

AN UPDATE FROM SHEKINAH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The Flame

Shekinah Christian School ~ Plain City, Ohio
December 2024 Volume 41/Issue 4



*"God is not dead nor does He sleep. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Have a Blessed Christmas!

BEHOLD OUR GOD

by Alex Bauermeister (12th)

November 22— Mr. Kallis



Mr Kalllis spoke in chapel about beholding our God and what it means to truly follow Him. Covering Matthew 8:18-27, he spoke about counting the cost of following Jesus and how we must sacrifice our

worldly comforts. He then discussed the identity of Jesus and how even the winds and the seas obeyed Him. He quoted several passages like Genesis 1:2, Job 23:6, Psalm 104, and Psalm 107:23-30 which gave examples of God's power and how He is able to calm storms with His voice alone. If we have true faith in Jesus, we will be more willing to follow Him. Mr. Kallis encouraged us that in the storms of life, God

always shows that He has the authority over all things. Using Mark 4:38, he reminded us that although we can tend to think that God does not care during the storms, we should consider that maybe the storms were part of His design all along. Romans 8:28 reminded us that all things work together for good, and we should follow Christ full of faith.



THE DAY MENTORING TOOK OVER CHAPEL

by Emma McDowell (12th)

An event listed on the calendar as a "Mentoring Takeover," happened on Wednesday, December 18. Students in grades 6th-12th met in their daily mentor groups for chapel. Most of the groups did fun activities in order to ring in the new year as well as to celebrate the upcoming Christmas break.

Several mentor groups went to The Red Hen for their chapel time. Mrs. Hathaway's mentor group participated in a white elephant gift exchange. They also brought in food and made fun Christmas decorations! Mrs. Lyon's group did some fun Christmas festivities as well as played fun games. They also ate breakfast together!

In the elementary chapel, Miss. Maust spoke to grades K-5th on how the birth and death of Jesus has impacted us. The first graders recited their Bible memory in chapel. The kindergarten and first grade classes also led worship for this chapel.



LOVE IS OUR GREATEST MOTIVATOR

by Jacob Newman (12th)

December 4—Jonathan Purdy



Jonathan Purdy blessed us by speaking in the December 4th chapel. After opening with a characteristic OSU jab, Mr. Purdy asked the Shekinah students “What is the greatest motivator in life?” He revealed that our greatest motivator in life is love. Love motivates everything. We play sports because we love to. We give gifts because we love to. We go to Taco-Bell because we love the tacos. Mr. Purdy then cited Matthew 22:34-40, a passage that tells us our greatest motivator to follow Christ should be love as well. Here, Jesus answers a seemingly difficult question, “What is the greatest commandment?” His answer is to love the Lord your God with all your heart soul and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. Like a hitch pin connecting an expensive tractor to an equally expensive planter, these commandments to love connect the whole Law and Prophets. Without the hitch pin the entire farming system fails, the love of which Jesus speaks is like this hitch pin. Then, Mr. Purdy shared one of his deepest fears for the Shekinah student body. He shared the fear that the students of Shekinah,

attending a Christian school, could possess all the Biblical knowledge in the world, yet lack this crucial and authentic love which connects it all. That fear is a real and challenging fear the students need to ponder. Mr. Purdy further quoted 1 John 4:19, explaining we can only have such love because God first loved us, and that in order to possess this love we need to understand the depth of God’s first love towards us. We can attempt to understand this depth through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus on the cross. Mr. Purdy cited the last of very few questions that Jesus asked. Dying on the cross Jesus uttered “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” The answer to this question is us. Mr. Purdy urged the students to replace their name as the answer to that question. Because of us, God forsook His Son. Christ submitted to His Father’s will and gave up His perfect life for us on that cross, and He would have done the same if it was only for one person. This profound display of perfect love, that we cannot begin to comprehend, should be our sole motivator to follow Christ. We love because He did. We do not deserve an ounce of Christ’s love towards us, and this should drive us to love. Along with love, we should be joyful for what we have been saved from, and eager to share the news of our Savior with others.

FAITH MADE OUR OWN

by Jacob Newman (12th)

December 12—Dr. Josiah Luttrull



During an out-of-the-ordinary 8th period Thursday Chapel, Head of School, Dr. Josiah Luttrull, spoke to the Shekinah student body. Dr. Luttrull opened by asking the students to turn to John 4, the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. As Jesus was traveling through Samaria, He got tired from His travels. This demonstrates His humanity Dr. Luttrull pointed out. Because of this, Jesus sat down to rest at a well. Here He encountered a Samaritan woman and began a conversation with her. It was in this conversation that Jesus demonstrated His Godship to the woman through a deep knowledge of her life. Eventually, Jesus revealed His identity, the one true prophesied Messiah, to the woman and she testified this truth throughout her village. Many believed. Jesus stayed for two more days in Samaria.

At this point, Dr. Luttrull took a pause in the story. He

pointed out that the events which had occurred so far in the story beautifully demonstrated God’s sovereignty and providence. It was God’s plan for the Samaritan woman to meet Jesus, and it was God’s plan for the village to hear her profess the truth that Jesus revealed. Then, Dr. Luttrull honed in on verse 42. In this verse, the Samaritans to whom the woman testified told her something profound. They told her they no longer believed solely because of what the woman said, but because they themselves had heard and knew that Jesus was their Savior. Dr. Luttrull then addressed the student body, encouraging them to be like these Samaritans. He urged the students to believe, not only because of what they have been told by teachers at church, school, or youth group. He wanted them to experience and know for themselves that Jesus Christ is their Savior, that their faith not be his, their parents, or anyone’s else’s but their own, and that God beautifully and providentially brought this message to them, just like the Samaritan woman and her village.

TIME WELL-SPENT AT CHRISTMAS UNDER THE CLOCK

by Mia Pierce (12th)

On December 7th, Shekinah's high school choir had the opportunity to perform in the ceremony of lighting the tree in Plain City. At "Christmas Under the Clock," the choir performed two of their songs, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Somewhere in my Memory" from the Christmas movie *Home Alone*. After singing in the ceremony, the choir then walked up and down Main Street caroling.



RBC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2024

by Max Kilzer (12th)

This year the Shekinah Christian high school choir performed at Rosedale Bible College's Christmas Celebration 2024! The night consisted of familiar carols sung by the congregation such as, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and "Silent Night."

Performances from the Rosedale Choir, guitar and jazz duos, the Madison Choral Singers, and Rosedale Strings created a variety of memorable musical experiences.

Shekinah's high school choir, directed by Mrs. Abbey Bechtol, performed "God



Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and "Somewhere in My Memory."

The climax of the evening was a mass choir singing selections from Handel's *Messiah*. After the final note ended, everyone was invited to the student center for fellowship and refreshments provided by RBC. The night was a great success and definitely brought joy to all who came!



SHEKINAH'S ANNUAL ARTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

by Isaac Showalter (12th)



After weeks of preparation, the time for performance arrived for Shekinah students. Friends, grandparents, and parents arrived, packing the gym to listen to the performances that the music classes had to offer. The kindergarten and first grade warmed our hearts with “Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Star,” “Jingle Bells,” and “I am the Happiest Christmas Tree.” Then all of the elementary gathered together to sing “Feliz Navidad.” In spite of some technical issues the elementary persisted and got through it without struggle. The second and third grade students went on to perform “Ode to Joy” and “Little Drummer Boy.” The fourth and fifth grade students then performed

“Hosanna” and “Joy to the World.” Mrs. Saray Hacker directed the elementary performances.

After a short intermission, the junior high school band performed “Rockin’ Angels” and “Jazzy Jingle Bells.” The junior high school choir followed with “Go Tell It On the Mountain,” “Once upon a December,” and the theme from the Christmas movie “Elf.” After the junior high school finished performing, the high school band played “White Christmas” and “Polar Express: A Medley.” Lastly, the high school choir sang “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” “Somewhere in my Memory,” and “Behold Our God.” Mrs. Abbey Bechtol directed the junior high and high school performances.

The program ended with the congregation singing “Silent Night.” Visitors were invited to the cafeteria to see students’ artwork and enjoy cookies and other baked Christmas treats.



FANS & FLAMES FUN EVENT FEATURED AN ALUMNI GAME

by Joe Henson (12th)

The annual Fans and Flames on November 22 was well-attended by current students, parents, fans and alumni. Each basketball team and their coaches were introduced, and then the evening's events consisted of fun competitions between current and former Shekinah basketball players. At half-time of the alumni game, freshman, Rebecca Eichorn won a turkey in a half-court shot competition!

A game between two alumni teams ended with the older team winning. The players of the winning team were Kyle Yutzy '11, Jonathan Roby '12, Tyler Headings '13, Justin Scheffel '14, Dalton Beachy '15, Sam Chrysler '18, John Michael Hershberger '18, and Ben Hershberger '19.

Thanks to Athletic Director, Kelsey Bashnagel, for a well-planned event.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

December 20, the last day of school before Christmas Break was a half day of school and ugly sweater day. Students could also wear their pajamas. The first three periods of the day were class time, but then it was party time! K-5th had their own class parties, but the senior class planned the party for the 6th-12th grades. Beginning at 10:51, they played musical chairs, did relays and a scavenger hunt. When the bell rang for dismissal we headed home to begin our Christmas Break!



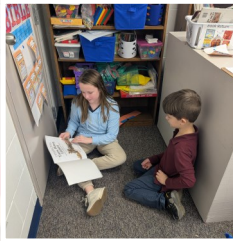
K-2nd Grade Happenings

by Elijah Yutzy (12th)

Kindergarten

This year the kindergarten students got in the spirit of Christmas giving by packing two boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They put boxes together for one boy and one girl and also learned about the country where the boxes went.

Another event kindergarteners enjoy is having fifth grade students come to the kindergarten room to read to them once a month,



First Grade

Miss Maust's traditional soup feast for Thanksgiving was a hit again this year in her first grade class. The ingredients everyone brought were put together in a big pot and cooked to delicious perfection. The savory soup was served with buttered dinner rolls and cheese. The students were allowed to dress up as either Pilgrims or Native Americans as they gathered around a table in the kitchen to enjoy their feast.



Second Grade

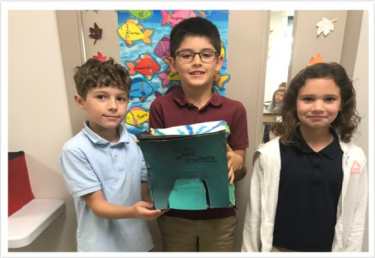
On December 3, the second grade class celebrated Finley's eighth birthday. Finley's grandmother, Kathy Miller, made a surprise visit as well. The class also got into the Christmas spirit by crafting their very own Christmas trees!



November & December in the 3rd-5th Grades

by Aaron Humphries (12th)

Third Grade



The third grade students had a great time creating their own replicas of rabbit hutches! Students got to work in groups and collaborate on design ideas for the project. Great work, third grade!

Fourth Grade

Miss Audrey's class has an annual tradition of making gingerbread houses, but not out of gingerbread! Instead, students carefully crafted homes and businesses made out of graham crackers, icing, Chex Mix, pretzels, Frosted Mini Wheats, and other assorted sweets. The rest of the town (pictured to the right) is made up of a ceramic church, and figurines who are merrily caroling in the snow.



Fourth Graders made Christmas wreaths with the names of Jesus while they waited for their turn on the Christmas program.



Fifth Grade

The final day of school before Thanksgiving break, the fifth grade students were blessed with a delicious Thanksgiving-themed meal! Students were asked to bring a food or drink to share with classmates. As pictured to the left, all of the desks in the fifth grade classroom were rearranged and bunched up together. After the meal they played board games. When all was said and done, everyone left with joyful hearts and full stomachs!

PASSING THE BATON



When students and staff return to school after Christmas Break, one teacher, Todd Charles, won't be returning. Mr. Charles first came to Shekinah to teach history and Phys. Ed. when he was home on furlough from the mission field in Ecuador. He taught for the Fall Semester in 2022 before returning to Ecuador. In 2023-2024 Mr. Charles taught 7th-12th science classes and 9th-10th grade boys' Health. After completing the first semester of this current school year teaching 7th & 8th grade science classes, a boys' Health class and K-12th Phys. Ed., Mr. Charles is moving on to a new opportunity. Shekinah was blessed to have him fill essential roles. Thank you, Mr. Charles, for your time and service!

Stepping in to take his place is Mrs. Serene Shannon. Mrs. Shannon grew up in Arizona, and graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's degree in chemistry.



We are grateful to you for the generous offering the night of the Christmas program and for coming to support & celebrate the students in their performances.

~Shekinah Faculty & Staff

Serene has been married to Matt Shannon for 32 years, and they have four children. Suzy is 22 and will be graduating from college in another year. Deklin is 19 and attending Marion Technical College. Rachel is 17 and attending Ohio Hi-Point. Morgan is attending Shekinah as a freshman.

The Shannon family attends Living Hope Church in Marysville. Serene serves as the Troop Coordinator for their American Heritage Girls troop OH1002.

Serene loves to host family and friends for meals and games. She loves to bake and cook and is an avid listener to audiobooks. She also loves to travel to see God's handiwork in nature and American historical sites.

The Shannon family has lived in Marysville since 2020. For 16 years they lived in Middlefield, OH when their children were born and through elementary school. They wanted their youngest son, Morgan, to attend a Christian school, and they had been interested in Shekinah for awhile. Morgan began attending Shekinah in August. Mrs. Shannon has been looking for an opportunity to share her love of science with the next generation. That opportunity has come, and we welcome you to Shekinah, Mrs. Shannon!

The Cheese House \$2.00 OFF purchases of \$20 or more <i>—Excludes Sale & Café Items—</i> 9870 S. US Hwy. 42, Plain City		Shekinah Christian School 614-873-3130 www.shekinahchristian.org	
DER DUTCHMAN Free Beverage with \$7.50 Dining Room Purchase Limit 2 beverages per card. Does not include beverages on dessert menu. 445 S. JEFFERSON AVE. • PLAIN CITY	Flyers \$3.00 OFF any purchase of \$25 or more Hilliard 614-529-0123 West Jeff 614-879-7777	Yutzy's Farm Market \$3.00 OFF purchase of \$30 or more (excludes sale or discounted items) 6010 Converse Huff Rd. • Plain City	
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Value cards are still available for \$20. The card offers discounts at 15 local businesses that are good all year.

Students of the Month



Nava S.

**Secondary Student
of
the Month**

Junior, Nava S., was nominated as the December Student of the Month in grades 6th-12th.

Nava is confident but humble at the same time. She is kind to others and always includes everyone. You can count on her to do the right thing no matter what. Nava is courageous and not afraid to try new things. Congratulations, Nava! Keep up the great work!



Kaelynn K.

**Elementary Student
of
the Month**

Fifth grade student, Kaelynn K. was nominated as the December Student of the Month in grades K-5th.

Kaelynn was nominated because she is a hard worker with a great attitude. She's often looking for ways to quietly help other people. Kaelynn sees the best in other people and is kind and encouraging.

Congratulations on being nominated as the Elementary Student of the Month, Kaelynn!

STUDENT VALUES

Responsibility, Kindness, Excellence, Respect, Persistence, Integrity, Team Player, Empathy, and Commitment

The School Publications Class wants to recognize these values each month. Students can drop their nominations (one from K-5th and one from 6th-12th) into the blue bucket in the cafeteria. Besides naming a person, students need to write why they are nominating that person. Don't forget to sign your name in case we need to ask for more details.

Alumni News and Notes

Births:

Zach and Haley (Sweigart) Troyer '13;
Lincoln John born October 19, 2024;
fourth child, second son.

Thomas '15 and Emma (Nesselroade) Miller;
Eloise Elaine born October 22, 2024;
first child, first daughter.

**Andrew '09 and Elizabeth (Miller)
Miller'09;** Frederick David born
December 13, 2024; fourth child,
third son.

Attention Alumni !!

We want to hear from you. Send updates about your lives to lshetler@shekinahchristian.org. Tell us about births, marriages, promotions, new jobs, ministry opportunities, and anything else you'd like to share.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, we would love to send it to you through email. We would like to save funds on postage and printing.

Help us to keep our database up-to-date by letting us know if you have a change of address or email address. Thank you for staying in touch!

Mark your calendars.....

December

20—Dismissal 12:30 Teacher In-service
23-Jan 3—Christmas Break

January

8-10—Semester Exams—Dismissal 12:30
10—End of 1st Semester
20—No School MLK Day
23-24—MAP Testing

December Challenge



Nick has a box of ornaments he uses to decorate his tree each year. All of them are blue, except for six. All of them are green, except for six and all of them are red except for six. How many of each color does Nick have? Call or text the answer to 614-873-3143 to be placed in a drawing for a free value card.

The Student Activity Booster Club would like to thank our Sponsors for their generous support!

GOLD

Always at Your Side, Clean Cars Ohio
Country Closet, IT made REAL
Jessica Photography, Miller Cabinet Company
Mill West Amish Furniture
P.C. Animal Hospital, P.C. Village Market
Red 1 Realty, R & T Yoder Electric,
TL Builders, WJ Plumbing & Heating
Yutzy's Farm Market

SILVER

Cooley Custom Cabinet, Integrity Door Sales
Lyon & Sons Body Shop, Purdy Farms
Rosedale Bible College, Smiles to Love

BRONZE

Yutzy Pastures

November Challenge Winner

Thank you to everyone who answered the following challenge correctly. In ten years time the combined age of Mary and Jane and their brothers Paul and Phillip will be 100. What will the combined age be in seven years time? The answer is 88. Congratulations to Hannah Yutzy who won a \$10 gift card to Chick-fil;-A

* Editor : Linda Shetler * Student Editors: School Publications Class

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