



nc advance

nebraska christian schools

building lives for eternity

Pray for NC

Building Lives for Eternity

This Year's Theme



by Josh Cumpston,
Administrator

In the spring, we began planning for this current school year. As we thought about what we'd like to emphasize this year with our students, the Lord laid prayer on my heart.

I spoke with our chaplain, Gordon Thiessen, about my idea, and he said that he knew the right person to help us open our school year. He suggested Dr. Bob Bakke, a former Executive Director of the Evangelical Free Church of America, a speaker and author on prayer and revival, a national radio and TV prayer simulcast producer, and a current pastor in Minneapolis. Gordon contacted Bob, who agreed to come spend two days with us. He spoke to staff the day before school started, addressed parents at Open House that night, and then spoke in Chapel the first day of school. He really helped to set the tone for the year by discussing the purpose of prayer and leading us in praying for one another in small groups.

Another way that we are keeping prayer at the forefront is by reading "Prayer, Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God" by Timothy Keller as a staff. Our entire staff will be on the same reading schedule of the book during the first semester, and they will spend time discussing what they read with each other.

Not long after we had decided to make prayer our emphasis for this school year, I was approached by two moms who wanted to offer a

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Row 1: Richie Musgrave, Malachi Zaruba. Row 2: MaKai Bolanos, Riley Schreiber, Christian Strobel. Row 3: Nathan Fetterley, Christopher Medlock, Drew Perdew, Landen Leonard. Row 4: Cooper Schnell, Gabe Langemeier. Row 5: Noah Dexter ('16).

NC Elementary Attends State Fair

The NC elementary attended "Nebraska's Largest Classroom" at the Nebraska State Fair on Thursday, Sept. 1. One of the highlights was connecting with 2016 NC graduate Noah Dexter ('16) at the Nebraska Writers Guild booth. Dexter's first novel, *Venom*, was recently published.

A Faithful Servant: Gil Glad



by Stephani (Deichmann '03) Francl, Development Director

You might have known him as a teacher, a principal, or a representative of Nebraska Christian Schools. Mr. Gilbert Glad has worn many hats during his 37 years on staff at NC, and through it all one word comes to mind: faithful.

In 1977, Mr. Glad joined the NC family as an elementary teacher for grades 4-6. His students remember his teaching style with fondness. "Joél ('85) and I were in the first 5th grade class of the NC Elementary. He was a great teacher, always with a heart for students and a smile!" Anita (Adams '85) Ruybalid shares. Several students

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Gil Glad with fifth grade student Michelle Hanover during the 1982-1983 school year.



Students: Pray that each student will have an open heart to receive what the Lord is teaching them.

Staff: Pray that each staff member would be an example of how to live out a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Board: Pray that the board members would be sensitive to God's leading as they plan for the future of NC.

School: Pray that God would continue to use NC to fulfill His purpose and provide for the school's needs as He has for more than 50 years.

— Philippians 4:6 —

nc advance

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Josh Cumpston, *Administrator*Becky Ritta ('99), *Editor*Beth (Ritta '98) Keim, *Layout & Design*

The NC Advance is available free of charge. To subscribe, change your address, stop receiving the publication, or submit information, please contact us at:

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Editorial Submissions: All news or information from NC Alumni, students and teachers is welcome. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

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Mission: The mission of Nebraska Christian Schools is to assist the family and church by providing a Christ-centered education, equipping students with a biblical worldview and encouraging a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Submit alumni news at

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category/alumni](http://nebraskachristian.org/category/alumni)



by Mark McHargue ('85),
Campaign Chairman

Because of your faithful support, we were able to complete the girls' dorm! It was used this summer for many opportunities, which included an FCA Huddle retreat and a two week summer camp for students from China. We are so blessed to have this facility, which enables us to have a year-round ministry and continue to impact students from around the world. Thank you for partnering with us to complete Phase 1 — Elliot Hall.

We have launched Phase 2, which addresses the needs of the cafeteria, dining hall, fine arts program, and gymnasium. A key component to the campaign being successful is providing campaign information to

as many people as possible. If you are reminded of someone who has roots here but has moved away, please forward their name to the foundation at foundation@nebraskachristian.org.

Phase 2 will greatly enhance our athletics programs, fine arts education, and the day-to-day interactions of our students.

Phase 2A — \$3.2 million

- New construction of a kitchen, dining hall, commons area, restrooms, and concessions stand; updated siding, roof and windows for the existing gymnasium.

**Upon complete funding of Phase 2A, we will begin Phase 2B*

Phase 2B — \$2.8 million

- New construction of a gymnasium, locker rooms, storage rooms, and expanded parking lot.

We also want to remind you that there are still funds available to match a generous dollar-for-dollar matching grant of up to \$50,000. Please prayerfully consider how you can be part of Phase 2 of the Next 50 Years Capital Campaign.

If you would like to donate to the campaign, please send your

Phase 1: Girls' Dorm, \$1.4 million

Phase 1.5: City Water Project, \$225,565

\$191,946 received

\$33,619 remaining

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

14 Grandparents' Day, 11:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER

4 Harvest Festival, 6:30 p.m.

24-28 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

16 Festival of Lessons & Carols
6:15 p.m.

22-Jan 3 Christmas Break

For additional events visit
nebraskachristian.org/calendar

donation to **Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation, PO Box 222, Central City, NE 68826.**

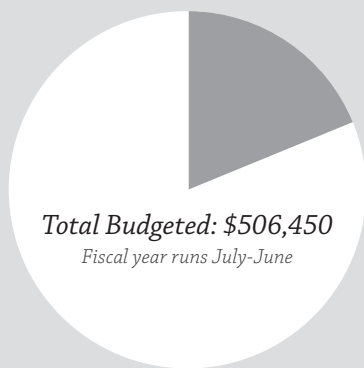
Thank you for your faithful prayer support of Nebraska Christian, its ministry, and The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign.

- Fully air conditioned competition gymnasium and activity center
- Seating in gymnasium for over 900
- Collegiate-sized 94-foot competition basketball court
- Two regulation-sized courts run opposite for multi-team practices or tournaments

- 10-foot end lines for player safety
- Competition locker rooms
- Concessions stand open to seating in commons area
- Seating for over 200 in the commons area
- New kitchen, pantry, cooler, and freezer
- ADA restrooms that also serve as a storm shelter
- Fully fire-sprinkled facility
- Ample storage space

2016-2017 Gift Income

Received through September 23:
\$94,996

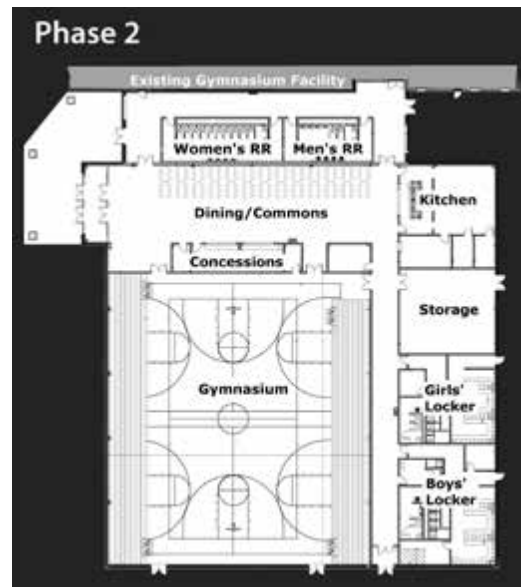


Total Budgeted: \$506,450

Fiscal year runs July-June

Finances at Nebraska Christian Schools continue to be good. We have seen God provide in previous years and are praying for His provision and trusting Him to meet our needs this year, as well. Please join us in those prayers and give as the Lord leads. Your prayers and financial support are among the greatest assets this school has.

Thank you.





Save the Date: Nebraska Christian Dinner & Benefit Auction, March 25, 2017



by Kristy Langemeier & Deana Leonard, Special Events Office

Mark your calendars and begin thinking of who you are going to invite! The upcoming 15th Annual Dinner and Benefit Auction will be held here at Nebraska Christian Schools on March 25, 2017.

This highly anticipated event is the perfect time to raise a significant part of our annual budget, meet the tuition needs of many students through scholarships, and show our campus to those who don't often find themselves here.

Much work goes into making this a successful evening, and we

are so thankful for all the help we have received from many generous supporters throughout the years. We have already begun preparations for the 15th annual event and would like to take this time to ask for your help to make this year's event another record-breaking one.

We need you for these very vital areas:

- **Prayer.** The Lord is control of all, and we need His guidance as we prepare for this event.
- **Items for the auction.** If you have any item you would like to donate or an idea for an item, please contact Kristy in the Special Events Office. She would love to hear from you.
- **Acquisition Team.** We have an organized list of established givers who just need to be contacted and a time to be arranged for the items to be collected. It is not a cold call, and if we have a large team, the numbers

to approach will be few. This is a wonderful way to share NC with businesses everywhere and collect the items that will help support our teachers and students. A bonus is that you will get a sneak peek at what will be up for bid in March or even acquire an item that you want to bid on! The Acquisition Team will start December 1, 2016.

- **Assistance in getting mailings out** in the months of Jan, Feb, and March.

Be looking for our initial mailing during the first few weeks of January, outlining the details of this year's wonderful event.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Kristy Langemeier in the Special Events Office at 308-946-3836 or via email at klangemeier@nebraskachristian.org.

Cheryl Smith

NC Staff Member 2000-2015

The NC family grieves the loss of Cheryl Smith, an aide in the elementary for 15 years, and we extend our deepest condolences to her family.

Cheryl Smith, 68, of Columbus went to her Eternal Home with Jesus — John 14:1-7 — on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016, at University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Services were held at Highland Park Evangelical Free Church, with the Rev. Dan Jackson officiating. Interment is in the St. Joseph Cemetery in rural Bellwood.

Cheryl was born on Feb. 23, 1948, in Columbus to LeRoy and Ellen (Ryan) Poeffel. She grew up in Columbus and graduated from Columbus High School in 1966. Cheryl worked for Dale Electronics for over 20 years.

On Nov. 3, 1984, Cheryl was united in marriage to Thomas Smith in Columbus. They resided in Columbus all their lives. For the last 15 years, Cheryl worked as a teacher's aide at Nebraska Christian Schools in Central City and also volunteered at the Columbus Christian School.

Cheryl attended church at Highland Park Evangelical Free Church. Cheryl loved her family and loved



to spend time with them, especially her grandchildren. She liked to go camping and to the car races, and doing crafts and ceramics. Cheryl also loved to read and study the Bible.

Survivors include her husband, Tom Smith of Columbus; her sons and their families, Troy & Laura Bergman of Columbus and grandchildren, Joseph and Claire Bergman, Todd Bergman & special friend Robyn Bower of Columbus and former wife, Vicki Haddock, and grandchildren, Trevor, Hunter, and Aleesha Bergman, and Tyson ('04) & Holly (Urban '05) Smith of Monroe and grandchildren, Shane, Brock, and Aiden Smith; a brother, Duane & Christine Poeffel of Columbus; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her parents, LeRoy and Ellen Poeffel, and sister, Nancy Beck.

A Festival of Lessons & Carols!

Friday, December 16, 2016

Doors open at 5:30

Festival begins at 6:15

Tickets are \$15 each and will be available for purchase in the NC office starting November 1.

Please contact the school at 308-946-3836 with any questions.

New Teachers & Staff Join NC Family



Sarah Swanson

by Jeremiah Ebel,
senior

This year, one new teacher joined the NC staff: Sarah Swanson. Mrs. Swanson teaches some of our secondary math classes. She and her husband John have five children, all of whom have attended NC: Christy ('02), Ted ('04), Lindsay ('06), Mike ('08), and Luke (current NC junior).

Prior to joining the NC staff, Mrs. Swanson taught at New Hope Christian School in Cairo, a K-8 school. So far, Mrs. Swanson is loving her new role at Nebraska Christian, and she especially enjoys interacting with the students.

Mrs. Swanson became a Christian during high school. Following graduation, she attended Bethel College and then transferred to the University of Wisconsin. "There, the Lord put my faith to work as I helped with and took part in InterVarsity ministries on campus," she said.



Deb Lovejoy

by Hailee Broman,
senior

Assistant Cook Deb Lovejoy is a fresh addition to the kitchen, and she has had a blast so far.

The Lovejoy family consists of Deb, her husband Chris, and their four kids: Michaila Lovejoy Smith, Nicholas (age 16) Connor (age 13), and Kaity (age 10).

Mrs. Lovejoy was raised in a strong Christian home and came to know Christ as a young girl. She attended Nebraska Christian in high school, and she majored in business technology at Central Community College in Grand Island.

Before coming to Nebraska Christian, Mrs. Lovejoy worked in the kitchen for Timberlake Ranch Camps. She enjoys the friendly at-

mosphere and the companionship of the NC co-workers.

There is no doubt that Mrs. Lovejoy will bring love and joy to the NC lunchroom, as well as great food!



Suzhen Franke

by Corina Ge, senior

The new boy's dorm mother, Suzhen Franke, was born and grew up in Malaysia. Mrs. Franke received a bachelor's degree from Nanjing University in China and a master's degree from Singapore Bible College. Before Mrs. Franke came to NC, she was teaching Mandarin Chinese at Westlake International School in Malaysia. Mrs. Franke lives with her husband and two children: Faith is in 9th grade, and Hope is in 6th grade.

Mrs. Franke has a pagan background; her family used to worship plenty of idols, had a great number of superstitions, and performed various religious ceremonies both in the temple and at home. As time went on, Mrs. Franke often thought about the meaning of life. She asked herself, "If these idols are so great, why do I need to feed them? When bad things happened, she thought it was because they hadn't been feeding them well enough, which was crazy. She liked to think about creation; when she looked at nature and learned about the vast universe, she realized it did not happen without a Creator-God.

Twenty-eight years ago, when she was a teenager, in God's timing, her older sister became a Christian at college and shared her faith excitedly with Mrs. Franke and encouraged her to read the Bible. Through reading Scriptures, Mrs. Franke says, "I understood there is meaning for this life, and I realized that I was born as a sinner and needed a Savior. My heart was freed and it felt like a chain fell off. There

is hope for a sinner to approach something immortal, something that will last forever; because of the blood of Christ, all things are possible for Him to cleanse my iniquity."



Vonda Schnell

by Cole Ruybalid,
senior

Mrs. Vonda Schnell came to know the Lord at the age of 25. The Lord has drastically changed her life in so many ways, and she continues to faithfully follow him. Mrs. Schnell graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a B.S. in Agriculture. Years later, when she first heard about Nebraska Christian through her friends, she became curious about the school and its mission. She and her husband Roy found this to be a great opportunity for their children (Jordan, 9th grade; Cooper, 6th grade) to attend a new school, and she also decided to apply as a cook. She thought it would be a great way to bless the students and faculty, and a great way to serve the Lord.

Mrs. Schnell cooks lunch for the students during the day and sometimes helps out with the dorm students' meals after school hours and before school hours. She then spends her extra hours helping her children with their homework and doing what she can to help others.

Mrs. Schnell feels blessed to be part of the Nebraska Christian family, and she looks forward to what God will accomplish in and through her during this school year.



Ronald Franke

by Sophie Guo,
senior

Mr. Ronald Franke and his wife Suzhen are the new boys' dorm parents, and he also works in an administrative capacity. The Frankses have two children: Faith, a freshman, and Hope, a sixth grader. Both attend NC.

Mr. Franke said he wanted to bring his family to Nebraska Christian because of the Christian atmosphere and because they will be closer to Mr. Franke's parents and old friends.

Mr. Franke graduated from Furman University in South Carolina and Singapore Bible College. Before coming to NC, he taught world history, Malaysian history, geography and economics at an international school in Malaysia.

Although Mr. Franke repented of his sins and gave his life to Christ at age nine, by the time he was in college, he believed that he had "tried Christianity and found it wanting." At Furman University, he came in contact with some Baptist classmates who challenged him to listen to Josh McDowell's messages and attend church with them. The pastor of the church was preaching through Ephesians, and Mr. Franke found that he didn't want to miss a week! "By the end of my sophomore year," he says, "I was an unashamed Evangelical!"

His favorite Bible verse is Phil 1:6; he wants to say to NC students that serving Jesus is a great joy, and they should not settle for a lesser happiness.

keep up with NC

Striv: striv.tv/channel/nebraska-christian

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Twitter: [@nebr_christian](https://twitter.com/nebr_christian), #NCEagles

Instagram: [@ne_christian](https://instagram.com/ne_christian)

NC Almanac Preschoolers Learn About the Body

10 years ago ('06)

- Grades 7-12 move into the new secondary classroom building.
- NC's radio program "Truth in Focus" makes its debut on KMMJ 750 AM.
- New staff include Robert Ziegler, Kristy Tyma, Jason & Janet Phillips, and Mike & Anita Cronk.
- The 1st Annual Golf Marathon is held, raising funds for the general budget, athletics, and activities.

20 years ago ('96)

- Carl Ritenour becomes the new superintendent.
- New staff include Kathy Ritenour, Kaaren Grimminger, and Phyllis Ballagh.
- NC gets its first website.

30 years ago ('86)

- New staff include Nanci Malm, Pat Johnson, Sandra Ellefson, Geneva Elsberry, Greta Swanson, Mary Ann Barnes, Mike Geren, and Bob ('69) & Susan Ritta.
- Due to EPA regulations, the shop program moves from the location south of the gym building to the maintenance shed on the northeast side of campus.

40 years ago ('76)

- English teacher Larry Rowe takes over principal duties from H. Kay Sawyer.
- New staff include Gloria Cristelli and Diane Bray.

50 years ago ('66)

- New staff include Robert McGrew, Edward Renick, John Conover, Wynema Schmidt, and Dean Storz.

Recently, the preschool theme was "my body" to go with the letter B. Dr. Nathan Krug ('01) visited the preschool classroom to teach the students about the body. He showed some of his instruments and gave mock physicals as they learned about the way God made their bodies to work.

Right: Lily Francl and Dr. Nathan Krug ('01)



This Year's Theme, *continued from pg. 1*

time for parents to pray together before school, one morning a week. They didn't know that we had been discussing prayer but felt led to begin a parent prayer group. Isn't it amazing how God had been working on all of our hearts without us knowing about each other?

As we discussed ways to fully incorporate prayer into this school year, we decided to reach out through two mediums to let others know of prayer requests. The first is through the Advance. We'd like all of you to keep our prayer

card someplace that you will see it daily, like in your Bible or on your refrigerator. We will provide new requests in each issue, and we hope that when you see it, you will pray for us. (The prayer card can be found on page 1.)

The second way that we hope to include many of you in praying for us is through the prayer wall on our website. You are able to leave prayer requests or mark that you have prayed for the prayer requests of others. You can find the prayer wall at nebraskachristian.org/prayer-wall.

As we set out as a staff and as a school community to learn more about prayer and to pray more, would you please join us by keeping us in your prayer time? Isn't it incredible that we can personally go to the creator of the universe in praise or in request?

Please let us know if you'd like to connect with any of our prayer initiatives. As we begin this school year, we are excited to grow in our knowledge of the Lord and see what He is going to do at Nebraska Christian.

Memorial Gifts

From: Larry & Gay Boardman	Carl & Carole Doak	From: Dave & Ruth Ferris
From: Daniel & Connie Maas	Kevin Jayne	Bob & Susan Ritta
Ronald & Nancy Underwood	For: Ruth Gurney	Larry & Denise Schreiber
For: Henry Cramer	From: Ken & Judy Taylor	Ken & Judy Taylor
From: Don & Kayleen Riley	Ed & Marilyn Ritta	For: Dawn Smith
For: Donald Cunningham	For: Harlan Hamer	From: Gil & Dorothy Glad
From: William & Jeanniene Burdett	From: Bernice Grantham	Don & Kayleen Riley
Kay Crane	Ken & Judy Taylor	Bob & Susan Ritta
Charles Gleason	For: Ed Haynes	Ed & Marilyn Ritta
Orleatha Kellogg	From: Don & Kayleen Riley	Rod & Teri Ruybalid
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Martin	For: Dwayne Killion	Larry & Denise Schreiber
Bob & Karen McNeff	From: Blessing, LLC	For: Evelyn Snodgrass
Jerry & Suzanne Patton	Larry & Denise Schreiber	From: Mary Reisinger
Donn & Carolyn Russell	For: Phyllis Lepant	For: Cathy Telford
For: Eugenia Finlayson	From: Bob & Susan Ritta	From: William & Jeanniene Burdett
From: Gil & Dorothy Glad	For: Laurene McGaughey	Don & Kayleen Riley
Bob & Susan Ritta	From: Jerry & Connie Johnston	Donn & Carolyn Russell
For: Russell Goemaat	For: Jim Reisinger	For: Paul Wischmeier
From: Desert Mountain Bible Fellowship	From: Mary Reisinger	From: Gil & Dorothy Glad
	For: Cheryl Smith	Linda Peterson

Harvest Festival • Friday, November 4 • 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a complimentary meal and music by our students as we celebrate what God has been doing at NC!
No reservations are required.



**Nebraska
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SCHOOLS

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Gil Glad, *continued from pg. 1*

also remember Mr. Glad's "store," which he used as both a reward and as an educational tool. "Somehow we earned points and could buy books and other things from the store with the points," recalls Jody (Cook '90) Ritta.

Mr. Glad loved teaching, but he also loved sharing music with his students. "Music class was in one of the small rooms in the boys' dorm. Mr. Glad would play the organ and we would choose a hymn from the hymnal," remembers Daurice (Pizzolato '87) Hower. *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* was a common favorite among students because Mr. Glad would teach them to sing parts.

As we recognize Mr. Glad and thank him for his years of service—from 1977 to 2016 with only a two year break in the early '90s—we also recognize and thank Mrs. Dorothy Glad for her faithful commitment to the school. She has

been by his side all these years, and she even served as the Secretary of Development in the 1970's.

Mr. Glad's ministry was not restricted to Nebraska Christian Schools. He has always been active in his church and perhaps is most known for the beautiful organ music he has played in Wendy's in Grand Island and Central City.

Like so many, Darla (Rowse '84) Tuma is grateful to know Mr. Glad. She says, "So many good memories. I even kept in touch with him after I graduated when he worked at Wendy's in Grand Island." His love of music and teaching, and most of all, his love for the Lord, have made him a mainstay here at Nebraska Christian. As Mr. and Mrs. Glad move to be near children and grandchildren, we thank the Lord that they are part of the NC family and thank them for their faithful service to the school.



NC Flashback

Each school year brings with it new staff and/or faculty members. Fifty years ago, this science teacher joined the NC faculty. If you can identify him, you could win our prize! Send your guesses to advance@nebraskachristian.org.

From the last issue (right):
Congratulations to Julie (Creutzberg '80) Hardisty, who correctly identified herself as the Class of 1980's valedictorian. Julie's name was drawn from all the correct entries, so she wins our prize.

