



The Standard

A publication of St. Andrew's Academy

A Busy Year

Greetings from St. Andrew's Academy. I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying a new year. Please forgive the tardiness of this issue and rejoice with us in all the blessings we have received this year—and we're only halfway through!

Our excellent faculty and staff has grown this year. We have three new faculty members (see page 5). We also have an excellent addition to the support staff in Mrs. Laurel Salvatore, who has come on as our Administrative Assistant and is making the front office work like a well-oiled machine. She was largely responsible for the success of our St. Andrew's Day Conference this year. Dr. John Seel was our speaker; it was a definite highlight of the year. Please see the article on the back page.

Many of the pictures in this issue come from a wonderful trip to the East Coast that the Middle School students were kind enough to let Miss Steinberg and me tag along on.

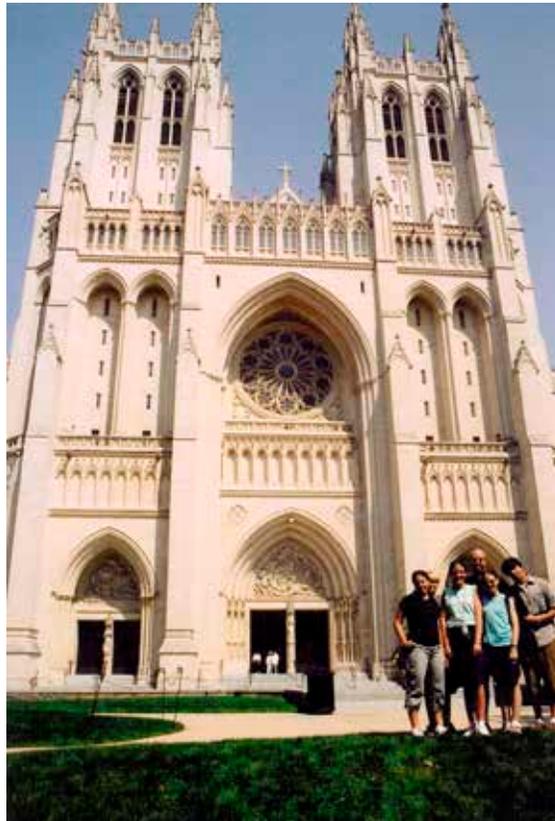
We have been blessed by many new supporters this year and that has helped enormously as we have quite a larger staff to pay and ever increasing costs as the school grows. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Fr. Brian Foos+

East Coast Trip

The students of St. Andrew's Academy, Lake Almanor, are once again trotting the globe! It has been only two years since the last trip, in the Summer of 2002, to England, Scotland and Paris, and recently, the 2003-2004 middle-schoolers spent the last part of August on the East coast of our nation.



St. Andrew's Academy students visit the National Cathedral in Washington DC.

In New York the group visited Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the site of Ground Zero and nearby Trinity Church, which was damaged in the attacks. In addition they were able to see the local culture of a few regions of the city, lodging in Manhattan and visiting a church in the Bronx for dinner. Two evenings were spent in seeing the city by night, especially around Times Square and Rockefeller Center. Joseph Salvatore, a freshman, says his favorite part of the trip was New York City. The reason? "Excitement," "night life," and "a different feel from anywhere else I've been."

In Philadelphia, the students met and toured the city with students from a local sister school, Christ Academy. Historic Christ Church, Independence Hall, and authentic Philly Cheesesteak sandwiches were all part of the experience of Philadelphia.

During four days in Washington, DC, students toured the Capitol with congressman Doolittle's aides, visited the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Museums of Natural History, American History, and Air and Space; the National Archives, Arlington Cemetery (including Robert E.

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Obligations

Following is the Address by Fr. Brian Foos at the St. Andrew's Convocation, Fall, 2001.

Welcome to the St. Andrew's Fall 2001 Convocation. We have, with our prayers and praises this evening, given ourselves to God. We have dedicated the students of St. Andrew's, the families and the staff all to God's use this year.

We have given ourselves to God that He might make us what he desires to make us. Yes, even the teachers are on a constant learning curve. As teachers, we hear over and over again, and how true it is: A teacher that stops *learning* has stopped *teaching*.

We are all clay in God's hands—especially you students here and now at this point in your life. You are called to a vocation of learning, of being a student—not just here at St. Andrew's, but in all areas of life. The world is a wonderful classroom. And, yes, high school boys, that does include your bicycle—though probably not quite as much as you wish it would.

Part of our learning, of course, was mentioned in the Psalm we recited this evening: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10). The start of every good education is the fear of the Lord. Wisdom is not mere knowledge. Wisdom is not mere skill. Wisdom is taking the skills and the knowledge you've learned and putting it to God-honoring use. And thus may I raise the question: To whose benefit do we use this wisdom? Who should receive the fruit of this education?

Ultimately, of course, God should. He is the one to be glorified and honored with our schooling, our learning, our wisdom. Thus, we have rightly endeavored to commit this year's schooling to God this evening. But as we have given ourselves to God, let us not forget that he has called us to then give ourselves to others; to, as St. Paul described it, be “poured out as a drink offering,” for others (Phil.2.17).

To love God is to love others, for the second greatest commandment (after loving God with all that we are) is to love our neighbors as ourselves. “...Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in

him?” (1 John 3:17). We must not be blind to the needs of others—especially those less fortunate than ourselves. We must serve in this grand but often chaotic world. Sometimes that service means laying down one's life for one's country and countrymen. Often that service means giving of what God has given you in even small ways. It may be a helping hand in yard-work, it may be a helping hand in homework. It usually means going out of one's way, and usually does not comport with self-absorption and self-interest.



US Capitol, taken during St. Andrew's students' visit.

If what we are doing at St. Andrew's Academy is pursuing excellence; if what we are doing at St. Andrew's Academy is seeking to honor God with our studies; if what we are doing at St. Andrew's Academy is a type of education that cannot be found for hundreds of miles from this place, then you—students, first of all, but families and staff as well—had better think how we will not only give ourselves to God, but give ourselves to others. “For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more” (Luke 12:48). We have a responsibility to serve humbly, especially when we have been given something that others do not have.

This notion was called in past times *noblesse oblige*: literally, the obligation of the nobility. The nobles, the aristocracy, had the power, privilege, education, and so forth, to do whatever they wanted. Yet they held this idea, that *to whom much was given, much was expected*. They understood that they were obligated, because of the gifts God had given them, to serve their fellow man, and to make use of those gifts for the benefit of God's creation.

The education that you are striving to obtain here is not something to lord over other people. It is not something to become prideful about. It is something by which to serve God and man. Much is demanded of you who are receiving much. Be humble in your pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, and humble in your application of that knowledge and wisdom.

May we honor God as we serve our fellow men.

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Lee's home), and the beautiful National Cathedral.

Between the big cities came a visit to Gettysburg, the Civil War battle site, where students viewed the battle lines of Confederate and Union armies from the height of Little Round Top. Students also had a chance to take in the living history of Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown, a highlight of the trip according to students Andrew Bradley and Rebekah Waterman. Students and faculty enjoyed all the different sights as well as generous hospitality from many hosts, and new foods and interesting dialects from New York City to Virginia.



From top right, clockwise: Sarah Waterman, Elena Salvatore, Joe Salvatore, Rebekah Waterman, Andrew Bradley & Miss Allison Steinberg all in travel mode in downtown Manhattan, New York; Rebekah, Miss Steinberg, Elena and Sarah amid the lights of Times Square, New York; The Waterman girls in the stocks at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.



Excerpts From Students' Journals

Rebekah Waterman—Philadelphia

We left the school at 3 am to get to the airport and board at 7 am. ...Once we landed [in Baltimore], we gathered our baggage, rented a van, and headed to Philly by about 4 p.m. eastern time. ...Mr. Hoops, the headmaster of Christ Academy, which meets in a gorgeous church building...gave us a night tour of Philly along with 3 girls from his school and Church. We walked by the river, where we could see the lights of Philly over the water and reflecting in the water. Shennell, one of the Philly girls, remarked that if only the city wasn't there, it would be perfect. I, on the other hand, thought it was absolutely gorgeous. This shows the way 'those in the city dream of the country, and those in the country dream of the city.' I thought that was funny.

Joseph Salvatore—New York

The people here seem very controlled, locked in their own worlds in order to get about their days. In our little town you can hardly escape without a smile or a wave. Here it seems as if people have given up on smiles and waves. ...We woke up, packed our things and then went to breakfast at a nearby cafe. After that we exited New York (and there was much sorrow).

Washington DC

We went to The National Cathedral and toured around a bit, visiting the main sanctuary and many of the smaller chapels that were available....

...The aides (of Congressman Doolittle) gave us a tour of the main parts of the Capitol including the Dome and the "Whispering Room." From there we viewed the House of Representatives after our tour guides left. Unfortunately the house was not in session so we did not see any action.

Sarah Waterman—Yorktown, Jamestown and Williamsburg Colonial Reenactments, Virginia:

Today, after church, we drove to Yorktown to see the reenactment of a [Revolutionary War] camp. There were some French allies there, too. ...We...saw some of the old surgical things, like bone and flesh saws. Yuck! A Frenchman showed us how a line of men with lowered bayonets would work. He also showed us how to load and fire a musket.

At Jamestown, we explored an Indian village, a ship (the Susan Constant) and then the fort, which included a church, a blacksmith shop, some homes and some gardens. Joe and Andrew tried on some old armor.

...We drove to Williamsburg. That was the most interesting place of all. Joe, Andrew, and I went to the real sight of an old coffee house, an apothecary, a silversmith, a milliner, a printing office, a Bindery and Post office, the Courthouse, the shoemaker, the Bruton Parish Church and the harness and saddle maker.... We ate dinner at...Chowning's Tavern. I had homemade root beer and ham biscuits, which were like ham sandwiches, but with heavily salted ham. It was really tasty! Some workers there sang for us. We learned two choruses to two songs. It was fun!

Last Fall in Pictures



From top left, clockwise: Dr. John Seel, of the Society for Classical Learning, and Mr. Kent Bartel, Assistant Headmaster at St. Andrew's Academy, at our Fall Fund-Raising Dinner. Wesley Gannon and Noah Bartel, First Form Students at the Books Family Farm Pumpkin Patch. Mrs. Kathryn and Dr. John Seel. New Teachers (l-r) Mr. Brandon Davidson and Mrs. Autumn Davidson, Grammar School, Mr. Kent Bartel, Math and Science in Middle and High School and Assistant Headmaster.



A Winter Choral Concert

On Wednesday evening, February 2, the Saint Andrew's Academy Choir presented *A Winter Concert of Sacred Music* at the Chester United Methodist Church. The concert was entirely comprised of sacred works sung *a cappella* and selected from a broad range of church history. The earliest piece was from the mid 1200's, entitled "Dies Irae." Baroque pieces by Thomas Tallis, Claudio Monteverdi, and Giovanni Palestrina filled out the 16th-century period. Finally, more modern pieces included "Lead Me, Lord" by Samuel Wesley, and a twentieth-century work by John Rutter. The concert was well attended by family of the students as well as friends of the Academy.

The St. Andrew's Choir is noted in the Lake Almanor area for performing music from the rich heritage of the western Church. The choir is unique in that it involves the whole school community, from Kindergarten students through faculty, and from its performance of ancient and modern church music. According to Fr. Brian Foos, Choirmaster, the choir hopes to record their repertoire for the year: "I had four requests for a CD of the music," he noted, "And that is always an encouragement to the choir."

The St. Andrew's Academy Choir has performed a number of times already this year, from leading the service of Evensong at the Academy Convocation in the Fall to the Advent Lessons & Carols service that closed out the Michaelmas Term. The choristers also sang for a reception for the new faculty members (see below) and performed at the St. Andrew's Day Conference in November (see article on the last page). They sing for school tours once a month, and a number of concerts out of the area are in the works. Please call the school for more information.



St. Andrew's Academy Choir at the Winter Concert, February, 2005

Reception For New Teachers

On Friday October 15th, Max and Judy Benton opened their home to the St. Andrew's Academy community for a reception in honor of this year's new teachers. The Benton estate is located on the east shore of Lake Almanor, with a lovely view of the lake and a balconied library around the Great Room. Fifty people attended the reception, both from the school and from the broader community, and welcomed the new faculty members: Mr. Kent Bartel, Mr. Brandon Davidson and Mrs. Autumn Davidson. The St. Andrew's Academy Choir was also featured at the reception. Selections from the choir included two medieval chants, *If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Tallis, and a Latin piece entitled *Non Nobis*.

New Faculty at St. Andrew's

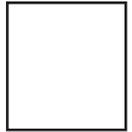
Mr. Kent Bartel joins the Faculty this school year at St. Andrew's Academy as a new Science and Math Teacher as well as the new Assistant Headmaster. Bartel comes most recently from the San Fernando Valley, where he worked on the engine for the Delta IV rocket at Boeing's Rocketdyne division, and also taught at Cal State Northridge. He earned his Bachelor's in Aeronautical Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and his Master's from the University of Southern California.

Coming to the Lake Almanor Basin is a homecoming for him and his family in two ways. One, he grew up in the north state mountains in Etna, California; two, he married a local girl twelve years ago. Mrs. Erica Bartel is the daughter of Chester locals, Roger and Shirley Walden. She graduated from Chester High in 1990 and moved to San Luis Obispo, where she met and married Kent. They have three sons and a daughter who are not only enjoying their grandparents' being so close, but also have been thrilled with the early snow this year.

Along with Mr. Bartel, Brandon and Autumn Davidson are new to the St. Andrew's faculty this year. The Davidsons earned their undergraduate degrees at Missouri Southern State University, in Joplin, where they met and married in 1998. They went on to do graduate work at Western Illinois University, and then successively relocated to Austin, Texas and to Los Angeles before finding their way to Almanor to teach at St. Andrew's Academy. The Davidsons work in the grammar school at St. Andrew's Academy and will also put their acting and directing experience to work this coming winter and spring when they direct the drama production for the School.

Grammar School Students down at the Farm

So how do pumpkins grow? Just ask one of the "pumpkin farmers" in St. Andrew's first-form class! On October 22, the students went to the Book Family Farm and learned all about the life cycle of a pumpkin. Although it was too muddy to attempt the corn maze, the students listened to Farmer Book, learned how to irrigate a pumpkin field, and acted in a pumpkin skit! They also got to pet animals that reside on the farm and to view elaborate scarecrows made by area schools and community members. To top the morning off, each student roamed the pumpkin patch, searching for the perfect pumpkin to take home. The students returned to Lake Almanor with their pumpkins in tow and with a new appreciation for their holiday gourds!



St. Andrew's Welcomed Dr. John Seel for Conference last November

...You're not going to create new C.S. Lewises, you're not going to create new Tolkiens, you're not going to create statesmen like John Adams.

They don't come out of nowhere; they come from a soil and from a mind that has been shaped by a particular kind of education which, when they're converted, God uses in a powerful way...because it's committed to that which is true, good and beautiful.

Dr. John Seel on modern vs. traditional education

Dr. David John Seel, educator, author, and President of the Society for Classical Learning, visited Lake Almanor this past November as the keynote speaker for an education conference hosted by St. Andrew's Academy. The son of medical missionaries, Dr. Seel was raised in Korea, and has served in such varied roles as a teacher at Stony Brook School, New York; headmaster of the Cambridge School of Dallas, and Associate Director at The Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. He has also written *Parenting Without Perfection* and *No God But God*.

Attendees to the conference came from near and far: from Lassen and Plumas counties, and from Washington State

and Texas, to hear Dr. Seel, Fr. Brian Foos and other St. Andrew's Day speakers on November 20th.

Dr. Seel's featured talks centered on culture and the education of youth. "Why Bother With Dead Languages?" "Math and Science in the Classical Tradition" and "Why Logic Makes Sense" were a few of the twelve corollary sessions filling out the main theme, "Education: the Death and Renewal of Culture."

The St. Andrew's Day Conference is sponsored semi-annually by St. Andrew's Academy, and is open to the community. For details on obtaining recordings of the conference sessions on compact disc, please contact St. Andrew's Academy.

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