

The Messenger

Washington Christian Academy

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REFLECTIONS Larry Danner, Headmaster

Called by God

When I read the book of Ecclesiastes, it is as if I am reading the pointed comments of an astute contemporary cultural critic. "All is vanity and striving after wind" is not just the key refrain of the book; it is the tagline of our age. This is a culture that has made the pursuit of the trivial its life's ambition. It is a culture reflected by its members' most common practice: watching television; that is to say, the practice where viewers spend their days watching people they do not know pretending to be people who do not exist in places that are not real doing things that do not matter. That may be the ultimate definition of the trivial.

It is a culture without taste or discernment. Music, art, clothing, literature, and social habits, to say nothing of truth, have all suffered under the god of Personal Preference. What passes for music is frequently nothing more than a digitally mastered putrid sore oozing its pus of violence, wantonness, vulgarity, and crudeness over the air waves. Under the guise of art and literature, pornography and propaganda are sanctioned. The current state of dress, or undress, speaks volumes about the gap between intelligence and style. Young women wear low-cut tops that reveal things only their husbands, physicians, or morticians should see, yet act outraged when they are gawked at, hit on, or whistled at like dogs. Young men dress like refugees wearing third generation hand-me-downs from a distant sibling who was two feet taller and a hundred pounds heavier, yet are puzzled when they are not taken seriously in a job interview. The basest form of social misconduct and poor manners becomes sanctified as long as they are baptized in humor. In a culture that believes in no ultimate truth, people can have no real convictions, only desires. Without convictions, they are gullible, lured and persuaded by the sounds of words whose meanings they do not even know. With their tastes destroyed by the sheer glut of cultural garbage they have consumed, they are satisfied with a diet of the detestable and disgusting. They cannot distinguish the good, the true, and the beautiful from the gross, the trite, and the barbarous.

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Welcome New Teachers and Staff

We are grateful to our Lord for sending the right people at the right time to our school to achieve His great work in the lives of our children. Even while we excitedly look toward having our own school building, we are blessed with the expansion of our excellent teaching staff. In addition, we restructured the organization of WCA to further improve the curriculum, the teacher-development, and the scope and quality of support services for students and families; maintain our spiritual priorities; and increase our operational proficiency. To this end, three divisions were created: institutional operations, institutional advancement, and educational services; each headed and supervised by a vice-president of that department. **Bill Zimmerman** became the Senior Master and Vice-President of Educational Services, responsible for our instructional performance and programs.

Patrick Abbott, Pre-algebra (part-time) Mr. Abbott earned his B.S. in Physics from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and his M.S. in Physics from Penn State University. He works as a Physicist at the National Institute

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A group of our High School students are playing foosball as part of teambuilding competitive games during their retreat in September at Skycroft Center.

of Standards and Technology (NIST). Mr. Abbott also coordinated the school's math tutoring program during the summer of 2006.

Shannon Carter, MS English/History Mrs. Carter earned her B.S. in Elementary Education from Crichton College and her M.Ed. in Education from Union University. During the past five years she has taught 6th grade English/Literature at Evangelical Christian School in Memphis, TN, where she was also the MS track and cheerleading coach.

Shian Chang, Math (7th grade)/Pre-algebra/Algebra I/MS Computer Mrs. Chang earned her B.S. in Applied Mathematics from Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taiwan and her M.S. in Computer Science from Rutgers University. She taught previously at Forcey Christian Middle School in Silver Spring.

Tracey Cleveland, LS Music Mrs. Cleveland earned her B.S. in Business Administration from Drexel University and her M.A. in Christian Counseling from Faith Bible College and Seminary. In addition to teaching, she is also sharing the position of Lower School Receptionist with Mrs. Warren.

Jason Garvey, MS Physical Education/US Fitness for Life Mr. Garvey earned his B.S. in Youth Ministry and Bible from Reformed Bible College. He is also assisting in various operational projects at the school.

Mildred Guzman, US Spanish Ms. Guzman earned her B.A. in Political Sciences and her M.A. in Public Administration. She grew up in the Dominican Republic, where her parents founded the country's first Christian school. She has successfully taught Spanish to students of varying ages and ability.

Steve Marusich, LS Physical Education/US Fitness for Life Mr. Marusich earned his B.A. in English from Auburn University, and his M.Div. from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America, and currently a MTW missionary raising support to go to England in the summer of 2007.

David Carter, Athletic Director/Bible Mr. Carter was born and raised in Nigeria, where his parents served as Medical Missionaries. He graduated from Crichton College in Memphis with triple majors in Philosophy, Bible, and Literature. He was the assistant football coach and the head soccer coach for 6 years at Evangelical Christian School (1400+ students), where he also taught Old Testament. Their teams were very successful; many of their athletes have been recognized as scholar-athletes and recruited to play at Division I and II colleges. He was nominated Coach of the Year for Division II (which is the highest division of soccer in TN).

David Hawes, Vice President of Institutional Operations Mr. Hawes earned his B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering from MIT. He was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force upon graduation, and worked at the White House and the Pentagon at various technology management and support positions. After retiring from the military in 1998, he became a Program Manager for Integrated Data Systems, an IT government contractor, until 2005, when he joined WCA.

David McGlone, Dean of Student and Family Services Mr. McGlone graduated with a B.S. degree in Business Administration from St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA, where he also played basketball at the NCAA Division II level. Since 1998, he's directed sports camps, taught, coached, and intensely worked with youth throughout the region, including serving with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and as the Physical Education Teacher and Assistant to the Athletic Director at WCA from 1998-2004. His coaching experience includes soccer, cross-country, and basketball.

LaToya Walker, Capital Campaign Director Ms. Walker graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1996 with a B.S. in Sociology, and received her M.A. from Regent University in 2002. She traveled with youth evangelism groups while at the Hampton Master's Commission, taught at CW Harris Elementary School in Washington, DC and at Cornerstone Community School, served as an administrative consultant with the Whitaker Group under the former US Trade Representative to Africa, served on the Board of Directors and as principal at Cornerstone, and worked as a program specialist with the LEA Federal Grants Office in the DC Public Schools.

—Wendy Meadows
Assistant to the Headmaster



2nd grader Joshua Welch, Kirsten Tildon, and Abigail Leon are preparing mobiles on Japan.

Raising the Standard

One of the first things to strike an observer watching the approach of the ancient Roman army would have been a number of tall poles rising high above the ranks of the marching soldiers. These staffs, adorned with various emblems and banners, were the army's standards. Each division of the Roman army—centuries, cohorts, and legions—had its own standard that served as a rallying point in battle, a reflection of the unit's achievements, and a symbol of the unit's cohesion. As such, the standard was a source of pride and inspiration, embodying those things the unit held most dear. To lose your standard in battle was considered a great disgrace, since it involved more than a military defeat—it signified the loss of a way of life as well.

Schools have standards, too, and while they are not carried onto athletic fields or into student assemblies, they do embody the qualities with which a school seeks

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From the Board

Over the past several months, the WCA Board has focused on a broad spectrum of significant priorities. At the annual Board retreat on August 17-18, the Board conducted a major review of its policy manual, testing and evaluating individual policies to be sure they are appropriate to existing conditions and to the anticipated future growth of the school. We also set the Board calendar for the year and established the



Recently, three long-time friends reunited to share fond memories of our school over a meal. Julie Bosma had 4 of her 8 children at WCS in 1962, when she introduced banquet, the wonderful almond pastry, to the Bazaar. Hilda Van Dyke, WCS parent in the school's first year, is now a grandparent of current WCA students. Adriana Bouma, one of the school's founders, was the moving force behind this reunion.

Washington Christian Academy's annual

Friends of the School Banquet

*Friday, October 20, at 6:30pm
Indian Spring Country Club
13501 Layhill Road*

*...to gather with friends around a good meal
...to celebrate the grace and blessings of God in the
lives of His people
...to enlist in a cause that makes a difference in the
world and for God's kingdom*

*Join us!
Call the school for reservations*

institutional priorities for 2006-2007. Those priorities provide direction to the administration as they carry out the work of the school and collaborate with the Board in fulfilling the mission of WCA. We also began clarifying those policies that help define why we exist as an institution and guide the work of the school over the long-term (so-called "ends policies").

Earlier in the summer, the Board conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the headmaster, Larry Danner. The Executive Committee reviewed that evaluation with Mr. Danner and conveyed the pleasure of the Board at the positive relationship that exists between the Board and the headmaster, and with the advances the school has made.

The Board has also continued its work on the Capital Campaign, the design and approvals of the new campus, and the bond financing for the first phase of the new campus. The Capital Campaign will have its public kick-off at the Friends of the School banquet, and will continue throughout the school year until May, 2007. The design work on the new campus is now largely complete, and we are in heated pursuit of all the final approvals and permits necessary to commence construction. The bond financing initiative is moving swiftly, with numerous meetings throughout the fall and a conclusion anticipated in early December. A successful Capital Campaign and bond financing are the final pieces of the puzzle that will allow construction of the new campus, a truly remarkable moment in the history of the school.

The new campus will open up avenues of opportunity to influence the community for the cause of Christ that will be greater than anything we could have imagined just a few years ago. It is our privilege to serve Christ and you in this endeavor. Please pray that God will continue to go before us as we seek to honor Him at Washington Christian Academy.

—Andy Warren
WCA Board President

That is not the life we have been called to live. We have been called to something better. We have been called to live a holy life. In 2 Timothy 1, Paul asserts that we “have been saved and called to a holy life, not because of anything we have done, but because of His own purpose and grace.”

What does it mean to live a “holy” life? The word “holy” means “to separate, to set apart, to mark off.” It is the opposite of common or profane. We are called to live a different kind of life, a life different from the world, an uncommon life. Jesus gives us a glimpse of what that uncommon life looks like in the Sermon on the Mount. It is a life where we love our enemies, reach out to those different from ourselves, give the extra dollar, turn the other cheek, and go the second mile. Far from being a passive life, it is a life intentionally given to the pursuit of virtue.

That is the life we have been called to live and that is the life we are to call our children to live. Writing to the Thessalonians, Paul reminded them that he had dealt with them as a father, encouraging, comforting, and urging them “to live lives worthy of God,” who had called them into His kingdom and glory. Righteousness comes from God alone, but virtue comes by obediently cultivating the habits of the spiritual disciplines.

That is what we desire for our students. We are calling them to think loftier thoughts, speak better words, love right things, take stronger stands, reach higher standards, aspire to greater dreams, live worthy lives spent in the pursuit of worthy ends. We are calling them to live an uncommon life.



Morning Glories by Hanna Mines, 6th grade.
A 24"x32" watercolor painting after Georgia O'Keeffe.
(Enjoy it in full color in the *Messenger* on the WCA website).

WCA Sport News

In my first year as Athletic Director at WCA, I have already met many incredible student athletes, coaches, and parents. I appreciate the desire of each of these groups to work together to continue growing a program that has been advancing steadily over the last ten years. As we look to the present, we can be grateful for where God has taken us thus far. As we look to the future, we are optimistic about where God is leading. As an institution, all of us are constantly working to create a culture of excellence for the Lord at WCA, and the Athletic Department has an important contribution to make in creating that culture.

To that end, our vision for the WCA athletic program is that it be a mastery-oriented program. We are working to build a climate that is focused on effort, where learning and developing strong fundamentals are stressed, and which fosters a conscious desire to honor the game God has given us. This is a difficult task in a culture that looks solely to the scoreboard to determine the effectiveness of a program. At WCA, winning is a desired result, but it is never the primary result desired.

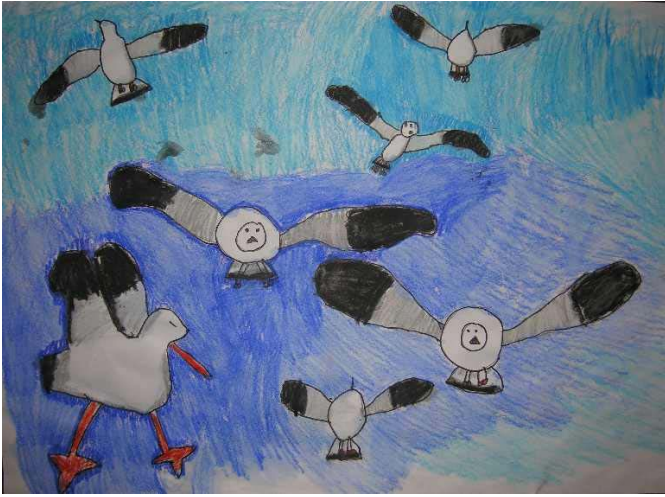
This fall, there are new faces mixed in with the familiar faces of years past. Our two new volleyball coaches, Chris Channer and Jessica Zeller, continue building the program. For the first time, we have a JV Volleyball team, an important step in the building process toward having a consistency in our programs that reflects what is happening in our classrooms.

The Middle School soccer program has blossomed under the leadership of Eldred Abbey. You see the results of this work as you watch the level of understanding and play the Middle School team has achieved.

The coaches of the Varsity squads are faces that have been around for years. The Varsity Boys coach is Clarence Carter, who has been involved with the soccer program for over 6 years. The program has grown under his leadership, and is coming off of an incredible 2005 season ending with a league championship. Coach Carter has been able to draw out more athletes to participate in the soccer program this year than in any of the years past. Getting more students involved with the program is an important step in the continual growth of our soccer program.

The Girls Varsity soccer coach is Zack Koutsandreas, who has been the assistant coach for the previous three years and is now the head coach. He started off with an incredible pre-season that has led to a very productive season. The girls look strong in our league, and they are working toward a shot at the league championship this year.

—David Carter
Athletic Director



Sea gulls, by Joshua Welch, 2nd grade. A study of the concept of near and far (depth), creating the illusion of deep space on a flat surface.

RAISING THE STANDARD —Continued from page 3

to inculcate its students. A school's standards call the students to a way of life, reflecting a set of values that define them and distinguish them from students elsewhere. To lose them is to lose a defining element of the school culture.

In recent months, you have seen the words “reverent,” “adventurous,” and “academically serious” attending our school's name and appearing on school communications and on our website. In important ways, these words serve as our school's standards, reflecting important qualities to which we would call our students and which define and distinguish them. What do these words mean, and how are they expressed in the life of our school?

Reverent is an attitude that carries with it feelings of respect, love, and awe. At WCA, students are called to demonstrate such an attitude above all toward God and the things of God. A proper reverence will characterize behavior at chapel, during morning devotions, and at the reading of God's Word. When spiritual matters are handled, it will be with a sense of reverence for that which God calls holy.

Such an attitude will carry over to God's gifts to us as well. We call our students to a proper regard for knowledge and virtue, for acts of kindness and courage and service, for good literature, good art, and good music. In a word, we would have them reverence excellence wherever it is found—in academics, in the arts, in athletics—knowing such reverence is a precondition of achievement. We will not pursue wholeheartedly what we do not reverence.

Rightly understood, the call to adventure will be as much a part of a Christian school's standard as the call to reverence. At Washington Christian Academy, to be **adventurous** is to vigorously pursue the things to which God calls us in Christ. It is a positive embracing of “the good, the true, and the beautiful” in all areas of our lives around the school. This standard is a lofty one, for it

involves much more than just avoiding bad behavior—it calls our students to actively demonstrate exemplary behavior. It challenges them to move from the passivity of the merely inoffensive to the active and enthusiastic practice of real virtue. Christians throughout the ages who have embarked on such a life bear ample witness to the adventure attending it.

A standard more specific to the school environment is our call for students to be **academically serious**. Not all students can be academically outstanding, but all students *can* be academically serious. The standard here is one of purposefulness, what someone has called “the conscience of craft.” It means we give our best effort to the work at hand, recognizing we glorify God by attending to the things of the mind with diligence and conscientiousness. In a world that incessantly calls young people to amusement and trivialities, this standard reminds our students that there is a time for work as well as a time for play, and that our integrity is at stake when we give less than our best.

The Reformed tradition of education encourages the pursuit of excellence in all things for the glory of God, honoring Him with our hearts and with our minds. By calling our students to reverence, adventurous living, and seriousness in their academic pursuits, Washington Christian Academy is raising up a standard that defines our school and calls our students to a way of life that will truly allow them to “occupy their places worthily in society, church, and state.”

—Bill Zimmerman
Senior Master/Vice-President of Educational Services

An Invitation to the Bazaar

Mentey Slager, one of the founding members of the school Society, wrote this request for all of us to attend this wonderful WCA tradition that started in the early years of the school (WCS).

It's that time of the year again. No, not time to reset your time pieces (fall - back). Well, that too, but I'm thinking of a rather timeless tradition. It is Washington Christian Academy's Bazaar Time.

It's not too early to mark your calendars and plan to attend our Bazaar and participate in the fun, fellowship, food, and fund-raising (not necessarily in that order)!

Meeting new and old friends, young or older, at this annual “blast” is an important part of this annual event. The hard work of so many contributors and volunteers has made our past bazaars very successful and of significant importance to the support of WCA. Let's do it again! See you there!

Who: All friends of WCA

Where: Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church
(1501 Arcola Ave.)

When: Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10am to 2pm

What: Baked goods, Crafts, Attic Treasures, Game-room, Kids' Crafts, Pony Rides, Lunch

From *Here* and *There*

Our **theme** this year is the **Character of Christ**. Every month of the school year, we focus on a different aspect of it (love, self-control, pursuing wisdom, humility, mercy, contentment, submission, faithfulness, and righteousness). We encourage students to infuse their friendships, communities, school and family life with these virtues.

9th-12th grades had their **annual retreat** on September 18 at the Skycroft Center in Middletown, MD, a day filled with team-building activities, fun, fellowship, and spiritual enrichment centering on “the love of Christ” (WCA’s theme in September). 7th and 8th graders will meet for a retreat at the same place on October 18. Their theme will be “self-control.”

WCA King’s Players plan to perform again at the Olney Playhouse on March 23 and 24.

Lower School **History Night**, with participation of K-5th grades, is scheduled for March 9 at 7pm.

Lower School visited the Montgomery County **Recycling Center**. It helped the students better understand our responsibility to take good care of God’s creation.

As part of the Core Knowledge curriculum, every class **memorizes poems**, in addition to their Scripture memorization. The poems are integrated with the students’ studies on various subjects. First graders learn a new poem every week, while older students focus more on expression. 5th graders turned recital time into a joyful time with tea, or hot chocolate, or donuts, etc.

A new way of learning **spelling words**: Lower School now uses the highly respected and integrated language arts program Open Court, which draws the list of spelling words from the book the class is reading.

Current 3rd graders continue last year’s tradition of **collecting pennies** toward our new school building while strengthening certain math concepts. Last year’s class collected 131,000 pennies toward their goal of a million. Some students continue saving pennies. All friends are welcome to add to the collection of pennies and to the excitement of the children, even if they don’t have a 3rd grader, even if they don’t have any children at WCA!

4th graders help some **missions** every year with their work and earned money. Previous classes bought a lamb for a World Vision family, contributed to relief work, sent Teddy Bears to Russia and stuffed animals to Children’s Hospital, gathered baby items for a Crisis Pregnancy Center, etc. This month, they are collecting school supplies and black shoes (requirement for attending school) for the children in a poor Venezuelan village.

Middle School Band Concert on November 30.

Fall Society Meeting will be held on October 30, at 7:30pm, at Colesville Baptist Church (Lower School

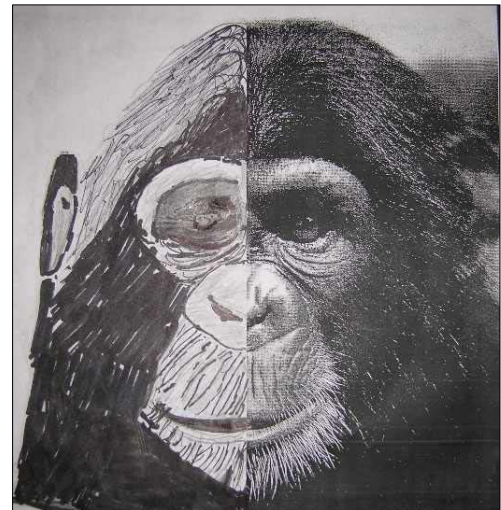
campus). Come to fellowship and to hear Mr. Danner’s state-of-the-school address.

WCA is in need of **part-time bus drivers** to transport children for our morning and afternoon trips between campuses, and to take them to and from athletic events and field trips. WCA will provide training and pay the costs associated with getting a bus license.

WCA families gathered for an afternoon of fellowship and **picnicking at Lake Needwood** on September 30. The PTF will reward the 4th, 6th, and 12th grades with an ice-cream party for their highest attendance.

The father of Cindy Danner, our 3rd grade teacher, went to glory on September 4. We share in Cindy’s comfort and thankfulness for her father’s faith and long and useful life.

We praise God for graciously and miraculously returning to health the **mother of Anna and Robert Newton** (3rd and 4th grade).



Monkey, by Rebecca Pankratz, 4th grade. A photograph of a half face was completed by drawing, keeping symmetry and matching the values (degrees of lights and darks) and textures.

To Ponder

Every thinking man, when he thinks, realizes that the teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally impossible for us to figure ourselves what that life would be if these standards were removed. We would lose almost all the standards by which we now judge both public and private morals; all the standards which we, with more or less resolution, strive to raise ourselves.

—Theodore Roosevelt

Coram Deo

What is your only comfort in life, and in death?

That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

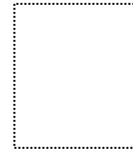
Heidelberg Catechism, First Question and Answer

The Messenger

Washington Christian Academy

PO Box 9847

Silver Spring, MD 20916



WASHINGTON

reverent, adventurous

CHRISTIAN

academically serious

ACADEMY

in the historic Reformed tradition