



LEGACY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT
May 2010

Legacy Christian School

Annual Society Meeting

West Campus Commons

May 10, 2010

7:00 PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome and devotions
2. Selection of School Board Members
 - Three new members will be appointed to the school board.
 - The chair will entertain a motion to accept absentee ballots.
3. Director of Promotions report
4. Administrator's report
5. Presentation and approval of the 2010-2011 budget
6. Announce newly appointed school board members
 - Appreciation for retiring members' service
7. Closing Prayer

Administrator's Report

Every Monday morning the teachers at the west campus gather before school for a time of prayer. On Tuesdays elementary faculty members meet at a similar time for their weekly devotions. These gatherings are technically voluntary, but attendance suggests that they are a priority to the participants.

Staff members at Legacy Christian work for an organization that not only allows us to be open about our faith, but it actually requires us to instruct others in that same faith. This is a wonderful gift! We recognize that fact.

Our employees all work very hard to include their Christianity in every aspect of their job. This is just as true of our support staff as our faculty. They do their job and teach their lessons with the knowledge that God needs to be a vital part of every interaction and every lesson. They view every day's challenges and opportunities through their knowledge of and belief in scripture. They encourage faith development in our students. And, they plan, sponsor, and participate in Christian service opportunities that allow our students to turn their faith into action.

Many have said that in today's world our schools need to have a special calling or purpose in order to be distinctive. I agree with that. In fact, I think it is very important for us to continually measure our marketability through the programs we offer, the educational achievement of our students, and the overall quality of our school. But as for a "special purpose"? I believe we have always had one. We exist so that young people between the ages of 3-14 can be educated in the light of God's word. We are serious about Christian education! That is not simplistic – that is imperative. Our employees consider this responsibility to be an honor and a privilege that they will never ignore or neglect.

I have been blessed with an occupation that encourages my own faith development. Together with the rest of our staff I believe that my faith needs to be firm and strong if I am going to instruct our students in the way of the Lord.

And so, next Monday morning I'll join many of the teachers at the west campus prayer time. On Tuesday, the elementary teachers will do the same thing. Please pray for us as we seek to walk with the Lord. And, pray for us as we use our faith as a basis for everything we do and teach at Legacy Christian.

Vince Bonnema
Head Administrator

President's Report

“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” ~Psalm 91:4

God's faithfulness to the Legacy Christian community has been evident again this year. In a year that has presented a variety of challenges on many levels, the Board has also experienced a variety of blessings in many areas. Truly, we have seen that when we take refuge in our loving Father, he *is* faithful.

Much of the Board's work this year has focused on how to be relevant and sustainable in the future as well as be stewardly with our current resources. Challenged at the beginning of the year with a significant budget deficit, the Board placed a priority on brainstorming ways to close that gap. In addition, committees did their own creative thinking about the budget, and a constituent-wide annual fund drive was launched. To insure sustainability in the future, the Board received and endorsed an exciting campaign plan for “Continuing the Legacy.” The Board also reviewed the administrative structure of the school and continues to make a plan for change effective for the 2011-12 school year.

Deepest gratitude to all of you—parents, extended family, special friends, faculty, support staff, administration, board members, volunteers—who continue to support LCS tirelessly in so many ways. You continue to claim God's promises and walk in faith as you give to LCS with a variety of resources.

As we continue to work together, may we always remember that our faithful God is our shield and rampart.

Gratefully,

Rebekah Wierenga
LCS Board President

Director of Promotions Report

Jeremiah 29:12-13 “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

These words were the focus of our school theme for this year. Each month we meditated on a different “vertical habit” of growing toward God. Through worship or chapel times, during classroom devotions and everyday conversations, staff and students learned ways to show God we adore Him, or want to thank Him, or confess our sins to Him. God showed us His blessings as we learned together.

Many teachers have our theme displayed in the hallway outside their room. It is also written in big letters on the way in the entranceway at both buildings. As prospective families tour our school, it is often one of the first things they see. It gives me the opportunity to explain why we choose a Bible verse for a theme each year. At Legacy Christian School, we start with Scripture, believing that God reveals Himself through His Word. Studying Scripture is an important part of our day at school. It's not something we take for granted; it is something we treasure. It is just one of the many things that make Legacy Christian School an eternal blessing! I'm so glad many new families will be joining us this coming school year as they desire this blessing for their children.

Jill Ellens
Director of Promotion

Education Committee

The Education Committee was busy in a variety of areas this year.

We were excited at the start of the school year to note that most items included in the technology plan had been implemented and we began preliminary discussions on potential technology initiatives for the future. The Committee spent a good deal of time throughout the year staying abreast of changes in the Federal Title fund programs and brainstorming ways that our school might benefit from these changes. This work resulted in our school being able to access funds that are helping us to continue effective reading intervention programs in our primary grades.

Due to the ongoing development of a new administrative structure for Legacy, we determined it was best to delay the process for seeking accreditation until the 2011-2012 school year. Finally, we continued, as always, to wrestle with budgetary considerations, policy revisions, shifting enrollment numbers, setting the school calendar, and staffing issues and evaluations.

On behalf of the LCS Education Committee, I would like to express deepest gratitude to our LCS teaching staff, support staff, and administration; they are committed, Christian professionals who partner with us to give our kids an excellent Christian education. They are truly a blessing to the LCS community!

Steve Petersen
Chairperson, Education Committee

Finance Committee Report

God's blessings continue to be poured out on our school, as He shows us His faithfulness year after year. We have many things to be thankful for this year, including a great after-school care program that is self-sustaining, a Foundation Fund that is recovering from last year's plummet and is able to give a gift to the general fund again, and being a school that is debt-free. Teachers are able to use the improved technology from last years' fundraising efforts in many innovative ways, and we expanded our cost savings with Federal Title Funded positions.

The Finance committee is presenting a budget for the 2010-2011 school year that is more conservative than many past years. We have decreased expenses by 3% and continue to look for non-tuition income to help offset the actual cost of education. This budget allows us to keep our tuition increase down to 2%, which still compares favorably to area Christian school tuition costs. On top of that, we pride ourselves in the fact that we were able to keep our tuition costs all-inclusive, meaning that we don't charge any extra fees for busing, sports, music or specialized services so that everyone can participate.

In an effort to control expenses and spread out the impact of necessary reductions, we are maintaining the CSI recommended cost of living freeze on salaries, temporarily lowering pension costs, and right-sizing some of our programs to align with current enrollment and better match costs with student needs. We continue to remain diligent on the expense side of the equation as we sustain our school through these tough economic times.

As we have worked along side families this year in the collection of tuition payments, the Finance Committee has been encouraged by the commitment of all Legacy families to provide a Christian Education for their children.

Karen DeYoung
Chairperson, Finance Committee

Development Committee

With the assistance of many committed volunteers, the Development Committee continued to plan, coordinate, and execute various strategies to raise funds outside of tuition receipts for tuition assistance, technology upgrades, building improvements/maintenance, and the foundation. In addition to direct contacts with donors, these activities included:

- The **Annual Tuition Assistance Auction was held March 27, 2010**. The proceeds of this auction will fund LCS's Tuition Cap Program to assist our families with the greatest financial needs. \$35,000 was raised.
- A **donor breakfast** was held to present the need for longer-term giving commitments to enable the school to conduct better educational and financial planning.
- In response to comments from various donors over the years, the Committee developed the **"Continuing the Legacy" campaign** to solicit longer-term "faith-promise" pledges. The purpose and goals of this campaign are being communicated through small group hosted events (lunch, coffee, dessert get-togethers) with a **celebration dinner held on April 24, 2010**. The dinner provided an opportunity to collectively celebrate the gift of Christian education at Legacy Christian and to begin receiving pledges for this campaign. This campaign will continue as Development Committee members plan to speak with other prospective donors in the future.

Although the current economy has had a negative financial impact on many of us, we are very grateful for and blessed by the tremendous support of the LCS community and its faithful supporters. It's clear that people become more selective of where their tithes/offerings and charitable giving go during such times. LCS appreciates your love for and confidence in our school.

Todd Mulder
Chairperson, Development Committee

Facilities and Transportation Committee

We are fortunate to report that it has been a fairly uneventful year for our committee.

The in-house roof sealing repairs that started last year have minimized the need for major roof investment from any outside contractors. The buses that were purchased last year have served us well with minimal repairs required. We continue to be on the lookout for a 'good' used bus for our fleet.

This past year we received a generous gift from one of our supporters to seal the cracks in our parking lots and also to re-stripe the parking spaces. This should help to extend the life of our lots by minimizing cracks and water infiltration.

The East campus landscape and lawn continues to be maintained by a loyal business constituent.

Thanks again to all the volunteers and workers around our facilities. Thank you also to the safe and dependable bus drivers over the past year.

Glenn Carlson
Facilities and Transportation Chairman

Foundation Report

2009 turned out to be a much better year in terms of return on investment than 2008. Our overall return on the Foundation exceeded that of the broader market (S&P 500), and we recovered most of what was lost in 2008. Gifts to the Foundation were down this year, partially due to the economic conditions we've all experienced this year. The good news is that our investment returns will allow the Foundation to once again gift to the school for the 2010/2011 school year.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank our donors. Your past support is appreciated and continued support is needed to keep the cost of Christian education within reach for those who desire it.

Submitted by,

Gail Montgomery
Foundation Chairperson

Promotions Committee

The school year at Legacy Christian is quickly coming to an end and we are looking forward to another great year starting in the fall. As I look at where we've been and where we're going, I'm amazed at God's faithfulness in continuing to fill our classrooms with families, old and new, making the commitment to giving their children a Christian education.

The promotions committee works hard to find ways to present to others the reasons why Legacy Christian is such a great place for our children to receive an education. This year we spent much time discussing the use of electronic media and how it relates to promoting our school. For many families looking into Christian education, the first place they look is to resources they can find online. Our website www.legacycs.org is a great place to get information about our school.

One area that the committee spent time discussing over the course of the past year is the changing landscape of the Christian school community in our area. There are a number of schools closing and/or consolidating. There are also a number of new schools opening. We feel it's important to know how Legacy Christian fits into this new landscape so that we can best serve the needs around us.

While there are many different promotional options that we can pursue, at the end of the day face to face contacts are still the most effective. We encourage you to engage your friends and neighbors in discussions of the benefits of a Christian education at Legacy Christian School. The Talking Points that were published last year are still a great tool in that discussion (they can be found on the website under the "Parents" tab).

Another great "face to face" opportunity is to participate in area parades. This year we are once again planning on having a float in both the Cutlerville Parade and the Kentwood July 4th Parade. We would love to see a large part of the Legacy family walking with us.

Rob Theule
Chairman – Promotions Committee

BOARD NOMINEES:

Marcie Apple is married to Doug. They have two twin girls. Abbey and Sophie are both in 1st grade. Marcie is a homemaker, but she spends a lot of her time serving on different committees at Legacy Christian and helping out in her daughter's classrooms. Marcie and her family attend Plymouth Heights CRC, where she is involved in Congregational Life. She enjoys walking, shopping, traveling, skiing, and boating with family and friends.

Emily Dixon is married to Jamie. Emily and Jamie have two children. Bradley is currently in 6th grade, and Marcus is in Pre-School. Emily is an elementary Spanish teacher. She has taught Spanish at South Christian High School, served as a youth leader at Cornerstone United Methodist Church, and served on the committee that explored elementary Spanish at Legacy Christian. Emily enjoys playing tennis, photography, playing games and spending time with her family.

Steve Montsma is married to Stephanie. They have three boys. Austin is in 3rd grade, Cole is in Kindergarten and Brody is not yet in school. Steve is a self-employed builder. Steve attends Princeton CRC and has served as deacon and Co-Coordinator of IHN (Housing the homeless in churches). He enjoys golf and coaching his boys' baseball teams.

Chuck Pothoven is married to Laura. Chuck and Laura have three children. Elise is in 8th grade, Lucas is in 6th grade, and Emma is in 3rd grade. Chuck is a teacher at South Christian High School. He is currently the Boys Varsity Tennis coach at SCHS, and has also coached at Cornerstone University. He is on the Christian Education Committee for Hillside CRC. Chuck enjoys camping and playing board games with his family, tennis and reading.

Jeff Schumaker is married to Pam. They have three children. Adam is in 6th grade, Sam is in 3rd and Luke is in Kindergarten. Jeff is a Sr. Structural Engineer and Vice President for his company. He has served as church council president, AYSO soccer coach, church master planning committee and Jr. High youth group leader. He also works with a mentoring program at work. Jeff enjoys golf, volleyball, skiing, and camping with his family.

Greg VanTol is married to Lisa. They have a daughter, Jozlyn, in 3rd grade and a daughter, Jada, in 1st grade. Greg is a C.P.A. for Ernst & Young LLP. Greg and his family are members at Kelloggsville CRC, where he has served on the finance committee, helped with community outreach events, served as council treasurer and youth group leader. He has also coached AYSO soccer and attends Bible Study Fellowship. Greg enjoys reading, running, biking, golf, softball, soccer and adventure racing.

Three of these nominees will be appointed to the school board for a three year term of service. If you are not able to be at the meeting, but would like to participate in the selection process, you may do an absentee vote. Please vote for three candidates by writing their names on a piece of paper and signing it. Place it in an envelope and turn it in to either office.