
WORDS OF GRACE

VOLUME 2: NO 6

• FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS! •

March 28, 2024

The Way to Heaven

Pastor Mike preaches at chapel

By: Emma Lugo



February 8, 2024: “We are so lucky to be able to worship and spend time with Him.” Mr. Bowman said. He opened in prayer, and then Daniel asked us to stand and sing. After worship, Mike Smith began his sermon. He opened with a story about Lawrence Walters. At the age of 13, Lawrence dreamed of being a pilot. He tried to join the airforce, but they turned him down because of his bad eyesight. Instead, he became a trucker. One day, he decided to buy 45 weather balloons. He tied 43 of them to a lawn chair, and tied the lawn chair to his Jeep. He quickly shot into the air, but the strap broke off his chair that attached him to the Jeep. He ascended a mile in the air, and kept getting higher.

He eventually rose to 3 miles off the ground, and became in the way of a jet. He had an air pistol with him, and he tried to shoot the balloons to lower him closer to the ground, but the bullets bounced off. A pilot in a nearby plane saw this, and reported it. He said two things: that he was not drunk, and that he saw a man floating in a lawn chair. As the jet approached closer and closer, he was finally able to shoot the balloons. Many excited people on the ground had gathered to watch him descend. On his way down, he broke powerlines and caused a power outage. When he landed, many people cheered, but he was arrested. He gained the nickname “Lawnchair Larry” from this.

Pastor Mike asked if Larry could have gotten to heaven if he had more balloons. He then read John 14:5:

“Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’ The only way to heaven is through *Jesus*.”

He told another story about a time he went water rafting. He had a guide named Chanley who sat in the back of the boat. They hit some rapids, and when the front of the boat went down, she got flipped out. They struggled to rescue her, but she eventually got back in the boat. Then, it happened again. She was rescued two times. Afterwards, Chanley said that she was searching for religion, and when she found one she liked, she would follow it. Jesus never



said that religion was the way to heaven. Pastor Mike felt led to tell her that she should look for the truth, and the truth is a man named Jesus. This statement made her cry. After this encounter, they met for weeks to talk about God. A while later, she finally accepted Jesus.

“God made us for a purpose.” Pastor Mike continued.

He stated that our primary purpose is to have a relationship with Him.

“You can’t get to heaven by what you’ve done, but what He’s done.”

Jesus died on the cross to take our place, because He’s not letting sin into heaven. Pastor Mike then made an important statement:

“The best life is when the one who is life comes into my life. I hope Jesus, the one who is life, comes into your life. I hope you have a relationship with Him.”

He continued with helping us help lead people to Jesus. We know people who don’t know Him. There’s no age limit on telling people about Jesus. Once you know Him, you can talk to them. He left us with a request. This was to talk to someone and introduce them to Jesus. Pastor Mike ended in prayer.

Mr. Bowman came back onto the stage. He told us that the weather balloon story was a great metaphor for thinking we could do things ourselves, and we need Jesus.

“If you’ve accepted Him, thank God! But can your classmates tell?”

He ended in prayer, and asked us to accept Jesus if we haven’t already, and if we have, to reconnect.

After the prayer, Mr. Bowman then encouraged the people who accepted Jesus to go tell someone, because they now have the gift of a lifetime.

Another memorable student chapel occurred at GCA!

Stand Up for God

Tim Britt speaks at chapel

By: Emma Lugo



February 22, 2024: After the worship team finished playing *I Thank God*, Billy Vos told a story about a shepherd. The shepherd had 100 sheep. 99 were doing well, but one ran away. The shepherd ran after the sheep that got away, just how God runs after us. The worship team continued playing, and after they finished, Tim Britt walked on stage to begin his sermon. He started off by thanking TLC and GCA staff, students, and families. He continued by talking about the monthly habits of grace. In August, the habit of grace was responsibility. In September, it was friendship. In October, it was honesty. In November, it was gratitude and worship. In December, it was servanthood. In January, it was excellence, and this month, it’s integrity. Integrity means to be honest and do the right thing all the time.

“The foundation of character is faith.” Mr. Tim continued.

Abraham Lincoln once made a great comparison of character to trees. The shadow represents a person's outward appearance, and the roots represent the character. No one sees the roots of a tree. In order to survive storms without being blown over, the tree has to have strong roots. In order to get through life, we have to have strong character. Mr. Tim asked how many people looked in the mirror today. That reflection that you see is like your reputation. Then, he asked what you would see if you had a mirror that could see into your soul.

Mr. Tim then spoke about social media and influencers. People are so interested in their reputation online. There are tons of people with millions of followers who don't use their platforms for good, like for sharing the gospel.

"Mark 8:36 states: '36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?' Integrity will make your name worth remembering." He stated.

He then told a story from Daniel. Daniel was one of the highest administrators to the king, and was known as a man with great integrity. The other administrators did not like Daniel. They tried to find flaws in him, but couldn't. They knew he would not leave his God, so they passed a law that stated that if anyone was caught praying to anyone or anything other than king Darius would be thrown into the lion's den. Even still, Daniel continued praying to God. He stood his ground, and had great integrity by doing what was right, even though he knew he might pay with his life. The king threw Daniel into the lion's den, and came back the next day to find that he was still alive. The king made a decree that everyone should honor Daniel's God or be killed. Daniel's character matched his reputation.

"The you no one sees should be greater than the you everyone sees." Mr. Tim ended. "When you look at yourself on the inside, do you like what you see?"

Mr. Tim finished his sermon, and Mr. Bowman came back onto the stage to invite the worship team to sing *Gratitude* again. Once they finished, he came back onto the stage once again. He ended by telling us not to sit down but to stand up for God. He then closed out in prayer.

Created for a Purpose

Jon Laing speaks at chapel

By: Emma Lugo

March 14, 2024: This was the first chapel that the student worship team sang at! After they sang *Come to the Altar*, Daniel offered for anyone who needed it to come down to the altar to pray, while others came to pray over them. After the worship team exited the stage, John Laing opened his sermon with Colossians 1:16: "For by Him all things were created..."

"We were created for a purpose!" John stated.

He pulled out an umbrella. The top represented the term "made for Him". On the bottom, he placed three sheets of paper with the different meanings of that term.



The first one was to know Him. John told the students about Saul. Once Saul came to know God, his name was changed into Paul. Paul knew the Bible and all things right. Even so, knowing God isn't gaining knowledge about Him, it's knowing Him personally. If you don't know Him, you don't know your purpose.

The second one was becoming like Him. He drew a timeline of a life on a white board. As you grow in age, you should grow in your relationship with Christ. To grow, you need to spend time with Him.

The third thing was to do the things that Jesus did on earth. Jesus encouraged people to repent, pointed them to the Lord, and loved God and others. Back in time when disciples followed Rabbi's, the disciples were so close to them that people said they were picking up their dust because they walked so closely to them. You should walk with Christ so well that people would say you are covered with the dust of Jesus.

"Whatever you do, your purpose is to know Him, become like Him, and do as He did. This will change everything if you do it." John ended.

He then closed out in prayer before Mr. Bowman came on stage to close out chapel and dismiss students. Mr. Bowman said that this service was very powerful, because we got quiet and spent time with God. Then, he prayed and dismissed students. We were so blessed to start out the day with a powerful chapel service!



Daddy Daughter Dance

By: Ella Clayton



Saturday, February 3rd was the Daddy Daughter dance. All of the fathers and daughters had a great time dancing and having fun. They had a father dance off and a daughter dance off. Overall everyone had a great time spending time together with family and friends. The gym was decorated with neon colors and streamers. There was a table set up where you



could trace you and your fathers hand and paper on the wall where you could write what you love about your dad. All of the daughters had fun dancing and making memories having a memorable night fun with their dad.

Mother Son Dance

February 3, 2024: The First Annual Mother/ Son Dance was a huge success. Daniel Howell, Worship Leader at Lamb's Chapel, created a lively and fun atmosphere in the disco lit gym at GCA. Mothers and sons alike dressed their best for this special occasion. PTT had many fun activities planned for the dance. One was the limbo and Mrs. Wall was the winner of that competition. Nanina Fergeson really rocked her dance moves on the dance floor and won the mother dance off. Julian Gonzalez (K4) had amazing moves and he won the son dance off. The mothers and sons had the best time taking pictures at the photo booth and made many memories that will last a lifetime.



Beginning of Spring Sports

By: Caleb Cox

Spring sports have officially begun. Monday, February 26, was the first day of practice for track and golf. The track team rode the van to Eastern High School. They began with two laps around the track and some stretches. Afterwards everyone had the chance to try some of the shorter events. First they had the 100m dash, followed by the 200m dash, and an optional 400m. After the running, they practiced handing off the baton for relays, and went back to school. They had their first Track Meet at Southeast Alamance High School on March 23, but it was shortened because of weather. Participants were: Selena Shaw, Emma Lugo, Isabella Murray, Kyndra Carion, Tucker Jones, Thomas Qualls, Caleb Cox, Jaden Ferguson and Jeremiah Workman.

Golf practice was held at the Quaker Creek golf course in Mebane. They started off by talking about golf etiquette. They talked about how golf is a gentleman's game and requires integrity. They went around and asked all the players about their goals. Most said they wanted to hit the ball farther. Then they split into groups. One group practiced putting, the other practiced

driving, and then after a while they switched. They had their first match at Mill Creek on March 22. Isaiah Bradley 6th, Spencer Shifflett - 7th, Mason Briggs- 8th, and Noah Bason - 8th were the first ever golfers to compete for Grace Christian Academy!



Softball started practice on Tuesday, February 27. Practice was held in the gym. They continue to practice weekly! They got to know each other, they split into groups and warmed up, and they practiced throwing.

Baseball started on Tuesday as well. They got to know each other, and practiced throwing in the gym and have been practicing at the Haw River Park.



GCA's First National Honor Society

By: Caleb Cox

On Wednesday, February 28, it was announced that we would have our first National Honor Society. Victorya Arrwood, Kayli Billings, Brianna Bowden, Logan Briggs, Caleb Cox, Zach Livers, Braedon Hernandez, Tucker Jones, Thomas Qualls, Noah Ross, and Jeremiah Workman were all chosen. To be eligible for the National Honor Society, you need to display scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Students must maintain a 3.0 gpa, attend monthly meetings, and participate in one NHS service project per year.



Drivers Ed

By: Emerson Keye

On February 20th GCA's second group of drivers started their class. The students started off with the basics of driving, and how important it is to be aware of the other drivers around them. Then they moved on to learn about drunk driving and how much it can impact you and the people around you while driving. Mr. Tim Britt brought the students beer goggles. Beer goggles are goggles that affect your vision as if you were really drunk. Students had to try to complete simple tasks while wearing them, like spelling their name with alphabet blocks. It was surprisingly very difficult! Lastly the group watched a very eye opening, and emotional movie on what can happen when you get behind the wheel after drinking. The Drivers Ed classroom portion will end on March 1st when they take their test before starting to drive.



ACSI National Day of Prayer

By: Emma Lugo

John Laing started his short sermon by asking the students what they were thankful for. They responded with God, friends, breath in their lungs, and preachers.

“My prayer for you today is that you will be in awe of God.” John continued.

He then said that we can trust God because He is true and faithful. He told a story from 2 Chronicles 6. King Solomon got down on his knees, spreaded his arms, and prayed in front of everyone. John then asked how often we humble ourselves and just bowed down and prayed. He gave us four things to do in prayer: to humble, pray, seek, and turn. Humble yourself, pray, seek God’s face, and turn from wicked ways. He ended by praying psalm 103.

Next to speak and pray was Scottie Thompson.

“We are called to pray.” He started.

When Jesus first entered church, he said that His house will be a house of prayer. Scotty asked the students what they thought prayer was. They responded with talking to God. Prayer is so much more than just talking to God. It’s listening and chasing after His voice. He then ended in prayer.

The last to speak and pray was Pastor Scott Grimm.

“If you are born again, God promises that He will hear you!” He started.

He read Psalm 4:3 which states: “Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.” Then, he told a story. When he was younger, he drove a Chevy Caprice named Big Bertha from South Dakota to San Diego. In Utah before he made it to a hotel, the car died at the bottom of a hill. He was so tired that he prayed to God to somehow get up the hill. A few minutes later, a man knocked on his window and asked if he was okay. That one man was part of a Mormon highschool football team, who pushed him up the hill. This story proves God does hear you. He asked the students to bow their heads in prayer, and gave them some prompts of what to pray about. They were to think about how good God is, to thank Him, confess your sin, and to pray for someone you know who doesn’t know Jesus. Pastor Grimm ended by praying for the school.

After everyone spoke and prayed, students went around the campus to pray individually and with each other. The ACSI national day of prayer was a great way to start the morning at GCA!



Student Worship Team

By: Emerson Keye

Recently GCA has started a highschool praise and worship team. After chapel on Thursday, February 22nd the students who were interested in being a part of the worship team, stayed for a meeting to discuss with the students who wanted to participate. Practices started on Monday, February 26th, and they performed with the praise band at chapel. They did an amazing job!

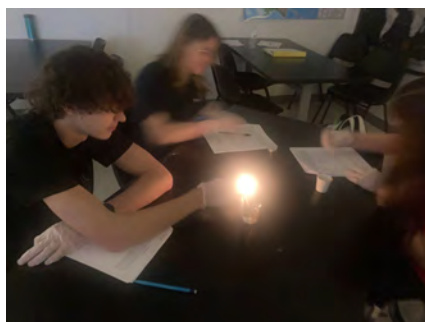


What's Happening in Class?

Playing with Fire

By: Mady Cannady

Chemistry is doing so many fun and amazing experiments! High school students recently played with fire and changed the color of the flame. They had multiple different toothpicks that were soaked in chemicals overnight and candles. There were chemicals such as NaCl, KCl, etc. To be able to change the color, you had to hold the toothpick over the flame. There were red, blue, purple, and green flames for each chemical. The purpose of this experiment was to show the form of electromagnetic radiation and how electrons jump into an excited state. Everyone had such a fun time!



Family Budgets

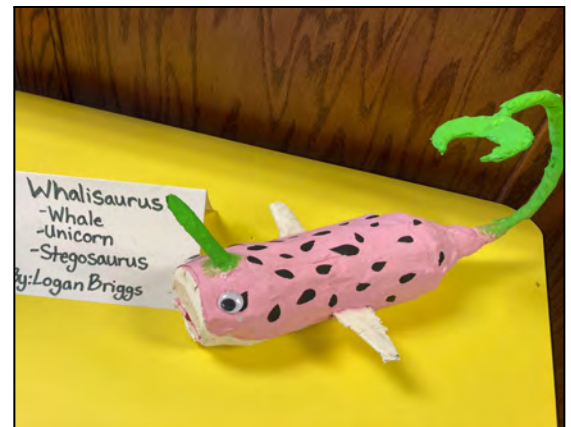
By: Mady Cannady

Family budgets are a very important topic to not only learn, but to also apply it to your life. In Family Consumer Science, everyone was split into families and had a budget. They had to hash out things that were necessary and unnecessary to spend money to make their budget balance to zero. This is a great life lesson to help teens get ready for what's in the future!

New Animals

By: Mady Cannady

The art class had a project where they had to create an animal with different animals' physical parts. To create these “new animals,” they had to use paper mache, and water bottles to help give the animal some shape. For example, there was an animal with a flamingo body, hammerhead shark head, and a star-nosed mole! All of them are so creative. They are now finishing by putting feathers and many other decorations.



Middle School News

By: Caleb Cox

In Mr. G's 6th grade science class, they have been learning about the periodic table. Everyone was assigned an element to research and make a poster about it to present in front of the class. They had posters and examples of things that contain the elements. All the students worked very hard and had great projects when they were done.

The 6th and 7th grade girls Bible class celebrated Valentine's Day. They learned what the Bible says about love, and we are supposed to love one another and love God. In 7th grade, the girls wrote kind and encouraging words on each other's Valentine's bags and passed them out to everyone.



Elementary News

By: Ella Clayton

Elementary students have been very busy over the past month. There were a lot of Valentine's activities going on in all of the classrooms. All of the third graders had a Valentine's day party. They made Valentine's day boxes and brought them into class. Their boxes were very creative. There was a vanity, basketball hoops, a lama, a dog, an actual mailbox, and many other amazing creations. Mrs. Smith's class had a Williamsburg shop where they dressed up as historical figures from the colonial times. They had items from this time period and talked about them. In Mrs. Smith's class, the incubated eggs hatched! Her class now has baby chicks. Mrs. Staley's class had a superbowl party. They had games, snacks, and the kids dressed up in their favorite football and cheerleading attire.





Preschool News

Preschoolers at GCA are the cutest and their teachers have the greatest patience. If you have never witnessed the excitement on the preschool hall, you need to take a minute to just see how special it is. The teachers are amazing and they are so well organized and they are always doing fun activities and redirecting busy little bodies. That is a God given gift that these teachers have! It is never a dull moment in preschool. Worship time is amazing and the little ones exude the spirit of Jesus! It will truly make you smile on a bad day. Along with all of the amazing routine things happening they recently had some special visitors from the ACC Dental program come to talk to them about dental health. It was a neat presentation about how important dental hygiene is.



Dad Jokes

By: Nathan Ross

- "Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth." **Then it's a soap opera.**
- "What do you call a fish wearing a bowtie?" **Sofishticated.**
- "I thought the dryer was shrinking my clothes." **Turns out it was the refrigerator all along.**

GCA Pledges

Every day before class, every student recites the three pledges that they have memorized while here at GCA.

Pledge of Allegiance- I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Christian Pledge- I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands; one Savior, crucified, risen and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.

Bible Pledge- I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.

Upcoming Events At Grace!

By: Ella Clayton



- **Saturday, April 20th:** Middle School High School Formal Dance
 - **Saturday, May 11th:** 5k Run
 - **May 6th- 10th:** Teacher Appreciation Week
 - **May 6th- 10th:** End Of Grade Testing Iowa Testing
 - **Friday, May 17th:** Field Day/ Early Release
 - **May 20th- 22nd:** Highschool Exams
 - **Wednesday, May 22nd:** Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony
 - **Thursday, May 23rd:** Last Day Of School/ Early Release
 - **Thursday, May 23rd:** Community Chapel
-

There is much more exciting news that we did not cover in this edition! The next edition will have news about the 100th day of School, Dr. Seuss Week, Winter Sports Banquet, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Easter Activities, the Easter Chapel and much much more! The Words of Grace staff hopes you have a worshipful and restful Easter break!

Follow Grace Christian Academy on Facebook to see more photos of school activities.

WORDS OF RACE STAFF

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We hope you enjoyed this edition of our student published GCA Newspaper, *Words of Grace*. Please share your class events or stories that you would like to see covered in future editions, with Elaine Austin, elaine.austin@gca-nc.com or your newspaper staff contact.

**CREATED FOR
A PURPOSE**

Words of Grace is a student newspaper published every other week for the students by the students and is not meant to be a professional publication. Every effort was made to report positive, encouraging and accurate information.
