

July 29, 2010

# Summer News

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*"...he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." -2 Cor. 5:19-20 NIV*

I can't help it. I watch people at Kroger and Lowes, and at times, it fills me with a curious sadness tinged with despair. So many people pass by looking so ordinary; even their demeanor communicates "ordinariness." Many are obviously submerged in despair and unhappiness or are burdened down with afflictions of multiple kinds. To travel down past the homeless shelters and missions in town these days brings a definite sadness as I see figures in doorways or sitting on street corners waiting, forever waiting but never seeking. The sadness creeps into my bones until I cannot think about it, and I must simply pass on. My theory is that 95% of us are so terribly ordinary, totally undistinguished in any way and would probably never qualify as one of the "beautiful people." Every morning, my mirror reinforces this theory with alarming force. Our talents, intelligence, and charm are usually quite ordinary, as well, leading many of us to come to the frightful conclusion in our more daring moments that we, indeed, are quite *average*. This combination of the commonness of the common man coupled with the overwhelming spiritual lost-ness of so many people in general can be depressing if it were not for the promises of Scripture.

First, I must constantly remind myself that we are created in the image of God. It is a concept that will change any life if properly and fully understood. A friend in ministry to inner city children writes, *"Ronnie is an example of how God is freeing some of our teens from (those) labels. He has been bitter towards his dad (and let me say he has reasons), but the bitterness has made him angry at everyone. At camp, a counselor spoke into his life, "Your dad gave you his name, but God gave you His image. You don't have to be like your dad." Those words set Ronnie free. He's not angry any longer. His summer has been amazing! He even felt the need to apologize to his dad for the way he felt. That action was a "God" thing—I know many adults who would not do that. Ronnie is allowing God to mold him into His image."* It also changes the way I look at people, even that balding man shuffling his way across Lowes in his ugly shorts with the protruding waistline and the aimless look on his unshaven face. There is something God-like there if I will but look closely.

Second, there is available to all who would choose to walk in it, a high and holy calling as ambassadors for God. These are given the ultimate mission of helping reconcile the world unto Himself. Look up any ambassador on-line, and you will see a polished person of impeccable credentials who epitomizes the best of the best. They are addressed as "His (or her) Excellency," "Mr. (or Ms.) Ambassador," to recognize their position of prestige and power as representatives of a whole nation. It is an exciting job with much honor. So, we too, are called to be ambassadors of Christ to a lost world. There is no more awesome calling or mission in life than this. Christ wants to operate through us as his vessels to accomplish his continuing work on earth. Whether it be from a polished pulpit or through a cup of cold water given in His name, the work of Christ is world changing, and we get to be a part of it!

The good news is that there are no mean or obscure lives. Or at least, there need not be. "Average" need not describe our lives nor describe our children's lives. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, all can achieve the rank of ambassadorship fueled with a life mission that will propel us throughout our years with a sense of purpose and excitement. And credentials? We have them in spades. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). We are completely new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). We are the children of God, joint-heirs with Christ, whereby we cry, "Abba, Father," (Rom. 8:15-17). Talk about connections.

There is no reason for anyone to live a common, non-descript obscure life if they walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. In this sense, there are no average students at River's Edge nor should you have any in your household. They are all bound for the rank and office of ambassadors for the King. I pray we awake in them this year their destiny in Christ and fire them with a vision for what they can be through Him who strengthens us for all things.

Mercy and Truth, *Mr. Moe*

### **Final Summer Newsletter**

This is the final newsletter we will be distributing this summer. We will continue our weekly newsletter distribution beginning Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be sent home weekly in your blue (NO LONGER PURPLE) communication folders from the school office. We hope to phase out distributing hard copies of newsletters mid-year by making them accessible online through ParentsWeb, thereby saving the school time and money and helping the environment as well. Remember to read your newsletter weekly as this is the school's main way of communicating with our families regarding announcements and upcoming events.

### **Remaining Summer Office Hours**

Our summer office hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. We will continue to be in the office on this schedule through Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Beginning Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be back to our normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

### **Get Your Calendar Ready**

August holds much excitement for our families and students. Below is the calendar of events with explanations to match. Please contact the office if you have any questions about these school functions. Please note that attendance at Parent In-service is a requirement for the teaching parent.

- **Thursday, August 12, 2010, Student Orientation (West-side Campuses):** All West Hills Presbyterian Church campus students (K4, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades) should attend Student Orientation at the West Hills Presbyterian Church campus from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. All West Town Christian Church students (K5 – 5<sup>th</sup> grades) should attend Student Orientation from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Student Orientation is a time for students to meet their teachers and receive information about the upcoming year.
- **Thursday, August 12, 2010, Parent In-service (All K4 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents):** If you have a student in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or below this upcoming school year at any campus, please reserve this evening for our Parent In-service. This begins at 7:00 p.m. in the WTCC auditorium. Parent In-service is **mandatory** for the teaching parent of all River's Edge students and for the teaching parent of all Umbrella Plus students as well. Both parents may attend; however, childcare will not be provided.
- **Friday, August 13, 2010, Student Orientation (Smithwood Campus):** All kindergarten students attending the Smithwood campus should attend their Student Orientation at the Smithwood Campus from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Student Orientation is a time for students to meet their teacher, Mrs. Anderson, and receive information about the upcoming year.
- **Friday, August 13, 2010, Parent In-Service (Middle and High School Students):** If you have a 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, the Middle and High School Parent In-service will be held at the West Hills Presbyterian Church campus beginning at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is **mandatory** for the teaching parent and leased textbook materials will be distributed that evening. Again, childcare will not be provided.

### **New Parent In-service**

On **Monday, August 30, 2010**, we will have new a New Parent In-service meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the WTCC auditorium. This meeting is **mandatory** for all families new to River's Edge for the 2010-2011 school year. The teaching parent from each new River's Edge family must attend.

### **Attention 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Families**

Beginning this year, we will be hosting a parent training session for all first and second grade parents. This has proven to be very beneficial for other schools like ours, and we will be announcing a time and date for this soon.

### **Bring Your Talents to the Table**

The night of Parent In-service is the time to sign up for committee service. This is a great way for our parents to serve within the school body using the particular talents and gifts the Lord has given them. Every family must sign up for one committee. Smithwood families are exempt due to the number of rotation hours they must serve. (Some committees are required to help with fundraising in addition to the regular committee work). Committee signup sheets will be available on tables in the gym during the evening of Parent In-service.

### **Hellos and Goodbyes to River's Edge Staff & Faculty**

We wish to extend a very large *THANKS* to one of our staff members who was instrumental in the successful launching of our high school program. She also helped to orchestrate the implementation of our new school name and logo, and she introduced us to the RenWeb School Management System, among other things. Jenny Stowe's work will remain with lasting impact upon the future of our school, although she herself will be resigning at the end of this month to enjoy a season of motherhood with her three young children. We pray blessings upon your future endeavors, Jenny.

We have hired **Mrs. Tammy Puckett** to help us in the next leg of the race with the development of the high school program. She will be serving double duty as High School Coordinator as well as 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. Mrs. Puckett has extensive experience in initial accreditation for Christian schools as well as experience teaching in Christian schools. Mrs. Puckett has earned a Masters of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction, in addition to having earned her certificate as an Educational Specialist in Administration and Supervision. She is an ACSI certified teacher with 14+ years of experience teaching in Christian schools including First Baptist Academy (Powell), Grace Christian Academy, and Kings Academy. She has taught middle school science using the Bob Jones curriculum and has served as science department head at a previous Christian school. She is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Educational Administration. We feel extremely blessed to have this highly qualified person working on behalf of our school and students. Please welcome Tammy in her new position!

We have also hired **Mrs. Carolyn Burris** to teach our 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Science class. Carolyn has a Masters degree from the University of Tennessee in the field of science, with a major in nutrition. She has experience teaching using the Apologia science curriculum. She successfully taught her own children who were home schooled through high school using this curriculum. Both of her children now attend college. Her son, Jared, is pursuing a degree in a science-related field in the area of computer technology. Carolyn has taught health and nutrition classes in public and school settings and currently works part-time at Cedar Springs Christian bookstore as a home school curriculum consultant. She also works in the children's ministry at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church and served for three years at Thursday Connection as a break room supervisor. Carolyn's personal interests include: piano, reading, walking, 4-H Club, equine management, Christian Youth Band, church, and volunteer activities. Please welcome Carolyn – she will make an excellent addition to our team!

This next staff member we want to tell you about requires a little preface... As you may know, our school is growing, up in terms of grade level offerings, and out in terms of expansion to other campuses. Our student population is near 200 this year, nearly 40 more students than we had in 2009-2010. This, in combination with all of the developmental changes we are going through as a school has left our Administrator, Mr. Nordmoe, with a very full plate... a little too full! Just recently, he and the Board began considering bringing on an Assistant Administrator to share in the workload and to provide an administrator's presence at the various campuses. The school board did not actively pursue advertising for or trying to hire for this position, but instead, those concerned began praying for the right person to come at the right time to fill this position. This summer, in the course of interviewing applicants for teaching positions, one of our applicants stood out as a person who possessed the experience, the complementary personality, and the vision and heart of one who could work well alongside our Administrator. We believe that the Lord has placed a special call upon her heart specifically to fill this position.

**Mrs. Angie Zimmerman** is a TN certified K-12 teacher and has an endorsement in Special Education. She is highly qualified in grades K-6. She has 3 years of home schooling experience, 6 years of tutoring experience at all grade levels in every subject through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, 9 years of classroom teaching experience in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. She graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont, TX, earning a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She has taught in both Christian and public schools and has had experience with the following curriculum: A Beka, Bob Jones, Saxon, Glencoe McGraw-Hill, and Shurley Grammar. She served as a Senior Director of a sales company, effectively managing a team of 75 sales people which made the "Top 10 Sales" for two years straight. As a teacher, she was nominated by her co-workers as the "District Teacher of the Year" during her first year of teaching, and in 2008-2009, she was nominated by her students as "Walmart Teacher of the Year". She is married to Mark Zimmerman, who is the Senior Pastor at Whitestone Church. They have served in ministry there for 11 years. She has served in the worship ministry, has led middle school and high school youth as well as being involved in other children's activities, as well as serving as women's ministry leader. Mrs. Zimmerman has four children, ranging from elementary age through high school. Her most recent addition, Valancia, was recently adopted from Haiti and will be attending River's Edge this school year as a third grader. Please welcome Angie Zimmerman in her new position. She is VERY excited to have this opportunity to serve the school in this way!

### **Dance for Joy! Ballet Class**

The Dance for Joy class for lower elementary ballet (Pre-k through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) will meet on Wednesdays from 12:55 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The upper elementary ballet class (3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet on Thursdays from 12:55 p.m. to 1:30p.m. These classes will be held at WTCC in room F22. Tuition is \$25 per month. There is a registration fee of \$25 to hold the student's place in class. Please contact Mary Catherine Landry at 688-7564 for more information.

### **Running for God Track Team**

Registration for the 2010 Fall Cross Country team is underway. The Ambassadors Cross Country program is for home school boys and girls in the 2nd through 12th grade. Elementary students will run one mile races on Tuesday nights in September, and Middle School students will run two mile races on the same nights. High School students will condition with the team, run a road race together, and possibly participate in an out of town invite. The practice and meet schedule are available on this site listed below by clicking on calendar.

The cost for this season is \$55/per athlete if pre-registered before August 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are registering more than two participants, there is a \$5 per child discount above the second child. After August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the online registration cost is \$60/per athlete. If you are interested in your child(ren) participating, please go to the site listed below for more information and registration forms. **The season starts August 3rd**, so the earlier you get your registration form in, the better. <http://www.teampages.com/clubs/652>

### **Handwriting Class**

Kathie Garzony is now accepting only six applicants for her multisensory handwriting class. The class will meet on Thursdays at 12:30 for lunch and class will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. beginning the first week of school on August 19th. This class will be held at WTCC in room F23. The 13-week class, which is for students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and above, uses primarily an Alphabetic Phonics Orton Gillingham teaching approach and A Beka Book materials. The class benefits those with reversal problems (dyslexia) and helps with spelling and phonetic skills. "This is really our exercise class," she jokes with the children, as they use their large muscles to introduce every one of the capital and lower case letters. Some of the comments the children in the class have made are, "Can we do some more letters?" "I thought you might be mean, but you're a lot of fun!" "I love this class! Could I take it again?" One twelve-year-old in a previous class was determined to do things his own way, but he finally tried it as Mrs. Garzony showed him and exclaimed, "This really works!" He was a hardworking student thereafter. A remark made by a teacher at River's Edge is, "I can always tell when I have students in my class who have had Mrs. Garzony's handwriting class!" Please call Mrs. Garzony at 458-6315 for more details.

## **Rotation Forms**

Please remember to turn your rotation forms into the office for Wanda Martinson if you haven't done so already. Forms are processed on a first-come first-served basis. If you need to contact Mrs. Martinson, her new email address is [rotation@riversedgeca.com](mailto:rotation@riversedgeca.com). We appreciate your prompt attention in returning the forms.

## **New Fundraiser for River's Edge**

Free oil change anyone? That's right we said "FREE". Within the first couple of weeks of school, we will kick off our first official fundraising drive by selling the "Enjoy the City" coupon books. These coupon books will be sold for \$20 each, and they include a coupon for a free oil change from Firestone Auto Care. That coupon alone makes these a money saver for everyone who purchases them. Begin now by letting your friends and family know about these great books!

## **WTCC Clothing Drive**

West Towne Christian Church is holding a clothing drive from now until August 4, 2010. The clothing will go to benefit an organization called Master Provisions. This organization sends containers full of used clothing and shoes to the Ukraine where in the Post-Communist era, a loaf of bread costs as much as a new car did just a few years before. You are welcome to drop off any clothing in the church's upstairs lobby Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

## **River's Edge Partners with Classbook.com**

We now have a partnership with Classbook.com, and the bookstore is open for business. This online bookstore offers our families another option for ordering their students' entire curriculum in one convenient place. The bookstore can be easily accessed from our website, [www.riversedgeca.com](http://www.riversedgeca.com), by visiting the Academics page and then clicking on the link to curriculum lists. At the bottom of the curriculum lists page, there is a link to our Classbook.com online bookstore. This bookstore offers all of our required curriculum materials, except A Beka materials, which must be ordered directly through the A Beka Book company. **The direct website address is: [www.classbook.com/rvedg.asp](http://www.classbook.com/rvedg.asp).** Some advantages of using the bookstore include: The bookstore will keep our required curriculum materials IN STOCK and will usually ship within only one business day of the date the order is placed. This is great for parents who need to receive items quickly due to a late enrollment, etc. Another feature is that the company will offer used curriculum materials when they have them available, as well as they will BUY BACK used curriculum materials. To receive an estimate for what they will pay for a used curriculum item, only an ISBN number is needed. By entering the ISBN number into the website, an estimate is generated immediately. Be sure to check it out!

## **2010-2011 River's Edge Faculty**

Below is a list of the faculty for the 2010-2011 school year. Please continue to pray for our teachers as summer break finishes up and preparations for the school year get into full swing.

K4	Mrs. LeAnn Gheen	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Pamela Shields
K4	Mrs. Christi Harris	5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Tammy Logan
K5	Mrs. Lisa Anderson (Smithwood)	5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Angie Wilkinson
K5	Mrs. Laura Greene	Math (6 <sup>th</sup> )	Mrs. Joan Meletiou
K5	Mrs. Amy Skeen	Science (6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> )	Mrs. Tammy Puckett
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs. Amy Johnson	History (MS)	Mrs. Dee Dee Burnette
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs. Paula Knauss (WHPC)	Language Arts (MS/HS)	Mrs. Heather Melton
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs. Martha Rudder	Math (7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> )	Dr. Shirley Joubert
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs. Jennifer Shaw	Science (8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> )	Mrs. Carolyn Burris
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs. Dana Strong	World History (9 <sup>th</sup> )	Ms. Sondra Cofer
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs. Debra Harmon	P.E.	Mr. Phil Bevins
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs. Faith Pinkerton	Nursery Coordinator	Mrs. Ashleigh Rogers
4 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Heather Miller		

## Congratulations

We would like to send out a big *congratulation* to Melanie and Scott Barrett on the recent addition to their family. Vincent Colin Barrett was born on May 28, 2010, at 11:29 a.m. weighing in at 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 20" long. His has two big brothers, 2-year-old Tristan, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Ethan. Congratulations!



## Lands' End Uniforms

Are you still looking for uniform items for your middle or high schooler? River's Edge now has our own preferred school account with Lands' End! It is not required that you purchase from Lands' End, but we hope it can be a tool to help our parents find good quality clothing that meets our dress code. We've added their jumpers (for girls) to our approved uniform list as well as their handsome plaid (in our school colors, navy and hunter green) for some items. Also, for an extra fee, Lands' End will embroider our school logo onto any item of clothing! Here are some instructions to help you place your order:

- Preferred School Number for River's Edge Christian Academy is **900138959**.
- If you use the school code, 3% of your net sales from Lands' End go back to RECA.
- Lands' End has a list of what can and cannot be purchased as uniform.
- You may purchase other items from the catalog that are not uniform for personal use, and proceeds will still go back to RECA from your purchase.
- The logo can be embroidered on uniform items for an extra fee.
- Lands' End phone number: 1-800-469-2222; Internet: [www.landsend.com/school](http://www.landsend.com/school)
- Catalogs are available at the WHPC office.
- Please call or e-mail Vashti Walters with any questions: [vwalters@riversedgeca.com](mailto:vwalters@riversedgeca.com); phone: 481-3886

## Middle / High School Curriculum Leasing

Below is the list of Middle and High school students who have paid their math curriculum lease fee this year. If you haven't sent your money into the school, please do so as soon as possible. Leased text books will be distributed on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> during the Middle and High School Parent In-service. Thank you!

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Westphalen  
Schmudde  
Mee  
Hastings  
LeCren  
Raney

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Bevins  
Acree  
Roop  
Skeen  
Raney

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Hilemon  
Von Hagen  
Bauer  
Rasmussen  
Browning

### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Meystrik  
Gray  
Peters  
Roop

## Updated School Website

We have recently updated our school website. You may want to visit [www.riversedgeca.com](http://www.riversedgeca.com) and see the new design. Our website has a great new look and lots of information about River's Edge.

## **Thank You**

The staff, faculty, and board from River's Edge sends a HUGE "**Thank You**" to our Technical Support Genius, Mrs. LeAnn Hilemon, for all of the time and energy she has put into getting us up and running with RenWeb. She has put hours of hard work into this for all of our families. As you see her around campus this fall, please let her know how much our school appreciates all of her hard work! There is NO way we could have done it without her. Thank you LeAnn!!!!

## **RenWeb – Ready for Families**

Our new RenWeb School Management Software gives you, the busy parent, an opportunity to get more involved in your child's academic progress and future success – all via the Internet!

RenWeb's ParentsWeb is a private and secure parents' portal that will allow parents to view academic information specific to their children, while protecting their children's information from others. You can see your child's grades, attendance, lesson plans and conduct, as well as other useful school information. You can also communicate with teachers and other school staff whenever necessary. All you need is an Internet-capable computer.

Here's how to access our easy-to-use RenWeb ParentsWeb:

- Go to Internet Explorer and enter the address [www.renweb.com](http://www.renweb.com).
- Click **ParentsWeb Login** in the red box along the left side of the screen.
- Log in as follows:
  1. Type **RIV-TN** for your School ID.
  2. Click the **Submit** button.
  3. Click the **First Time Users** tab if you have not previously logged in to RenWeb. If you have, skip to Step 6.
  4. Enter your email address that you provided to the school.
  5. Click the **New User** button. You will receive an email containing your password within three minutes (to the email address you entered, which must be the same email address that you provided to the school). Check your email for this message before continuing.
  6. Click the **Parents** tab.
  7. Enter the password assigned (received in the email from step 5).
  8. Click the **Parent Login** button.

You should now be logged in to the School Information home page of ParentsWeb. To learn more about ParentsWeb, click the **Tour the New ParentsWeb** button to take a 6-minute video tour.

**Note:** If you are on a dial-up connection and experience long delays in loading the web pages, you may select the **Dial-up** option on the Parents login page before clicking the **Parent Login** button. This will take you to a dial-up version of ParentsWeb that contains the same information but in a dial-up-friendly environment that requires fewer graphics.

Please contact our Technology Coordinator, LeAnn Hilemon, if you have any problems or questions. Her email address is [tech@riversedgeca.com](mailto:tech@riversedgeca.com). We look forward to your participation. Together we can continue to improve our children's academic development as well as communication between our school and your home.

