

2021
December

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN
ISAIAH 9:6



Merry Christmas from the
GREER CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER



"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching." 2 Timothy 3:16



NOTES from the CHAIRMAN

On Christmas Day, 1864, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the words to a poem, later to become a beloved Christmas song entitled *I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day*. This poem described his despair and hopelessness in the dark days of the American Civil War and personal tragedy in his family. But in the midst of his despair, he kept hearing the pealing of the church bells on Christmas Day, reminding Longfellow of the hope that Christ brings. The last verse proclaims – "Then winging, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day. A voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, goodwill to man". For 25 years, the Greer Christian Learning Center has been the 'pealing bell' for thousands of young people in the Greer and Blue Ridge areas. During dark times of despair that plagues the life of many of these students, the hope of Christ is offered fervently through the teaching and care of the staff and volunteers. January 2022 will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Greer Christian Learning Center.

During these 25 years, thousands of young people have come to know Christ as their Savior, and others have made commitments of their lives to Him. We are planning a celebration in the spring and hope you will be able to participate. We will give more details later. The year 2022 will be a year of reflection of what God has done, and what God is going to do in this ministry. We strongly feel that God is leading us to expand the Greer facility so that no young person who desires to participate in the Bible classes will be turned away due to a lack of space. The pandemic year has helped us realize this critical need. Please pray that we will have wisdom to discern and obey God's will.

In the midst of the Christmas season, the Board of Directors and staff of Greer Christian Learning Center thank God for you and wish you and your family a blessed and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for allowing the "bells of the message of Christ" to continue to ring through the Greer Christian Learning Center. Because of you the lives of many young people are revolving from darkness to light, from night to the day star!

Merry Christmas!

Joe Price

GCLC To Celebrate 25 Years Of Ministry On April 30, 2022

*Upcoming events will be
announced soon*

In January 1997, Greer Christian Learning Center opened its doors to 120 students from Greer Middle School. Greer Christian Learning Center was incorporated in the fall of 1996 to teach the life-changing truth of the Bible to public school students. In the past 25 years, thousands of students at Greer High, Greer Middle, Blue Ridge High and Blue Ridge Middle Schools have heard the gospel, many responding by giving their hearts to the Lord! Our Board of Directors and staff are planning a special 25th Anniversary Celebration on April 30th, 2022. We hope you will save this date and plan to attend this special day as we praise the Lord for what He has done and continues to do through the ministry of the Greer Christian Learning Center.

• Joe Price, GCLC Board Chairman



GCLC 25th Anniversary logo.

SAVE THE DATE! | APRIL 30, 2022 | SAVE THE DATE!



New Beginnings, New Experiences

This school year has been like a new beginning that we have never experienced. God has led us to Genesis — the introduction of His word — where we have studied the story of creation. We learned:

- God had a plan for His people from

the start.

- To discover God's plan we must develop a relationship with Jesus by reading His word.
- We must decide if we will live our lives to please people or God.

- We must listen to the voice of God and not the lies of the Enemy.
- God's promises are true and if He is for us who can be against us.

• *Cathy Neely, GCLC Director/GMS Girl's teacher*

Level 2 Students (Life Lessons) Studying The Book Of Acts

The Level 2 students (Life Lessons) have been studying the Book of Acts. They are discovering how early Christians started their ministry and how the church was formed. The students are also focusing on the Apostles and how they carried out the mandate by Jesus to tell the world about Him. Not only are we discussing how this relates to us at Greer High School (GHS) but also how we can change our school.

• *Jeff Neely, GHS teacher*



| *GHS teacher Jeff Neely and student Nix Wolfe.*

Book of John Studied By Level 1 (Bible Basics) Students

Currently, Level 1 (Bible Basics) is progressing through the Book of John. The students are also looking at the other Gospels and the miracles and parables of Jesus. "The deep study of John gives a clear picture of Jesus to our students," says GHS teacher Jeff Neely. "Our goal is to present to them the true Jesus and how He changed the world."

GCLC Additions

1

GMS boys have been pursuing a Bible study method called "7 Arrows." We have also started examining the story of the Bible. Starting with Genesis, the students are learning about creation, the fall, the consequences of sins, and God's promises to save His people.

• *Brayden Smith, GMS Boy's Teacher*

2

This semester I have built relationships with high school students by counseling them individually and explaining daily Bible verses in historical context. I often assist Coach Neely, particularly with his largest class, in addition to various administrative tasks.

• *Tami Greene, GMS and GHS part-time HELP Minister*

3

What a blessing to be in full swing again with our middle school students. Although our numbers are down, we are praying to be at full capacity again soon. Many of our middle school students have suffered greatly during the past year from isolation and stress. Their greatest need is God's assurance and comfort. When meeting with students individually, we always discuss spiritual issues and pray together.

• *Louise Rogers, GMS part-time HELP Minister*

GCLC Student Spotlight: Maggie Jackson



This month's Student Spotlight is Maggie Jackson. Maggie is a sophomore at GHS and currently enrolled in our Life Lessons program. For three years, she participated in released time and in 2020 began Bible Basics. She credits GCLC, El Bethel Baptist Church, and her mother for giving her a strong foundation of faith. Maggie says,

"The best thing about GCLC is the support I get. It's a good place to ask questions."

When she completes her education — perhaps to be a veterinarian — she plans to use her work to deliver the message of the hope of Jesus.



Rosalind Harvey and Samantha Hidalgo review their Bible verses in their eighth grade release time class.



BRCLC Bible 101 Class Studies The Life Of Jesus

Bible 101 (Bible Basics) classes are currently studying the life of Jesus. The class began with the story of Jesus' humble birth and the beginning of His ministry. We studied the 7 Signs of John, why Jesus needed to perform miracles — proving the miracles happened — and what God was revealing. We then ventured into 6 specific parables and dissected each one verse by verse.

Bible 101 not only studied the reasoning behind Jesus overturning the tables in the temple, but the significance of the last supper and the meaning of the bread and wine as well. We also examined the crucifixion and resurrection and what those events mean for our faith. We discussed how we, as Christians, can prove these events happened and face any arguments that could arise when discussing this with nonbelievers.

After Thanksgiving break, students will go through an important relationship series while discussing Godly dating, relationships, and the covenant of marriage.

Once the relationship series concludes, students will begin a series on anxiety, based off a RightNow Media study.



BRCLC teacher Ally Rathbone and her Bible 101 students.

Different World Religions Are Discovered In Bible 102

Different world religions — and how they differ from Christianity — was the topic for Bible 102 (Biblical Life Applications) students. The class discussed how to have a conversation about Christ with someone of different faiths.

They also learned how to defend their

faith to other religions as well as handling tough conversations that could arise. We then studied many denominations of the Christian faith and their differences and similarities.

Also, Bible 102 students just concluded a series on Spiritual Disciplines: prayer, fasting, service, discipleship, Bible study and evangelism.

After Thanksgiving, students will study Apologetics from a RightNow Media lesson.

• Ally Rathbone, BRCLC high school teacher

BRCLC Student Spotlight: Pacen Hill and Ella Grace Sharpless



BRCLC students Ella Grace Sharpless and Pacen Hill with teacher Ally Rathbone.

Bible 102 junior Pacen Hill and sophomore Ella Grace Sharpless have been attending BRCLC since 6th grade. They recently experienced the story of world renowned apologist, Lee Strobel and his investigative journey into the Christian faith. Because of a recent donation, Ella and Pacen received the Case for Christ student study book collection.

Ella shared "I like learning about other religions and how to have a conversation with people about Jesus and how to defend our faith." Pacen added, "Bible class is definitely my favorite class because it is a great way to not only learn more about Jesus, but it will help me stay on track with the Lord." Both Ella and Pacen have siblings in the middle school release time program. Our ministry team is greatly blessed to be part of discipling these students at BRCLC and the next generations to come!

• Jenn Nobel, BRCLC Director

Middle School Students Going Strong In Bible Studies

The middle school classes have been going strong in their Bible studies. Six graders have been studying the Book of Genesis reflecting on our need for salvation through topics of Who is God, creation, and mankind's fall into sin. Through the Book of Mark, the seventh grade has been studying how Jesus is the Messiah and proving His earthly ministry. Finally, the eighth graders have been enjoying lively discussions on true life Christian worldviews such as the existence of God, absolute truth, and focusing on Christ when dealing with stress and anxiety.

• Andy Jones, BRCLC middle school teacher



BRCLC Middle School eighth grade Bible class.

BRCLC Packs 31 Boxes For Operation Christmas Child

BRCLC recently encouraged all their students to donate items for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child (OCC). The students were shown testimonial videos from people around the world who have received OCC boxes which inspired the students to donate.



Sixth grade girls praying over items as they prepare to pack their shoebox.

Continued on back . . .



GCLC To Receive Spanish Bibles

GCLC has many bilingual students such as Camila Alas, pictured left. GCLC is excited to announce in the next several weeks, they will be receiving an order of Spanish Bibles for their bilingual students. Students, like Camila, can now look forward to reading a Bible in their native language.

GCLC Christmas Parties Are Back!

GCLC is excited to be able to have Christmas parties again. Because of the Greenville County School restrictions on food preparation, pre-packaged food and drinks must be individually wrapped for safety purposes. GCLC is thankful to all of the individuals and Sunday School classes who contributed. The students will enjoy celebrating the birth of Jesus this year at GCLC.



A big "thank you" to the following churches for their donations:

- Memorial Methodist
- Apalache Baptist
- Fairview Baptist
- Freedom Fellowship
- Greer First Baptist

We appreciate you!

Continued from front



The students enjoyed packing boxes and praying over each one as well as taking a small break to enjoy the outside air and snack on donuts. The middle school brought enough items to fill 27 boxes and the high school students filled 4 boxes — 2 boys and 2 girls. BRCLC staff was overwhelmed by the generosity the students showed in Christ's love. Students will have the opportunity to follow their boxes on the Samaritan's Purse website and learn more about where their box was delivered. BRCLC is thankful to be involved where children will be blessed from this amazing global mission gift sharing Christ's Love!



Bible 101 High School Class praying over OCC shoeboxes.



Several OCC shoeboxes packed and ready for shipping.

Greer Lions Club Donates \$2,500 To GCLC

GCLC would like to send out a heart-felt thank you to the Greer Lions Club for their generous donation of \$2,500. The November 3rd donation will go towards the general budget.



GCLC Director/Teacher Cathy Neely accepts donation from Don Coggins, Greer Lions Club President.



BRCLC Needs Bus Drivers! (No CDL Required)

BRCLC is in great need of buses and drivers for our 2nd semester middle school program! We are so blessed that we have both middle and high school classes in session this school year and enrollment is growing. We need your help! If your church has a mini bus that we may use and/or volunteer drivers, please consider serving in the bus ministry. No CDL required. This is a great opportunity to serve by transporting students in our public schools to released time Bible class. You can make an eternal difference in the lives of our youth!

Please contact Jenn Nobel, BRCLC Director at 864-905-5187 or jnobel@greerchristianlearningcenter.org.



KEEP IN TOUCH

GCLC

Cathy Neely, Director



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Greer Christian Learning Center



gclcchangeslives

BRCLC

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Blue Ridge Bible Basics and Blue Ridge Learning Center



brbiblebasics

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If you wish to unsubscribe to our newsletter, please call 864-848-3591 and leave your name and address. We hope you will be back soon!

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