



Warrior Newsletter

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Our Mission

Fourth Baptist Christian School, as a ministry of Fourth Baptist Church, is committed to the development of a student's spiritual life in Jesus Christ, while pursuing academic excellence in a manner which honors and glorifies God, based on the only infallible Word, the Bible.

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Honoring Miss Mary Wickham: 40 Years of Faithful Service to FBCS

The Bible tells us that if we are a believer in Jesus Christ, there will be a day coming, according to 1 Cor. 15:51-52, that we, the church, will rise to be with Jesus Christ in the air. It will happen in a moment of time, in a twinkling of the eye. It is said that those who have died in Jesus will rise first and then we, who are alive, will be changed instantly and we will meet the Lord Jesus in the air. Because of these truths, this, for the church, will be the final victory over death and sin. This event, which we believe is the rapture of the church, could happen today, tomorrow, or fifty years from now. We do not know God's timetable, but we are told the following:

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be (to become, calls for a constant attitude and action) steadfast and immovable (seated firmly, resolved, not able to moved from its place), always abounding (excelling, to super abound, to be in abundance) in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor (effort, toil, every act, literally pains) is not in vain (or empty) in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58

My very first year at FBCS was in the fall of 2010 and the school was struggling. Enrollment had significantly dropped and I was hired to attempt to rebuild our program and make sure that we could make it financially. In attempting to put a plan together, we had to make some significant cuts to our office staff and to our high school teaching staff. Our office staff was cut down to Miss Mary as our full-time school secretary

and me. Mrs. French was hired on to help us, but was part-time, which meant that most of the responsibilities had to fall on Miss Mary and myself. We started with an enrollment much higher than we had forecasted and Miss Mary had to learn the old grading system called SFA. Mr. Hazard came back to train Miss Mary on that system and it was up to us to make sure the office ran well.



What I remember most about Miss Mary was that she was the face of FBCS. She knew the people and their names and when alumni would drop in, she would remember their names as well, get out their file and show them their student pictures. She was forever serving as a student nurse, answering phones, and helping people with questions they might have. Many of our alumni would have had Miss Mary help them in getting a

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cough drop, calling home, or taking their temperature if they did not feel well. I will tell you that we couldn't have made it without Miss Mary in those early years as she worked tirelessly and often late into the evening to make sure things were done well. She was one of the most faithful and dedicated employees I have ever had work for me. She demonstrated a spirit of steadfastness, always abounding in the work of the Lord at this place, and labored on our behalf. Those were difficult days without a lot of "thank you's." We had to put our nose to the grindstone and Miss Mary did, with the right attitude. And... she super-abounded, never giving up, and remaining firm on her conviction of Christian education and making sure our office was a professional place. There are a number of things that I want our young people (and all of us)



to learn regarding the remarkable testimony of Miss Mary:

1. We need to be people who "Be." We become people who have a consistent positive attitude of action. We are joyful and not walking around with a frown.
2. We need to be people of resolve – people who are seated firmly; people who are immoveable. We are set in our convictions. For Miss Mary it was a conviction of Christian education and ministering to our students and parents all these years and making sure our school ran well.
3. We need to be people who excel at what we do and super abound at it. A Christian should never do things half-way. He or she should strive to do their best, to reach their highest potential, to set the bar high, not settle for just good enough to get by.
4. We need to be people who are willing to labor – even when folks are not grateful. There are times when you have to turn up the heat – and your work is labor – it is



toil. It's not always going to be easy. When you are called to step it up in life, those who understand the importance of laboring, do it and they don't quit.

5. When times are hard, we tend to think that our labor is not valuable. But Miss Mary never thought that. She always continued to work hard in a consistent manner.

These lessons, from 1 Cor. 15:58, were important things that Miss Mary exemplified for us.

But there is another characteristic that comes out in Miss Mary and that is one of perseverance. She served in our ministry from 1983 until this year. This will make her service to our school 40 years! For the first year, Miss Mary was hired to be the church secretary, but over the summer, the school needed a secretary and Miss Mary was called upon to do the work. It is seldom seen that a person serves in one place for that long. In the 1984-85 school year, our school enrollment was 632 students at the old building on Fremont. She served a number of years there as well as the interim locations while our current facility was being built, and of course, at our present



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MACS Choir Festival

On November 11, 2022, over two hundred students from six MACS schools joined together for our bi-annual MACS Choir Festival. Our guest conductor was Dr. Tim Sawyer from the University of Northwestern-St. Paul. The music for the festival was chosen in advance and each school worked hard preparing the songs before the festival. At the festival, students rehearsed together in four mass choir rehearsals.

The students also had the wonderful opportunity to have several amazing sectional coaches work with them for some more focused training – Mrs. Melody Johnson, UNWSP; Mrs. Samantha Laumann, U of MN and UNWSP; Mr. Richard Joseph, UNWSP, and Mr. Raymond Graybar. One of our festival songs was

written by Dr. Dan Forrest and we were able to do a Zoom session with him and learn more about his life and experience as a composer.

We also enjoyed great times of food and fellowship in our snack and meal times. The closing concert included performances by MACS school choirs, some amazing solo selections by our sectional coaches, and the combined festival choir performances of our songs – *Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho*, *Ukrainian Alleluia*, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, and *America the Beautiful*.

~L. Kolwinska

You can find the concert archived at:

<https://vimeo.com/770093626>



Mr. Raymond Graybar



Mrs. Samantha Laumann



Mr. Richard Joseph



Mr. Levi Kolwinska with Dr. Tim Sawyer



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Plymouth site. In 40 years, she has seen some 14,361 students come through our school. Her influence, kindness, and example has touched many, many lives over the years. In addition, she worked under four administrators: Mr. Dan Bjokne, Mr. Steve Seidler, Mr. Jon Tuttle, and me. She served when the school had its highest enrollment of 633 students in 1985, and the lowest in 2009 (193).

One of the things that I have appreciated about Miss Mary is that she could be trusted. This is also a rare thing, young people. A private conversation remained that way. I learned early on that I could talk to her about a struggle, get some advice, and know that it would remain between the two of us. I am so grateful to Miss Mary for that.



It is also important to remember someone who was very consistent in her work ethic and character. Miss Mary tried, very hard, to demonstrate a consistent manner of life before all of us and we noticed that in her. She always showed up! I remember only a time or two in 13 years where she was too sick to come to work. So many valuable lessons of perseverance, consistent work ethic, Christ-like example, the face of the school, and a love for people, parents and students.

God blessed us with Miss Mary for many years with a godly example. Thank you, Miss Mary, for your faithful service to FBCS! Miss Mary Wickham officially retired on December 16, 2022. We wish her all the best in her retirement years!
~A. Hodak



Adriel Ng Named a Commended Student in National Merit Scholarship Program

We congratulate Fourth Baptist Christian School senior, Adriel Ng, who has been named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) which conducts the program, will be presented by Mr. Hodak to this scholastically talented senior at graduation.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2023 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2023 competition by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."





Countdown to Christmas Elementary Concert

A packed crowd lined the back of the auditorium and filled every pew as the elementary FBCS musicians started the "Countdown to Christmas." Young musicians of all ages presented their praise to the Savior through various classic and less familiar Christmas carols. From "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" to "Rise Come and See the King" students pondered the real joy of Christmas through the greatest gift of all – Jesus, God with us. Mrs. Marissa Fredericksen, our resident K4 teacher and new early childhood music and flute teacher, debuted her K4/K5 music students who melted the audience with their performances.

Our 5th graders showcased their first chime and band performances, while the 6th graders mastered a medley



Donation to FBCS Provides for New Warrior Scoreboards in the Gymnasium

Thanks to the generosity of one of our families, FBCS will have new digital scoreboards along with our new shot clocks next year. Minnesota will go to a 30-second shot clock for basketball for the 2023-2024 season and the shot clocks were already purchased from money raised in our Sportswalk fundraiser. We did not raise enough money, however, to purchase new scoreboards. That cost was much greater than the proceeds from our Sportswalk Fundraiser (\$13,000). While our old scoreboards have served us well (26 years +), we were hoping to be able to upgrade, and this generous donation has made it possible. The scoreboards will be installed over the summer. Praise the Lord for His gracious provision! ~A. Hodak

(sample image of the new scoreboards here at right; we are getting the digital team names option!)



Countdown to Christmas Secondary Concert

The FBCS secondary musicians continued the Countdown to Christmas as so many family members and friends filled the pews or watched the concert online. The SH Band took us on a train ride with their *Polar Express* arrangement. The JH and SH handbell choirs rang in the Christmas season with familiar arrangements of Christmas carols. The JH Band students helped us celebrate with the Peanuts gang as they played *Christmas Time with Charlie Brown*. JH Choir wished us a very Merry Christmas in their arrangement of *Merry, Merry*, and SH Choir performed with great

energy and excitement on *O Come, All Ye Faithful* and a very fun song called *Walkin' Down the Road to Bethlehem*. Our annual Mixed Ensemble frivolity continued this year complete with ladders, Christmas lights, baking equipment, packages, streamers, a turkey, and even a pitchfork in their song *Countdown to Christmas*. The concert culminated with the combined JH and SH Choirs accompanied by the Platinum Handbells performing *All is Well*. If you missed the concert, you can find the concert archived on our website. ~L. Kolwinska



Elementary Happenings

Minnesota Zoo Trip Delights 3rd Graders

Our third grade class spent the first semester studying science. One of the student's favorite units is studying animals and their habitats. On November 9th, the third grade class got to visit the Minnesota Zoo. We were the only school at the zoo that day. It was very enjoyable to spend as much time as we wanted to at each exhibit. The students were very interested in the various animals in their habitats. We also enjoyed the "Wings and Things" show. Two of our students were chosen to let a large bird perch on their hand. It was a fun day learning more about the animals God created. ~Mrs. Jody Faithfull



Plymouth Fire Dept. Visits FBCS

In November, the Plymouth Fire Department made a visit to FBCS for our second graders. The firemen gave a wonderful presentation on fire safety. They even showed us what a fireman looks like all suited up in his fireman's gear. The students all loved the presentation but visiting the firetruck was, of course, the highlight. ~Mrs. Kim Morrell



Learning to Minister: SH Music Ministry Day

Our SH Choir and Handbell students had the wonderful opportunity to minister with our Christmas music at three local retirement homes on Wednesday, Dec. 14. Ministry and service to the Lord and others is one of the most important life skills that we can teach our students and we strive to do that through our annual ministry day. Our students sang our Christmas repertoire at The Waters of Plymouth, West Ridge Independent Living of Minnetonka, and Covenant Living of Golden Valley. The handbell choirs were also able to perform at Covenant Living. The senior citizens enthusiastically welcomed our students into their homes and it was a joy to interact with each of them. We estimate there were about 150 people total at the 3 locations and our students did a great job talking with our audience after each performance. We enjoyed seeing the familiar faces of some FBCS grandparents and FBC church

members that live in these homes. We hope that our students see the importance of music ministry and will always serve the Lord and others with a song!

~L. Kolwinska



SECOND QUARTER 2022-23	All "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
First Grade	 <p>Adam Babcock Caleb Caasi Zackary Friar Ryker Johnson Peter Levang Maxim Lipinskiy Everly Quinn Aurora Rathbun Hudson Schwartzenburg Harper Seymour Neriah Shelton</p>	<p>Micah Bruder Gage Byers Luke Chihak Eva Damyan Gabrielle Damyan Brecken Felt Octavian Golodneac Isabella Korovin Kayda Mendoza-Tamayo Amelia Sisam Joshua Strong Anthony Zhukouski</p>	<p>Polina Bystrov Alexandra Kachula Ophelia Kifyak</p>
Second Grade	<p>Matthew Aleckson Leyla Blazosky Daniel Chuprin Blake Coulson Vanessa Diaz Aria Felt Aubrey Finley Zoey Jean-Louis Eva Jenkins Elise Liu Lincoln Loch Emmaline Macalus Rhys McLeish Max Montgomery Ezekiel Nsameh Drake Ogbourne Lucia Skurat John Strong Michael Totimeh Shaela Zeah</p>	<p>Emma Damyan Blessa Johnson Avonlea Laumann Isaac Leanger Calvin Levang Michael Olaru Gianna Reese Micah Rolling Jason Ureke</p>	<p>Jo'Andri Merchant Elana Sayko</p>
Third Grade	<p>Anna Anachii Ava Blazosky Harrison Kappel Kate Kovalchuk Vanessa Tkach Thomas Wheaton</p>	<p>Isabella Agness Benjamin Brutskiy Jackson Byers Dan Damyan Leah Damyan Zachary Demchenko Brielle Faithfull Gabriel Nieson Michelle Olaru Joseph (Jaxsyn) Rennie Ammiel Rylka Isaiah Shrader Robinson Smith Jace Wicklund</p>	<p>Samuel Damyan Roland Eppers Timothy Kifyak Mira Nagel Eden Woods Laila Zderchuk</p> 
Fourth Grade	<p>Josiah Bruder Trey Johnson Roman Kachula Eliana Krasnopivtsev Margot Levang Sofia Lipinskiy Elijah Rudolph Viviana Skurat Reuben Totimeh Eric Zhao</p>	<p>Belinda Aleckson Kimberly Arroyo Zlata Belokon Jacob Damyan Colin McCulloch Emmanuel Scherr Zoey Scherr Anna Strong Tianci (Grace) Zhou</p>	<p>Roman Burlak Grace Chernyak Garrett Coulson Daniel Damyan Liam Landin Kevelle Spears Bernice (Victoria) Woods</p>
Fifth Grade	 <p>Ashley Blazosky Elias Brombacher David Caasi Daniella Damyan Madelynn Jahnke Chloe Johnson Katelyn Kolwinska Allison Kovalchuk Alexis LaVasseur Bryna McLeish Elise Pacencu Viviana Pullis</p>	<p>Liesl Campbell Alessandra Mendoza-Tamayo Pierce Ogbourne Arima Okafo Naomi Pacencu Ella Petrashev</p>	<p>Jacob Demchenko Ison Eppers Isabella Kifyak Ezekiel Leanger Connor Miezwa Morgan Nixon Alexander Tkach Benjamin Villar</p>

SECOND QUARTER 2022-23	ALL "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
Sixth Grade 	Liam Broere Alexandra Lipinskiy Aubrey Nieson Sean Okafo	Rilyn Faithfull Ziqian (Isaac) Gao Sarah Goshgarian Lincoln Johnson Allison Leanger Clara Morrell Alexsandr Petrashov Gabriel Shrader Tiegan Treptau	Vita Belokon Dima Brutskiy Isabelle Chuprin Levi Damyan Mark Damyan David Jacob Nathan Kauffman Jeremiah Komonash David Krasnopivtsev Carson Payne Samara Reese Ella Sayko Julianna Strong
Seventh Grade	Isaiah Caasi Anna Damyan Ava Fure Timothy Petrashov Sara Sousa Lauren Stephens Claire Vikander	Christian Hoffman Jizhen (Jila) Peng	Nikita Bodnar Ella Burlak Rebeka Damyan Christian Kolwinska
Eighth Grade	Josiah Combs John Goshgarian Nikita Lipinskiy Joseph Litkey Adelaisa Pullis	Gretchen Campbell Ethan Coulson Mark Manoila Asher Zderchuk	Nevaeh Kellogg Israel Keyzer Brianna Treptau
Ninth Grade	McKenzie Johnson Tava McLeish	Anja Brombacher Benjamin Jahnke Anastasia Lipinskiy Ethan Markgraf Charles Okafo Megan Page Grant Vikander Eli Villar Lillian Williams	Boston Faithfull Joseph Goshgarian Brandt Johnson Giselle Legoff Jinwen (Jane) Qin Tyler Stephens
Tenth Grade	Adelynn Farish Jack Fure Evan Harvath Jamie Hoese	Julia Bodnar Jonathan Kolacz Noah Lease Cody Mercado Sophia Morrell Nelly Petrashov Allison Tkach	Nevaeh Carlson Antonio Eppers Leonardo Kosovan Lexi Owens Emma Payne Sydney Weisser Xinyi Zhang
Eleventh Grade 	Nathan French Shaun Larson Sage McQueary Joy Okafo Clara Rieschl Johannah Rieschl	Lillian Broere Josiah Brombacher Jace Cheek Emily Chuprin Jacob Combs Grace Goshgarian Matthew Herrick Melissa Kauffman Julia Muhr Sofia Pullis	Isaac Caasi Sarah Jacob Henry Litkey Carsten Markgraf Isaiah Roman Alyssa Stephens
Twelfth Grade	Karina Mendoza Adriel Ng Abbie Page	Landon Broere Ha (Vivian) Bui Evelyn Williams	Danielle Komonash Anabelle Nixon Xian (Zion) Zhang