

ADVANCE

God is doing exciting things here at NC as we make an impact around the globe. We invite you to be a part of this movement in providing the next generation with a Christ-centered education. Together, we can equip students with a Biblical worldview that helps to foster a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

2023 Dinner and Benefit Auction Preview

March is nearly upon us, which means only one thing here at Nebraska Christian, the annual Dinner and Benefit Auction is right around the corner! The silent auction is set to open on Thursday, March 23rd, with the dinner, live auction, and the conclusion of the silent auction to be held, Saturday, March 25th.

Already, this event has taken off, proving to be yet another successful event. Donated items that will be auctioned off over those two days are being added and entered into our systems on a daily basis. It has been estimated that there are well over five-hundred items to bid on. The amount of support from



individuals, local businesses, and corporations continues to amaze and humble the Auction Staff. Brandi Flynn, Nebraska Christian's Development Specialist, stated "The generosity I have seen so far is mind-blowing". She was deeply moved to witness the outpouring of support as donations and table reservations poured in. "It has been so fun!"

There are several new items that will be available at this year's auction, including three International Safaris (yes, you read that right! South Africa, New Zealand, and Argentina!), artwork by Todd Williams, family getaway packages, multiple memorable "date night" packages, a leather La-Z-Boy recliner, a 2023 Raptor XL Lawnmower, a chance to soak your favorite NC faculty (including the one-and-only Mr. Hekrdle), and so much more! Also, for those who have been loyal patrons and followers of the annual auction in the past, the beloved sunset dinner cruise is back, and all new!

Along with those wonderful items, we also will be auctioning off a Husker Volleyball Spring Opener package, which includes access to Friday's practice, a meal for four with the Husker Volleyball team following the practice, an individualized autograph session for four, a visit by John Cook, and four tickets to Saturday's game against Wichita State. The Husker Volleyball package will all take place right here in Central City, and the game will be played at the Bison Dome!

Although there is still much to be done before the big event, it is evident that this year will continue to go above and beyond expectations, with all the glory to God. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this event, and for your continued support as the mission of NC is continuously pursued, to assist the family and church by providing a Christ-centered education and encouraging a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Book Fair Wrap-Up

NC held the first-ever book fair last month from February 21st through February 24th, and what an exciting time it was! This event was one that had been a long time in coming. Liz Gamblin, Library and Media Specialist, helped to lead the charge and to got the job done. She expressed that a book fair is something she had hoped to accomplish since she first came to NC three years ago, and in February, it finally came to fruition.

Along with Mrs. Gamblin, many parents were also longing to have a book fair opportunity offered at NC for their children. The largest struggle with making a book fair a reality, Gamblin stated, was "We did not want to use [the leading book fair company], as lately they have been including books that do not reflect our morals, so overcoming that hurdle has kept me from making it a reality before this year". In this time of cultural instability, it is important that children are given the opportunity to read and experience literature of all kinds which also allows them to grow in their spiritual journey. "After our first parent-teacher conferences of the year", said Gamblin, "Mr. Hekrdle expressed to me that we should try and push to make one happen for the next conferences, which is what led me to 1:55".

I:55 is a company that works with schools, churches, and organizations all throughout the US in order to glorify the name of Jesus Christ. The company proclaims that they are passionate about raising up a generation of inspired readers. I:55 acknowledges that it is difficult for parents and educators to protect students from unwanted knowledge, which is why all of the products offered through the company have been thoroughly screened through the filter of faith. These statements and belief system is what led NC to choose I:55 as the appropriate company to partner with.

"Encouraging literacy is a main goal [at NC]", stated Gamblin. "Events like this directly impact that goal. It gets kids excited about books, it allows parents to find books for their students that they don't have to worry about, and it will help to buy more books for our school".

To say that the book fair was a success may be an understatement. Gamblin said, "I am thrilled with the results! For our first-ever book fair, we had so much encouragement and engagement, it was beyond what I had hoped"! The book fair was available both in person and online. In the course of the four-day event, over 220 books were sold, and there were more than seventy individuals who came out to support NC and purchase books.

With every purchase made, NC received a percentage of sales. This percentage will be put toward the addition of new books for the classrooms and libraries on campus. Thank you to everyone who offered support in this new endeavor, from purchases to encouragement which was received graciously and continuously throughout the event. It is hopeful that NC will be able to offer a book fair again next year.





February Service Awards - Secondary Students

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." - Mark 10:45



Monthly awards go to secondary students who exemplify our NC Core Values: Service-Minded; Exalting Christ; Relationally Focused; Vibrant Disposition; Innovative Practices; Collaborative Approach; and Excellence.

Students are nominated by their teachers. January's core value was "Innovative Practices", students whom our faculty and staff agreed to have

displayed innovative qualities. These students include Abby Young, Rachel Hale, Grace Musgrave, Mallory Paul, Christian Strobel, Ethan Carlson, and Sophie Swanson.

Abby Young

Abby has an incredibly broad skill set that cultivates success in all of her varied endeavors. She embraces challenges with excitement about the possibilities, strives to do things with excellence, and generates high-quality work. Furthermore, she has a great attitude and wants to represent the best in people and things.

Rachel Hale

Rachel pushes herself to try new techniques. She is naturally inquisitive and innovative. She also looks past the surface to try to identify the purpose behind things and isn't afraid to question. She often incorporates digital media into her school presentations and the resulting presentations are out of this world.

Grace Musgrave

Grace has the gift of taking what is complex and rewording it into a concise, easy-to-understand summary. She is able to see the big picture, pull what is most important from it, and easily relay that information to those around her. This is a valuable skill that she doesn't keep only for herself but uses to benefit those around her by explaining difficult concepts in simple language.

Mallory Paul

Mallory is very creative, bringing content from one class to another. If 50 people are looking at the same thing, no one will see it the same way Mallory does. Her perspective is unique and she makes digital content that demonstrates this. She also goes above and beyond in her service aide position in the cafeteria. When she overheard that knives were dull and they needed to figure out where to take them for sharpening, she asked if she could come in with her dad on the weekend to sharpen them. It was a blessing to the kitchen to readily have sharp knives again!

Christian Strobel

Christian is creative, prioritizes problem-solving, and has the ability to streamline solutions. Rather than getting lost in tangents, he has the unique ability to focus on the actual problem or to identify the heart of the issue. He is able to see things for what they are and come up with practical solutions.

Ethan Carlson

Ethan is open to hearing new thoughts and ideas without making immediate judgments. His greatest strength is that he not only listens carefully but also asks thoughtful questions for clarification. While he may not always agree with something said, he is more than willing to give real effort to hear the other side. He is respectful in his response and is humble enough to adjust his viewpoint when he deems it appropriate. He is firm in his faith and is a great example of living all out for Jesus. Additionally, Ethan pushes himself to develop new talents and has made some truly incredible films for his quarterly book presentations.

Sophie Swanson

Sophie approaches topics in an interesting way that demonstrates the maturity of thought. She takes initiative in regard to understanding, pushes herself with large tasks, and truly enjoys the process from start to finish. She is also willing to do a lot of the "grunt work". She is able to see overarching organizational needs to execute a problem well, often identifying some of the needed pieces that others might miss. In addition, she utilizes a creative approach to presentations and has pulled in her own artwork at times.

Service Awards - Elementary Students

The elementary classes have also begun to honor their students for exemplifying the NC core values. Numerous students have gone above and beyond what is required of them, and in doing so, they have been recognized for their efforts.

Rather than focusing on one specific core value each month in the way that the secondary students do, the elementary students are acknowledged every month for any of NC's core values.

Bailey Meyer (1st)

Relationally Focused/Be Respectful

She is always concerned about others and how they are feeling and making sure others are doing okay.

Norah Ratliff (2nd)

Service Minded/Be Responsible

She takes care of her classroom, and always makes sure that the classroom is clean.

Mercer McHargue (2nd)

Relationally Focused/Be Safe

He helped someone who was hurt.

Simon Herman (3rd)

Relationally Focused and Service Minded/Be Respectful

He was concerned for his classmates' feelings when the class pet died.

Hudson

Relationally Focused & Service Minded/Be Respectful He is always thinking of others and always holds the door for others.

Linus Herman (5th)

Exalting Christ/Be Responsible

When his teacher made a mistake in giving him a reward, he was honest about it.

Londyn McHargue (K)

Relationally Focused/Being Respectful

She is a good friend at all times.

Excellence/Being Responsible

She is always prepared for class and works independently.

Carter Nunnencamp (K)

Relationally Focused/Being Responsible & Respectful He is prepared for class and follows directions the first time. He works independently and raises his hand if he needs help.

Aiden Hohnholt (1st)

Service Minded/Exalting Christ/Being Respectful

He is always willing to help his classmates and he is very polite by always saying "Thank you" to his teacher.

Cora Chiles (2nd)

Service Minded/Being Responsible

She and a friend helped Mrs. Olson put up posters in the hallway.

Harper Amen (2nd)

Service Minded/Being Responsible

She used her recess time to clean up the classroom without being asked.

Kinley Macken (6th)

Exalting Christ/Being Respectful and Responsible
She continually shows respect and
responsibility in her classroom character.

Evelyn McHargue (1st)

Exalting Christ/Being Respectful

She is always respectful to the teacher and her classmates. She listens and follows the teacher's instructions.

Ava Conklin (3rd)

Exalting Christ/Service Minded/Being Responsible
She is responsible with her time and work. She is always willing to help others.

Mak Flynn (4th)

Service Minded/Being Respectful

He stepped up to help a friend practice their spelling words.

Bentley McHargue (4th)

Excellence/Being Respectful

After he came back from Christmas break, he did a great job remembering to be respectful. When the teacher asked for attention, he stopped, listened, and showed eye contact.

Becca Rankin (4th)

Service Minded/Being Responsible

When she finishes her work in class, she often helps others who are in need. She consistently uses her time responsibly and thoughtfully.

Lily Francl (5th)

Service Minded/Being Respectful

She is always kind and a great friend. She happily helps friends with homework.

Levi Bradley (2nd)

Excellence/Responsible

He consistently turns his work in on time and has improved his focus in class.

Molly Friesen (2nd)

Excellence/Respectful

She always pays attention in class and is on task for every subject. She is prepared for each new thing she learns and sets a good example in class.

Josiah Green (2nd)

Exalting Christ/Responsible

He sticks up for what is right. He let his teacher know when there was a problem in the class.

Addisyn Hixson (3rd)

Service Minded/Being Responsible
She and a friend helped Mrs. Olson put up posters in the hallway.

Deacon Falk (4th)

Excellence/Being Responsible

He is responsible, keeps up with his work, and stays on task.

Stetson Stuhmer (4th)

Relationally Focused/Being Responsible

He helped others pack up and stay focused at the end of the day.

Eleanor Hixson (6th)

Excellence/Being Responsible

She showed responsibility in her math work.

He made smart choices when it was hard to do so.

Bethany Needham (6th)

Excellence/Respectful/Responsible

She continuously shows great effort with her schoolwork while having a positive and upbeat attitude.

Caleb Peters (6th)

Excellence/Respectful/Responsible

He continues to show great growth in knowing when he can work through hard situations and when to ask for support.

Congratulations students! Thank you for what you do and for being solid examples of moral character and spiritual strength for your peers.







Extracurricular Achivements

Nebraska Christians' athletic teams are not the only group of students that have been busy over the course of the past few months, there has also been great success within the NC Speech, Scholastic Competition, Quiz Bowl, and Robotics Teams!

Speech

Saturday, Feb. 4th at Aurora High

Competing against several large schools including Grand Island Senior High, Lincoln Southeast, and York, the NC OID medaled in varsity, and Lilian Macken medaled in Novice Informative.



Medalists left to right: Chelsey Myers (senior), Amy Springer (senior), Liliana Macken (sophomore), Rachel Rathjen (senior), and Amanda Carlson (senior).

Friday, Feb. 10th at Grand Island Central Catholic

The NC OID took 6th place in a very talented field of competitors!



OID Medalists left to right: Chelsey Myers (senior), Amy Springer (senior), Amanda Carlson (senior), Rachel Rathjen (senior).

Saturday, February 18th at Aquinas Catholic

The final speech competition of the regular season concluded with great success! Marlie Mundt placed 1st in Humorous Prose, Honors Round, and 6th in Informative, Honors Round. Kaylee Powell placed 3rd in Persuasive, Honors Round, and Amanda Carlson placed 6th in Entertainment, Merit Round.



Left to right: Marlie Mundt, Kaylee Powell, Amanda Carlson.

District Speech at Thayer Central, Wednesday, March 1st

Congratulations to all of the competitors at District Speech! Everyone performed magnificently and their efforts led to NC placing fourth in the District Sweepstakes. The students are now preparing to represent NC and our Lord at State, to be held at Kearney High School on Thursday, March 16.

Congratulations to all of our speech competitors for a stellar regular season, well done, and good luck at state!

The medalists from the day are as follows:

Oral Interpretation of Drama (OID):

Amanda Carlson, Chelsey Myers, Rachel Rathjen, and Amy Springer.

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI): Izzy Brumbaugh - 4th

*Informative AND Humorous Prose:*Marlie Mundt

Serious Prose AND Persuasive:

Kaylee Powell

Entertainment:

Amanda Carlson - 6th

The State Qualifiers are as follows:

Humorous Prose:

Marlie Mundt

Persuasive:

Kaylee Powell

Oral Interpretation of Drama (OID):

Amanda Carlson, Chelsey Myers, Rachel Rathjen, and Amy Springer



District Speech Medalists (above) left to right: Rachel Rathjen, Amy Springer, Amanda Carlson, Chelsey Myers, Kaylee Powell, Marlie Mundt, and Izzy Brumbaugh.



State Qualifiers (above) left to right: Marlie Mundt, Chelsey Myers, Amy Springer, Rachel Rathjen, Amanda Carlson, and Kaylee Powell.



District Speech Competitors (above) left to right: Julia Merchant, Kylie Merchant, Adam Carlson, Everett Hunnicutt, Amanda Carlson, Chelsey Myers, Rachel Rathjen, Coach Dr. Ross Etherton, Amy Springer, Kaylee Powell, Izzy Brumbaugh, Marlie Mundt, Alyssa Springer, and Eden Selden-Berger. (not pictured, Coach Powell and competitor Joshua Green)

Robotics

Saturday, February 11th

The high school and junior high robotics teams competed in Columbus at the Columbus High School Robotics Tournament.

The NC Junior High Robotics Team finished in the Champion Alliance, and the High School Robotics Team finished in the Second Place Alliance.



Junior High Robotics Team left to right: Kali Birnie and Matthew Needham.



High School Robotics Team left to right: Ethan Carlson, Richie Musgrave, Drew Bailey, and Malachi Zaruba.

Saturday, February 25th

The High School Robotics Team competed at Omaha North High School and won first prize.



High School Robotics Team left to right: Elijah Peters, Malachi Zaruba, Tug Burdett, Richie Musgrave, Drew Bailey, and Ethan Carlson.

Scholastic Competition and Quiz Bowl

Wednesday, February 1st

The junior high students had the opportunity to compete in a scholastic competition at Palmer. The Quiz Bowl Team won first place, and several other students placed in individual competitions.

The awards from the day are listed below.

Eighth Grade:

Titus Birnie (Math) - 2nd

Abby Berck (Science)

David Chiles (Spelling Bee)

Quentin Herman (Quiz Bowl) - 1st Matthew Needham (Quiz Bowl) - 1st Luke Powell (Quiz Bowl) - 1st

Haddie Rankin (Science) - 2nd

Kadeya Sanborn (History) - 3rd (Health PE) - 2nd

Seventh Grade:

Kali Birnie (Math and Science)

Brielle (English) - 2nd

Baron Falk (History) - 1st (Science)

Liana Hanson (Spelling Bee) - 4th

Ava Merchant (History) - 3rd (English) - 1st

Katie Sidak (Math) - 3rd (Health PE)





Tuesday, February 14th

The Junior High Quiz Bowl competed in the conference competition at Heartland Lutheran in Grand Island and won Goldenrod Conference Runner-Up.



left to right: Titus Birnie, David Chiles, Luke Powell, Quentin Herman, Matthew Needham, Kadeya Sanborn. Not pictured: Liana Hanson and Adelyn.

Basketball 2022-23 Season Reflection

The Lady Eagles ended their season with the title of District Runner-Up on Friday, February 24th in the D1-D7 District Final game against Number two seed Centura. The game ended with a final score of 32-61, and an 18-7 record on the season. Although the team didn't get the opportunity to take another run at the state title this year, Head Coach Erin Mankin was very pleased with the girls' effort throughout the season as a whole.

Throughout the season, and with every season of basketball Mankin has coached, she stated that there have only been two goals for the team to accomplish: to do their very best in Christ and have fun. It is evident that both of those goals were reached again this year. As the season drew to a close, Mankin recounted that she and the team took time to speak on how far they have come as a team from the beginning of the season to now. "The girls not only grew in their basketball skills, but I have also seen them grow in their relationships with Christ and each other".

After having four starting seniors graduate last year, this season was one where many girls had to

step up. From seniors to freshmen, many new faces were introduced and positions were played, but thankfully, as Mankin states, "these girls are a special group". "These girls are incredibly athletic and competitive, the more they played together throughout the season, the better they became".

It is not just basketball skills that were taught and honed in this season, but also, how to better live as a Christ follower in everyday life. "There were some hard conversations throughout the season" stated Coach Mankin, "The Lord has been teaching me that hard does not necessarily equal bad, but rather hard means pressing into Him". This was quite prevalent in Coach Mankin's life as well, with only two months prior to the start of the season welcoming their family's new bundle of joy, baby Remington into the world. After his arrival, Mankin was unsure whether she would return for another season of coaching, but, after much prayer and support and encouragement from her husband, she stated "I'm so glad I did".

From the first week of conditioning until the last game of the season, Coach Mankin consistently reminded the team to "press in", both in the game and into Christ when faced with difficult obstacles in everyday life. "We talked about how everything we do is to be for the glory of God and not the glory of self". Way to go Lady Eagles! Thank you for yet another memorable, Godhonoring basketball season!

The Eagle Boys ended their season on February 21st in the C2-D9 Subdistrict game against Doniphan-Trumbull, a team ranked #3 in the state, with a final score of 52-79. The Eagles were placed in one of the most difficult subdistrict brackets within class C-2 with the #3 team Doniphan-Trumbull (who has officially punched their ticket to state), and Amherst who is ranked #2 in the state.



At the beginning of the 2022 - 2023 boys' basketball season, the team had great expectations and set big goals for themselves. Coach Perdew stated that the team's main goal for the season was to overall, get better every day, consistently practice with effort and intensity, win the conference tournament, and play for a district championship.

The season started off slow, beginning the season with a record of 4-4 after their holiday game, but, the second half of the season proved to tell a different story altogether. A fire was ignited and the Eagles went on a run, winning eleven of their last fifteen games finishing their season with a record of 15-8. One of the greatest achievements of the season was when the boys won the Conference Tournament in January against St. Francis. This was the first time in nearly twenty years that the NC boys team had won the Conference Championship title, the last time in 2004. Coach Schreiber had the unique opportunity of being a part of both teams. "Winning the Conference Tournament was very exciting", stated Senior Drew Perdew, "This was something that we as seniors have talked about for a long time".

Overall, the team was happy with the way they performed over the course of the season. Senior Riley Schieber stated, "Although we lost in subdistricts and didn't make the district final, this was the most fun I have had playing basketball all four years of high school." Coach Perdew explained that with the loss of the final game of the season, the boys learned that even though goals are set, and the work has been put into achieving those goals, sometimes "God has other plans for us and wants us to learn something in the process".

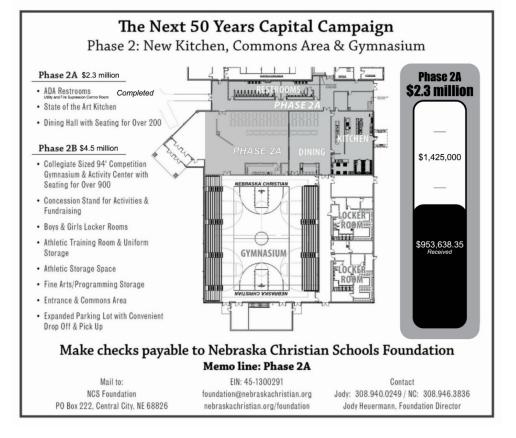
"I have enjoyed coaching this team", said Coach Perdew. "I will miss these seven seniors, but I know they will go on to be successful in whatever they do because they work hard, are great leaders, and care more about others than themselves". Thanks for the memories, Eagles!



Foundation

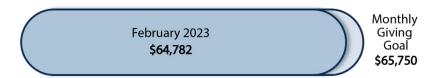


The Annual Go Big Give event is coming up, Thursday, May 4th, and your support is needed now more than ever! *The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign, Phase 2A – Kitchen and Dining Hall* is our highest priority. We want to have the ability to provide all of the equipment, resources, and space necessary for our campus to continue to grow. Prayerfully consider helping to contribute to the cause and advance our ministry into the future. #GoBigGIVE



Budget Corner

Giving Link: https://nebraskachristian.org/support-nc/donate-now/





Memorial Gifts

For: Suzanne Brunken From: Peter & Fern Boldt

For: Glenn Sawyer

From: Peter & Fern Boldt

For: Richard Wischmeier From: Connie Ang

Dorothy Glad Mary Ann Barnes Larry & Tracy Myers For: Richard Wischmeier From: Chris & Kiki Fasbender Kent & Jeanne Grosshans

Ethel Heeney
James & Lisa Parish
William & Tamara Slater
Clinton & Lori Fousek
L A & Jean Jorgensen
George & Mary Fritts
Bill & Jacky Uhler
Mary Ann Barnes

Dave & Ruth Ferris
Larry & Rose Schwenson
Leon Nelson
Steve & Suzanne Philippi
Nancy Wells
Dudley & Michelle Gulbrandson
Eric Barnes
Merl & Edna Ross
Dale & Deb Soll
Gary & Loraine Berck
Carla
Steve & Belinda Strobel
Kyle & Stacy Berck
Shelly Berck

Andrew & Lori Faeh
Norm & Sue Krug
Scott & Patty Welk
Larry & Virginia Cooper
Jean Polzkill
Nicholas & Rebecca Freeland
Housing Agency of Central City
Jeffrey & Carly Johnson
Steen & Rogene Stone
Mike & Susan Royle
Gary & Cherlyn Haussermann
Laurie Johnson
Cortney Brandes
Evan & Roxanne Brandes

Upcoming Dates

William & Eunice Potter

March 15

• District Quiz Bowl @ Fullerton High School

March 17

- Girls Varsity Track Meet @ Concordia Univ.
- Boys Varsity Track Meet @ Concordia Univ.

March 21

- Girls Varsity Track Merrick Co. Invite @ Central City
- Boys Varsity Track Merrick Co. Invite @ Central City

March 22

Conference Music Contest @ Central Valley

March 24

• Silent Auction Begins

March 25

• NC Annual Dinner & Benefit Auction

March 31

- Girls Varsity Track Invitational @ Osceola
- Boys Varsity Track Invitational @ Osceola

April 4

- Girls Varsity Track Invitational @ Wood River
- Boys Varsity Track Invitational @ Wood River

April 7 - 10

• Easter Break

Alumni News



An Tran ('09), is becoming a well-known guitarist across the country and around the world. He has received several awards and national recognition in recent years for his musical work, including having one of his singles included in the *Chicago Tribune*'s "Recordings of the Year" list in 2020. Read a full article about Tran's recent adventures written by the University of Illinois Chicago



School of Theater and Music by clicking here or scanning the QR code. Tran states in the article, "I've learned that talent is only a small part of my success, even greater was surrounding myself with people who believed in me and encouraged me."



Laura Wilson (Carlson) ('19) has been making waves and impacting the next generation of agricultural men and women as a farming social media influencer. Click here to read her full story by the *Midwest Messenger*, or scan the QR code!





Charlie Cheng ('22) has been busy creating music since his graduation just one short year ago. He was gracious enough to share one of his latest works with his NC family, and we want to pass it on to you. Click here, or scan the QR code to listen to his beautiful song titled Journey Finished.



If you or someone you know is an NC Alum and has exciting news that you would like shared with the Nebraska Christian community, let us know! From wedding announcements, baby announcements, a new change in career or job, mission work, etc, let your NC family know!

You can email Rachel, NC's Communication Specialist, at rblair@nebraskachristian.org and your news will be published in the next Advance. We can't wait to hear from you!

Core Value Highlights



At Nebraska Christian, there are a set of values that staff and students strive to exemplify each and every day. These values are arranged as an acrostic poem and posted in every classroom on campus, and moving forward The Advance will look to highlight one of these attributes through the telling of it being lived out by a member of the NC Family. With this in mind, please feel free to share your stories of how you see the vision, mission, or core values being lived out by emailing Rachel Blair at rblair@nebraskachristian.org. Thank you in advance for being a part of telling the ongoing story at Nebraska Christian and stay tuned for the stories of the NC family being the hands and feet of Jesus in Nebraska, the United States, and possibly the world!





