

# Saint Joseph Catholic School

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2 0 1 2 W I N T E R N E W S L E T T E R

*Inspiring minds • Building character • Living faith*



*Saint Joseph Catholic School 5th grade boys enjoy the exciting, "hands-on/minds-on" week-long field trip to STARBASE Swamp Fox, hosted by the Air National Guard at McEntire Joint National Guard Base.*

## OUR MISSION

Saint Joseph Catholic School, a coeducational parish school for grades K4 through 6, exists for the purpose of providing Catholic education of the highest quality to the children of parishioners and other residents of the Columbia area. Central to the school program is a dedication to spiritual development and academic excellence based on Gospel values. Through opportunities to worship, to learn, and to grow in character, Saint Joseph students are prepared to be lifelong learners who practice and live their values in the Catholic, Christian tradition.

*"It is more blessed to  
give than to receive."*

*— Acts 20:35*

# Uniting Children in Christ



Reverend Julie Songer-Belman, Shandon United Methodist Church, gives the sermon “The Victory of Jesus Christ” — using the analogy of training hard to become a good Christian and training hard to win a medal at the Olympics.

“So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another.” Romans 12:5

Every child, and for that matter every adult, wants to fit in. The sense of community that a church brings to children gives them a feeling of belonging, of being part of something “bigger”. At Saint Joseph Catholic School, approximately 77% of the students belong to the Saint Joseph parish. For both parishioners and non-parishioners, imparting the teachings of Jesus Christ to ALL students is of utmost importance. But how do the clergy make each student feel welcome during weekly Friday Mass? The answer can be found in the Bible, where Jesus asks for unity among His believers.

Following the teaching of Christ, each year the Catholic Church celebrates the international “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”. In 2012, the week was January 16 – 20. During this special time, Saint Joseph Catholic Church and School hosted its 7th annual Ecumenical Prayer

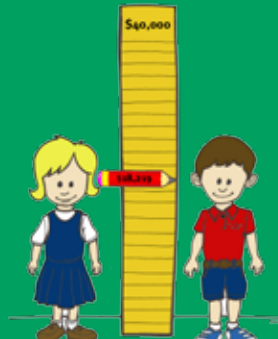
Service on Friday, January 20. The purpose of this service was to bring together churches, families and pastors from throughout the region.

“It is our goal, as a parish and as a school, to help find common ground as Christians so that we may show children the importance of unity in our community,” says Reverend Monsignor Richard D. Harris, V.G., pastor of Saint Joseph Catholic Church.

Churches in the downtown Columbia area were asked to participate in this service, with special invitations sent to the churches of the children who attend Saint Joseph Catholic School.

Reverend Paul Wollner of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church said, “It is wonderful to experience the energy of young people of faith. I hope that every child today takes this experience back to his local church and explains to them the joy of celebrating our Christian faith as a community, rather than as separate churches.”

PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED:	
The Rev. Dr. William R. Childs <i>Washington Street United Methodist Church</i>	The Rev. Julie Songer-Belman <i>Shandon United Methodist Church</i>
Mrs. Deborah Goodwin <i>Shandon Presbyterian Church</i>	The Rev. Paul Stricklin <i>St. Michael and All Angels’ Episcopal Church</i>
The Rev. Phil Lavender <i>Trinity United Methodist Church</i>	The Rev. John Trump <i>Saint Andrews Lutheran Church</i>
The Rev. Father James Frazier Lyon IV <i>Good Shepherd Episcopal Church</i>	The Rev. Cole Weathers <i>Bethel AME</i>
The Rev. Paul Pingel <i>Ebenezer Lutheran Church</i>	The Rev. Paul Wollner <i>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</i>



## Annual Fund in Full Swing

“It’s like being on Oprah!” That was one reaction when new laptops were handed to several teachers at the beginning of this school year. The laptops, along with an updated computer lab, were just some of the technology wishes fulfilled with money raised from the 2010-2011 Annual Fund. In December, you received a letter kicking off this year’s Annual Fund campaign. Since Saint Joseph Catholic School is going through accreditation this year, as well as pursuing some grants, it is especially important that you participate to show strong support from the school community. Even if you cannot contribute financially, please return your envelope with the prayer box checked off. This will count toward the percentage of families and parishioners taking part in the Annual Fund. Remember that every dollar counts! And thank you!

# From the Principal



*Rose Tindall, Principal*

## DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL,

When pondering the theme of this quarter's newsletter, I thought of the quote from 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." We do indeed have so many "cheerful givers" at Saint Joseph Catholic School. I am touched everyday by the generosity of our parents, grandparents, teachers, parish friends, and community benefactors. Truly this giving spirit is what makes it possible to live the core values of our tag line: Inspiring Minds. Building Character. Living Faith.

### *Inspiring Minds.*

Each fall, Lisa Leonard, our guidance counselor, puts out the call to our parents asking for some volunteers with legal expertise to coach our sixth grade Mock Trial team. Under the unflappable coaching of these moms and dads, who give up their time to come in at lunch, before school, and on weekends to coach, our students have reached individual and team successes. Grandparents, Bill and Pat Mason, who no longer have grandchildren here at Saint Joseph Catholic School, assist each week in preparing the children for reading and ushering at Mass on Fridays. It is not an easy thing to read in front of the congregation, but our readers do so with poise beyond their years. Volunteers from our parish serve as members of the Curriculum Committee of our Advisory Council, providing guidance to the administration and faculty on new trends in education and best practices for teaching and learning.

### *Building Character.*

This year, Danielle Gadow, a member of our parish, approached us with an opportunity for our children to participate in the Healthy Learners service drive. Healthy Learners provides medical and dental care to children in our community who do not have financial resources. Our children were invited to do chores to earn change and raised over \$300 for this worthwhile project. Dr. Jim Estes and his family have volunteered each November for the past seven years with the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox program. Children are encouraged to fill a shoebox of items for young people in impoverished countries. Jim and his family sort, package, and deliver these boxes each year. Through the work of these and many other volunteers, our students learn to think outside themselves, and as a result become cheerful givers for the rest of their lives.

### *Living Faith.*

For our annual Saints Walk and canned food drive, parents volunteer to coordinate the efforts to support the church's Saint Vincent DePaul food pantry, teaching the true meaning of Matthew 25:40, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." This year, Saint Joseph's parochial vicar, Father Matthew Gray, ran and walked with the children in the Saints Walk, volunteering his time to support the living faith of our students. We are often visited by members of different faiths and ministries who share their experiences and faith journeys with our children. The Rev. Julie Songer-Belman, at our recent Ecumenical Prayer Service, spoke about "winning a victory with Jesus." These real-life experiences with people of faith are invaluable.

On any given day at Saint Joseph Catholic School, our lives are touched by the cheerful giving of many volunteers. And for this I am eternally grateful.

Many blessings,

Roselyn K. Tindall, M.Ed.  
Principal

# Give A Little Bit

For Saint Joseph Catholic School, volunteers who choose to donate their time and talents to the school – be it reading to the students, playground duty, chaperoning, serving on a committee or numerous other activities – make all the difference in the success, culture and atmosphere of the school. There are many unsung heroes at our school who help in countless ways. Maybe you have never seen them or perhaps they are a mainstay in the hallways. Whatever their role, whatever your role, it matters. Here are just a few stories of the personal rewards volunteering at Saint Joseph Catholic School has afforded some of our families.



*Cyndy Tumipseed, Chrissy Dingeldine, Chris Charlton, and Lawrence Lumpkin (l to r).*

## Lawrence Lumpkin

**WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO VOLUNTEER AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL?**

I volunteered since as an older parent I would get to spend extra time with my son, as well as experience his social environment and meet like-minded parents.

**WHAT PROJECTS PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MOST ENJOYMENT/FULFILLMENT?**

Second grade soccer on the playground. It's always interesting to try and temper a young person's will to compete with what is fair (and it never hurts to have Sister Maria in the immediate background).

**WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERING MEAN TO YOU?**

A small religious school offers an environment of gratitude, which is increasingly hard to find.

**HOW DO YOU TRY TO INSTILL A SERVANT'S HEART IN YOUR CHILDREN?**

To try to be as cheerful as possible while doing volunteer duties and hope the quiet example is the best one.

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PARENTS WHO AREN'T CURRENTLY ACTIVELY INVOLVED BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE?**

If time permits, volunteering is a great way to connect with your children and help others in the present. Once a day is over, it's not coming back.

## Chris Charlton

**WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO VOLUNTEER AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL?**

I decided to volunteer at Saint Joseph when my children started school there. This is a way to stay close to my children and help out the school.

**WHAT PROJECTS PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MOST ENJOYMENT/FULFILLMENT?**

Really all of them. My most fond memories are helping and being involved in the classroom with K4 through 1st grade. I love to see the "light bulbs" go off when the children understand.

**WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERING MEAN TO YOU?**

Volunteering to me means love. I love my children, our school and church and will provide, to the best of my ability, assistance with anything that is needed. I have been rewarded with being close to my children, helping others, getting to know the other children, teachers and staff.

**HOW DO YOU TRY TO INSTILL A SERVANT'S HEART IN YOUR CHILDREN?**

I believe that my actions in volunteering speak the loudest. My children see what I do and are involved with the volunteering most of the time with me. So, I am trying to set a good example by my actions and keeping them involved. We also discuss how important it is to volunteer. And when they give me grief, I just say it is the right thing to do and you will feel better afterward.

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PARENTS WHO AREN'T CURRENTLY ACTIVELY INVOLVED BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE?**

Try it! You do not know how you are going to feel until you have experienced giving of yourself with an open heart. These are our children, school and church and they deserve the best we have to offer. They do not get better until we make them better.

### Cyndy Turnipseed

#### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO VOLUNTEER AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

I have volunteered at Saint Joseph because I wanted to be involved with my children and help their school. I have been involved in many different ways - I have served as homeroom mother for one or both of my children's classes every year except two of the eight years we have been there. I was PTO Treasurer for the last three years. I am chair of the Sunshine Committee this year, and I have served on several of the different committees of the PTO.

#### WHAT PROJECTS PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MOST ENJOYMENT/FULFILLMENT?

My favorite volunteer project is being a homeroom mother. It allows me to be a part of my children's classes and to help the teachers throughout the year. I also love the projects that allow me to tell people how much we care about Saint Joseph and how pleased we have been with the school. I always volunteer to give tours during Catholic Schools Week and to serve as a mentor family for the Mentor Committee.

#### WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERING MEAN TO YOU?

I get a lot of joy and satisfaction out of helping my children's school. By volunteering, I am able to spend more time with my children and be a part of some of their experiences at school. It also gives me the opportunity to help the teachers and the school.

#### HOW DO YOU TRY TO INSTILL A SERVANT'S HEART IN YOUR CHILDREN?

I work full-time, yet I still dedicate a lot of time for volunteering at the school. My children can see that I put my family and education as top priorities in my life and that it is important for me to spend time doing what I can to help. Through my example, I hope that they will also be willing to volunteer and help where they are needed.

#### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PARENTS WHO AREN'T CURRENTLY ACTIVELY INVOLVED BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE?

Please just find out more about the volunteer opportunities. Come to a PTO meeting or ask any member of the PTO board. There are SO MANY ways to help at the school, and there are many different types of activities. Everyone has different talents and can be helpful and there are very different time commitments needed. There can never be too many volunteers, so please find an opportunity!

### Chrissy Dingeldine

#### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO VOLUNTEER AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

Catholic guilt, plain and simple. Of course, I am sure there is plenty of Protestant guilt out there, too. However, I also have great memories of my mother serving as "yard lady" when I was a kid. I was a little disappointed that I don't get a giant bell to ring on the school yard, but I am over that now.

#### WHAT PROJECTS PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MOST ENJOYMENT/FULFILLMENT?

I especially love playground duty. Our last chair, Sarah Ricker, said it was the best volunteer job of all, and she was right. You have an opportunity to meet all of the children, enjoy the outdoors, and watch Sister Maria work her magic. The children are wonderful. My job seems like a breeze compared to my mother's job. For those with a flexible schedule, it is a great opportunity to volunteer. We have a great group of moms and dads that volunteer but could always use more.

#### WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERING MEAN TO YOU?

Most of all I am blessed with the opportunity to be a part of a wonderful community of educators, staff and parents. I really felt much closer to that community when I started volunteering and taking a more active role in the school community.

#### HOW DO YOU TRY TO INSTILL A SERVANT'S HEART IN YOUR CHILDREN?

My daughter has a Spend, Save and Share piggy bank. Everything she receives is divided between the three. She enjoys deciding how and with whom she will share her savings. We also pray every night to be good, kind and generous to all those around us. I hope it sticks.

#### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PARENTS WHO AREN'T CURRENTLY ACTIVELY INVOLVED BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE?

Cut to the chase. Look at your strengths and pick a job. There is plenty to do in our school community. Take the Virtus class and don't put it off. You will not regret it. Playground, anyone?

*The need is great. Give only the time you can. But please do give. Our school, our teachers and our students thank you.*

# Taste of Heaven – A Gift for Us All



They say it takes a village. And that couldn't be more true for Taste of Heaven, Saint Joseph Catholic School's largest fundraiser – and a great party!

This year's event went off without hitch, but behind the scenes, it took hundreds of hours of volunteering, coordinating, collecting, counting and praying. And it sure paid off! More than \$52,000 was raised for the school! And for event chairs Katie Marr and Mindy

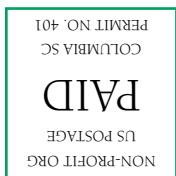
McBurney, the help and support from the parents and the community made all of the difference. "The only reason this event is so successful is because of the support of the parents, the teachers and the community," said Katie. "No one person makes it happen – the whole school plays a part."

One successful addition to this year's Taste of Heaven was the Vineyard, where wines, ranging from inexpensive to fairly pricey, were packaged for purchase. Guests didn't know what they purchased until after the bottle was bought – but every bottle, regardless of price, sold for \$20. "The Vineyard sold out in 25 minutes," added Katie. "So start saving your wine for next year!"

And save the date, as well, which is November 16, 2012. Don't miss out on this opportunity for fun and fellowship – and the chance to bid on a private Mass and fabulous dinner from Monsignor Harris. Now that's a taste of heaven!



Reagan is the state winner in the Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program, which encourages students to learn about gardening. South Carolina Agriculture Commissioner, Hugh Weathers, presented Reagan (shown here with her parents, Angela and Michael) with a \$1,000 savings bond, courtesy of Bonnie Plants, at a school assembly.



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