

The Flame

Shekinah Christian School ~ Plain City, Ohio
February 2024 Volume 40/Issue 6



We just celebrated another Valentine's Day, a good time to remember that God loves us deeply and wants a personal relationship with each one of us. We are called to love others well because God first loved us. At Shekinah, we are encouraged in our walk with Christ to show God's love to others. Our theme for this school year, "Called to Be Different" should make a difference in academics, extracurricular activities, and our everyday lives. As Christ-followers we are to do everything for the glory of God.

~Taylor H.

CHAPELS ON WORSHIP AND WORTH

by Riann P.

1/24/24 - Matt Rickly

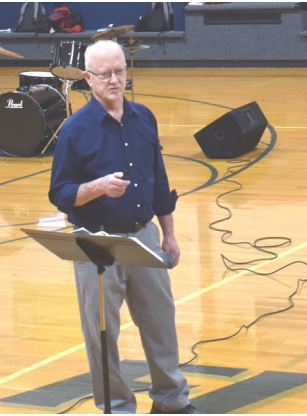


Matt Rickly, a worship leader at Vertical Church in Columbus, helped lead worship when he visited Shekinah to share in our 7th-12th grade chapel. After singing and playing the guitar, Matt asked some questions, “What does it mean to worship?” and “What do you worship?” Matt read Romans 12:1 and said that God does not want just part of us. He wants

us to be a living sacrifice, poured out in worship to our Heavenly Father. Matt referred to the “buckets” in our lives and what we fill them with. He challenged us to:

1. Identify – Know what we worship.
2. Decide if what we worship is worth it.
3. Offer our entire lives to Him who is worthy of all of our worship.

1/31/24 - Mr. Shetler



Arnold Shetler shared about this month’s Bible memory verses, Ephesians 2:1-10. Verse 10 of this passage says, “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago” (NLT). Mr. Shetler referred to his 20-month-old granddaughter as an example of how we develop physically as God’s creations.

We’re all born completely helpless, and we can’t see past who’s holding us. We depend on others for everything, and we can’t do anything except cry and drink milk. However, as we grow we gain strength, our muscles in our necks become strong enough to look past who is holding and caring for us. The stages of growth for a Christian are: wandering from God, walking to God, watching for God, and working with God. Watching for God means that He has “...seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 10:6). Mr. Shetler quoted C.S. Lewis, who wrote in his book, *Mere Christianity*, “If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the NEXT.... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth “thrown in”:

aim at earth and you will get neither.” As we grow as Christians we learn to focus on heavenly things. Then we will grow past our infant stage and develop into masterpieces as God’s workmanship.

1/24/24 Sarah Landis



Sarah Landis from DNA came to share in the K-6th grade chapel on January 24. Sarah is great at getting students to participate and to stay engaged by using the incentive of candy. When asked about what they remembered about this chapel, a fourth grade student replied that Ms.

Landis talked about how God created us in His image. The student went on to say that Sarah said that we shouldn’t try to change who we are because we’re special the way we are. Sarah used Genesis 1:27; “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” The fourth grade students were amazed with how similar her message was to the message they planned to share in chapel the next week with the play they were planning to perform.

1/31/24 Miss Audrey & the 4th Grade



Miss Audrey and her fourth grade class put on a wonderful skit taken from the children’s book, *If Only I Had a Green Nose*, by Max Lucado. The message of the skit was to be happy in the way that your maker created you to be. Don’t strive to appear like everybody else. The students’ summary was, “Don’t go along with the crowd. He made you purposefully in His image.” The younger students were amazed with the fourth graders’ green noses. When the skit ended, the students recited verses that reflected the theme of their message well. Mary shared 1 John 1:9, Shiloh recited Genesis 1:27, and Harper read Psalm 139:14, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

CHAPELS ON KNOWING AND OBEYING GOD

2/07/24 - Zach Miller

by Roxie G.

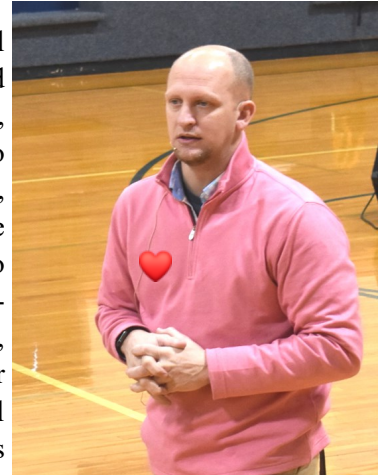
2/14/24 -Dr. Luttrull



Zach Miller '02, an associate pastor at Shiloh Mennonite, spoke in two chapel sessions on January 7. He began both sessions by asking his audience a couple of trivia questions about two of the teachers (Mr. Hershberger in the 7th-12th chapel and Miss Linette in K-6th chapel). He went on to make the point that we can know all of the Bible facts

and still not really have a relationship with God. We can even be so familiar with those facts that we become “bored” with God. Zach spoke about the account in Exodus 33 when Moses wanted to see God’s face. God’s response was, “You cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” He put Moses in a “cleft of the rock” which God covered with His hand while His glory passed by so that Moses saw only His back. God revealed Himself through Jesus, the “Living Water” and the “Bread of Life.” People hunger and thirst for things around them such as relationships, goals, and approval. Knowing Him is the only thing that will satisfy. One day we will see Him “face to face” and “know fully,” even as we “have been fully known” (I Cor. 13:12).

Dr. Josiah Luttrull spoke on *sanctification* and *justification*. He asked, “How many of you like to practice?” Then he asked, “What if you could be perfect, but you had to work at it?” NBA basketball player, Steph Curry, shoots 165,000 shots per year but a very small percentage of those shots were credited to him in games. Speaking from I Peter 1, Dr. Luttrull made the connection that Jesus declares us righteous through *justification*, but it is through *sanctification* that we are set apart for obedience. The practice of continual, daily obedience is *sanctification*. Dr. Luttrull told a humorous story about a cleaned up dead rabbit to illustrate how we try to prop ourselves up to appear to be alive. It is God who justifies us and “sets us apart” to obey Him.

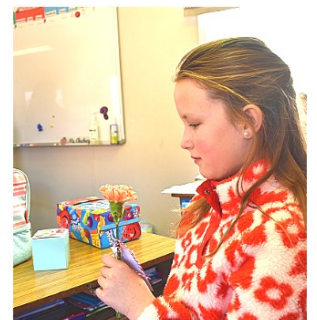
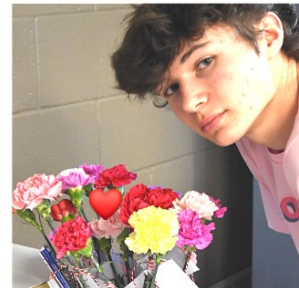
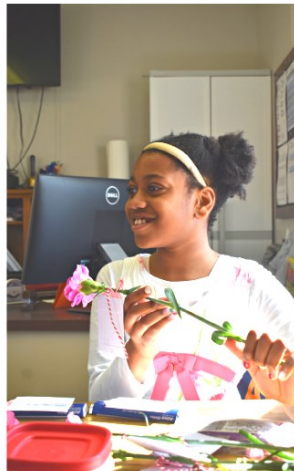


CARNATION/CHOCOLATE SALES



The Junior Class sells carnations every year to help fund the Junior Senior Banquet. This year they added chocolate bars to the sales and made \$461!

~Gabi N.



ELEMENTARY EVENTS ~ K-3RD

by Jadon M.



Over the past few weeks, the K-3rd grade teachers have held several special events for their classes.

In Mrs. Yutzy's class, the kindergarteners put together small houses for the three little pigs. They used various materials including marshmallows and toothpicks. Mrs. Yutzy also taught them about wisdom concerning money. She gave them fake dollar bills and allowed them to purchase various objects with this class currency.

Similar to the kindergarteners, the first graders also used a class currency to purchase items. Only this time, they visited Miss Maust's Mall to purchase items. At this mall, students could purchase items including pens, writing materials, and toys. On Wednesday, February 7, they celebrated their annual 100th day of school!

Second grade students recently dressed up as historical characters. Each student was responsible for researching five significant facts about that person's life



and actions. Mrs. Proper set up the event to resemble a wax museum. Each student traveled around the classroom and learned what others had learned.

In third grade, students planted green bean seeds in clear cups so that they could see the seeds germinate and sprout. The students are responsible to water their plants and will be measuring to track the growth. They also emptied the shells from their "Good Behavior" jar. The reward for their good behavior was to make monkey bread. While it was baking, they went on a treasure hunt and then ate the monkey bread along with popcorn.

ELEMENTARY EVENTS ~ 4TH-6TH

by Allison B.



The fourth graders performed a skit during elementary chapel based on Max Lucado's book, *If Only I Had a Green Nose*. This skit demonstrated the importance of being who God has designed us to be. They also shared verses and examples from the Bible. (See p. 2).

The fifth graders recently got to pick a region that they found interesting, and each of them created a biome to display in the front hallway. They had to find what the animals did to survive, what they ate and where they lived.



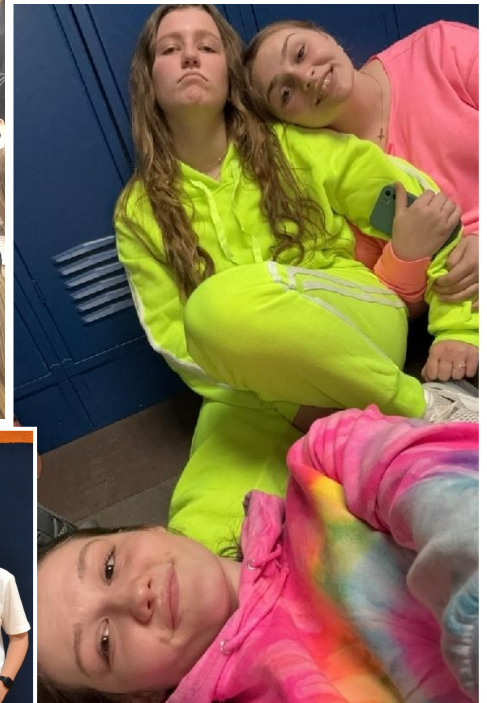
On January 23, the sixth graders took a field trip to the Plain City police station. The chief showed them the technology that they use, the evidence room, and their training space. They also visited the mayor's office and then went to the Country Closet Thrift Store and spent a couple of hours sorting donations. Lunch at McDonald's was a good break in the middle of the day.

SPIRIT WEEK FEBRUARY 12-16



- 👤 Monday
Pajama Day
- 👤 Tuesday
Twin Day
- ❤️ Wednesday
Valentines' Day
- 💚 Thursday
Neon Day
- 👤 Friday
Nike vs. Adidas

On the first day of Spirit Week, Dr. Luttrull surprised us with a treasure hunt. Students scurried through the halls looking for the clues. The winners, third grade and juniors, were awarded pizza on Thursday.



Senior Night, February 3

by Alinea S.

On Saturday, February 3, Shekinah fans came out on Senior Night to honor ten 2024 Shekinah basketball seniors: Allison B., Caleb G., Roxie G., Josie H., Riley H., Taylor H., Jadon M., Gabi N., Brook P., and Alinea S. Each team played Tree of Life with the games starting at 12:00 with the junior high girls, followed by the junior high boys, and then the JV boys. After the JV boys played, the senior girls were honored before their game. Following the varsity girls' game, the senior guys were honored. The evening ended with the varsity boys' game.



2024 Shekinah Basketball Seniors

CONGRATULATIONS



SENIORS!!



SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

by Riley H.



When **Stephen Spires '09** was a first grade student, he gave Miss Maust a huge card for Valentines' Day. Every year Miss Maust pulls the card out of her stash of treasures and makes it a part of her classroom's Valentines' Day décor. Fifteen years later, this Valentines' Day, she had a sentimental, full-circle moment when she posed for a picture of the card with a current first grade student, Stephen's daughter, Finley.

NEWS FROM NOEMI '05

This is an excerpt from Noemi's latest newsletter "God in the Ordinary." She teaches children with special needs in a country unnamed here for security.



A few highlights would include sharing about...

- My winter break which included a trip to surprise family for Christmas and looking into work options for next year (For those who don't know yet, I plan to return to Ohio after this school year.)

- The busyness of the upcoming weeks: Next week the school will celebrate "People of Determination" (what those with special needs are called here) with several events. Pray for connections with community leaders and other families impacted by special needs!

- In a couple of weeks the school will celebrate the diversity of staff and students (40+ countries represented!) with a Culture Day celebration.
- The weddings of a couple friends
- Ramadan (the Muslim month of fasting) will start March 10. Pray for opportunities to visit with local families during this time...for questions and curiosity and boldness to share the hope we have!
- An upcoming trip to Germany over spring break to visit friends & family and have a focused time of debriefing as I prepare to head back to the US this summer.

Alumni News and Notes

Births:

Justin '13 and Natalie (Headings) Helmuth '17
Ruth Lyn born January 16, 2024; second child, first daughter.

Marriage:

Adam Hettel and Krista Shrock '13 married
February 9, 2024

Alumni, you are important to us!

It's always a good day when we hear from an alumnus. We want your news. Please email us at publications@shekinahchristian.org with your births and wedding announcements, or any other significant news. If you have recently moved or changed your email address, please send us an update. Thanks for staying in touch!

These are all good updates and important to share with you...as a reminder that God is at work on the other side of the world and as a thank you for your prayers! There are more stories I could share--of God challenging me to be more intentional with prayer, of some interesting conversations and interactions, and of Him giving me a heart for some of the people I found most difficult to understand. And yet as I type this all out, I'm reminded that these truly are just highlights.

There are many other not-so-highlightable moments that not just I, but each of us walk through each day. But it's these moments that we think are perhaps insignificant that God is also in the middle of. We tend to think that the "highlights" are more important than the ordinary, but God is present in our day-to-day and invites us to engage with him while we wash the dishes just as much as when we talk or pray with someone. So that is my challenge both to myself and to you this season: take time to talk with God as you're going about your day-to-day routines. Whether it's driving kids around, making dinner or having a good conversation: acknowledge that He is there with you! And as you do so, may God open your eyes to the beauty in the ordinary and the people who He has placed right around you.

"There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful, than that of a continual conversation with God; those only can comprehend it who practice and experience it."

"The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence

Mark your calendars.....

February

16—12:30 DISMISSAL—STAFF WORK DAY
19—Boys' BB OHSAA post season begins
19—Presidents' Day-NO SCHOOL

March

8—12:30 DISMISSAL—STAFF WORK DAY
8—End of 3rd Quarter
18—Tentative Winter Sports Awards Night 6-7 pm
25-4/1—SPRING BREAK-NO SCHOOL

Winner of the January Challenge



Five people found all of the Shekinah flames hidden in the January issue. Allison B. was the winner of the free value card in the drawing. Congratulations!!

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

GOLD

Always at Your Side
Country Closet Thrift Store
IT Made REAL, Jessica Photography
Miller Cabinet Company, Miller's Furniture
P.C. Animal Hospital, P.C. Village Market,
R & T Yoder Electric
West Jeff. Plumbing & Heating
Yutzy's Farm Market

SILVER

Integrity Door Sales
Lyon & Sons Body Shop
Purdy Farms; Rocky Mountain Coffee Co.
Rosedale Bible College, Smiles to Love

BRONZE

ER Autocare, Yutzy Pastures

February Challenge



Find all of the heart emojis hidden in this issue. Call or text the correct number and locations to 614-873-3143 and be placed in a drawing for a \$10 gift card to The Red Hen!

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