

WINTER  
EDITION  
2010



FRENCH CREEK VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Inside the Eagle's nest

## Alumni Focus

**Cassandra Parker** *Class of 2007*



**How many years did you attend FCVCS?** I attended FCVCS for 13 years. (Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) **Some people say that by being in a Christian school you were sheltered from the "real world". How do you feel about that?** I think being in a Christian school helped me learn how to live in the world while not being part of the world. **How exactly did FCVCS prepare you?** FCVCS not only prepared me by teaching me the traditional math, science, English, history, etc. It also showed me how to create and build relationships not only with my fellow classmates but also with the teachers and staff. After I graduated it helped me get a part time job at the FCVCS Child Care and with the FCVCS lunch programs. Currently I am going to Edinboro University and majoring in Elementary and Special education where I have been on the Dean's List. **What are some of your fondest memories of FCVCS?** While attending FCVCS I played Volleyball, Soccer and Basketball. I can remember playing in all games and enjoying spending time with my teammates and coaches. I remember going to Gettysburg in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and seeing the battlefields, monuments, and cemeteries. It was amazing to be able to go and see everything that we had been learning in class. I also remember attending our weekly chapel meetings where as a school we could come together and sing and worship God. **As you look back, what does FCVCS mean to you?** FCVCS wasn't just a school to me. I graduated in 2007 and since then I have (volunteered) assistant coach the girl's varsity basketball team for two years and I am still currently working for the FCVCS Lunch program and Child Care Facility. **Do you think you fully valued the benefits of FCVCS while you were there or did you gain a better realization after graduation?** Yes, I think I fully valued the benefits FCVCS had to offer. The only thing I miss is how close everyone was to each other. Once I graduated and went to college it was harder to develop the same types of relationships at college that I had at FCVCS. In college not all the teachers care and develop strong relationships with you like I experienced at FCVCS. **You are presently enrolled at Edinboro University pursuing a teaching degree? What made you choose teaching?** I believe the reason that I want to teach is because of the relationships that I had with my teachers. I loved school and learning and I want other students to love school and to learn as well. **In addition to full-time college, you said you work in the child-care and the lunch program at FCVCS. What makes you still want to be part of FCVCS?** I like working at FCVCS because everyone gets along with everyone and we all truly love one another. I enjoy going to work every day and seeing the children growing up (loved by the teachers and staff) in the same school I did. **Do you think you might ever teach at FCVCS?** I believe God has a purpose for my life. I believe that once I graduate he will open the doors of employment for me and where God leads I will follow. So, maybe if it is God's plan. **If you could say one thing to the students at FCVCS, what would that be?** Enjoy your time at FCVCS, take this time to grow in your relationships. Not only with your classmates and teachers but with the God that created you. Follow God with all your heart and He will direct your path. **I understand that you also financially support the work here at FCVCS. As a 20 year old, why do you choose to give your money to the ministry here at FCVCS?** I have always believed that you should support the ministries that you believe in. FCVCS is a ministry that I not only love but believe in and I hope that it will continue on for many years. I try to help carry that mission on by giving financially to FCVCS.

*"Follow God with all your heart and He will direct your path"*

*"I want to teach because of the relationships that I had with my teachers."*

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## Heavy Snows Wreak Havoc on FCVCS Roof

Like a bad nightmare, recent heavy snows caused huge problems for FCVCS. Significant snowfall in January left upwards of 6' of snow on some portions of the roof. Other areas weren't so bad with only 3' of accumulation. With that much snow, the bot-



tom layer begins to melt and has no where to run. That is, until it finds a way into the building. Leaks began to appear. In particular, the main office saw water running as if someone turned on a faucet. Another source of problem was the locker room hallway, again leaking as if a pipe had burst. For two weekends in a row, dedicated parents and students took on the task of climbing to the roof and shoveling off the snow. Many thanks for the hard work that ended the leaks. Good Job!



## Rep. Brad Roae visits FCVCS

Brad Roae was elected to the state House of Representatives from the Sixth Legislative District in Crawford County in the Nov. 2006, General Election. Roae serves on the House Insurance, State Government and Children and Youth committees during the 2009-10 session of the General Assembly. In the 2007-08 session, he served on the Speakers Commission on Legislative Reform, which was created to revamp the rules of the House of Representatives. From August 1992 to November 2006, Roae was a commercial underwriter with Erie Insurance. He graduated from Maplewood High School in 1985 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Gannon University in 1990.



Rep. Roae recently visited with the Sr. High "God & Government" class at FCVCS. A lively discussion centered around such topics as the separation of Church & State and prayer in schools. In addition, he spoke of Federal mandates and how the Federal government plays a role in mandating programs that state governments then must implement. The representative was well received by the student of FCVCS.

Roae is active in the local community. A volunteer firefighter and EMT with the East Mead Volunteer Fire Dept, and previously served as assistant scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 209. When he was a member of the troop, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He is a member of Saint Agatha's Roman Catholic Church in Meadville. Roae resides in East Mead Township with his wife Dana and three small children.



# Staff Interview . . . Mrs. Salem

**When did you first get involved with FCVCS?** In 2000 I came to work at FCVCS as a substitute teacher. The following year I taught Home Ec and Computer Research. **You left for a while, and now you're back. What made you come back?** I wanted to teach in a Christian school because of my firm conviction that God holds all parents responsible for the manner in which they raise and teach their children. I wanted to work in an environment that honors the parents' right and responsibility to provide their children with a Christ-honoring education.

**Can you explain what kind of things you are doing now for FCVCS?** Besides the task of Librarian, I am also an Educational Aide. This latter title allows me the privilege of teaching students at all levels, from Recess Monitor to High School Grammar.

**What do you enjoy doing the most at FCVCS?** What I enjoy the most about my job would be the Staff meetings. It is so refreshing to hear dedicated Christian educators express their concern for individual students and the teacher's purposeful interactions with the respective parents. **What are your future plans? How long do you see yourself serving here at FCVCS?** My plans for the future include finishing a couple books I have begun to write. "Home Schooling" is my present obsession. (If home schooling is not possible for a family, I believe the only viable option for Christian parents is a good sound Bible-based Christian school, such as French Creek Valley Christian School.)

**"God has blessed me with 90 wonderful years"**

**You recently celebrated a birthday and you shared your age with those at our family meeting. Would you mind sharing your age with our readers?** When I was 61 years old, the Holy Spirit repeatedly directed me to Psalm 91:16. (with long life I will satisfy him). I prayed earnestly that this was just an academic assignment. But he convinced me that I still had 35 more years of this earthly sojourn. After He assured me that my very old, old age would be His own project, I reread the first chapter of Genesis and decided my future was in good hands. So far God has blessed me with 90 wonderful years.

**How do you find the energy to do all the things you do at FCVCS?** Until I was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit (at age 35), I had been living with seven or eight minor ailments. When I became acquainted with my Great Physician, I discovered sickness was not His plan for me. So whenever Satan attached me with illness, I searched for any niche in my spiritual armor and realized that stewardship of my body was serious business. Diligent study of nutrition and health has resulted in a drastic change in my diet, and squeaky joints in my old rowing machine. Recent routine examinations reveal no medical problems and I'm still as limber as my cat. I praise God that He revealed these important truths to me while I still had time to mend my ways and glorify Him in my body, before I had the opportunity to completely destroy my health.

**How have you been serving the Lord?** After the Lord saved me at age thirty five, I attended Miami Bible College, which was in our neighborhood. When I finished raising my five children, God sent me to minister as a missionary in Appalachia for several years, then to Alaska for five years, (where I earned by degree in Psychology), and four years in Trinidad, West Indies. Since my return to the United States I have had the privilege of sharing God's great plan of salvation in prisons, nursing homes, and children's Bible clubs.

**Do you have any advice for others? How does one live to be your age, remain happy, and serve the Lord faithfully?** My advice to others would be found in Jeremiah 29:11. (For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.) God has a plan for your life that is far superior to anything you might have in mind for yourself. Give yourself completely to Him and live life to the full!! **Even on a fixed income, you are a financial supporter of the ministry here at FCVCS.**

**Why is the ministry here important?** This ministry is important to me because the more I see and hear of the public school system, the more thoroughly I am convinced that parents need to protect their children from the Godless, and even antichristian influences that mitigate against their mandate to teach their children God's laws and to live lives that glorify Him. **Can you tell others why they should support the ministry here at FCVCS.** Although I believe that the best people to teach and train children are their own born-again Spirit-filled parents, I realize in our culture this is often impossible. I believe the best option is a Bible-based private Christian school with a carefully selected staff of dedicated teachers, working in close cooperation with parents. **FCVCS is such a school.**

**"I believe the only viable option for Christian parents is a good sound Bible-based Christian school, such as FCVCS"**

## It's Tax Refund Time!



Getting a tax refund this year? We hope you've been blessed with more than you were expecting. Maybe a few new tax credits or deductions that you didn't know about. Rejoice in your windfall! Remember to tithe the first portion to your local church, thanking God for his provision. We pray you might also consider giving a portion to the ministry here at FCVCS. With the ongoing recession, donations are down and some families are having trouble with meeting their tuition obligations. It is our desire that all students remain at French Creek regardless of their ability to pay right now. We believe God has a plan for each and every student and we are blessed to be making a difference in their lives. Will you partner with us and help us continue to minister to those in need? Want to know more about the ministry here? Call us today at 763-3282 and we'd be glad to schedule time to meet with you to share the vision at FCVCS. We'd love to partner with you as we advance the kingdom.

# FCVCS blessed to enroll Haitian boys !

French Creek Valley Christian School recently welcomed and enrolled four new students. However, these weren't just any four new students. Rather these were the four new sons of Dave and Neoma Mattocks of Saegertown. This family recently made the newspapers and even appeared on the nightly news as they outlined their plans for adopting these boys from Haiti. Ezra, Jeff, Peter, and Jude recently completed their enrollment and began attending French Creek Valley Christian School shortly after arriving at their new home in Saegertown. Just weeks ago, these four were 2,000 miles away living at In The Father's Hand Christian Home in Port-de-Paix, Haiti. You may recall, this is where FCVCS students went for a missions trip last year. (See Summer 2009 Newsletter). This orphanage is about 150 miles north of earthquake-ravaged Port-au-Prince. "We have been waiting a long time," said Neoma Mattocks. The decision to adopt the four brothers, she said, was made after the family traveled to Port-de-Paix in 2005 as part of the mission work associated with Lashbrook Family Ministries. While attending a church service there, she said, she was overcome with a sense that something — or someone — life-changing was right behind her. "I felt in my heart, 'This is going to be your son,'" she said. "I turned, and it was Jeff." She said the family spent



some more time with all of the boys, and effectively decided right then to proceed with the lengthy process of adopting all of them. Regulations require that an adopting family has an already-established relationship with the children being adopted, so Dave Mattocks traveled to Haiti every year to spend time with the boys and also to serve at the Christian Home. Dave said, "We had another trip planned for March of this year, then the earthquake happened." As it turns out, the earthquake actually got the boys out of Haiti and into the United States quicker. More children are arriving at In The Father's Hand Christian Home in the wake of the earthquake. That means that space has to be made for them. The Haitian government made the decision to expedite all adoptions that were currently in progress, thereby making room in orphanages for victims of the earthquake. End result, these boys are now "home" in Saegertown and enrolled at French Creek. If you'd like to help offset the tuition costs for these four boys, simply send your gift using the enclosed envelope and mark the box "scholarship fund".

## FCVCS Students plan missions trip to Haiti

Despite the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti, FCVCS students are in the process of planning their second annual trip to this third-world nation. Plans are under way for a 7-10 day adventure to Port-de-Paix, Haiti. Students will work at In the Father's Hand Children's Home. An orphanage in northern Haiti, part of the Lashbrook Family Ministry started by Keith and Cindy Lashbrook in 1999. Lashbrook Family Ministry is committed to care for the impoverished, children, widows, and families of the community. Whether it is through their Boys' Home, our Adoption Home, church, school or by providing 65 people in the community with a job, they are dedicated to bringing the Father's love to Haiti and to the world. Keith is the brother of FCVCS Administrator, Patrick Lashbrook. In addition to working at the orphanage, students will visit Grace Christian School and Grace Children Adoption Home. Students are in the process of obtaining financial support for the trip. Costs are estimated at \$1000 to \$1500 per person. Thanks to supportive individuals and churches, a great deal of

"To take a child who was orphaned - to take that orphan and turn him into a son - to turn that son into a Godly father - to change Haiti one son at a time by bringing back the family structure, this is our heart and commitment. My wife Cindy and I, believe we can make a difference by loving these children as mom and dad."

In the Father's Hand,  
Keith & Cindy Lashbrook

the funds have come in. "We had 12 go last year", said Patrick Lashbrook, "This year we are looking at 18-20 going". Patrick says the group is flying out of New York City and will end up in Port-au-Prince now that the airport is re-opened to commercial traffic. "From there, we will charter a plane to Port-de-Paix. Maybe even two, depending upon the amount of supplies we take with us", said Mr. Lashbrook. The group will pack medical supplies, food, and lots of clothing as part of the trip. Typically everything that is taken is left at the ministry there. "We return with just the clothes on our backs", said Patrick. Due to the chaos in Haiti presently, the group expects to have a military escort once they arrive. A report of their trip will appear in our spring newsletter (April) and will also be posted on our website around the same time. It's not too late to pledge financial support or donate supplies for this trip. Checks can be mailed using the enclosed envelope. Simply write "Haiti Missions Trip" on the envelope. Any funds received that exceed the cost of the trip will be given to the ministry in Haiti.



More Pictures on the Web

[www.fcvs.org/PICTUREGALLERY.html](http://www.fcvs.org/PICTUREGALLERY.html)



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## MARCH FOR LIFE



Twenty-two from French Creek Valley Christian School recently made the trip to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life.



This event held every year on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade is the best way to draw attention to the numerous abortions performed every year since Roe v. Wade became law in 1973. The goal is to persuade our leaders to eradicate abortion from America's future



For more information on the march visit:

<http://www.marchforlife.org/>

The Consequences of Roe v. Wade

# 49,551,703

Total Abortions since 1973

<http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/facts/abortionstats.html>

## HAITI RELIEF EFFORTS

French Creek Valley Christian School is a collection point for Haiti relief. Details on our website.



Recently non-perishable food items and medical supplies were donated to assist the Haitians.



FCVCS volunteers loaded the supplies and drove them to another ministry in Indiana, who then shipped everything to Haiti. If you'd like to help, we are still collecting. Visit us on the web for more details: <http://www.fcvs.org/Haiti.html>

## NEW GYM LIGHTS !

Praise God we were recently given some lights for in our gymnasium. Thanks to Mr. Moyer for spearheading this project and not being afraid of heights. What a blessing.



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**New Website: [www.FCVCS.org](http://www.FCVCS.org) Check us out!**

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