races and ages live there in a large, windowless room with concrete walls. Twenty-one of them profess to be Christians....

What’s wrong with this picture? Why are so many of our Christian brothers in prison?....

Before describing this link, I’d like to remind you of a powerful idea both the pagans and the Christians of the ancient world shared. This is the idea that the mind is a *micro-cosmos*, a microcosm of the universe. We live out of our minds, and we carry in our heads a picture of the world we live in. This picture is the “virtual reality” each of us mistakes for the world....

Now, the influence of the world and the mind runs both ways. The world ultimately reflects the minds of those who inhabit it....At the same time, our minds mirror the world we inhabit....we recognize that education, or as the Greeks would have called it, *paideia*, is all around us. It is unavoidable. We swim in it. It is nothing less than the world. The world will leak into the mind no matter how tightly we strive to seal ourselves off from it.

In Genesis, God intentionally leaves his magnificent act of creation incomplete, as He commands and empowers us to complete His creation with the words, “Be fruitful and increase, fill the earth and subdue it.” (Genesis 1:28) He gave this command, of course, in the context of human innocence and natural perfection. The context changed dramatically after Adam and Eve sinned, and it was inevitable that the human mind – corrupted by disobedience – would botch the job of completing creation. This set up a vicious cycle that runs throughout human history.

We are not only the creators of our botched world; we are its victims as well. To understand why so many

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Alumna Author

Rhonda Roorda, who attended WCS in the 1970's and early 1980's, recently published a book, *In Their Own Voices, Transracial Adoptees Tell Their Stories*, co-authored with Rita James Simon.

The heart of the book is two dozens in-depth interviews, most of which were conducted by Ms. Roorda. The notable exception is her own story, written by her co-author, a professor at American University. Rhonda was adopted as a baby by Ted and Marge Roorda, and attended Washington Christian School with her two white siblings, older brother Christopher "Duffy," and younger sister, Jean.

A scholarly work, *In Their Own Voices* has received critical acclaim as well as testimonials by adoptees who report they have been helped in their own struggle for identity by reading this book. They also urge any parents planning to adopt transracially to read this book first! Their stories are not simplified or sugar-coated, and some of them reveal unhappy circumstances. The reader is challenged to think about some hard issues.

Ms. Roorda is married and lives in Lansing, Michigan, where she works for a non-profit educational advocacy organization.

—Nancy Keegan
Librarian



Our students served at the Friends of the School Banquet, adding to the pleasant atmosphere of the evening by their willing help and ready smiles

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

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Christian men and women are in prison, why so many children raised in Christian homes are rebelling against their parents, why so many Christian marriages are ending in divorce, and why so many Christians are mired in depression, perversion, addiction, materialism, and other forms of sinful self-absorption, one has only to consider the influence of the world on the mind and, what is as important, the failure of the Christian mind to influence the world. Christians in America live in a society committed to expelling God from the world.

...Whether our students are prepared to enter college, whether they can read and spell and add and subtract, whether they can throw a football or play a clarinet – these are all secondary; none is essential. What is essential is that their minds (as well as their souls) be redeemed....

Dallas Willard [in *The Divine Conspiracy*] argues that Christ came to make *students*, which is a far different thing from the modern quest for “converts.” A student, or as this term is sometimes translated, a disciple, is someone with a mind that thinks from the perspective of the kingdom of the heavens, and with a will committed to act on the conclusions drawn from this thinking. As John the Theologian wrote in his Gospels, “If you dwell on my word, you are really my students. And you will know the truth, and the truth will liberate you” (John 8:31-31).

“We will fill our (minds) with the written Gospels,” Willard writes. “We will devote our attention to these teachings, in private study and inquiry as well as public instruction. And, negatively, we will refuse to devote our mental space and energy to fruitless, even stupefying and degrading stuff that constantly clamors for our attention. We will attend to it only enough to avoid it”....

To be a *student* of Christ required a discipline of thought and action that started with the worldview described in Christ’s parables about the kingdom of the heavens. This discipline went on to sanction certain ways of thinking and desiring, and to condemn others. These sanctions produced the rich code of Christian ethics, a typical example of which is the Rule of St. Benedict. In his Rule, for example, Benedict encourages monks to compete with one another in showing what he called “good zeal.” Be the first to put yourself second. This is what competition means in a life and in a world redeemed by Christ. If you would enter His kingdom, then you must live by its rules....

—David V. Hicks

President of Darlington School, Rome, GA



Spotlight on Opera

What do Puccini’s *La Boheme*, Verdi’s *Falstaff*, and Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman* have in common? These are the three operas studied in depth by the four seniors and two sophomores who comprised our two teams of Opera Quiz Kids this year. For weeks, the students (Hannah Adams, Susanna Brockman, Robyn Franks, BJ Henley, Julius Maina, and Beth Mehring) studied the characters, plots, and composer’s lives, and passed around CDs and videos for each opera.

Then on November 17, the two teams were joined by their sponsors, music teacher Vicki Fanara and myself, at the Washington Opera’s brand new studio in Takoma Park to compete against teams from eight other area schools, answering written, aural (listen and identify) and oral (essay style) questions. Our students became more knowledgeable and more interested in operas.

The whole WCA community also had the chance to attend an opera, *Of Mice and Men*, at the Kennedy Center, thanks to generous funding by the Washington Opera. God indeed opens ways for us to become better prepared to serve Him in this society, by these culturally enriching opportunities.

—Nancy Keegan
Librarian

Support WCA While You Shop!

You can help WCA to provide superior Christian education every time you buy groceries, or order from your favorite companies. It’s very easy, and there is no extra cost to you.

www.iGive.com is an internet shopping site that exist to support non-profit organizations. Hundreds of merchants, including amazon.com, Best Buy, Land’s End, Buy.com, L.L. Bean, JC Penny, Old Navy, Toys-R-Us, Gap, domestications.com, 1-800-flowers, etc., donate a percentage (up to 25%!) of your normal purchase price to the organization you select. WCA is listed there. So, shop on-line!

Safeway and Giant stores support schools by giving 5% of each purchase price to the school selected by the customer. Sign up WCA for this benefit at the stores, or on their web sites.

Many, many thanks to Pat Bushouse, Banquet Coordinator; Jane Butcher, Décor Chief; Vicki Fanara, music director; Mabel Sawhill, chef; many parent helpers; the students who provided great music to heighten the festive mood; and our student/waiters, dressed to kill in black and white. It was the efforts of all these people that made the WCA banquet elegant and wonderful.

What the world needs now is . . . Christian leaders.

We've been training devoted Christian leaders and servants almost as long as the people of God have been supporting us. We still need you—more than ever! And the world needs our graduates—more than ever. It hasn't gotten cheaper to provide a first-quality education. Your gifts have kept us abreast of technology and met our facility needs on Franwall Avenue. And now they are positioning us to plan for the future with the confidence that God will provide for the children of his covenant.

Include WCA in your tax-deductible year-end giving.

2001-2002 WCA Academy Fund

2001 HOLIDAY BAZAAR



“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). This was certainly true during the planning of the Holiday Bazaar, and we give thanks first and foremost to our Lord and Savior for His guidance and blessing.

I would like to thank all the families, faculty, and staff for their time and many contributions to the success of the Holiday Bazaar. The Lord provided beautiful weather, good food, fun, and, most of all, great fellowship on this special WCA day.

Special thanks to Rosalie Blackwell, Peppy Brown, Marcia DeYoung, Marion Robinson, Sherry Kuik, Becky Groves, and Cassie Vendt who, once again, allowed us to use their classrooms, not knowing in what condition they would find them on Monday. Thanks to the following people, without whom the day could not have happened:

Marsha Kuester (Attic Treasures)
Nancy Keegan & Ayanna Carter (Book Fair)
Melinda Cavin (Crafters Room)
Tammy Prestipino & Deecee Ahlers (Children's Crafts)
Jeanette Gray (Gingerbread Houses)
Natalie Gazo (Decorations)
Marcie Gaskins (Beverage Table)
Lavonne & Mark Johnston, Ray Colie (Bake Sale)
Linda Olthoff, Colleen & Steve Lynott (Lunch)
Kitty Robinson (Signs)
Sue McCotter & Pam Opeka (Cotton Candy)
Irene Ritsema & Pat Bushouse
Karen Jordan
B.J. Henley, Bruce Woo, & Mark Johnston
Brian & Betty Vander Haak
Frank Phillips & Benita Slye
Joe Fera (Chuckles the Clown)

—Pam Garren
PTF Coordinator

Young children come to the WCA Holiday Bazaar, parents in tow, to enjoy the moon bounce, face painting, crafts, Chuckles the Clown, and other delights. But the Bazaar also draws the older students, parents, and many old-time friends and founders. We talked to some of these dear friends about their thoughts on this event:

Mentey Slager (school parent starting in 1960)

When I was president of the Auxiliary I had to organize the bazaar every year. I still have the dress I used to wear—blue print with lace and puffed sleeves. We had a decorating committee that worked beforehand to make the halls and tables beautiful. Why do I still come? Not for the olie bollen! I come for the fellowship and to buy good stuff.

Nell Van Dyken (WCS teacher 1962-64; also school parent)

Every year we tell each other, “You’ve got to come and see everybody!” I still have lovely quilted Christmas tree ornaments with Washington Christian School and the year on them. The ladies from the churches used to get together and make them for the bazaar.

Betty De Haas (school parent starting in 1960)

Of course I still come to meet with friends. And Nell told me I had to come. We used to get together with the other ladies to make almond banket for the bazaar.

Eloise Mange (school parent starting in 1960)

I’ve been to almost every single school bazaar. I come for the olie bollen and the chocolate apples, to look at the crafts, and to see friends. I bought a beautiful pine cone wreath here about ten years ago, and it still hangs on my wall.

Marge Dick (WCS teacher/staff 1970—1999)

I first came to a WCA bazaar in 1964. I remember the room where the kids made presents for their parents in secret and wrapped them.

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Margaret Bossenga (school parent starting in 1960) I've been coming since we started in the early 60's, and enjoy the fellowship.

Tina Robison (WCS secretary while Bill George was principal) I didn't start coming until 1986, but I've been here every year since. I remember the workshops before the bazaar where parents, grandparents, and friends made wreaths and ornaments. We used to bring sewing machines to one place and make aprons to sell.

President Bush, Afghan Children, and WCA

WCA's Cadette Troop 5114 was invited by the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital to a meeting with President Bush. The President had invited several children's organizations to meet with him at the National Headquarters of the Red Cross to recognize their participation in providing dollars for America's Fund for Afghan Children. Four girls from WCA joined thirty other girl scouts in representing the Girl Scouts of America. What an exciting opportunity for WCA's newly formed Cadette Troop! Kayte Dzime-Assison, Abby Parker, Amanda Taney, and Kamille Turner had the rare privilege of standing with the President in this effort to help the children of Afghanistan.

The whole student body of WCA also participated in the President's campaign. They were encouraged to perform various tasks at home to earn the money they wanted to donate.

-Priscilla Parker
Parent



President Bush expresses his appreciation to children groups, including WCA students, for their contribution to America's Fund for Afghan Children



From Here and There

Reformation Sunday. Following tradition, our high school students participated in the Reformation Day service of the local churches at Wallace Presbyterian Church, and hosted the reception after the service with finger foods, juice, and homemade cookies.

SAT/PSAT. Our 10th-12th graders took the PSAT/SAT in October. In addition to our strong academic preparation, they also participate in a mandatory course on SAT preparation. As a result, our SAT scores for the last ten years average 1259, which is higher than the national and the Montgomery County average, and this year we again have two students, Susanna Brockman and Danny Keegan, named as Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program, and Hannah Adams as a Commended Scholar in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

German classes participated in the annual German-American Day at Western Maryland College to learn more about the German culture and history.

Drama Club. Mrs. Amanda Westly has begun training the WCA high school students in the dramatic arts.

Support our **Yearbook** by placing your advertisement or message into the 2001-2002 volume.

WCA's Fall Sport Awards Program was held at the Church of Atonement to award our best athletes and share some desserts and fellowship.

French class is raising money with bake sales throughout the year to finance their end-of-the-year trip to Quebec.

7th-8th grades' traditional retreat to Cape Henlopen was "fun" and a time of social bonding between students and teachers. The theme was "Taking directions from God."

3rd graders read over 100 books so that Carnival Books would donate 100 books to needy children in our area.

Visit Mrs. Brown's 4th grade class to admire the **roller coasters** they have built to facilitate their study of potential and kinetic energy.

The Indians (our Kindergarteners) and the Pilgrims (1st graders) celebrated the traditional **Thanksgiving Feast**. It was wonderful.

Recent fieldtrips and visits. Kindergarten went to Brookside Nature Center and Rockhill Orchard; 1st grade to Claude Moore Colonial Farm; 2nd grade to the Baltimore Aquarium; 4th grade to the Audubon Naturalist center; 5th grade to Kennedy Center.

Praise and prayer. Luke Johnston is in remission from, and Sharon Low (Sara's 3 year old sister) just starting treatments for leukemia. Continue to support and pray for the Bernards, who lost their mother (Kristen is in 7th grade).

SOCIETY MEETING

In a beloved hymn, we repeatedly sing, "Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided." While we didn't sing that hymn at the fall meeting of our Washington Christian School Society, it certainly would have been appropriate, for God's faithfulness was powerfully evident in countless ways in reports given at the meeting.

God continues to provide an overall stable enrollment and growth, even though our lower school enrollment was somewhat less than expected. It was challenging for the administration to recruit new teachers, but God again has provided our school with a wonderfully dedicated Christian staff and administration. In His time, God has also provided us with an outstanding candidate to serve as our new headmaster, who is now prayerfully considering whether God is calling him to our school. As we are nearly "bursting at the seams" at our current campus on Franwall Avenue, God continues to lead us to potential sites for a new building for WCA. God has greatly stabilized our school's financial status over the past few years, and now He's moving members of our school community to implement a capital campaign to support what we hope will be a new site and facility for our school.

While our school continues to pursue the vision God gave it over forty years ago, He is helping us to advance that vision into the future with the Strategic Plan. Indeed, great is God's faithfulness, in no small part through the continued prayerful support of our Washington Christian Academy community, alumni, and friends. *—Doug Bratt
Society Board member*

"Shepherding a Child's Heart"

Dr. Tripp conducted an extremely enlightening and practical seminar on raising children. He challenged us all to evaluate our expectations in respect to discipline. Dr. Tripp provided sound scriptural doctrine as he discussed the term "behaviorism." We are prone to adjust our attitudes, values, and principles to accommodate the intense obstacles life often presents. However, as Christians, we should benefit from Scripture's ability to impact the heart, not only the behavior. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

Dr. Tripp encouraged WCA parents and teachers to deposit the word of God into the hearts of their children, to facilitate a change in the heart (core) of the students. Behaviorism might be effective in changing surface behavior, but discipline can be truly "profitable" if the heart is changed by the Word of God. *—David A. McGlone
Teacher*



New Open House schedule

Do you have friends who may be interested in sending their children to WCA? If so, make sure they know about our monthly Open Houses (the next one is on Jan. 11). Families can come tour the school, talk to administrators and students, and receive application materials.

We have already begun to accept applications for the 2002-2003 school year, and are especially interested in applicants for lower grades. Word of mouth is by far the best way for new families to learn about WCA, so help us spread the word!

*—Karen Frank
Director of Admissions*

Christian Ethics in Science

As a Christian interested in science, I was privileged to attend a presentation to the high school students on the subject of ethics by Hessel Bouma III, Ph.D., Professor of Biology at Calvin College, on October 5. Dr. Bouma introduced three theories of ethics (Natural Law, the Utilitarian Theory, and the Deontological Theory) and outlined three principles that guide ethical decisions (the principle of autonomy, the principle of utility, and the principle of justice).

Dr. Bouma discussed a number of areas in science where ethics must be considered. These include animal and human experimentation, environmental issues, AIDS, euthanasia, the use of technology, biological warfare, and embryonic stem cell research. He challenged the students to consistent, logical reasoning on each issue, asking many thought-provoking questions to guide their thinking, rather than just providing his own opinions.

On the topic of embryonic stem cell research, Dr. Bouma challenged the in vitro fertilization practice of creating more embryos than needed for implantation. Some groups would like to use these "leftover" embryos for embryonic stem cell research. Dr. Bouma acknowledged that President Bush's August 9, 2001, decision was a good compromise to allow federally funded research only on the sixty or so stem cell lines existing at that time. He cautioned, however, that the decision is only a means of buying time; if the research on these cell lines is successful, the lobby for the creation of a broader genetic diversity of cell lines will be even stronger.

WCA is indeed fortunate to have opportunities such as Dr. Bouma's talk to challenge students to Reformed thinking in all the issues facing our increasingly complex society. The topic of ethics from a Christian perspective can be further researched at the web site of the American Scientific Affiliation at www.asa3.org *—Kaylene Kenyon
Parent*

Learning Through Sports



While academics continues to be the priority, WCA is also working to develop the physical capabilities of our students. Since we are to prepare them to take their place in society, the sports program offers an avenue of experience and learning that complements the classroom setting. The athletes commit to one-two hours a day of training for at least nine weeks. They work together to achieve a common goal in which an individual's ability is not for bringing glory to himself, but victory to the team. It is an opportunity for those who are not gifted academically to be recognized by their classmates for a different type of a gift. Such mutual respect promotes school unity and spirit. This school unity was evident in the cooperation of the cross-country and soccer teams: several cross-country runners volunteered to help out on soccer game days, and some soccer players ran at cross-country meets to allow both teams to compete effectively.

As some schools in our league are not Christian, we have an opportunity to model Christ before them in our interactions by being gracious in winning as well as in losing, by respecting the authority of the referees, by showing good sportsmanship on and off the field/court/course. We all know that this is challenging at times, but it is also developing character and self-control.

Not having the good athletic resources that other schools have, the athletic department is challenged to arrange for the facilities necessary for our teams to practice and play. Our new athletic director, Coach Wade Simons, has done an outstanding job this year making these arrangements. For example, in the past, we had to share the field adjacent to our school with Good Counsel. This year, we only had to compete with our own teams for field time! We were able to have consistent times and places for our practices with very few schedule changes, and this will pay off in an overall improvement of our sports program.

Although our win/loss record may not show marked improvement yet, we are maturing as a school and as teams. Since the teams this year have participants from 6th through 12th grades, a form of cohesion is taking place where all teammates, regardless of grade level, are beginning to interact, support, and encourage one another. The care with which the athletes treat each other is noticeable. And while each team will be losing at least one senior, our underclassmen are preparing to step in and "play on."

Check out our web site for the large variety of sports God blessed us with, and for the schedule of games. Please, come and cheer for our teams, even if you do not have a participating child.

—Natalie Gazo
Parent

Corrections. In the September issue (Volume 4, Number 1) Marilyn *Hoobler* wrote the article on PTF, and Danny Keegan, *Senior*, wrote the article, "9/11, The Day of Infamy". *Mea culpa.* —the Editor

High School Retreat 2001

Nearly 100 students and faculty headed down to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, on November 6 for the traditional high school retreat. Some were unsure what to expect, and others were anxious to see how God will work during those three days.

One of the main goals was to get the students and faculty to spend some time together away from school to build stronger relationships by providing the students with a different perspective on the teachers. The faculty also wanted to provide an opportunity for the high school students to build new relationships with classmates they didn't already know. Most importantly, the teachers desired and prayed that the retreat would prompt students to gain a new zeal for what it means to live as Christian teenagers in the world today. So much of our youth's attention these days is focused on evangelizing or reading Tim Lahaye novels on the end times, but there is very little time spent trying to discern how to live faithfully as a Christian in our contemporary society.

Kevin Smith, Pastor at Mt. Zion Covenant Church in Bowie, Maryland, was our speaker. He spoke twice during the retreat, and truly touched the hearts and minds of the participants. He focused on the text from Luke 12:35-48.

The teachers were encouraged by the discussions that took place in small groups following Pastor's Smith's talks. Many students returned home with a different understanding of the expectations God has for them as covenant children, and with a desire to apply to their lives many of the points discussed in the talk.

—George Sanker
High School Theology Teacher

To Ponder

"As Christians, it is our mission to manifest in our works and in our words the Lord's Kingdom, in whatever time and place we find ourselves."

—David V. Hicks



"..grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

—John 1:17b

Have a blessed
Christmas!