

# Hickory Christian Academy

# THE SHIELD

“Celebrating 14 years of excellence in Classical Christian Education”

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*For by grace you have been saved through faith;  
and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.*

-Eph. 2:8

Dear HCA Family,

We often go through life taking relationships for granted. There is no doubt that most of us have gone through times of depression or despondency, when we believed that no one cared about us, only to find that there was a whole circle of friends who had never ceased to love us and to pray for us. Many times I have thought that I had ruined a relationship with someone, and that I needed to repair it by “doing” something. But, when I “did” something, I found that the person I was making up with did not share my belief that anything was wrong in the first place.

This aspect of our human nature has caused confusion for thousands of years. When Jesus died on the cross on Calvary, He never required us to “do” anything in return. The blood sacrifice of His perfect body was the eternal payment for our sin debt. All that is required of you and I is to accept this free gift called GRACE. This is a concept that was greatly emphasized on our high school retreat a few weeks ago, because we tend to continue to believe that there must be something more to salvation. Surely, there are words or actions that will earn my place in eternity. It can't be as simple as receiving a free gift of grace, can it?

We are often confused, because the world just does not work this way. I would bet that few of us have ever owed a large financial debt that

someone decided to step in and pay for us. I doubt that many of us have done something deserving of punishment, only to have someone else step in and take our punishment instead. Picture this: You are pulled over by the police for speeding, when the next car stops unexpectedly. The driver steps out and tells the officer that he would like to pay your fine and take all the points onto his own license and insurance. The officer looks at you, and says, “Fine with me, as long as someone pays. Do you accept this offer?” Who deserves the ticket? You do! Who wouldn't accept this offer? On the surface, it seems obvious that you would take the deal, but in reality, you probably would be skeptical. You probably would not believe that it could be that easy. There must be a catch, right?

This is how we often view salvation. I know that I am a sinner. There is no question about that. But I have a hard time believing that God could just erase the penalty for that sin (which is death, according to scripture) without a catch. I mean, don't I have to accomplish a list of tasks, perform a certain amount of community service, or at least stop sinning? People have a hard time understanding God's grace, because human nature and worldly social interaction just do not work that way.

Before we beat ourselves up too much for our ignorance of scripture, understand that this is an issue that intelligent people have struggled with for centuries. The church itself fell into this trap for hundreds of years in the middle ages. There was a belief (from the hierarchy) that there were certain tasks that each person must perform if they had any hope of getting to heaven. In addition, the church taught that you could even improve the eternal

condition of past loved ones by paying “indulgences”. These monetary payments went directly to the pockets of the Pope, bishops, etc., as well as into the fund to build elaborate buildings for these men to live in, and to preach in back in Rome. The deception was that the only way to truly be in God’s favor was to sacrifice financially. The greater the sacrifice, the greater your standing in the eyes of God.

Enter Martin Luther, a German priest. By himself, Luther took on these misnomers about God’s view of humanity. His source of information was God’s Word itself. In 1517, few people could read their own language, let alone the Latin of the Bible. They were left to the interpretation of men who struggled against the temptations of their own flesh. Luther was highly educated, and took scripture at face value. If God said it, it must be true! So, through his own study of scripture, Luther determined that the church itself was in sin. He found that God does not require anything of us for salvation. God’s free gift of grace was for everyone who believed. On October 31, 1517, Luther summarized his objections to the established church doctrine in the form of 95 Theses. He nailed this document to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther’s purpose was not to separate from the established Roman Catholic Church. He just wanted the church to follow the Word of God.

However, his actions produced a firestorm of controversy in all of Europe that eventually resulted in the Protestant Reformation. All of a sudden, there were significant numbers of people who believed that they could know God personally, and could read His Word without the approval of the established church. They also believed that God had sent His only Son to die in their place, as payment for their sin debt. There were no magic words or set agendas to accomplish salvation. It was simply “Justification by Faith in Christ alone”. In other words, we have complete access to God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. There is nothing we can add or take away. We just have to believe that He did it, and accept His gift of unconditional love. The church did split, and the world was never the same.

Being a people who take scripture at face value, we believe that Luther’s assessment of salvation is true, and we freely share that view with students and parents at HCA. As a celebration of this truth, we hold our annual Reformation Day events each

October 31. This is a fun day, with fun events, surrounding a profound truth: *Jesus loves me. This I know, for the Bible tells me so.* It’s not about anything I have done, it’s all about what He has done. It’s not about who I am, it’s all about Who He is. If we can somehow get a grip on this, we will all see that there is good reason to celebrate!

As a body of believers, I invite you to join us for this year’s Reformation Day Celebration. After doing the same stuff for a decade, we are revamping the activities with the hope of building a whole new list of tradition. In order to make this year’s event a success, we need help. If you are able to help us decorate, or organize events, please give us a call. Many hands make light work, and after all, what is a more worthy cause to promote before our children than the free gift of God’s grace?

As always, I count it a privilege to work with each of your families on a daily basis. If there are ever any needs you may have, please feel free to give me a call.



Can you imagine?...How overwhelming is it to sit down at your computer to start your work day and see a big picture of yourself? And, how frightening to go to the front door of your workplace to open car doors for precious children and come upon a giant picture of yourself stating your new age? Also, you’re watching friends coming in to work and you notice they are all wearing black (in your honor, they say). That was the beginning of a wonderful day at HCA for me on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

The rest of my day was filled with warm wishes. I got lots and lots of wonderful hugs and surprises. I heard the song “Happy Birthday” many times...even in Spanish. Also, “Happy Birthday” played on the recorder is really special. I felt so incredibly loved and appreciated. I wanted to say a special thank you to everyone for all the birthday blessings. I was so overwhelmed, I couldn’t even begin to write all of the thank you notes I needed to

write to thank everyone. So, I decided to let this thank you be my October Newsletter article. I wanted to reassure you that you are blessed to have your children mentored and taught by the people God has called to work at HCA. I'm not one to enjoy attention being lavished on them, but God taught me again on September 18<sup>th</sup> that it is not about me. Even with attention turned my way, it was about Him. His provision for my life, His witness in my life and the privilege to be with His people on a daily basis is plenty to be celebrated. I learned that with each year it is not about age, it is about growing closer to the Lord. I have had 50 years to become Christ-like in my behavior and I'm not even close. So, I hope He gives me many more years to keep trying.

I was reminded this week of a statement I used to make to my children when questioned about how others seemed to have lots of wealth and we didn't. I always told them that we are rich in the things that count...knowing the Lord, loving others and being loved. In an immature Christian mind, wealth and riches are all about the "stuff". In a mature Christian mind, wealth and riches are counted in a much different way and should be stored up in heaven, not on this earth. I wanted each of you to know that I feel very blessed because I know you and I love you. You make my life rich! Thank you for loving me...even though I'm old.

Paul said it best in Ephesians 3: 8 – 10 *"To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places."*

In Him,

Connie Peeler

<p><b>Box Tops for Education and Tyson Project A+ News</b></p>
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### **"Trash into Cash" Fundraising News:**

You guys are really pulling out all the stops with the Box Top submissions—especially the Bonus sheets from General Mills/Target! We collected a whopping **3,096** Box Tops in September, of which 1,107 were on Target sheets. So our total earnings were **\$420.30** in just this one month. You may continue to turn in the Target sheets until October 25. Our prize winners for September are Angela Moore, Avreigh Becton, and Courtney Howard. Also, Mrs. Fox's Kindergarten class wins the traveling trophy for this month, with 463 Box Tops turned in for the month. Congratulations! We also collected **21** more Tyson Project A+ labels and **168** milk caps.

In other great news, we have already had nearly 50 people link **Food Lion** MVP cards to HCA, so we can begin earning through that program starting October 1! We've had 58 people link their **Harris Teeter** VIC cards to HCA so far (school #3230), compared with 92 last year. You must re-link for this program each school year, and you can do so at any Harris Teeter checkout. Check the bottom of your receipt to verify that HCA is earning from your purchases. Ask friends, neighbors and family members (even those in other cities) to link to HCA also. And we have 23 people using **Target** RedCard or Target Visa's to earn money for HCA too, compared to 47 last year. You may apply for and designate HCA to earn from your Target purchases online via the Take Charge of Education link on Target's website, or at the store. This linking need only be done once. Feel free to contact Jill DeVries at 495-7896 or mjdevries@charter.net , or Amy Swink in the school office with questions about these or any of our other fundraising programs. We certainly appreciate everyone's awesome efforts to help HCA get some **FREE MONEY!**

### **"My School is Cool"**

"September mall & food court receipts are due to Amy Swink (or the mall locker) by October 3rd in order to be counted in the September totals. Remember that the Mall Office or Amy Swink can make a Point Pass for you if you need to keep your original receipt.

October Events: Flu Shot Clinics at CVMC Health First Clinic earn 200 points every weekend this month; Double Point Carousel Rides on 10/3-10/5; Triple Point Shopping (and food) points 10/10-10/12 & 10/31; Triple

Point Carousel Rides 10/24-10/26 and earn 300 points for donations to a charity through [www.TheGivingSpree.com](http://www.TheGivingSpree.com) on 10/15/08.

Thanks for your participation!"

Jill DeVries and Amy Swink

**October** Scott Waters (8), Tracy Robinson (9), Lynda Gregory (13), Kat Price (14), Janie Lambert (15), Pam Hester (17), Linda Jordan(31)

**CALENDAR REMINDERS**

**October**

- 8 **K-Apple Orchard**
- 14 **4<sup>th</sup> Renaissance**
- 15 **PSAT for 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade**
- 16 **Lazy 5 -1<sup>st</sup> grade**  
**Picture Day for PS, Tk,K,2,3,4,5,6**
- 17 **Picture Day for 1, 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**
- 20-24 **Spirit Week (see article)**
- 22 **End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**
- 27 **Teacher Workday**  
**HCA Annual Golf Tournament**
- 29 **Report Cards**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Hiddenite Gem Mine**
- 30 **2<sup>nd</sup> Asheboro Zoo**
- 31 **Reformation Day**  
**EARLY DISMISSAL**  
**12:00 Noon –PS-12th**

(preschool must be accompanied by a parent)

**STUDENT PICTURE DATES**

**Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>** is Picture Day for all students PS,TK,K,2,3,4,5-6<sup>th</sup> grade. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade will take their pictures on Friday due to a field trip on Thursday.



**7th-11<sup>th</sup> grade** will be having their pictures taken on Friday, **October 17<sup>th</sup>**. All Sports pictures will be taken at a later date to be announced.



**Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> –Soccer/Volleyball -Friday Knight Lights at HCA. Come and enjoy the festivities at HCA. We will be having a Spaghetti dinner at 4:00 (Fundraiser for Nat’ls) so there is no need to worry about dinner for the evening. Bring the entire family and enjoy a hot meal! \$5.00 per plate will include Spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert; with a family maximum of \$20.00. We will also have to-go boxes for anyone who can’t stay for the entire event. The Girls’ Varsity Volleyball game begins at 5:00 pm in the Gym followed by the Varsity Soccer game under the lights up at Neill Clark beginning at 7:00 pm. Celebrate the seniors this night as well. Invite your family and friends for a fun night!!**

**DIRECTORY CHANGES**

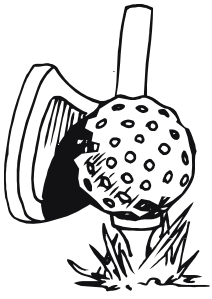
**Mr. & Mrs. David and Kelly Duncan**  
**Phone 256-3862**

- Katie 8
- Will 6
- Owen 2
- Julie Starklit 12

**Mr. & Mrs. Shaw and Romei Smitherman**  
**Phone 304-1284**

- John Ross 5
- Mary Frances 10

**Staff/Faculty Birthdays**



## Golf Tournament

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual HCA Golf Classic is October 27. Only 4 weeks left to reach our goal. We currently have received \$35,000+ in pledged sponsorships.

The committee has set a goal of \$70,000 after expenses. *Wouldn't it be great if we could double last year's total by raising \$100,000!* Proceeds from the golf tournament fund a large portion of our scholarship program and completely cover the cost of HCA's budgeted athletic program for one year, which in turn helps keep tuition costs down.

Without scholarships, we would not be able to minister to many Christian families who desire a Biblically based education for their children. HCA's athletic program is an integral part of the school's total educational program. In addition to the physical benefits, athletes develop endurance, self-confidence, self-discipline and recreational habits and skills, such as team work, that will be of value in later life. Our athletes are reminded that long after the score is forgotten; our behavior and reputation are remembered. You recently received a letter from the golf committee in your child's backpack listing the ways you can help with the golf tournament. Please pray about how you can lend a hand to support this important fund raiser for HCA, and remember, *your efforts help keep tuition costs down.* For questions or to volunteer, please contact Sam & Julie Rhodes at 324-5521 or email them at [jerhodes@earthlink.net](mailto:jerhodes@earthlink.net).

Coupon book update

HCA sold almost 1048 books this year for a total fundraising profit (after prizes) of approx. \$10, 055. Thank you Lord! Congratulations to our winners as listed below:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place –Sophie Williams Family
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place –Elizabeth and Jackson Bell Family
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place –Amelia, Lydia, Abigail Chapman Family
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place –Mr. John Brown Family
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place- Evan and Christine Rhodes Family

**The PSAT will be given on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am for all 8th-11th graders. Please have your student bring their calculator, two No. 2 pencils and a snack.**

## REFORMATION DAY

Today, we celebrate this date as a reminder of the faithful few who stood for truth during this time in history. We will be celebrating Reformation day on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and dismissing school at 12:00 noon for all students.

After our Reformation Day festivities we will be handing out a treat bag to every student PS-5<sup>th</sup> grade!! Your PTF Representatives will be assembling these on Tuesday, October 28 after their PTF meeting. PTF is asking for one bag of candy from each child (PS-5th) to be dropped off from now through October 27<sup>th</sup> at HCA. Boxes will be displayed so parents may drop candy off during morning drop –off with Teacher assistants or in the school foyer. There will be hundreds of bags to assemble. If you are interested in helping assemble bags, please contact Selina Shue at 828-455-5262 Thank you in advance for your donation and please do not send any candy with Halloween symbols such as bats, ghosts, jack-o-lanterns, etc.

**UNIFORM REMINDER**

Parents, please remember that the policy manual asks that all students keep hair length/styles from becoming a distraction in class or a hindrance to the general overall appearance of the student on a daily basis. As a general rule, boys hair should be above the eyebrows (when pulled straight down), halfway on the ears, and off the collar of a dress shirt. If your son is getting close to the border on this issue, please schedule a trim soon so that hair does not become an issue for the administration or faculty to have to spend time in addressing. If you have questions regarding this policy, please feel free to call an administrator. Thank you!

**Just a reminder, that students do not begin wearing Formal Winter Uniforms until November.**

## REFORMATION DAY

**Reformation Day is Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Students (PS-5<sup>th</sup>) are allowed to dress as a bible character or reformer on this day. PS are allowed to come and enjoy the activities only if a parent accompanies them for the day. All students (PS-5<sup>th</sup>) will receive treat bags of candy We will be sending more information home as the time approaches. ALL STUDENTS WILL DISMISS SCHOOL AT 12:00 NOON**

# Spirit Week!!!!

In case you didn't know, your school has a great athletics program! But in order to be successful, we need your support and enthusiasm. October 20-24th will be our annual Homecoming week. To energize the teams and show them that we are behind them, HCA and the Yearbook staff will be sponsoring Spirit Week – One full week of wacky events to get us ready for the NCCSA 2A State Tournament on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Each day will have a crazy theme in which all students may participate. Should any student not wish to participate, they will simply attend school in their normal school attire. The Spirit Week days are as follows:

**Monday, Oct. 20 – Country/Western Day.** Boots, jeans, and 10-gallon hats will be the clothing of choice for this day.

**Tuesday, Oct. 21 – Camo / Animal Prints Day.** Students may wear camouflage or dress in animal prints on this day. As always, be sure to wear appropriate things that do not conflict with the integrity of the school.

**Wednesday, Oct. 22 – Favorite Sports Team.** Dress in the T-shirt or Jersey of your Favorite Sports Team.

**Thursday, Oct. 23 – Retro Day / Tacky Day** Students may wear styles from the 60's, 70's, 80's, etc. or tacky combinations.

**Friday, Oct. 24 – Blue & Gold Day** Students may wear any HCA athletic wear, PE clothing, or combinations of navy blue, white, and gold. Nice jeans are allowed.

These days are meant to be fun and we would like to continue this tradition for future years. Please do not take advantage of this opportunity by wearing anything inappropriate or controversial. Teachers and administrators have permission to ask any student to change clothes or remove certain items of clothing for any reason. Full cooperation by parents, students, and staff is necessary to make this week a success. With that said, let the wackiness begin!