



Alumni Focus

Christy Homer Class of 2006

How many years did you attend FCVCS?
13 years. K-12

What does FCVCS mean to you? **To me it is the only school I have ever known, and when I look at what kind of school I would have went to if not French Creek, I see how blessed I was to be able to be a part of a Christian education. It is the place that reinforced Biblical values and teaching secondary to my parent's and my church's foundational Biblical teaching in my life.**



Did your experiences at FCVCS impact or change your life in any way? **I definitely think it has been a factor and a contributor to the person I am today. I used to wonder how different of a person I would be if I would not have went to French Creek my entire school years. It helped build the foundation for my faith and it has impacted my life because even today I remember some of the Bible verses I memorized weekly for Bible class.**

Do you feel like you were sheltered from the "real world" by being at FCVCS? **In some ways, yes, but in others, no. No, because there were other kids that I attended school with who were not believers and I heard things about the real world, but , I do think it would be helpful if we would have done more projects outside the bubble of French Creek. For example, reached out to our community more.**

What have you been doing since graduation? **I currently attend Liberty University and I am in the Nursing program. I have been taking nursing courses since my sophomore year at Liberty, and I will be graduating this December with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing. I have developed many godly relationships here at Liberty, and the Lord has blessed me abundantly. I have grown in my faith here since I've been to college and I am excited to see where He will take me in the next steps of life this December when I graduate.**

Did FCVCS adequately prepare you for getting into a good college? **For the most part, yes.**

As a private school student, do you think you were prepared for college better or worse than the public school students you encountered. **I think I was prepared in all subjects except for science. I felt prepared as a Freshman especially in my English, Math, and Bible classes. However, when I was a freshman, I struggled with all my science courses when everyone else was advancing forward because they had already had foundational science courses in which they learned a lot.**



Christy—Missions Trip to Africa

You are studying nursing. What made you choose that? **I am studying nursing and the reason I am is because I truly believe with all my heart that the Lord has called me to nursing. To make a long story short, the Lord put me in a situation at the end of my freshman year of college; at a time when I was unsure about the first major I had chosen which was Physical Therapy. In that situation that summer, the Lord showed me that I had a compassionate heart for people and that my heart**

Continued, Next Page

burned to have an avenue to share God with others. He impressed upon me that summer that I could have a career that involved being the hands and feet of Christ and He showed me that was nursing. I pursued nursing, which wasn't easy because that meant I had to change my major after I had already done one year with another major at Liberty. So I pursued it, got accepted into the nursing program, and have been blessed ever since. It has been amazing to just see the hand of God confirm over and over again to me that choosing nursing was the right decision. I absolutely can't wait to see how God will use my degree in Nursing to spread his love to a dark and hurting world.

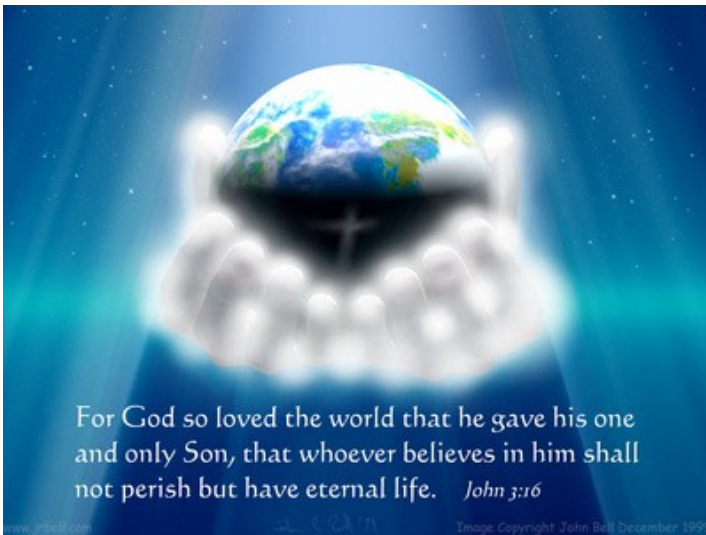
Do you feel like your time at FCVCS prepared you for life after school and beyond? Why or why not. **Yes, I feel like it did, because it helped develop that foundation of my faith. Without the development of the foundation of my faith, I would have no faith, and I would be lost. I appreciate all the teachers I had throughout my years who cared and who had a passion to see kids grow in the Lord. I also feel like through sports at French Creek, I learned true dedication and the value of a hard worker. I learn perseverance in the times when the practices were hard or the games got challenging.**

What are some of your favorite memories from FCVCS? **The bond I had with my team members during sports, especially basketball. The friendships I built there. The dedicated teachers who showed me true compassion and who were my Christian role models. The inside jokes we had with the teachers.**

Any advice for the present students at FCVCS? **To seek the Lord with all your heart! To not just set on the fence as a lukewarm Christian, but to boldly step forward for Christ by living daily for Him by daily meeting with Him.**

Would you encourage others to attend FCVCS? Why? **Yes, because it provides Biblical teachings by teaching foundational values of the Bible to children every day.**

As potential donors read this interview, why should they consider giving their money to FCVCS? **French Creek impacts lives because of their Biblical teaching, which sets them apart from public schools.**



French Creek Valley Christian Child Care
Raising Children the Proverbs 22:6 way!

Caring Staff		Infants
DPW Approved		Toddlers
Newly Renovated		3-5yr old
PA Stars Certified		School Age
Christian Curriculum		6:30am to 6:00pm

SAFE CARING SENSITIVE EDUCATIONAL
420 North St. Unit #2; Saegertown, PA 16433
814-763-6824
Call today to schedule a tour! Come GROW with us!

DID YOU MISS A PAST NEWSLETTER?

They are now available on the web at:

<http://www.fcvcs.org/NEWSLETTERS.html>



Why Should I consider Christian education?

Reasons Why You Need To Pray About It.

Finances. Location. Perceived academic deficiencies. These are just some of the reasons parents spurn Christian education in favor of its public school counterpart. In this space, over the next few months, we will offer you ten solid arguments in favor of Christian education.

God commands us to teach kids through the Word

"The school system that ignores God teaches its pupils to ignore God; and this is not neutrality. It is the worst form of antagonism, for it judges God to be unimportant and irrelevant in human affairs. This is atheism."

Gordon H. Clark

It's a sad but true irony: public schools, the self-proclaimed shapers of the human mind, have chosen to ignore the God who *created* the human mind. To their chagrin, they have robbed themselves of their most valuable "textbook," and the only available source of absolute truth.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," writes Solomon. "And knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). As students pursue the knowledge of math, biology and music in a Christian setting, they're chasing after the knowledge of God. And the by-products of such an endeavor – wisdom and understanding – are the God-given rewards for which every good student strives.

God expects you, as a Christian parent, to plant and nurture His Word in the hearts and minds of your children. This is best accomplished in settings where home, church and school all send the same message, teaching God's truth with clarity, conviction and consistency. And while the benefits of such a commitment are often realized much later, here's one you'll notice in relatively short order. An education that uses God's Word as its foundational text does more than produce spiritually-mature Christians. It makes them wiser and more knowledgeable. It forces them to be better thinkers. And isn't that the goal of education in the first place?

Summer Volunteer Help Needed !

- ⇒ Painting, Inside or Out
- ⇒ Classroom Cleaning, Floor Waxing, etc.
- ⇒ Lawn Mowing, Grounds Maintenance
- ⇒ Electrical Repairs, light bulbs, switches, etc.
- ⇒ Heating System Maintenance & Repair

If you can help, please call us at 763-3282



Christian Education: Investment, Sacrifice, or Obligation?

From Nurturing Faith
Christian Schools International

This is the time of year for budgets, annual parent meetings, and staff hiring. A lot of time, energy, and discussion are put into financial matters related to the cost of Christian education. What is the language used in our discussions with parents, board, and each other? Let us consider some thoughts around the words investment, sacrifice, and obligation. If our language conveys our values and really matters, then we should choose our words wisely.

It's wonderful to hear parents talk about investing into the lives of their kids by giving them a Christian education.

When I think of "investment", I think of these phrases:

- Seen as a good thing to do with money – ex. The parable of the talents
- Are a plan for growth and the future
- Don't always turn out like we planned, but we still make them anyway
- Potentially impact future generations

When I hear parents describe their choice for Christian education in a negative tone as a "sacrifice," I think of these phrases:

- Something I have to do
- Sometimes grudging obedience rather than my heart's desire
- Something I am giving up, not always cheerfully, to maintain something else
- Sense of loss rather than choice
- Sometimes used in "guilting" – "I sacrificed so you can have this"

I realize that the attitude of the heart is what determines how these words are used. I can also be forced to make investments for good (taxes come to mind) and do so with a resentful attitude. I can also make a joyful sacrifice – the kind that is pleasing to the Lord, such as the Abel offers, or one at the cost of my life, such as Samson. On the other hand if I view sacrifice as obligation it may be like the cheerless Pharisee who tossed into the collection plate in large measure and made sure it was publicly visible. In Jesus' observation, the widow "sacrificed" but she did so with a grateful and joyful heart as an "investment" in the work of the kingdom.

How we and our staff approach our work is also key. Do we focus on our "sacrifice" to work at a lower salary or do we see our work as an opportunity to "invest" into the lives of the kids and into our community and world?

The language we use and allow others to use really surfaces our values and our level of commitment. The Bible says that "where your treasure is there will your heart be also," and provides many very clear stories of biblical characters who ran into trouble confusing obedience and gratitude – investment, sacrifice, or obligation.

What attitude does our language convey about how we approach the opportunity for a Christian education that can equip our children to hear the redemptive call of God on their life in personal and corporate ways?

Do we focus
on our
"sacrifice"
Or see the opportunity to
"invest"
into the lives
of the kids?

NEWS OF OUR STUDENTS

Stephen Dennis was recently chosen by Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative to receive the 2010 Youth Tour Scholarship. The Youth Tour Scholarship experience includes a week-long stay in Washington, DC.

In June, Stephen along with nine other area high school juniors, made the trek to DC. Visits to museums and monuments as well as meetings with elected officials were part of the agenda. The students also met with their peers from throughout the United States to learn about the cooperative way of doing business.

"Winners were selected from numerous candidates on the basis of test scores and a personal interview," said Mary Mulligan-Haines, marketing manager for Northwestern REC.

Congratulations Stephen! We are proud of you.



Owen Parker, graduate class of 2010, was recently awarded third place in the eighth annual Channellock, Inc. Senior Scholarship Essay Contest.

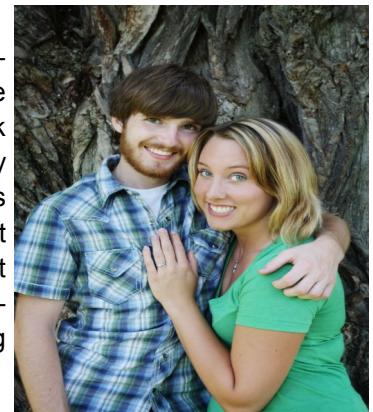
Entrants were required to write an essay detailing the problems with our Social Security program and what they would do to fix it. An awards ceremony was held in May during which Owen received a pair of Channellock pliers with laser engraving as well as scholarship money which will be applied to his freshman term at Edinboro University this fall. Owen will be majoring in Business Administration.

Congratulations Owen! We are proud of you.



Owen with Channellock's President and CEO William S. DeArment

Cassandra Parker and Donny Consla, class of 2007 recently announced their engagement. Cassandra and Donny dated throughout their high school years and are now making plans for their upcoming wedding. Donny presently works at Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center as well as Conneaut Lake Veterinary Hospital as a technician. He attends college at Allegheny College where he majors in Biology (pre-vet program) and minors in History. Cassandra presently works at French Creek Valley Christian Child Care and the Saegertown Dairy Inn as a night manager. Cassandra attends Edinboro University where she is majoring in Elementary and Special Education. They spend time pet sitting, rock climbing, enjoying Donny's dog Avett, and just hanging out. The wedding date is set for May 28, 1010.



Do you have news of our students to share?
Submit your information on-line to FrenchCreek@ZoomInterNet.net

Message from our Administrator. Mr. Patrick Lashbrook

THE FUTURE IS AS BRIGHT AS THE PROMISES OF GOD!!!

I had the opportunity to take my family on a vacation to Gettysburg. I found the trip to be quite an inspiration and enjoyable time. As we toured the battle scenes and started learning the heart of the men on both sides of the field, I started thinking about our little daycare and school.

I thought about restoring our foundation as a people, society, and nation is no little undertaking. But we here at French Creek Valley Christian Childcare and School have fixed our gaze on doing our part in raising and educating children for responsible service both to their fellowman and to God. We are seeking to produce servant leaders with a strong biblical foundation able to serve in any vocation in which the student is called.



Don't move an ancient boundary stone set up by your forefathers (Proverbs). With so much of our society shifting, lines being crossed, definitions being rewritten, truth being distorted, community being destroyed, and children left to their own devices (Lord of the Flies) what can be done. **Educate for responsible service.** We at French Creek are seeking to partner with the families of our community to raise and educate our children for effective citizenship. It is time to start planting good seed into our children and watch them blossom with new birth and cause a societal change one child at a time.

The following is an excerpt from The Gettysburg address:

...It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- Abraham Lincoln

Long Term Missions Trip—Your Opportunity to GIVE

Former graduates of French Creek Valley Christian School, Samantha Kaste and Ashley Sheldon have both been to Haiti twice. Once in April 2009 and then in March 2010. On their last trip, they both felt God calling them to go back as interns.

"I (Sam) had always felt the call to go into missions, and after visiting Haiti the first time I knew that I was going to return, just not this soon as an intern. While working at the school I did not realize that God was preparing me to go back to Haiti."

"I (Ashley) had started going to college in the fall, but after six months realized that God had different plans. While in Haiti this past year I didn't expect God to call me back."

After much prayer and fasting together they've decided on a nine month stay from September 2010 thru May 2011. They will be going down to work as interns doing various things. They will be working at the Crèche, which is where the infants stay, cooking, teaching English, and serving in any area where needed.

Going to serve requires that they come up with their own support. The cost will be around \$500 a month, which will cover all their basic needs and the cost of staying at the mission.

If you would like to send a one time donation you can send the money to the school, and put "Haiti-Sam & Ashley" on the memo line. To pledge your monthly support, simply send a commitment card to the school and they will let you know where to send the money when the time is near.

They both added, "We wanted to share this with you because you have always been supportive of the school and our trips in the past. If you are unable to support financially, prayers are always needed. We'd like to thank you for all the past and future support you have given."



Guest Commentary . . . Mrs. Beth Robertson

I have seen a lot of people come and go in the 5 ½ years that I have been here at FCVCS. Because of my position, I am usually the last one they talk to when they go. We judge them because they go and they judge us because we stay. I know the sacrifice they made to come here, to send their kids here, to serve here. We take a minute or an hour of a person's whole life and use it to justify our own judgment of them. They leave because they judge their child's time here by what one small thing happened. Too often it's the small time frame that may have been their worst moment and now it defines them in our eyes. Then we go and say, "Yep, I was right about them, I knew they were like that, see, see." Then you feel justified. I know I do it, I hear others do it, and I jump in.



I walked the halls down the old elementary wing recently looking for something, and as I walked past those empty rooms, a million memories came back of faces of children and parents and teachers who gave everything to work in squalor and sacrificed themselves to work here. People who could get \$40,000 in the secular world, got \$12,000 here. They are gone but their work is not gone. It lives on in my son's heart. . . in his actions, in his convictions, in his spirit, in his love for Jesus. It lives in all our children.

People often comment on what a good job I did raising Ryan, how nice he is, how they trust him, how he shows good judgment. I was even pretty darned impressed when he spoke at our church and other churches about his missions trip. I thought, "My gosh, that's my son! I raised him. How'd that happen? Me the imperfect one, the mess (in my eyes and others)".

I know what happened. I trusted Jesus. I trusted that me, crazy, stupid, loud, boisterous, always saying the wrong thing, completely imperfect me, could lean on Christ to make it all turn out right. I chose to dedicate my child to Christ and rededicate my life to Christ. I knew that He would show me how to do this. That He would help me choose the path that would lead me to (1.) the right church that taught the Bible where I saw kids who loved the Lord and were proud to be Christians that (2.) went to FCVCS. That (3.) He would lead me to go to Saegertown to a craft show in this school where I realized those kids were from. Then (4.) He lead me to open the paper and see an ad for a bookkeeper position here. He would allow me to work here so that I could afford the tuition.

He put the people here that taught my son the things that I couldn't. He has taken the talents of others and used them to make up for my deficiencies. My son was not raised by Tim and I alone. . . He isn't what he is because of just us. He has become what he is because of all those faces I don't see anymore. They all loved Jesus. So many times I am asked what kind of school this is. What denomination. What defines the school. There is only one common thread. We all love Jesus. We are all so different, we are sometimes so far apart, but we have to stop and think about the journey we are all on. We must not judge the specific moments we see, but we must consider the whole journey. Our work is not complete. This good work we call FCVCS is not complete. Do we want our children to have this gift? We all need to step up, do not judge how and what we do here but come and share the journey and help shape it with your greatest gift. . . Yourself!

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run,
and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*
~ Isaiah 40:31



**FRENCH CREEK VALLEY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

420 North Street
Saegertown, PA 16433

*Educating for Responsible Service
in the Kingdom of God!*



Celebrating 30 Years!

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Meadville, PA
Permit No. 127

Return Service Requested



FCVCS Building & Grounds Needs

In order to get ready for this school year we could use some help with the following items:

- ⇒ \$1,000 to replace the windows in the school offices.
- ⇒ Countertops for installation in our new computer lab.
- ⇒ Painting inside and out.
- ⇒ Parking lot needs sealed.
- ⇒ Newly installed windows need finished.
- ⇒ Floor tiles need replaced.
- ⇒ Minor roof repairs.
- ⇒ New playground equipment.
- ⇒ Fencing installed for new child care playground.
- ⇒ Many other items.

Do you see something that needs done around the school?

We welcome you to take ownership and take on a project.

Just call the office and tell us what you would like to do.

**FAMILY WORK
DAYS**

Aug 14th

Aug 28th

9am to 4pm

Bring a dish to share for lunch and come help us get the building and grounds ready for a new year. Bring your tools, bring your food, bring your friends. Food, Fun, Fellowship!