

54th
ANNUAL
SPRING PROGRAM
OF THE
NORTHUMBERLAND
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP



Friday, April 24, 2026
9:30 AM 7:00 PM

1. O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Latin hymn, attributed to John Francis Wade, 1781

Piano: Miss Rees

Organ: Owen Rees

[first verse sung in Latin:]

Adeste fideles laeti triumphantes,

Venite, venite in Bethlehem;

Natum videte Regem angelorum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;

Glory to God in the highest;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The congregation is invited to stand and join in singing.

God of God, Light of Light;

Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb:

Very God, begotten, not created;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

Born this happy morning:

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Reading from Psalm 92:1-5

Reader: Ethan Bennett

2. O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

-words: Charles Wesley, music: Mark Hayes

Piano: Miss Rees

Organ: Owen Rees, Miss Greene

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Let every creature join to praise the one eternal God,
ye heavenly hosts the song begin and sound His name abroad.

Jesus, the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for
me.

He speaks, and list'ning to His voice, new life the dead
receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
To God all glory, praise and love be ever, ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and
heav'n.

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!
Let every creature join to praise the one eternal God,
ye heavenly hosts the song begin and sound His name abroad.

Scripture Reading from Psalm 150

Reader: Noah Conner

3. SING TO THE LORD

-Felix Mendelssohn

(from *Hymn of Praise*)

Piano: Sarah Cantine, Daniel Rees

Organ: Finn Steckel, Miss Greene

All men, all things, all that has life and breath,
sing to the Lord. Hallelujah.

Praise the Lord with all your heart, in joyful song extol Him.

And let all flesh magnify His might and His glory,
and let all flesh worship the Lord.

Scripture Reading from Psalm 61:1-5

Reader: Evalin Owens

4. FROM THE END OF THE EARTH

-Alan Hovhaness

Piano: Grace Cantine

Organ: Abigail Garvin, Miss Greene

(Psalm 61:1-4)

Hear my cry, O God.

From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee,
when my heart is overwhelmed:

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,
for Thou hast been a shelter for me,
and a strong tower from the enemy.

I will trust in the covert of Thy wings.

Alleluia.

5. GOD, AND GOD ALONE

-Phill McHugh

Piano: Grace Cantine

Organ: Tanya Weaver, Miss Greene

Solo: Tyffany Nicholas

God, and God alone, created all these things we call our own.
From the mighty to the small, the glory in them all is God's
and God's alone.

God, and God alone, reveals the truth of all we call unknown.
And all the best and worst of man won't change the Master's
plan; it's God's and God's alone.

God, and God alone, is fit to take the universe's throne.
Let everything that lives reserve its truest praise for God, and
God alone.

6. FUM, FUM, FUM

-arr. Philip Kern

Piano: Sarah Cantine

Organ: Drew Garvin, Miss Greene

On December five and twenty, Fum, Fum, Fum. On the day
that Christ was born we sing with joy this happy morn. With
the bells of heaven ringing, all the angels now are singing,
Fum, Fum, Fum.

Come, ye birds from out the forest, Fum, Fum, Fum. You're
invited all to bring your praise and honor to the King. Come
and sing your happy chorus for the Savior laid before us, Fum,
Fum, Fum.

Stars that twinkle in the sky sing, "Fum, Fum, Fum." Come
and shine upon the child, so meek and mild. He's a Savior
who is crying, for our sins He will be dying, Fum, Fum, Fum!

7. ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

-arr. Dan Forrest

Piano: Grace Cantine, Sarah Cantine

Organ: Orin Steckel, Miss Greene

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains
prolong?

Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heav'nly
song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn
King.

See Him in a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing the Savior's birth!

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Scripture Reading from Galatians 6:14, I Peter 2:24-25

Reader: Moriah Knight

8. WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

-words by Isaac Watts, arr. Kirkpatrick & Rees

Piano: Daniel Rees

Organ: Miss Greene

Solo: Amelia Faust, senior class

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of
Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour
contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ
my God: all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice
them to His blood.

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred Head for such a worm as I!

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow
mingled down: did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns
compose so rich a crown?

Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far
too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my
life, my all!

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.

9. WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS

-Haldor Lillenas; arr. Tom Fettke

Piano: Sarah Cantine, Miss Rees

Organ: Miss Greene

[Congregation, please join in singing for verses 2 and 3
and stand as you are able.]

1. Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, - great - er than all my sin;
 2. Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, reach - ing a might - y host,
 3. Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, reach - ing the most de - filed,

5
 how shall my tongue de - scribe it, where shall its praise be - gin?
 by its trans - form - ing pow - er, saved to the ut - ter - most,
 its trans - form - ing pow - er, mak - ing him God's dear child,

9
 Tak - ing a - way my bur - den, set - ting my spir - it free, for the
 chains have been torn a - sun - der, giv - ing me lib - er - ty; for the
 pur - chas - ing peace and heav - en, for all e - ter - ni - ty; and the

13
 won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.

17 Won-der-ful the match-less grace, the match-less grace of Je-sus, deep-er than the might-y roll-ing

20 Won-der-ful the match-less grace of Je - - - sus, deep-er than the might-y roll-ing
sea, the roll-ing sea; won-der-ful grace, all suf-fi-cient for

24 sea; high-er than the moun-tain, spark-ling like a foun-tain, all suf-fi-cient grace for e-ven
me, for e-ven me; broad-er than the scope of my trans-gres-sions,

27 me; broad-er than the scope of my trans-gres-sions, sing it!
great-er far than all my sin and shame; O mag-ni-fy the pre-cious

30 great-er far than all my sin and shame, my sin and shame; O mag-ni-fy the pre-cious
name of Je-sus, praise his name! name! Praise His ho-ly name!

10. OFFERTORY

The congregation is invited to remain seated and join in singing

Behold Our God

**-Ryan Baird, Jonathan Baird,
Meghan Baird, Stephen Altrogge**

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?

Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

*Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come let us adore Him!*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Chorus

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Chorus

Men: You will reign forever.
Women echo: Let your glory fill the earth.

Chorus

This I Know

-Mark Altrogge

*This I know: my God is for me, this I know.
This I know: my God is on my side. My God is for me, this I know.*

If God did not spare His only Son, but delivered Him up for us all, will He not give us ev'ry good thing when we come in His Name and call?

Chorus

Let us draw near the throne of grace for mercy and help in our need. For Jesus is ever praying for us. He is living to intercede.

Chorus

11. E'EN SO, LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME -Paul Manz

Piano: Grace Cantine

Organ: Finn Steckel, Miss Greene

Peace be to you and grace from Him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood
that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
for Christ is coming, is coming soon,
for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
they need no light nor lamp nor sun,
for Christ will be their All!

12. JOY IS THE FLAG

Piano: Sarah Cantine

Joy is the flag flown high from the castle of my heart
when the King is in residence there.
So let it fly in the sky, let the whole world know
that the King is in residence there.

Scripture Reading from Revelation 5:1-15

Reader: Stephen Ilgenfritz

13. IS HE WORTHY?

-Andrew Peterson, Ben Shive
-arr. Dan Forrest

Piano: Miss Rees

Organ: Miss Greene

Solo: Owen Rees, Evelyn Wilhelm

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.”

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do.)

Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do.)

But do you know that all the dark won’t stop the light from
getting through? (We do.)

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do.)

Is all creation groaning? (It is.)

Is a new creation coming? (It is.)

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is.)

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is.)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David’s

Root, and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy of this? (He is.)

Does the Father truly love us? (He does.)

Does the Spirit move among us? (He does.)

And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves?
(He does.)

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does.)

From ev’ry people and tribe, ev’ry nation and tongue, He has
made us a kingdom and priests to God, to reign with the Son.

Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy of this? HE IS.

***All NCS alumni are invited to come forward
and join the present student body for the singing of
Worthy is the Lamb and the Hallelujah Chorus.***

Music will be provided for you at the front of the auditorium.

14. WORTHY IS THE LAMB -George Frederick Handel
(from *Messiah*)
Organ: Mr. Rees, Miss Rees

(Revelation 5:12-14)

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to
God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom,
and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth
upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever.

15. HALLELUJAH -George Frederick Handel
(from *Messiah*)

[Congregation, please remain seated for the Hallelujah Chorus.]

(Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16)

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!

The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ,
and He shall reign forever and ever.

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!

Hallelujah!

NORTHUMBERLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2025-2026

SENIORS

Ethan Bennett	Gavin Birkett	Michael Cantine	Noah Conner
Cameron Derr	Amelia Faust	Lauren Heimbach	Stephen Ilgenfritz
Moriah Knight	Julia Lamey	Annalyn Mitchell	Timothy Necerato
Tyffany Nicholas	Evalin Owens	Ava Phillips	Owen Rees
Sharita Weaver	Evelyn Wilhelm	Keegan Yoder	

JUNIORS

Averie Bingman	Grace Cantine	Riley Conner	Greta Evans
Benjamin Friscia	Maxwell Garvin	Lydia Gray	Sarah Heitzman
Zion Hostetter	Everett Kahler	Aidan Kauffman	Hannah Millett
Josiah Necerato	Cole Putrow	Tabitha Reitz	Jackson Shaffer
Audrey Spaide	Braiden Stahl	Finn Steckel	Tanya Weaver

SOPHOMORES

Brooke Bennett	Jadon Clark	Chase Conner	Emma Conner
Tristen Conner	Hannah Dreibelbies	Christopher Eroh	Renna Evans
Noah Gibson	Ivy Kersey	Anna-Noel Knight	Beyonca Martin
Connor Miller	Eliana Mitchell	Evan Rankin	Daniel Rees
Collette Reitz	Wyatt Reitz	Kaleb Ritchey	Landon Snyder
Dean Wilhelm	Ava Yount	Liam Zwatty	

FRESHMEN

Sarah Cantine	Micaiah Clifton	Ky Cook	Dylan Derr
Addison Evans	Abigail Garvin	Allison Geise	Emma Hamilton
Kaylyn Heimbach	Reagan Kersey	Isabella Kopp	Adryana Lopez
Benjamin McElroy	Auna Necerato	Louis Owens	Julian Shaffer
Andrew Simmons	Evelyn Steckel	Breanna Troup	Ethan Wolfe

EIGHTH GRADE

Allison Bennett	Silas Clifton	James Conner	Kira Conner
Ariana Davis	Jude Derr	Drew Garvin	Amara Gemberling
Judah Gibson	Piper Hamilton	Jovia Heise	Jude Heise
Elijah Lopez	Kara McCahan	Ted Meixell	Elle Peeples
Lloyd Reitz	Rita Scullin	Johnathan Seiler	Ava Snyder
Amelia Spaide	Kyley Weaver	Brynley Wert	

SEVENTH GRADE

Jewel Ahlum	Maya Beck	Ashton Derr	Harper Evans
Chase Foura	Samuel Hoy	Madelyn Kratzer	Abigail Mitchell
Cara Palm	Adilyn Shaffer	Rebeka Spade	Orin Steckel
Kiersten Yoder	Jude Zwatty		

SIXTH GRADE

Joel Arthur	Rahmir Brookins-Cobb	Elisabeth Cantine	Abigail Conner
Katherine Geise	Levi Gibson	Nora Hamilton	Caleb Jackson
Brooklyn Kauffman	Eli Kauffman	Tessa Keeley	Noah Long
Isaac Lopez	Adlena Martin	Wallace McElroy	Christian Montalvo
Matthew Necerato	Olivia Scullin	Savannah Shock	Adalie Simmons
Avarie Snyder	Cole Snyder	Jack Snyder	Charlotte Spaide
Brylee Stahl			

FIFTH GRADE

Antonio Bittner	Cadrian Brookins-Cobb	EmmaGrace Clark	Ellie Collier
Harrison Conner	Wyatt Erdley	Andrew Geise	Arabella Heimbach
Ella Jones	Gabriell Kopp	Emmanuel Materiene	Ethan Mowrer
Julia Nolt	Katelynn Peebles	Brinlee Rankin	Steven Rees
Elliott Reitz	Caitlyn Seiler	Clara Snyder	Arden Steckel

FOURTH GRADE

Kadmiel Arthur	Alexander Dorman	Xander Gallo	Paul Geise
Lily Gibson	Lukas Harlos	Penelope Hoy	Charlie Kelly
Gracie Millett	Daniel Morris	Gavin Mowrer	Lucas Mowrer
Emma Murphy	Oliver Necerato	Porter Owens	Charles Ray
Isaiah Reitz	Payton Rockey	Rachel Ross	Alexandria Sensenig
Lyla Snyder			

THIRD GRADE

Maci Beck	Gabriel Cantine	Ella Conklin	Sara Faust
Orion Floyd	Audrey Fuhr	Stephen Geise	Lydia Gray
Brixxel Guyer	Korra Hulsizer	Marlie Hunt	Wyatt Inns
Albeisly Marin	Dominic Montalvo	Karoline Peebles	Rad Rearden
Julian Sensenig	Avelyn Wert		

SECOND GRADE

Logan Brookins	Madelynn Erdley	Audrielle Feaster	Sarah Geise
Nova Hunt	Rowan Landau	Isaiah Leonhardt	Ezra Lewis
Asher Martin	LynnLee Moyer	Brighton Napp	Alivia Necerato
Charlotte Reed	Azariah Shek	Miles Snyder	Paityn Stamm
Sawyer Sweigart			

FIRST GRADE

Adam Arnold	Nora Conklin	Theodore Faust	Charlotte Fisher
Declan Floyd	Leah Gibson	Braxton Gray	Landon Hoover
C.Aldwyn Hulsizer	Karson Hunt	April Inns	Ava Martin
Beckham Montalvo	Lillee Murphy	Avery Nicholas	Roman Ranck
Judah Rapp	Pearl Rearden	Koa Stamm	Kinley Wheeland

KINDERGARTEN

Lucas Burns	Trace Christine	Oliver Conklin	Elliana Edmiston
Kurt Fuhr	Brindy Guyer	Dominic Heimbach	Eliana Jackson
Kiera Jacobs	Greyson Long	Jaxon Long	Lucas Moyer
Dominic Necerato	Aliyah Payne	Cael Ross	Samuel Shek
Luke Shipman	Spania Spangler	Arabella Swank	Nayelee Tasker
Adalynn Trutt	Anna Woods	Phoebe Yost	

This year we have 263 students in K-12 plus 27 in pre-k, which brings our total enrollment to 290 students. We praise the Lord for the opportunities to minister to these children and families!

We would like to say a special thank you to Dr. James Arthur and Miss Gwendolyn Greene, our choir rehearsal accompanists; to Chris Conner '94, George Geise '93, Leon Geise, Bill Hudson, Ryan Landis, and Jonathan Rees '94 for managing the sound and video systems; and to Emmanuel Bible Fellowship Church for allowing us to use these beautiful facilities.

NCS STAFF 2025-2026

DR. JAMES ARTHUR—Choir Accompanist

MR. DAVID BENNETT—Facilities Director, SHOP
“HANDYMAN”

MR. JEREMIAH BENNETT—Principal, Bible 7-8
Cultural Geography 9-10

MRS. KIMBERLY BENNETT '00—Director of Development,
Fundraising Coordinator

MRS. DEANN BENNETT—Fourth Grade Teacher

MRS. LYDIA BLANK '07—Math 7, Physics, Algebra I,
Microsoft Excel, IT Assistant

MRS. GRACE BRUBAKER—Kindergarten Aide

PASTOR DAVID CANTINE '02—High School Bible, Cultural
Geography 11-12, Chapel

PASTOR MICHAEL CANTINE—Devotions

MRS. TONYA CARR—Custodial Supervisor, Content
Creator

MR. CHRIS CONNER '95—IT Assistant, Java

MRS. JOYA CONNER—English 7-8, Latin 3-6, Music 4-6

MRS. TRISH CLARK—Kitchen Staff/Food Service Team

MRS. RUTH DUNKLE—Second Grade Aide

MRS. LISA EROH—First Grade Aide

MRS. JANELLE FAUST—Work Period Supervisor, Sixth
Grade Aide

MRS. GAYLE FOX—Founding NCS Teacher, Bible Memory

MRS. PATTY FURMAN '91—Literature & Vocab 9-12,
Public Speaking 12

MRS. TESHA GARVIN—Home Economics

MRS. DONNA GRAY—Sixth Grade Aide

MISS GWENDOLYN GREENE—Choir Accompanist

MRS. ANNA HAMILTON—Anatomy 11-12

MRS. LORI HEIMBACH—Pre-K Assistant, Medical Records
and Clearances Supervisor

MRS. CORTNEY HOSTETLER—Pre-K Co-Teacher

MRS. KEELY HOSTETTER—Kitchen Staff/Food Service Team

MISS GWYNETH HUDSON '19—Sixth Grade Teacher

MRS. AMY INNS '05—Tuition and Payroll Bookkeeper, HR Director, Accounting 1

MISS COLLEEN INNS '89—Kindergarten Teacher

MR. JOHN JACKSON—History 7-8, Literature & Vocab 7-8

MRS. ELLEN KELLY—KinderPlus Teacher

MISS NICOLE KERSTETTER—Third Grade Teacher

MISS LIBERTY KERSEY '23—Kindergarten Aide

MRS. JENNIFER KOPP—Yearbook Advisor

MRS. KRIS LAMEY—Fifth Grade Aide

MR. RYAN LANDIS—Purchasing, IT and Warehouse Supervisor, Bus Driver

MRS. EMILY LLOYD '22—Second Grade Aide

MRS. WENDY LLOYD—Playground Supervisor, Physical Education Assistant

MRS. ROBIN MACK—Fifth Grade Teacher

MR. DAVID MAHONEY '16—IT Assistant

MRS. JILLIAN MARTIN—Guidance Counselor, Kitchen Staff/Food Service Team

MS. REBEKAH MEIXELL—Spanish I, II, III, IV

MRS. DEB MINNIER—Third Grade Aide

MRS. REBECCA MITCHELL '94—Second Grade Teacher

MRS. NATALIE MOWREY—Pre-K Teacher and Coordinator

MRS. EMILY NAPP '13—Pre-K Co-teacher

MRS. ANITA NOLT—Spanish I, II, III, IV

MRS. MEGAN OWENS '99—School Secretary, Yearbook Advisor

MRS. HANNAH PAYNE—ART 2-8

MRS. MELISSA PHILLIPS '97—School Secretary, Bus Driver

MR. CHRIS POWERS—English 9-12, Greek 7, Choir Staff, Music Appreciation

MISS JOANNA REES '98—Scheduling Director, Algebra 1,
Algebra 2, Geometry-Trig-Algebra 3, Choir Staff
PASTOR JOHN REES—Principal Emeritus, Chapel
MR. JONATHAN REES '94—Assistant Principal, Director of
Information Systems, Business Manager, Pre-Calculus,
AP Calculus, Bus Driver
MRS. TARYN REITZ—Kitchen Staff/Food Service Team
MRS. BETH ROSS—Kitchen Staff/Food Service Team
MRS. SARA SCULLIN —Kitchen Staff/Food Service Team
MRS. JEAN SEITZER—K-4 Bible
MRS. ASHLEY SHAFFER '02—Accounts Payable,
Bookkeeper, Academic Records Manager, Health 7-12
MRS. KATHY SHOOP—First Grade Aide
MRS. KAITLYN SIMMONS '09—Food Service Director
MRS. AMY SNEYDER—Kitchen Staff/Food Service Team
MR. IAN SNYDER—STEM, Earth Science 7-8, Biology 9-10,
Bible 5-6, Microsoft Word/Google Suite
MISS CAROLINE STROUSE '19 —Assistant
MRS. COURTNEY SOLOMON '95—FBLA Advisor
MRS. BETHANY TREAS '95—Physical Education Teacher
K-12
MR. DOUG WESNER '82—Activities Director, Athletic
Director, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Consumer Math, Visual
Presentations, Bus Driver
MRS. JOY WITMER—Fourth Grade Aide, Music K-3,
Keyboarding 3-4
MRS. AMY ZWATTY—First Grade Teacher

NCS SCHOOL BOARD:

Marc Thayer, chairperson; Dan Severn, vice chairperson; Bill
Hudson, secretary; Jeremiah Bennett, Chris Bingaman,
Tessa Garvin, John Rees, Jonathan Rees '94, Tom Ross,
Courtney Solomon '95, Doug Wesner '82

FUNDRAISING ASSISTANTS:

Kimberly Bennett '00, Sara Scullin,
Meg Owens '99, Ashley Shaffer '02, Bethany Treas '95,
Jeanie Wesner

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:

Trish Clark, Ginny Hoffman, John Cook

COMPUTER NETWORK ASSISTANTS:

Lydia Blank '07, Chris Conner '95, Bill Hudson,
Ryan Landis, David Mahoney '16, Kirk Shaffer '02

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:

David Bennett, Jimmy Boudier '97, Tonya Carr, Ravi Evans,
Frank Hunter, Ryan Landis, Mike Wert

KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS:

Anne Boyer, Richanna Dorman, Nancy Erdley, Gary Fatoool,
Jamie Feaster, Anna Hamilton, Darrin Hunt, Krista Keeley,
Silvia Long, Rebekah Meixell, Genevieve Necerato, Cheri
Nicholas, Kelly Peeples, Kristen Snyder, Amy Steckel, Robin
Stuckey, Lynnee Wert

NCS Mission Statement

*Northumberland Christian School
was founded in 1972
to provide
a God-centered education
that stimulates in the student
a passion for excellence
in learning, service, and worship.*

Why Christian Education?

Northumberland Christian School was founded in 1972 because of a conviction that a Christian education is an important part of the training of children. Many beliefs undergird this conviction, but five principles are central to the educational philosophy of our school.

1. God's revelation is foundational for every area of life.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Prov. 9:10). God commands His people to raise their children in a context where love for God and communication about God are pervasive (Deut. 6:4-8). God has revealed Himself to man, and His revelation is central to all of life.

God has SPOKEN! Education is not man trying to figure out life – it is the creature sitting at the feet of its Creator. Romans 11:36 – From Him and through Him and to Him are all things! To Him be the glory forever. Amen. Christian education seeks to give God His proper place at the center of all things. To teach science with no view to the Creator is to miss the main point of science – creation is to bring our hearts to rejoice in the glory of God.

In Romans 1:18-32, Paul says that creation reveals the power and glory of God to all men, and to reject that revelation, to refuse to give Him glory and thanks is a great offense to God. Paul says that ignoring God is a great sin, and godlessness leads to wickedness. The culture around us demonstrates this truth – as God has been ignored, wickedness has abounded. Education which omits God and His revelation or treats His revelation as optional and insignificant at best, lays the foundation for increasing wickedness, because there is no fear of God before their eyes (Rom. 3:18). The real world is spiritual as well as material, and to ignore the centrality of God in education is to "shelter children from the real world."

Living in the "real world" also means our students must be taught what the world around them is thinking. They need to be taught about evolution and post-modern ideas. Unlike public schools which more and more are locked into teaching politically correct ideas and are afraid to suggest any alternative understanding, we want our children to understand the alternatives to a Christian

worldview. They will stand strong for Christ not by ignoring the thinking of the world, but by being able to analyze it clearly in the light of Biblical principles.

God's revelation is not only foundational for understanding science but history as well. Jesus Christ towers at the center of history (as reflected by our calendars!), and any approach to history which does not ask what Jesus Christ reveals to us about God and truth and life will miss the main point of history. True education must continually show Christ to be central to everything. He is THE way, THE truth, and THE life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

Because God has spoken, there IS absolute truth. There is right and wrong. It is God who defines what love is, and it is only God's revelation that will help us understand people who are made in the image of God and for His glory. A God-centered education is important if our children are going to have a God-centered view of life.

2. Discipleship is an essential part of the Christian life.

Jesus' final words in the gospel of Matthew (28:18-20) are "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Our goal in teaching our children (and in all our relationships) is to bring them to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to grow as disciples of Christ. We teach this by our words and by our example. Indeed, Jesus says in Luke 6:40 that "everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." Christian education is important because we want the teachers of our children to be disciples of Jesus Christ, whose influence in the lives of our children will be focused on making them disciples of Jesus Christ as well.

Our children need to know Jesus as their Prophet, Priest, and King. They must recognize their need for Jesus to teach them the truth in every area of life. They must also recognize their need of Jesus as their Savior day by day. They fall far short of God's law; they do not love God with all their heart and soul and mind and strength, and they do not love their neighbor as themselves. Their

only hope is a Savior who lived the righteous life they fail to live and then died on Calvary's cross to pay the penalty for sins. They must also recognize that Jesus is Lord. No one can have Jesus as their Savior if they do not also bow to Him as the Lord of their life.

Children need to be surrounded by these realities every day. Their sin needs to be addressed as sin, and they must be pointed continually to their need for Jesus day by day – their need for Jesus to teach them, to cleanse them and pray for them, and to rule over them and defend them. Our goal is to bring our students to a living relationship with Jesus Christ that impacts every area of their lives every day. In light of this goal, we must immerse our children in the scriptures by daily teaching and memorization that will help them understand and apply God's Word and lay it up in their hearts.

Much of evangelicalism today promotes a very shallow and erroneous view of Christianity that focuses on getting our children "saved" by something they do, and once they have Jesus as their "personal Savior", the other areas of their lives are of secondary importance. It is easy to see why this viewpoint would place little value on Christian education. On the other hand, because we believe that God commands us to make *disciples* of our children and to bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord, we value the hours they spend in school as precious time to shape their thinking and wills and hearts to a God-centered view of every area of life. Children have much to learn to give them a solid foundation for life, and elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school are all important times of learning in the lives of our young people. They need a pervasive influence of godly teachers and instruction, not just a few references to spiritual things during the limited time after school and on weekends. All these years are formative years for our children, and as parents we want to do all we can to mold them into passionate servants of God who will make an impact in the world they live.

3. Worship is central to all of life.

Crucial to having the word of Christ dwell in us richly is not only that we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, but that we sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God (Col. 3:16). Worship is important because God

commands it, emphasizes it, deserves it, prescribes it, seeks it, blesses it, and perpetuates it. An education which ignores worship will undermine the student's view of the worth and glory of God.

Worship is neither optional nor peripheral. The first four of the Ten Commandments deal with worship, because WE WERE MADE TO WORSHIP GOD. Worship is central to who we are. Our relationships with others are intended to flow from our relationship with God. We were made in His image, and His Son came to redeem us in order to bring us back to God. The goal of life is to join in the fellowship of love and joy in the Trinity (John 17). Worship is looking outside of ourselves to the One who alone is Worthy. We were made not only to glorify God but to enjoy Him forever. Students must see worship as central and should be surrounded by staff members who model a genuine joy and delight in God.

4. God made us to be people who think deeply and broadly about life.

God is a God who communicates with WORDS and IDEAS, with POETRY, with SYMBOLS – a revelation that requires us to THINK and FEEL. Students must be challenged to think deeply about the things they read and learn. They must learn to ask questions about root causes and ideas and ultimate consequences. They must also be challenged to articulate feelings as well as thoughts. God reveals His glory by beauty, not just function. He calls us to respond with all our being, not just our minds.

Students must learn to appreciate the abilities and wisdom God has given to many who are not Christians, and yet they must be able to recognize how they themselves fall far short of the glory of God. They must also learn to see how God's Word applies to every area of life and thought.

5. Whole-hearted service to God should motivate excellence in the pursuit of developing our skills and abilities.

Students must learn the importance of pursuing excellence, because they are called to live for God. They are called to be like God in the way they work – concerned with precision and efficiency and beauty. They must also imitate God by working in a way that will benefit others, giving of themselves for the good of others.

They need to be challenged to look beyond the pragmatism and materialism of the world around them and to aspire to something more than making money so they can have the things they want. They must be encouraged to actively develop their God-given abilities with a view to how they can best serve Him and bring Him glory in the world He has made.

Christian education is exciting! God has called us to seek to pass on to the next generation the things which God has taught us about Himself and His deeds. That's what NCS is all about. We serve a great God, and we want to help young people learn to see all of life from His perspective. We long for them not only to learn but also to delight in who God is and in all the wonders He has done and continues to do. We believe that this delight in learning about God and His world is central to equipping them to be passionate disciples of Jesus Christ who seek to serve Him in every area of life.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for coming to our Spring Program as we celebrate our 54th year of ministry at NCS! We thank God for the privilege of leading students in the worship of God for these many years. Thank you to many of you who have faithfully supported us through these years. Your prayers and words of encouragement have sustained us day by day. We are thankful for those of you who have entrusted your children to our care and given us the opportunity to nurture them every school day during these formative years. Thanks also to those who have supported us financially.

If you would like to receive our quarterly newsletters or if you would like to partner with us in this ministry in any way, please see the contact information below. It is God who undergirds us continually, and He does so through a growing NCS family of parents, grandparents, alumni, children, and friends. Thank you again for your help!

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever! Amen.
Romans 11:36

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