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Spring is always a very busy time on campus. Outdoor activities, the end of the school year, graduation, and a host of visitors to campus provide many opportunities for gatherings and celebrations.

We had two glorious spring days for our annual Board of Visitors meeting April 29-30. This year we welcomed sixty members of the Board, a group of women and men from across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina who serve as Thornwell advocates in their local churches and communities. Friendships were renewed, new relationships were established, and a great spirit of energy and excitement about Thornwell's ministry found expression.

During the two days, the Board of Visitors heard several presentations and experienced a kind of immersion in Thornwell. Lindy Scott and Susan Mattison described the application and admissions process, sharing information on the backgrounds from which children come to Thornwell and telling how admissions decisions are made. Board members visited the Learning Center and Norman Dover to see how academic support is provided to the children. Then they went to the Agriculture Education Center (the farm) to learn from Melanie Birchmore about the classes and animals and 4-H projects there.

Then on to the cottages, where our Visitors got to spend time with the children and the Family Teachers and to hear what life in the cottage families is like. From there, the entire campus gathered in the Turner Dining Hall for a delicious supper; then, celebrated the recognition of the Bailey Foundation of Clinton, SC, as 2010 Distinguished Benefactor. Thornwell Family Teachers, Jim and Becky Brown were the recipients of the 2010 Distinguished Service Award.

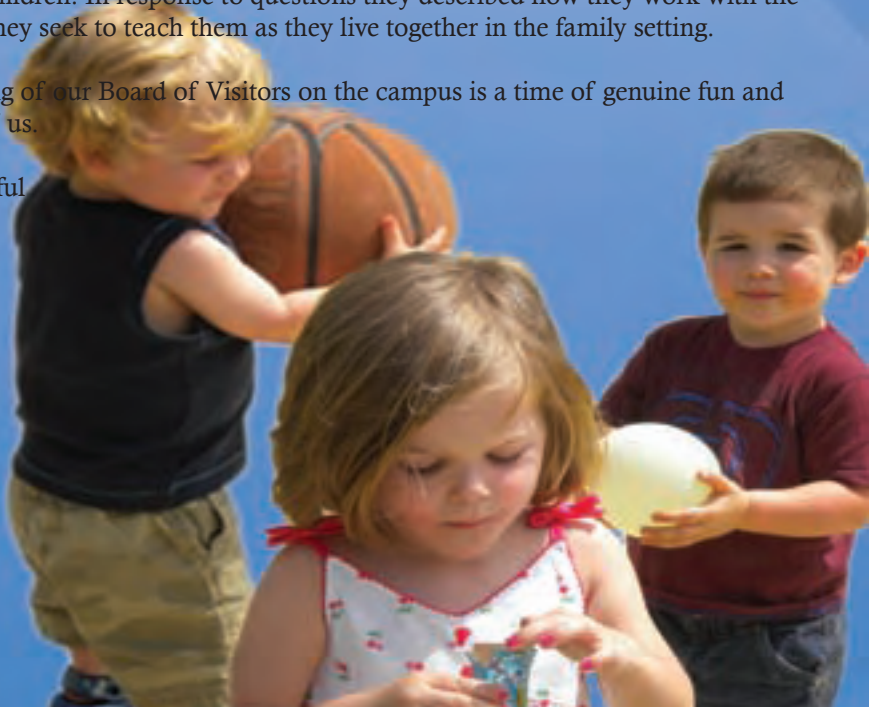
After dinner, the Board heard about the life of the campus church and the work of Christian nurture here. Thornwell youth Jessica, Sheryl, and Randy did a great job assisting the church staff with the presentation.

On Friday morning, the Board enjoyed a conversation with some of our Family Teachers. The group shared how they came to Thornwell and talked about their sense of God's call to this ministry with children. In response to questions they described how they work with the children and what they seek to teach them as they live together in the family setting.

The annual gathering of our Board of Visitors on the campus is a time of genuine fun and excitement for all of us.

We are deeply grateful for all that these wonderful friends and advocates do to bear witness to Thornwell's ministry to God's children.

Skip



Campus and Cottages

May 2010

We held our 6th Annual Family Teacher Appreciation Day on May 18 at the Thornwell pond and picnic shelter. The Country Western theme for this year included hog calling and pickle eating contests and a square dance. The Family Teachers were treated to a barbecue meal complete with all the fixins. The Family Teachers also received a t-shirt designed for the occasion. Adam and Leah Hucks were selected by their peers as Practitioners of the Year. The Hucks will be recognized at the Teaching-Family Association meeting in Columbus, Ohio, later this year.

Several of our Family Teaching staff are working extra to cover cottages that are short-staffed at the present time. We are interviewing a number of people and hope to be fully-staffed again by early June.

Our seniors, Latrevet Thomas, Omekia Headen, and Jessica Haddad, are on the final countdown to graduation which will take place on May 28. Chris Fitzgerald and Latrevet Thomas were recognized at the Clinton High School academic banquet for being in the top ten percent of their respective classes.

We continue to be very busy fielding calls for admission as the volume has increased significantly over the past month. The cycle of admission and discharges is year round. We have two pending admissions into our middle school girls' cottage and are anticipating about a dozen children returning home to family after this school year.

The Learning Center

Congratulations to all our students who made honor roll for the third nine weeks. Making the all A honor roll are Jessica H., Katlyn K., Tammie K., and Joseph R. The students on the AB honor roll are Haley C., Alexis D., Chris F., Stephanie F., Jessica H., Savannah J., Corey L., Donald M., Kamel M., Khalima M., Keisha R., Chantel R., Alexis S., Latrevet T., and Devon W.

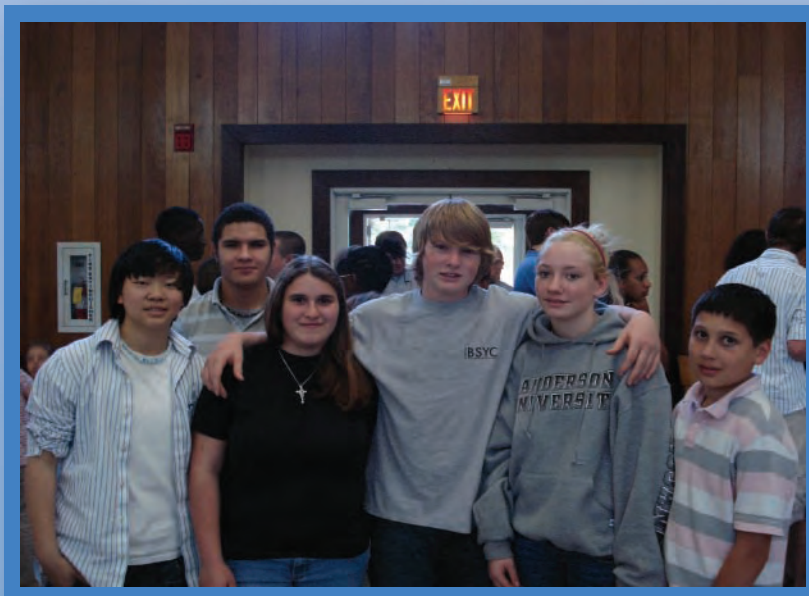
Chris F. and Latrevet T. were honored at the Clinton High School Academic Awards ceremony for earning positions in the top ten percent of their classes. Chris has also received a full scholarship to attend the Hugh O'Brien Leadership conference to be held at Erskine College this summer.

Our summer program in reading and math will take place from June 14 until August 5. All students in grades 10 and below will receive instruction in math for 50 minutes per day using the Accelerated Math Program, and they will be able to check out books to read over the summer.

In April, we had a record number of students (41) meet their Accelerated Reader reading goals! Our top eight points earners were:

Caroline - 209 pts., Chris - 136 pts., Sadie - 92 pts., Morgan - 69 pts., Joseph H. - 50 pts., Randy - 49 pts., Kirsten - 37 pts., and Jamie - 36 pts.

The traditional AR pizza and ice cream party was held on April 22. Prizes were also awarded!



The church hosted a lock-out (an all night outing) for youth who stayed on campus during the Easter break. Everyone had a great time!

Following Easter break, the church held an Easter celebration, which included a special resurrection service, Communion and the beginning of Confirmation Classes. We have eleven confirmands who will have the opportunity to make a personal profession of faith on Pentecost, May 23. The church also received Melissa and Jon Biron (two Family Teachers) into membership. On April 25, the congregation celebrated outdoor ministry by hosting Rev. Kevin Cartee from Camp Fellowship, who led worship and camp songs.

Another notable celebration occurred on May 1 at Thornwell's bake sale for Haiti, where our children raised \$904.25. A matching gift of \$700 given by Mr. Wilson Ferrell brought the total earnings of the bake sale to \$1604.25! Many thanks to all of you who donated baked goods for the sale. To-date, our Thornwell children have raised over \$5000 to help re-build the LaHatte school in Haiti.

In addition, registrations for camps, youth conferences and mission trips are in full swing. So far, we have 20 kids attending Camp Fellowship, 7 attending Camp Buc, 7 youth attending the Senior High Montreat Youth Conference, 21 attending the Middle School Montreat Youth Conference at Presbyterian College, 5 going to the Bethany PC mission camp, and 6 serving in mission in Charlotte, NC. We are also excited to announce that Thornwell youth, Morgan Moore and Sheryl Richardson, have been invited to join Buford Presbyterian Church, Sugar Hill, GA on their mission trip to Nicaragua.

Across Our Synod

South Carolina:

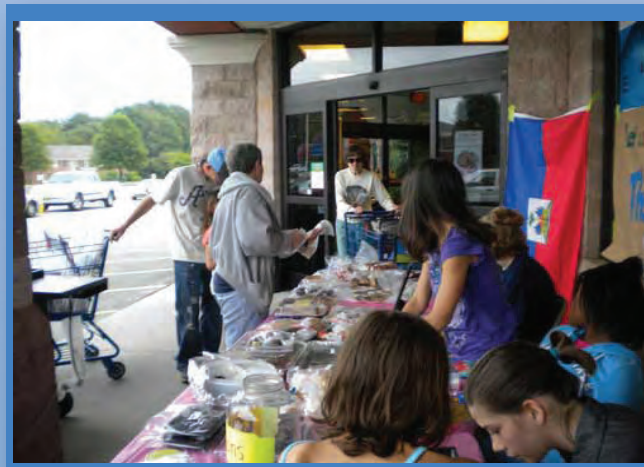
In addition to planning for the Board of Visitors meeting in April, Charles Elliott led an Officer Training Event for Bethany, Lydia, and Todd Memorial PC Churches in Laurens County on the "Biblical Roots of our Presbyterian Polity." He also shared in leadership of a class at First Presbyterian Church in Laurens on "Welcoming Baptized Children to the Lord's Table." Charles represented Trinity Presbytery at the Regional Benefits Consultation of the Board of Pensions and spoke with numerous people there about Thornwell and its ministry to children. On May 15, he represented Thornwell at the Stated Meeting of Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery at Palmetto Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Nancy Lindeman led worship at Cherokee PC, Lexington, SC on April 11. Also in the month of April, we were pleased to welcome members from First PC Orangeburg and First PC Aiken to campus for visits. We are grateful to the members of both of these churches for their enthusiastic support of Thornwell.

Florida:

Susan has been on the road providing programs for Presbyterian Women all over Florida. Hodges Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, First Presbyterian Church in Lake Alfred, First Presbyterian Church in Boynton Beach and Westminster By-the-Sea Presbyterian Church in Daytona Shores all hosted luncheons and Thornwell provided the program. She also was a guest speaker for Bible study groups at First Presbyterian Church in Sanford and Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Orlando. Many thanks to all of these church groups for your support of Thornwell's ministry.

Georgia:

Larry has been traveling across Georgia attending presbytery meetings and sharing Thornwell's ministry with the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Savannah Presbytery, Cherokee Presbytery, and Northeast Georgia Presbytery. We were delighted to have Cherokee Presbytery's Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk, Rebecca Blackwell, on campus for a visit, as well as members of Buford Presbyterian Church in Sugar Hill, GA. In addition to these trips to campus, Larry was a guest speaker at Peachtree City PC; Westminster PC, Rome, GA; FPC, Cartersville; Mount Vernon, Atlanta; and Central PC, Atlanta. Many thanks to all of Thornwell's Georgia supporters.



Development and Public Relations

May 2010

New adventures in fundraising: In early May, Thornwell kicked off a “test market” for online fundraising. The Friends for Thornwell campaign is being tested by staff, Board of Visitors and Board of Trustees. This online campaign consists of an email page with a “ChipIn” button that we can send to friends and family, encouraging them to join in supporting Thornwell’s ministry. The three groups have pledged to raise over \$80,000 by June 5. If you would like to learn more about how you can participate in the Friends for Thornwell campaign, contact Lorain Crowl at lcrowl@thornwell.org or 864-938-2713.

Thornwell Board of Visitors members Lisa Brown and Thelma Considine, along with friends from Richmond Hill, GA hosted a delightful spring afternoon tea for the girls and ladies of Thornwell on April 24. The Home of Peace provided an elegant setting for the event. Alumnae Mary Alice Mundy, Flo Dowdle and Wilma Young, who lived in the Home of Peace as young Thornwell girls, provided tours of the house and brought along photos of the home’s history.

Our new Thornwell DVD is in the last stages of production and should be ready for distribution by early summer.

The Thornwell spring camps and conferences appeal will arrive in mailboxes sometime during the third week of May. Thornwell children are looking forward to a summer filled with opportunities for fun and adventure, due in large part to the faithful support of our Thornwell donors.

Thanks to the generosity of many individuals, families and foundations, we have raised \$40,654 for the Berkele Cottage renovation. With less than \$20,000 to go to meet our fundraising goal, we are looking forward to beginning this much needed renovation soon!

Congratulations to Thornwell trustee Drew Norwood on becoming our newest Jacobs Society member. We are grateful to Drew for including Thornwell’s ministry in his estate plan.

Beginning July 1, charitable gift annuity rates will increase for most donors. This is great news for the many friends of Thornwell. Donors who set up a charitable gift annuity will not only receive the great satisfaction of supporting Thornwell’s ministry to children, but also receive greater payouts on their gifts.

Charitable gift annuities are especially attractive for people who have highly appreciated stocks that produce no dividends. By creating a gift annuity, donors can achieve substantial tax relief and gain an income stream.

Setting up a gift annuity with Thornwell as the beneficiary is quite easy. Our friends at the Presbyterian Foundation provide professional skill with a pastoral, personal touch to facilitate the process.

Reminder: Thornwell will host the “Linking for Ministry” conference June 2-4. This event is especially designed for smaller congregations interested in learning about cooperative ministry (clustering) for the purpose of mission and ministry.

For further information and to register, visit:
<http://www.trinitypresbytery.org/files/38/files/cluster5.pdf>



Facilities and Property

May 2010

Our maintenance department continues to work on several projects, both on and around campus:

The remodel of the Wickham house at 203 Young Drive has slowed as we are evaluating our options on repairing some wood damage in the shower.

There is also wood damage to the outside of some of the campus buildings that needs repair. We will hire a contractor to come in to do most of that work in the near future. For the exception of some work needing completion on the downspouts, the house on Calhoun Street is ready for occupancy.

Painting the exteriors of some of the buildings on campus and replacing the roof on the Children and Family Ministries building will be next on our agenda.

Close

I'll close this month's update with a few words about how very proud I am of our three graduates who will walk across the Clinton High School stage to receive their diplomas in a little more than a week. Latrevet, who has been a member of our Thornwell family since she was three years old, will be off to the College of Charleston after graduation. Her goal is to one day become a pediatric surgeon. Omekia will be on her way to Clemson University and also has aspirations of a career in medicine. Jessica has plans to return home to her family after graduation and attend Piedmont Technical College as a full-time student.

While it is true that the work of this ministry can often be difficult, it is the graduations, birthday celebrations, and the many other successes that our children experience that make the difficult days seem to pale in comparison.

I am personally grateful for such an outstanding group of Family Teachers and staff who carryout their duties with such professionalism and grace.

And I couldn't possibly say thank you enough to those of you who support this ministry with your prayers, your visits, your volunteer hours and your financial resources. We simply couldn't do it without your support!

Blessings to each of you. Until next time,
Skip Stansell,
President



Jessica

Omekia

Latrevet