

Upcoming Dates:

**Christmas Break
(no classes)**
December 17 – January 3

Greyfriars Choir Concert
Monday, December 17
7:00 p.m.

Spring Semester Begins
Friday, January 4

GCA Leadership

Headmaster
John McGowan, M.Div.

Faculty
Cliff Blair, M.Div.
Pam Dollar, M.S.
Ann Emery, B.S.
Evelyn Fawcett, B.A.
Gwen Firebaugh, B.S.
Beth Harvey, B.A.
Brian Jerby, M.D.
Melissa LaCross, M.A.
Lori Lawing, B.A.
John McGowan, M.Div.
Pamela Mullins, M.M.E.
Greer Nabb, B.A.
Kevin Parsons, J.D.
Justin Rosser, M.Div.
Lee Shelnut, M.A., M.Div.
Carlos Tellez, M.A.
Darol Timberlake, M.S.
Nathan Trice, M.Div.
Matthew Tringali, B.A.
Barbara Van Patter, M.E.

Board of Directors
Thomas Willingham, Pres.
Henry DeBoer, Treasurer
Jeffrey Roach, Secretary
Nathan Trice

Students Pack Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child



A total of 26 Greyfriars students and adults spent an afternoon at the Charlotte Processing Center for Operation Christmas Child, packing shoe boxes to send to children around the world. These boxes contain school supplies, toys, personal care items and notes of encouragement—tangible reminders of the kindness of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

In 2012, Samaritan's Purse staff and partners expect to collect and hand-deliver 9.1 million shoe box gifts to hurting children in more than 100 countries on six continents. This Christmas, they also expect to reach a milestone—the 100 millionth shoe box since 1993!



FEATURE ARTICLE:
Preparing Future GCA
Students for...
"Theology"
(p. 3)

Education Quote

To bring back truth, on a practical level, the church must encourage Christians to be not merely consumers of culture but makers of culture. The church needs to cultivate Christian artists, musicians, novelists, filmmakers, journalists, attorneys, teachers, scientists, business executives, and the like, teaching its laypeople the sense in which every secular vocation--including, above all, the callings of husband, wife, and parent--is a sphere of Christian ministry, a way of serving God and neighbor that is grounded in God's truth. Christian laypeople must be encouraged to be leaders in their fields, rather than eager-to-please followers, working from the assumptions of their biblical worldview, not the vapid clichés of pop culture.

- Gene Edward Veith, [Here We Stand](#), "Catechesis, Preaching, and Vocation," p. 95

School Verse

Psalm 127:4

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

Greyfriars Choir to Hold Christmas Concert



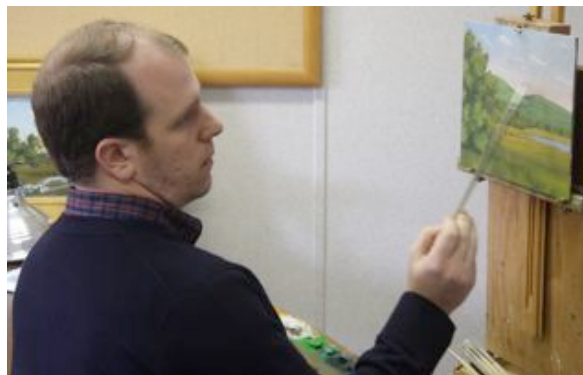
The Greyfriars Choir, singing at the 2012 Convocation service

The newly-formed Greyfriars Choir, directed by Barbara Van Patter, will celebrate Christ's birth at a Christmas concert on Monday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. A cookie reception will follow. The concert will be held in the main building of Matthews Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rice Rd., Matthews, NC.

Fall Banquet Highlights

The evening of November 13 marked the Third Fall Banquet for Greyfriars Classical Academy. We are thankful to God to be able to report that the event was successful again this year. Highlights include:

- Over 100 people enjoyed a great evening at Byron's South End, including dinner and a silent auction.
- Keynote address by Dr. George Grant
- Nearly \$30,000 in support raised for the school!



Local artist Paul Keysar, working on a Silent Auction donation, as part of a demonstration for the Greyfriars Aesthetics classes.

APPLICATIONS FOR 2013-2014

We are now accepting applications for grades 9 – 12 for next year, for both full-time and part-time ("a la carte") students. Applications are available online at our website:

[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)

In a previous edition of the Archer we introduced a series of articles seeking to answer the following question: What would the grammar and logic (dialectic) stages look like for a family looking ahead toward Greyfriars Classical Academy for their children's high school education? [If you missed that first article you can find it [here](#).] Previous articles in the series applied the above question to the subjects of literature and writing (available [here](#)), and mathematics (available [here](#)). The article that follows addresses the area of theology.

A COMMUNITY OF FAMILIES
Part IV: Preparing for . . . Theology
by Pastor Cliff Blair

Theology was at one time called the “queen of sciences” because it was the study of God, the source of all truth. This title was later usurped by mathematics and, more recently, physics — shifts which speak volumes about changing world views. Greyfriars holds to an older view and thus holds a privileged place for theology in her curriculum. How ought a student prepare for studying such a topic? The answer can be given in three ways.

The simplest preparation is to engage with the most basic building blocks of the Christian faith. Read your Bible and consider the teachings of the ancient ecumenical creeds, especially the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed. Christians can be divided by subtle doctrinal differences but all sound theology is rooted in Scripture and is in accord with the foundational teachings of the ancient church. Families with students headed for Greyfriars would do well to consider the basic doctrines of the creeds and seek to familiarize their children with the general divisions of Scripture. A well-prepared student is able to distinguish law, history, wisdom, prophets, gospels, and epistles, and has some idea of the broad sweep of Biblical history: e.g. from creation to patriarchs, Israel under judges and kings, and in the New Testament the period of Christ's ministry and the spread of the church after Pentecost.

The second path of preparation, and of particular value in the second year at Greyfriars when students survey Reformed Theology, is to become familiar with the Westminster Standards. The second year theology course at Greyfriars looks at a variety of reformed (and non-reformed) sources, but none get as much attention as the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Students who are already familiar with the Catechism and Confession (especially the first half of each) will enter the classroom with substantial work already done. If your church's Sunday School curriculum is not already familiarizing your students with these things, it would be very useful (for far more than Greyfriars!) to introduce your students to these rich expressions of the Reformed Faith. Innumerable study guides, geared for all ages, are available for these works.

The third path of preparation is to engage your children in theological conversation. Look for opportunities to get them thinking about theological issues: e.g. the source of truth (*sola Scriptura*), the attributes of God, man as bearing the image of God, the ubiquity of sin and death, our relation to God by either works or grace, what a mediator is (and why ours must have two natures), justification, sanctification, why we partake in sacraments, and what is our final hope. Such issues are far closer than many people imagine. There are easy places, such as after a sermon or during family devotions, but there are many others: when some philosophical or ethical claim comes up in a story or the news, when your children are marveling at man's gifts or his wickedness, when death comes near your family, or even during a most theological holiday season: the celebration of when God became man.

Preparing to study theology need not be arduous. In the simplest sense it is just a matter of doing what all Christians are called to do: live our lives engaged with God as He has revealed Himself to us in the world, His word, and in Christ.

TOGETHER IN EDUCATION



Last year, 34 friends of Greyfriars linked their Harris Teeter VIC cards to our school, earning us a total of \$232.42! Already this year Greyfriars students have signed up 151 people!



Our school account number is **8280**.

You need to link your card each year, after August 1.

The next time you are checking out at Harris Teeter, simply tell your cashier that you want Greyfriars' account number linked to your VIC card. It's that easy!

2% of your store-brand purchases are deposited into our GCA account, as part of Harris Teeter's "Together in Education" program. Thank you for supporting GCA!

You may designate up to 5 schools in order to have your purchase dollars equally distributed.

Click below to donate securely online:

[GIVE TO GCA \(click here\)](#)



You can also visit our website, www.greyfriarsclassical.org, and click on the "Give to GCA" button.

[Please Forward this Newsletter to a Friend \(click here\)](#)



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