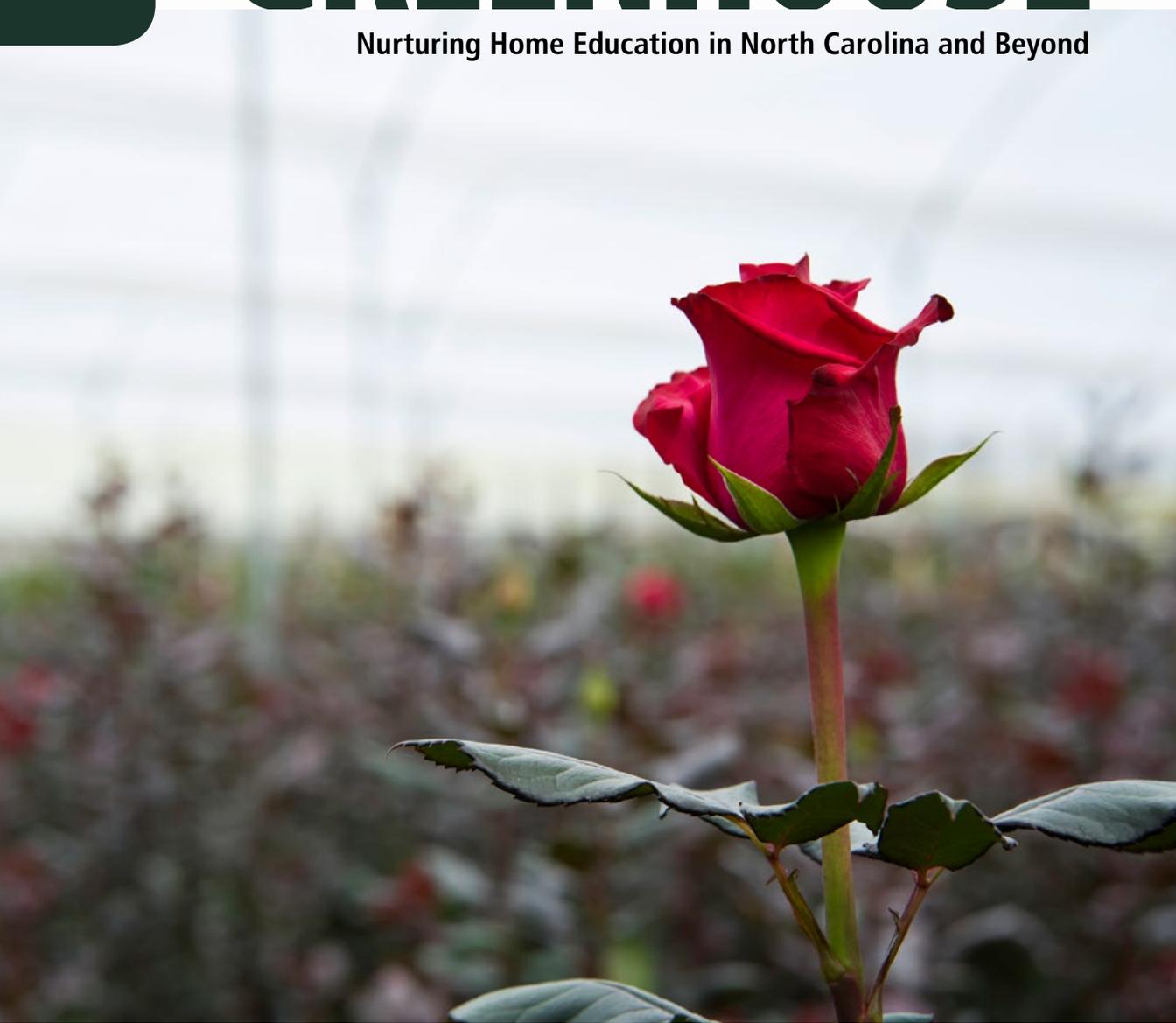


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# YOU GRADUATED. WHAT'S NEXT? PURSUE YOUR DREAMS WITH DILIGENCE

by John Kirkland

On behalf of the NCHC board of directors, I offer *congratulations* to our graduates! A common question directed to graduates is, "What's next after you graduate?" Your answers may include: college or trade school, become a missionary, work, start a business, join the military, do a GAP year activity, or even get married. As you graduate and take the next steps toward your dreams, I want you to think about having *big* dreams; I want you to know what biblical success for those dreams looks like, and I want you to follow God's Word on how you should pursue those dreams.

A good rule of thumb for success is to find someone who is successful and investigate the thinking and actions that helped them succeed. Certainly, the Apostle Paul was a very well-educated Jew who persecuted Christians prior to coming to Christ. After his conversion, he became a great missionary and authored many of the books in the New Testament. Let's investigate four biblical principles of success he offers in his letters to the Corinthians and the Colossians.

### **Run in such a way as to win.**

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 1 Corinthians 9:24 (NKJV)*

Whatever you do will have a standard or goal that defines success. Set the goal, and then focus your efforts on achieving that goal. You may come up short of your goal. That is part of life. Paul is telling us here that the biblical standard is not that you win, but that you "run in such a way" that you focus your effort and attitude on winning.

The issue is the attitude of your heart. Ask yourself along the way, "Am I really doing what is needed to win, or am I giving half effort?" If you find you are not running in such a way as to win, ask Jesus to renew your mind and motivation to help you get back on track.

## Discipline your body and bring it into submission.

*Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into submission, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."*

*1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (NKJV)*

Paul faced challenges and so will you. Whether your challenge is over-sleeping, not eating well, not exercising, being anxious or discouraged, not spending time in God's Word, or just not giving your best effort, Paul tells you how to overcome these challenges.

He has already set the standard that you are to run in such a way as to win. Now he is telling you that it's going to be hard. Just because something is hard does not mean that it's bad. Self-control and self-discipline are often hard but will be critical keys to success.

If you find you are struggling in this area, I encourage you to enlist a close friend or parent to help you be accountable to the daily spiritual and physical disciplines necessary for you to reach your goals. Most of your growth as a young man or woman will come through learning how to bring your body (physically and mentally) into submission as God grows you from where you are to where He wants you to be for the work He has for you to do with your life.

## Work for an audience of One.

*And, whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. Colossians 3:23 (NKJV)*

As you move from high school to becoming an adult, you are likely to have many people with some type of authority over you. Whether they are a college professor, coach, boss, drill instructor, dorm leader, pastor, or parent, they will have expectations about your actions, attitude, and work.

Paul offers here, in my opinion, the best advice ever written on how we are to work to be successful in anything. He first addresses clearly what kind of activity to which this verse applies. He states simply, "whatever you do." In Ecclesiastes 9:10, Solomon states, "Whatever your hand finds to do." The word "whatever" applies to everything you do—always.

Next, he states how we are to do our work when he states, "do it heartily." Solomon states, "do it will all your might."

Finally, Paul tells you for Whom we are doing it when he states, "as to the Lord and not to men." Working for an audience of One requires choosing your focus no matter what is going on around you. When

Peter was walking on the water, the waves were big and real. You will face challenges that are big and real. Keep your focus on Jesus. If your work pleases Him, that is all that matters.

Apply the principles of this verse to your life, and you will put yourself in a position to be wildly successful, at least in God's eyes! Why? Because, if you see Jesus as your only audience and you work heartily unto Him in whatever you do, you are likely to outperform all expectations of any human overseer—plus, your attitude and work ethic will inspire others around you and bring glory to the Lord.

## Know that the rewards of your work come from the Lord.

*... knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

*Colossians 3:24 (NKJV)*

When we understand that our Lord Jesus is the one we are to serve, it changes our approach to our work. Ultimately, it is the Lord who provides the rewards of our labor.

Be sensitive to your motivation and whom you are trying to please or honor with your work. Paul is telling us here, along with verse twenty-three above, that our focus should not be primarily on pleasing people and/or looking for the

applause of man but on serving the Lord Jesus. Trust in Him to provide you with the reward for your work. He is always faithful and fair.

Wherever your next steps take you, remember that Jesus is the standard. Whatever you do, do it heartily unto Him knowing that He is the one that rewards you. He also wants you to discipline yourself and run in such a way as to win. If you follow these biblical principles, I promise you that you will have godly success.



*John Kirkland is the husband of Lorie and father of Joshua (twenty-six), Lucas (twenty-one), John Mark (seventeen), and Peter (fifteen). He and Lorie have been homeschooling for twenty-one years. Professionally, John is the president of the management consulting firm, JF Kirkland,*

*LLC. John joined the NCHES board of directors in 2007 as secretary and has also served as IT director. John is the current NCHES president. John and Lorie think that many parents may start homeschooling for the great educational opportunities it provides, but they believe the most important benefit to homeschooling is that it offers the absolute best model and environment for biblical discipleship of our children, as taught in Deuteronomy 6.*



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# Helping Your Student Transition from High School to College

by Mari Fitz-Wynn

Your student left the elementary grades where much of his time consisted of fun field trips, crayons, crafts, and play dates. Then he moved on to middle school where disciplined study may have been hit or miss. Good work habits and study skills were emphasized, and we, as parents, provided transportation for our students everywhere from sports activities to music lessons to co-op classes. Independence, self-motivation, and increased responsibilities became the order of the day as your student progressed into high school. And, now, before the ink has even dried on the diploma, your student is ready to transition to college. Just as you have taken every opportunity to effectively help your student prepare for each stage of his education, now that your student is heading off to college, there's still a bit more parenting work to do.

The onus of a smooth transition is not only incumbent on your new graduate, but also on us, as we also have a new role to play. The most common mistake we make as parents is refusing to grant our young adults the independence and maturity they require to succeed. Our inclination as loving parents is to hold our children too tightly despite their attempts to squirm and wiggle free. We try to make all their decisions and keep them snugly beneath our wings. Without recognizing that we are now counselors in their daily affairs rather than managers, we may cause our new freshman to adopt unhealthy or destructive patterns that will carry over into adulthood. Either they will continually and passively accept our overprotection and remain dependent children throughout their college years and into adult life, incapable of independent thought, or they rise in great rejection of our bondage and interference and make life choices that reflect their anger. Parents and children lose on both counts.

So, you may ask, *how do we help* our students transition well from high school to college? You must prepare your student for a smooth transition. It will not happen overnight. Let me offer a few suggestions I have gleaned from my children's experiences during their first year of college.

### **Acknowledge the Challenges**

Assure your student he is not alone. Everyone will have freshman jitters and nervousness before he arrives on campus and over the next few weeks. Your student's first few weeks up to the first few months may be stressful, no doubt about it. He may be nervous about waking up on his own, buying his textbooks, making friends, and, further into the year, taking tests and exams.

### **Encourage New Friends**

Relieve your student's doubts about not being able to make friends. Reassure him that it will happen naturally in the dormitory, in the cafeteria, at the student center, at sports events, and of course, in class. Everyone is pretty much in the same boat. Most students don't know anyone, either.

### **Emphasize Time Management**

Being responsible and accountable to himself is an important area for a student to develop during high school years. If your student struggled with this during his senior year, a crash course is overdue before sending him away to college. Learning to stay on top of everything will be critical for his overall ability to do well academically, socially, and physically. The excitement of hanging

out with new friends, involvement in sports activities, and unlimited screen time will vie for what should be your student's study and homework time. Train and encourage him to embrace the principle that balance is everything, and to remember that, the number one reason he is in college is to get an education.

### **Counsel about Schedules**

Morning people do well with early morning classes, but if your student is not a morning person, being away at school is not likely to change that. Deter him, if you can, from signing up for early morning classes at least during that first semester. Help him to set up his class schedules in a way that will support and promote his gradual shift into campus life and classes. The first month or so many students will want to stay up late (although you've discussed the need for plenty of rest) and feel pretty excited about making their own decisions about when to go to bed. You'll want your student to be aware that falling asleep during an 8 A.M. class, or missing it altogether, does not impress the professor.

### **Assist in Budgeting**

By high school graduation, your student has probably had some experience in money management, whether it came through weekly allowance or working a part-time job after school. If this has not been the case, talk with your student about some of the practicalities involved with spending money and learning to live within his means. Some parents provide spending money by depositing a specific amount each month into a student bank account. Others may deposit one lump sum for the entire semester.

Some students will, by necessity, need to work and/or apply for scholarships and financial aid packages. In either case, it is important that your student grasps the importance of handling his money well. Go over a few of the expected expenditures with your student long before he is in the student bookstore to purchase books. Working a faux budget is a great idea to help the student achieve a level of confidence in spending his money for gasoline, laundry, student activities, parking, permits, etc.

### **Facilitate Keeping in Touch with Family**

Finding a schedule that is a good fit for your student's schedule and yours is a major hurdle. Initially, there may be frequent phone calls and text messages exchanged. As the student transitions, however, the parent is the one who will be trying to contact the



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student much more often than the student is contacting the parents. To avoid the frustration that occurs when this happens, try to come up with a flexible scheduled time to talk.

### Talk about Academics

Keep your student aware of this fact: students have fewer class hours in college but are expected to study much more. Also, it's a different type of studying. If students did not develop good study habits during high school, they will find it difficult initially. Students who did not have to study much during their home education, or who did not meet deadlines, will face a greater challenge once they realize they are alone and responsible for missed assignments or missed classes. Professors do not call parents. If needed, encourage your student to find study groups and tutors.

### Discuss Roommate Issues

Learning to relate well to other people, working through conflict to become and stay friends with the person assigned or requested to live with, is the overall goal. Sometimes it just doesn't work out. However, rather than rushing to your child's defense in

roommate issues, try to decipher the underlying problem. Before taking any action, be certain the problem is related to deeper issues, not just that your student would rather room with someone else or has some other superficial reason to desire change.

### Understand There Will Be Stress

Don't underestimate the effect stress can have on your student; it is the most reported health impediment to academic success. The reasons for stress vary from student to student, of course, but nearly all students are affected by many stress factors. First, everything is new: the living, study, and recreation environment. Also, most students are overwhelmed by finding their way around the campus, no matter how large or small the school. There's also stress related to meeting new people and adjusting to roommates. Though it may seem a small matter to parents, for many students, there is stress in buying books and other class items by themselves for the first time. Finally, classes are hard, and mid-terms and finals are ahead. Finding that some relationships with old friends may not survive certainly can cause stress and affect studies.

### Offer Suggestions for Stress Relief

Take breaks from studies. Go walking. Call family or friends. Helping your student learn or remember how to figure out what relieves his stress (lessons learned from high school) will enable him to recognize when he is feeling stressed and so that he can begin working on a plan to relieve or avoid it.

As a parent, encouraging your student is your primary role in helping him through this important transition from high school to college.



*Mari Fitz-Wynn is a veteran home educator. She is president of Heart for Home School Ministries, Inc., a 501c (3) organization that provides encouragement, support, and classes for both civilian homeschool families and military homeschool families as a Military One Source provider. Follow Mari on her blog [heartforhomeschoolministries.wordpress.com](http://heartforhomeschoolministries.wordpress.com) or visit her website [heartforhomeschool.org](http://heartforhomeschool.org).*

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# Being Chocolate Chips in the Cookie Dough of Culture

by David and  
Jason Benham

Today, America is not changing from Christian to secular but from secular to pagan. This is the culture in which we now live. So, what are we as Christians supposed to do? How can we live in such a way that we *transform* the world instead of simply *conforming* to it?

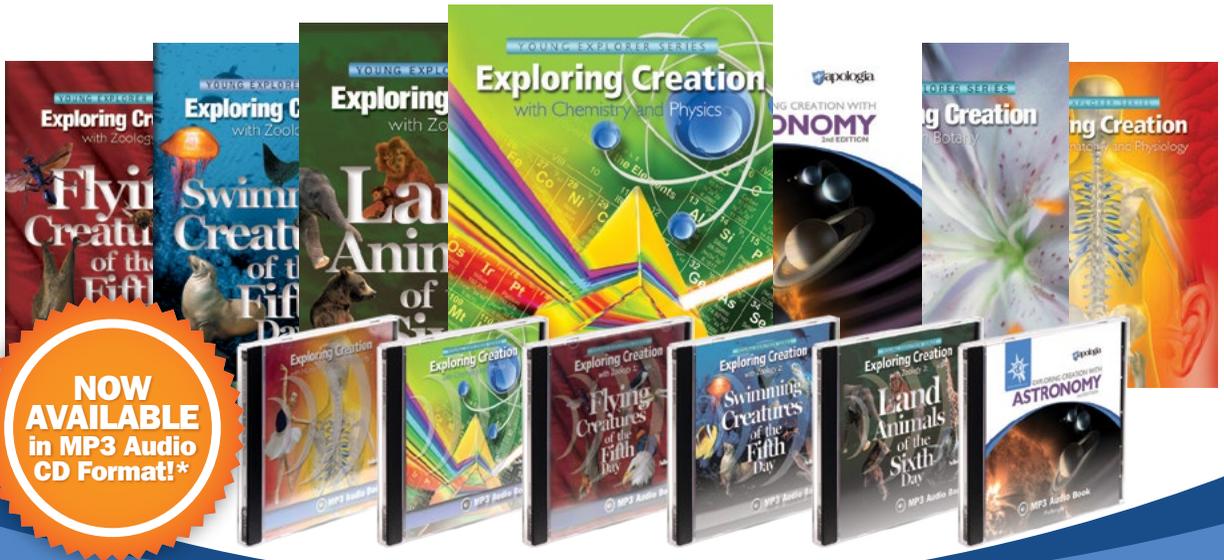
We begin by understanding our history. In the first through third centuries, the early church didn't have individual liberty, and the Romans certainly weren't bastions of family values. Yet faithful believers flipped the entire Roman world right-side up in three hundred years—and they didn't even have Facebook, Instagram, mega-church buildings, book deals, or cell phones! It wasn't *what* they *did* but *who* they were that brought the world to Jesus and birthed an era of freedom that we enjoy today.

Ultimately, it's not just what we say but how we live that will bring transformation to this culture. Christians in the early church were called followers of "the Way." It was the *way* they went about their daily lives that marked them as distinct and separate from all others. It wasn't conferences or concerts but a community of believers living in a way that literally blew peoples' minds and created an appetite in them for the Savior.

Christians in the first century fully embraced the Scriptures that commanded, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." (2 Corinthians 6:16-17) Though believers lived *in* a pagan culture they were not *of* the culture. They refused to participate in unrighteousness of any kind, including emperor worship, sexual perversion, child sacrifice, etc. They remained distinctly separate from the world.

We have described this separation for believers as being like chocolate chips in the cookie dough of culture—we mix in, but we do not blend in. We keep our distinct form, even when the heat is turned up.

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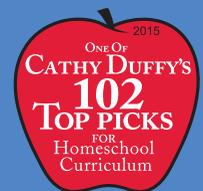
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- Homeschooling mom



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\*Audio version not yet available for Astronomy or Botany. Audio version is the textbook read aloud. Audio versions do not include the notebooking journals. Audio CDs are MP3 format.

When making chocolate chip cookie dough, you start with butter, flour, sugar, salt, vanilla, etc., and blend them together. If you stop and take a spoonful of the batch, you won't be able to distinguish which ingredient is which, because it all just tastes like cookie dough. Yet when you mix in the chocolate chips and take a bite, you know exactly when you've bitten into one of those morsels of goodness! You see, chocolate chips mix in, but they don't blend in. They never lose their distinct form. You always know when you've bitten into a chocolate chip—even after they come out of the oven.

Christians in the early church lived like this. They refused to let the world into their minds and hearts, thus, others were attracted to them. They *transformed* the world—they did not conform to it. (Romans 12:2)

Today, it's vital for Christians to fully serve Jesus and be separate from the world again. There *must* be a marked difference between faithful transformers and fruitless conformers. Trying to attract the world by being *like* the world is the opposite from our heritage as believers. If we're going to transform our nation today, we need to *mix* in to the batch of culture but never *blend in*. Our early church brothers and sisters did their part—now it's time for us to do ours.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)



*David and Jason Benham are former professional baseball players, bestselling authors, speakers, and nationally acclaimed entrepreneurs. As authors of Whatever the Cost and Living Among Lions, the Benhams share their story along with biblical principles that equip you to live courageously in today's culture. The brothers are featured speakers at the 2017 Thrive! Conference.*



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# NCHE's 2017 Graduates



**Michael Eugene Adair**, son of Alan and Karen of Weaverville, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. He enjoys playing guitar with his church praise team and youth band. He also enjoyed running cross country with HPHE and the

Asheville Trailblazers and playing football with the Asheville Saints. He has enjoyed serving his community through ABCCM. His life verse is Philippians 2:3.



**Alexandra Catherine Adamick**, daughter of Mark and Arlene Adamick of Oak Ridge, graduates after eleven years of homeschooling. Alee has always loved words, writing, and stories and plans to pursue her love of literature and creative writing

as she studies English in college. She plans to attend community college and then transfer to UNCG for her degree. She has been practicing Aikido since age ten, now has her brown belt, and is learning Japanese.



**Haley Kay Adams**, daughter of Kevin and May Adams of Littleton, graduates after homeschooling twelve years. She has served on retreat staff at Camp Willow Run, taken several mission trips, local and abroad, and has a heart for missions.

Haley is a talented photographer, has run cross country, and been very involved in her local church. She plans to go abroad this summer to serve Christ and plans to attend college. Life verse: Philippians 4:13.



**Anthony Luke Akers**, son of Anthony and Donna Akers, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Luke is a member of the National Home School Honor Society and served as treasurer and vice president of Randolph County 4-H. He

has participated in HPHE basketball and is active in his church youth group. Luke plans to major in chemistry at Harding University.



**Kyaw Mi Aye**, of Winston-Salem, graduates from Grace Academy after homeschooling for two years. She has enjoyed playing soccer and taking dance classes while in school. She currently attends the College and Career Promise Program at

Forsyth Tech. She plans to attend FTCC working towards a degree in criminal justice. One of her favorite verses is "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid." Proverbs 12:1.



**Alicia Linn Balsler**, daughter of Michael Balsler and Revonda Russos and step-daughter of Nick Russos of Raleigh, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Alicia's main passion is performing in theater. She also enjoys cheer-leading,

volunteering in children's ministry, church activities, and playing her guitar and ukulele. She also loves her job at a tween clothing store. She will be attending UNCG and majoring in theater.



**Robert Barker**, son of Chad and Sharon Barker, graduated after being homeschooled for twelve years. Robert is a talented musician, composing over thirty-five original songs and producing eight albums under the artist name, Serene Chaos. His other

interests include blacksmithing and drawing. His plans include attending either WCU or ASU with the intention of furthering his knowledge of music production and sound design. We're so proud of you!



**Mary Elizabeth Barnicle**, daughter of Paul and Tracey Barnicle, is graduating after thirteen years of homeschooling. Mary has nine years of classical piano training and volunteers in the nursery and preschool department of Temple Baptist

Church. She enjoys spending time with family, cooking, and horseback riding. She plans to attend Lenior CC and pursue a career as a dental hygienist.



**Abigail Barron**, daughter of Chad and Anne Barron of Hamptonville, graduates from her family homeschool. Besides her academics, she has participated in 4-H, swimming, community college dual enrollment, and violin. Abby

loves Japanese culture, history, art, anthropology, theater, movies, music, and traveling. She is a hard

worker and enjoys playing board games. We love you, Abby, and wish you all the best!



**Chynna Mae Birkmire**, daughter of Michael and Connie Birkmire of Hays, graduates after homeschooling for nine years. Chynna's diligent work allowed her to master dance, piano, voice, and theater. She is a certified clogging instructor and performs

at Tweetsie Railroad. Chynna is accepted to Mars Hill University and their clogging team. Chynna serves the Lord her God in spirit, mind, and body completely and seeks His will in her life daily.



**Ross Black**, son of Dan and Debbie Black of Greensboro, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. He is an avid musician and an integral part of the worship teams at Daystar Church. He has been featured in several professional studio

recordings, independently and as a member of Daystar Worship. He loves the Lord and leads worship in a variety of settings. Ross will attend Liberty University majoring in worship pastoral leadership.



**MacKenzie Rai Blackmon**, of Wake Forest and daughter of Tim and Kelli Blackmon, graduates with honors after homeschooling for eight years. She has played soccer at a highly competitive level since 2006 for both club and NCHEAC teams,

being nominated consecutive seasons as an all-tournament and all-state player. Within her church, she is an active worship leader and fulfilled a semester internship as student ministry worship director. She is passionate about God, family, friends, music, and soccer. She will continue pursuing her passions and education at Western Carolina.



**Hope Danae Brake**, daughter of Doug and Donna Brake of Denver, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She has spent many hours volunteering as a teacher helper at a local school, a church nursery worker, and speech class teacher.

Hope enjoys growing in her faith as part of the worship dance ministry with ZCWA. She currently attends Gaston College and plans to continue there, eventually entering an occupational therapy assistant program.



**Christina Lettie Broome**, daughter of Scott and Christy Broome of Hickory, is graduating with honors after homeschooling for six years. Lettie enjoyed participating in cross country and softball, volunteering at her local hospital, and working at a local bakery.

She also enjoys playing the piano, riding horses, and cooking. Lettie is a member of The National Society of High School Scholars. She also participated in the CCP Program at CVCC. Lettie is currently enrolled at CCC&TI where she will receive her nurse aide level I.



**Cole Ruffin Brown** is the son of James and Janell Brown. Cole graduates after homeschooling for two years and attended private and public school. Cole is very active on the main worship team at First Christian Church of Kernersville. He has worked with the church's local Across the Street Missions. He has been blessed to serve along side other wonderful musicians leading worship. His life verse is Psalm 150, "Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord." Cole has a passion for music and has plans to continue his education to pursue his call into worship ministry.



**Kyle Rocker Browning**, son of Randy and Tracey Browning of Raleigh, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Kyle has enjoyed building gaming computers, working with

children at Trinity Academy's after school program, and participating on a youth skeet team. Kyle plans to attend college studying computer science.



**Hayley Hope Burgess**, daughter of Alan and Michelle Burgess of Conway, graduates after homeschooling for five years. Her passion for 4-H led to many leadership roles throughout the years. She is a member of the local rescue squad

and has been on several mission trips. She has taken dual-enrollment classes at CU and RCCC while working at China Garden and maintaining honor roll. She plans to attend NCSU to study agricultural business. Luke 1:45.



**Zachary Daniel Castro**, of Clayton, graduates with honors after homeschooling for eleven years. He is a Career and College Promise program participant at Johnston Community College, and he plans to pursue marine biology at UNCW or veterinary

medicine at NCSU. Zachary has celebrated the sacrament of confirmation, volunteered for several organizations, and is a manager at Smithfield Cinemas. He enjoys basketball and video games.



**Leah Kinsey Church**, daughter of Craig and Kim B. Church of Purtlear and sister to Taylor, graduates in April after homeschooling from the beginning. Leah will be fulfilling a life-long dream of playing basketball at the University of

North Carolina on a full scholarship. Go Heels! May she continue to be a light for the Lord! "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..." (Ephesians 3:20)



**Matthew Henry Clay**, son of Mark and Debbie Clay of Fuquay-Varina, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He is very active in his church youth group. Matthew earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He has volunteered at the

Fuquay-Varina Emergency Food Pantry for the past five years. He loves gardening and plans to pursue a degree in horticulture.



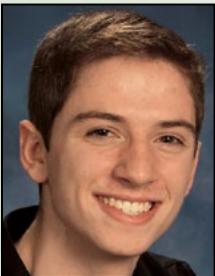
**Amelia Rose Clontz**, daughter of Robert and Amy Clontz of Concord, graduates after homeschooling for ten years. She has played for the GCAA Stallions in both basketball and softball. She enjoys volunteering in the children's department at her

church where she is an Awana captain and Centri-kid camp counselor. She currently attends Rowan-Cabarrus CC in the Career and College Promise Program. She plans to attend Cedarville University in Ohio.



**Juliana Menuett Combs**, daughter of John and Katrina Combs, graduates in May. Arriving in our lives twelve weeks early at a whopping two lbs., what she lacked in size she made up for in determination. She excels at anything she sets out

to accomplish. She attends PCC earning forty college credit hours with a 4.0 GPA and plans to continue there to receive her associates degree. We are all looking forward to the next chapter God has planned for you!



**Daniel Thomas Cooke** graduates from Collegiate Academy and plans to attend Liberty University where he will double major in film scoring and music ministry. He enjoys writing music for both piano and orchestra and desires to use his

skills to encourage others in their walk with the Lord. He also enjoys band, orchestra, hand bells, youth choir,

and getting outside for cross country, hiking, and going to the mountains.



**Autumn Denise Council**, daughter of John and Charlotte Council of Laurel Springs, has always been homeschooled. She was born in November, 1997 and has two sisters and three brothers. Archery, playing guitar, singing, and reading are her

hobbies. Because Autumn is unsure of the direction the Lord wants her to take after graduation, she is going to continue pursuing her hobbies. Philippians 4:8 is the Bible verse by which she tries to live her life.



**Michaela Abigail Cox**, daughter of David and Cynthia Cox of Greensboro, graduates May 12 from P489 Academy. She has been educated at home since 2006. She serves as an assistant coach for the Jazzy Jumpers who travel as representatives for

the American Heart Association in NC. Since beginning high school, her passion has become the game of golf. Michaela will play collegiate golf for Elon University, where she will also pursue a business degree.



**Austin Hunter Dail** is the son of Steve and Mary Dail of Greenville. He has homeschooled thirteen years. Austin attends Grimesland FWB Church. He serves as sound man and sings in church. He is active in his youth group and serves in junior

church. Austin loves basketball and plays on two teams. He will be attending Pitt Community College in the fall studying accounting.



**Nia Danielle Davis**, second daughter of Max and Rhonda Davis of Durham, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Nia is a diversely talented artist, designer, soloist, songwriter, blogger, and novelist. A lifelong animal lover and dedicated vet

hospital volunteer, she will attend a small southern college to pursue a career in vet medicine (DVM). Nia, we are very proud of you and love you! We pray God's best for your life! Philippians 1:6.



**Tyler DeVliieger**, son of Troy and Jill DeVliieger of Sherrills Ford, graduates from Mt. Pleasant Christian Academy after twelve years of homeschooling. He has participated in Team Policy debate with NCFCA, making it to regionals his senior year. He

currently enjoys writing and is working on his second novel. He plans to attend law school after college.



**Amanda Rose Diard**, daughter of Jess and Wendy Diard of Raleigh, graduates after being homeschooled since kindergarten. She is a member of the National Honor Society and earned a full scholarship to the University of Southern

Mississippi, where she plans to study nursing. She has earned the Presidential Service Gold Award for the past three years, the Girl Scout Gold Award, and volunteers regularly at Hope Reins and as a Sunday school teacher.



**Alexis Taylor Doss**, better known as "Princess Lexi," daughter of Howard and Shannon Tallent of Madison, graduates after homeschooling for three years. Lexi loves making memories with her family and friends. She enjoys making people laugh and

spending time on the farm. Her favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9. She is very passionate for helping people. She plans to attend Rockingham Community College to become a phlebotomist.



**Michael Douglas Edwards**, son of George and Jackie Edwards of Thomasville, graduates after homeschooling for three years. Michael has a passion for trains. He works in his family owned model train shop, named after

him, and customers come in just to see him. In his spare time, he railfans and runs trains with friends. Michael is very loving and a joy to be around. God has blessed us with a wonderful son. We love you and are proud of you!



**Joseph Isaac Eggebeen**, son of David and Kelly Eggebeen of Huntersville, graduates after homeschooling in his junior and senior year of high school. Joe is a member of Grace Covenant Church in Cornelius. He will be taking a gap year upon

graduation to travel, explore life, and be in meditation for what God has planned for his life.



**Elijah Stephen Eichmann**, son of Stephen and Polley Eichmann of Tarboro, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Elijah has faithfully served in the outreach ministry of his church's youth group. As an avid sports fan and athlete, he enjoys

watching and playing hockey, as well as competing in several 5Ks and a few half-marathons. He plans to attend Bob Jones University.



**Joseph Thomas Fassler**, son of Edward and AnneMarie Fassler of Chapel Hill, graduates after two years of homeschooling from Fassler Academy. While in public school, he was a photographer for the news team, played trumpet, ultimate Frisbee, and

ran track. He enjoys being a door greeter and a member of the community dinner team at his church. His life verse is Psalm 126:3. He plans to study business administration at Alamance Community College.



**Jordan Lee Foster**, daughter of Tim and Bridgitt of Hendersonville, graduates with honors after homeschooling for ten years. Jordan's love of dance has carried her through most of her life. She has multitudes of awards for her passion. She is a

very focused and driven individual which is how she is graduating at sixteen. She will be pursuing her love of dance. Congratulations Jordan, we love you and are so proud! You made it!

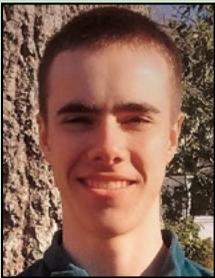
mechanical engineering at Grove City followed by seminary at SEBTS. His family loves him, is proud of him, and will miss the constant sound of power tools and sermon recordings emanating from his bedroom.



**Timothy Dylan Foster**, son of Tim and Bridgitt of Hendersonville, graduates with honors after being homeschooled from the beginning. Dylan enjoys playing the bass guitar and the electric guitar. In recent years, he has pursued his love of music and video game design. He has the love and support of his family as he starts his next adventure. Congratulations Dylan, you made it! We love you and are extremely proud of you!



**Susanna Joy Fox**, daughter of Mark and Cindy Fox of Burlington, graduates after homeschooling twelve years. Susanna enjoys listening to 70s music, painting, writing, and traveling. After finishing her associate degree at Alamance CC, she plans to transfer to a university and minor in Arabic with a major in biology, possibly pre-med. However, she hopes to stay open to whatever God may call her to. "Adventures are inconveniences rightly considered."



**Haddon Fox**, son of Greg and Missy Fox of Raleigh, graduates after thirteen years of homeschool. He loves hard work, laughing, Bible study, and making things, such as his wireless telegraph and his metal lathe. He plans to study



**John Bailey Freeman**, son of Tammy Smith of Stanfield and Billy Freeman of Locust, graduates after six years of homeschooling. Bailey has a strong faith in Christ, served on two mission trips to Nicaragua, is very active in his youth group

# John Bailey Freeman

Bailey,  
 Congratulations! Eighteen years are just a blink of an eye; from a precious little boy, to a handsome young man. We look forward to watching you grow into the man God has created you to be. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.  
 Proverbs 3:5-6

I love you!  
Mom
I love you!  
Dad

and church. He demonstrates leadership abilities and can do anything he sets his mind to. He plans to pursue a degree in Christian ministries at Liberty. We love you and are so proud of you. Proverbs 3:5-6.



**Kenneth Brayden Greenwood**, son of Kevin and Briggs Greenwood of Durham, graduates after homeschooling from the beginning. He is an active member of the youth group and has served as student leader. He enjoys being outdoors,

kayaking, CrossFit, woodworking, and visual arts. He plans to continue learning and pursuing a career in visual and building arts. His life verse is Galatians 6:14.



**Matthew Paul Habina**, son of Joe and Linda Habina of Kannapolis, graduates after homeschooling for eleven years. He has been a boy scout for eleven years and is working on his Eagle Scout. Matthew enjoys music and plays guitar. He was

a member of the National Honor Society. Matthew participated in the CCP program at RCCC. He plans to attend college and major in occupational therapy. He has worked at the Boys & Girls in Concord for four years.



**John Anthony Harwell**, son of John and Laura Harwell of Lenoir, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout at the age of thirteen. John is currently a member of the Civil Air Patrol where he has achieved

the rank of Cadet Captain and serves as his squadron Cadet Commander. John serves his church as a musician and sound technician. Following graduation, John will be seeking a degree in systems engineering.



**Nolan James Herring**, son of Jim and Anita Herring of Greensboro, graduates after homeschooling for eleven years. He has played for the Homeschool Football League for eight years. Additionally, he has participated



## *Leah Madison Gunter*

Leah Madison Gunter, we are so very proud of you! We knew the day you were born that God had marvelous plans for your life. We have watched you grow physically, academically, and emotionally. But perhaps the greatest growth we have seen is spiritual. God is using you in places you do not even see! Your God-given talents are going to take you to heights you do not realize right now. Our prayer is that you continue to allow God to use you in the places He leads you! So many milestones in your life, and now we come to the biggest one yet! This moment gives us great pride and joy as well as pain. Pride knowing you are going to do great things, but pain realizing the magnitude of this milestone. Remember to count your successes, not by the car you drive, the house you live in, the amount of money in your account but by who you are and how you lead your life.



*We love you!  
Dad, Mom, and  
Emma*





# Cheyenne Mykayla Jeffrey

*Behind you all your memories,  
Before you all your dreams,  
Around you all who love you,*

The bible says to bring up a child in they ways of the Lord and if they depart from it, it will only be for a short season. Our prayer is you will always seek Gods guidance for everything in your life. This and this only will bring you true happiness! We Love you! Dad & Mom

You may be a pain in my rear but you are the best sister! I Love you, Sierra

*I remember the day when I saw  
you take your first breath. Now  
18 years later seeing the young  
woman you have grown to be.  
Congrats I love you & I know God  
has Great plans for you. There is  
nothing you can not achieve.  
Reach for the stars!*

*Love you, Deedee*

Love you, proud of the young woman that you're becoming. Congratulations, praying for the blessings of the Lord upon your life.

Gwen, Savannah, Garrett & Grant

## Congrats Senior

Love

Dana & Javy

Cheyenne,

You are graduating! can't believe it is time for your next chapter! I am so proud to call you my little sister. You are a great aunt to Seldon and Rae...we all love you so much! You might be a little clumsy on your feet but you handle the important things with grace and strength. We had a conversation recently and I said....I know you will make the right decision." And you replied with something along the lines of .....realistically I could also make a bad choice. You have such a free spirit, but a Godly one...a strong sense of self....but also a strong sense of others and their needs. Even your bad choices (and we all make them!) God will use and turn into something beautiful...always trust him first. Always remember who you are and who's you are. And of course...you can always call me. Love, your big sis' "G"

Cheyenne

Congrats on your graduation! We are so proud of you! You are such a smart & beautiful lady. May the Lord bless you in all that you do!

Love,

Regina, Mike,

Katelyn & Aaron

To our beautiful Granddaughter, who we love very much. We are so proud of you!

Mama & Papa



*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

in short-term mission trips and worked part-time. He currently attends Guilford Technical Community College in the Career and College Promise Program. He is still deciding which North Carolina university he will attend in the fall.



**Ripken Ross Holt**, son of Rich and Ashley of Wendell, graduates from Shepherd's Walk Academy after homeschooling for twelve years. Ripken was one question shy of a perfect SAT score, and his parents are excited that his scores have garnered for

him a full scholarship to Liberty University where he will major in biblical studies and engineering. Ripken loves God's Word and theology and eagerly welcomes any opportunity to talk about Scripture.



**Brandon Jacob Huckins**, son of Daniel L. Huckins and Tonya M. Tingley-Huckins of Marion, graduates after eleven years of homeschooling. He enjoys nature, photography, gaming, animals, and spending time with his family. His studies

focused on pet care, which will aid him in helping with the family's pet care business. He spent time as a Cub Scout and volunteering for the community at local food banks and the YMCA. He currently works as a bather at his family's pet salon. After graduation, he will be working as a kennel technician. Eventually, he plans to pursue furthering his education.



**Hannah Lynn Huffman**, daughter of Tara and Fred of Wilmington, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, she's passionate about art, film, games, and music. Her favorite subject throughout her schooling

was language arts. She's a self-taught artist of eight years. She's spent her senior year preparing to be a mentor to young girls and boys, showing them God's love through her words. John 1:5.



**Jennifer Wrenn Johansen**, daughter of Paul and Pamela Johansen of Charlotte, graduates June 8 from Fox River School. Jenny has a passion for the arts and literature. She plans to become a graphic novelist. She also enjoys costume design, tailoring, and gaming. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Jenny has a great sense of humor and enjoys making people smile and pleasing God.



**Adam Gerard Johnson**, of Clinton, graduates after thirteen years of homeschooling. Adam joins his seven siblings in graduating from Johnson Academy, effectively ending the family's homeschooling journey. Adam is an Eagle Scout, played basketball, and is a sportswriter for the local newspaper. Adam plans to attend Clemson University.



**Luke David Johnson**, son of David and Dawn Johnson of Greensboro, graduates in May. Luke excels in art, writing, and basketball where he's been awarded best defensive player, Christian spirit, MVP, and best offensive player. He's a skilled

marksman and avid knife collector. His love for the Lord is most evident by the way he treats others. He's the voice of reason, a hard worker who loves life, and a strong leader with much conviction in his beliefs. Luke has been involved in and served in multiple church ministries, Young Life, and coaching children's basketball. He plans to attend GTCC.



**Isabel Pauline Jones**, daughter of Raymond and Daun Jones of Harrisburg, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She enjoys ballet and contemporary dance, reading, playing piano, and participating in church youth group. Upon graduation, Isabel will

continue her academic pursuits in college.



**Madison Grace Kelbaugh**, of Raleigh, graduates from Harvest Academy Homeschool after homeschooling for eleven years. Madison has participated in Christian Youth Theater since she was twelve years old. She enjoys teaching in children's church, choreographing worship songs with children/youth, and volunteering on mission trips/service projects. Madison currently attends Wake Technical College through the Career and College Promise Program, where she has developed an interest in computer science. Madison plans to attend college to begin her profession in the computer science field.



**Mary-Caroline Kennis**, daughter of Scott and Christy Kennis of Linden, graduates in May. She has completed her education while living in six states and two countries. She has participated in voice, drama, volleyball, and children's ministries. She plans to attend Campbell University. Her life verse is I Peter 2:24.



**Micah Ryan Kelley**, son of Gary and Carol Kelley of China Grove, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He is very active in his church and enjoys hunting and fishing. His favorite verse is Joshua 1:9. He plans to attend

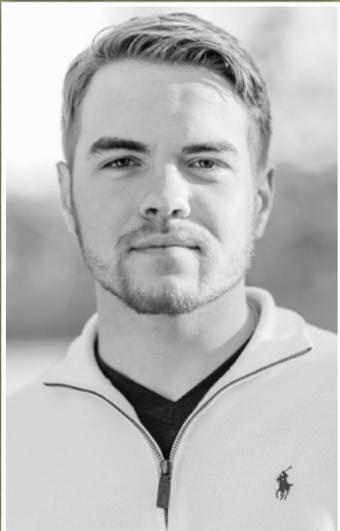
Rowan Cabarrus Community College and pursue a degree in homeland security and law enforcement.



**Katherine McKenna Kwiatek**, daughter of Kenneth and Babette Kwiatek, graduates high school after being homeschooled since second grade. She was dually enrolled at Cape Fear Community College for two years, volunteered on her youth's worship team for three years, and is now interning for Ignite Ministries as she finishes her associates degree in the arts. Katherine has been a singer/songwriter since childhood and has a burning passion for the deeper things of God's word. She is planning to complete her master's degree at Regent University, in the fall of 2018.

# LUKE DAVID JOHNSON

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. *Psalm 105:4*



YOU ARE OUR  
JOY AND  
WE ARE SO  
PROUD OF YOU!  
MOM & DAD



**Wyatt Marcelus LeDoux**, son of Kirk and Melanie LeDoux from Hendersonville (currently resides in Davidson) graduates after homeschooling K-12. Wyatt's love of God and music has led him to play guitar and lead youth worship at church. While seeking

God's will for his life, Wyatt plans to pursue a four-year degree. He enjoys music, acting, science, and martial arts. Wyatt is a godly young man, a joy, and a blessing.



**Bailey Christian Marie Marsh**, of Vale, is graduating from Chilly Hill Academy after homeschooling for ten years. She is the daughter of Mike and Tracie Marsh. In the recent years, she has pursued her passions of music and make-up artistry. She plans to attend CVCC in the fall and

is looking forward to a career in cosmetology. We are so proud of you and your God-given talents!



**Matthew Daniel Mason**, son of Danny and Joan Mason of Hickory, graduates after homeschooling for eleven years. Matthew is active in his church where he earned his Duty to God award and attended four years of seminary. Matthew does service

work for the needy and plans to serve a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Later plans are to attend CVCC. He is an Eagle Scout and assistant scout master in the BSA.



**Charity Donna Matson's** parents are proud to announce her graduation from Turning Point Christian School. She has participated in sports (basketball, volleyball), drama and music (piano, ukulele), is certified in horse therapy and has become

an expert photographer. She has opened her own private business, Beautiful Legacy. She plans to continue to study photography after graduation and use this talent during her world-wide travel.



**Tyus Trevonne Mayo**, son of Antonio and Kennetha Mayo of Rocky Mount, graduates after homeschooling for eleven years. He has participated in feeding the homeless and the community. His life verse is Psalm 91:1-2. His goal is going to school

to pursue culinary skills.



**Ransom Kevin McClain**, son of Kevin and Brea McClain of Kernersville, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He is very active in Boy Scouts and venturing and earned his Eagle Scout in 2016. He has studied computer technology at

Forsyth Tech in the Career and College Promise program and will continue there in the fall.



**Megan Kenzie McLain** is the daughter of Donald and Laura McLain. Megan is graduating after eight years of homeschooling where she has matured into a hardworking, loving woman. Megan volunteers regularly at Peace Church. Megan

has a heart for missions and God. Megan will be attending Nash CC. Megan; we are extremely proud of you! We look forward to watching you continue to grow. Keep your eyes on God; He will guide your path. Love you!



**Jonathon Charles McManus**, son of Mark and Anita McManus of Morganton, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Jonathon is a member of St. Charles Catholic Church. He has faithfully served as an altar server and participated

in several mission trips through CHWC. Jon enjoys riding and racing his dirt bike. He has worked part-time in an automotive shop throughout high school. He plans to attend Wilkes CC and major in diesel technology.



**Bethany Grace Mears**, daughter of Craig and Kim Mears of Indian Trail, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Bethany has a passion to serve the Lord and minister to children and has done so as an Awana leader, VBS leader, assisting with

her church's children's choir, and ministering to orphans in Mexico with Back 2 Back Ministries. She plans to attend university in the fall to pursue a nursing degree. Her life verse is Romans 8:38-39.



**Grace E. Medlin** is the daughter of Isaac and Melissa Medlin of Stokesdale. She is graduating from Medlin Christian Academy. She is a member of Lawndale Baptist Church of Greensboro where she has received believer's baptism and

has participated in Bible study, youth group, and youth choir. She is serving the Lord by working in the kitchen at LBC and playing hymns for BSF. Her extracurricular activities also include drama and writing poetry.



**Christian Corey Mercier**, son of Frederick and Lisa Mercier of New Bern, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Christian enjoys computers, electronics, and reading, and he enjoys many activities at church, especially the tech team. He

participated in the Awana program for over ten years and has earned the Meritorious Award. He is the director of an after-school program with the YMCA. He plans to attend Craven CC to study engineering.



**Kaitlyn Noelle Metzger**, daughter of Mark and Lisa Metzger of Oakboro, graduates in May. She is a second-generation homeschooler who has sung with the CHEA homeschool choir for seven years and is currently a popular piano teacher. Her

involvement with sidewalk counseling, through the pro-

life ministry, Cities4Life, and her passion for the gospel has led her to study apologetics through the distance learning program at Biola University.



**Kenneth Elton Miller**, son of Thomas and Donna Miller of Gates, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. Ken is active in his church and enjoys volunteering with various youth programs and serving as a summer camp counselor. While

in high school, Ken worked part-time as a mechanic and farm hand. He looks forward to continuing this work and furthering his education. In his free time, Ken enjoys guns, hunting, axe throwing, and camping.



**Harrison Wesley Mohl**, of Jamestown, graduates in May after homeschooling for thirteen years. He enjoys mountain biking and snowboarding. He has participated in the Career and College Program at GTCC. He will be attending Liberty University.



**Jonathan Thomas Mohl**, of Jamestown, graduates in May after homeschooling for thirteen years. He enjoys mountain biking and snowboarding. He is active in his church youth group and works at the Juice Shop. He has participated in the Career and

College Promise Program at GTCC. He plans to attend Liberty University in the fall.



**Virginia J. Motes**, daughter of Richard and Kathleen Motes of Morganton, is graduating after being homeschooled for twelve years. She has also been participating in the College Career Promise Program at WPCC for the past two years. Since her

application to Starfleet was turned down, and she's too old to be trained as a Jedi, her plan C is to attend ASU to get a bachelor's in chemistry, then transfer to UNC to become a pharmacist.



**Jillian Colleen Mounce**, of Huntersville, graduates with honors after homeschooling for thirteen years. Jillian has enjoyed many wonderful experiences including earning her first-degree black belt in karate, participating in the governor's page program in Raleigh and working at Chick-fil-A. She is active at her church and in her community. Her plans include college with a possible degree in communications. May God continue to bless her.



**Amber Elizabeth Mull**, daughter of Mike and Niki Mull of Leland, graduates after homeschooling for nine years. She was class publisher for her English and journalism classes and volunteered weekly with our local Meals on Wheels and Backpack programs. She is a member of her church worship team and is active in youth group. She has been accepted into the internship program at Manna Church and will attend classes at Grace College of Divinity.



**Sarah Suzanne Mullen**, of Claremont, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She is an active member of Hickory Harvest Bible Chapel, where she volunteers regularly in the children's ministry. Her other activities include mission trips to Moldova caring for orphans and needy children and volunteer work with Crossroads Compassion Project. Suzanne is an avid quilter. She plans to attend Catawba Valley Community College. Prov. 3:5-6.



**Forrest Grant Myers**, son of Madeline Myers of North Wilkesboro and Dwayne Myers of Dongguan, China, graduates with honors after homeschooling all his life. He has been dually enrolled at Wilkes CC while working at Chick-fil-A. Forrest is actively involved in Wilkesboro Baptist youth, many

volunteer activities, mission trips, praise band, and Baptist Men. Forrest plans to attend ASU to major in physics and join the Renewable Energy Initiative.



**Nathaniel Chase Neal**, son of Freddie and Jerri Neal of Otto, graduates after homeschooling his whole life. Nathaniel enjoys playing various instruments with his church youth worship band. He is currently working with a landscaping company and has worked at Chick-fil-A. He has completed a small engine repair apprenticeship and will pursue a HVAC certification and a business degree after graduation. His family is extremely proud of him! 1 Sam.1:27.



**Victoria Ruth Nichols**, daughter of Paul and Cindy Nichols of Raleigh, graduates with honors after homeschooling for thirteen years. Tori enjoys ultimate Frisbee. She is captain of her local team and has been selected to participate in a national competition. She holds a black belt in Taekwondo and teaches in a children's program. She has been part of mission trips to Serbia and Harrisburg, PA. Tori plans to study marketing at Appalachian State.



**Justin James Nifong**, son of Jimmy and Jo Anna Nifong of Winston Salem, graduates after homeschooling for twelve years. He has an interest in computer technology and is a freelance video editor. Justin, along with a colleague, has started UBXWebworx, a website design business. He plans to continue his study of computer technology and related fields after graduation.



**Elaina Adele Nobles** is the youngest daughter of Hugh and Lynette Nobles of Southport. Elaina is a compassionate and grateful young woman with a heart for others. Her many

abilities include public speaking, acting, singing, teaching children, debating, and swimming. As Elaina considers God's plan for her future, she is considering a career in nursing, counseling, or as a legal representative. This summer she will once again work with ocean rescue.



**Payten Lee Parnell**, daughter of Kristin and Jeremy Tompkins of Raeford, graduates after homeschooling for seven years. She has danced for seven years, is active in her church, serves on the tech team and in children's church. She is active

in the community and in Girls Scouts for eleven years, earning several awards and currently working on her gold. She attends FTCC and will attend Brevard College earning her degree in environmental science.



**Corryn Lynn Patterson**, daughter of Marc and Diane Patterson of Mooresville, graduates after being homeschooled for two years. Corryn is active in her church youth group, enjoys Bible study, reading, writing, playing the

ukulele, and skateboarding. Her life verse is Colossians 3:23 and Zig Ziglar's quote, "You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." Corryn received a merit scholarship to attend Coastal Carolina University in their honors program and will major in English. We are very proud of the beautiful strong woman of God she has become.



**Jackson Perry**, son of Steve and Amber Perry of Wendell, will graduate with honors after eight years of homeschooling. He enjoys playing sports, outdoor activities, and serving on mission trips with his church. He plans to go into the medical field and

will attend Campbell University with a presidential scholarship.



**Reagan Cassidy Phillips**, daughter of Joe and Angie Phillips of Benson, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Reagan is active in her church youth group and enjoys working with children. She is an avid violinist and has obtained a current rank of brown belt with two stripes in Okinawa Kenpo karate. She plans to attend Campbell University.



**Charla Suzanne Priddy**, of Asheville, daughter of Philip and Carroll Sue Priddy, and sister to Lance, has been homeschooled throughout her academic career. She started her first business at eight and has been an entrepreneur since. Her sincere thoughtfulness has been a blessing to her family, church family, and friends. Her plan is to pursue a degree in business. We are excited to see what the Lord has for her as she continues to seek Him first.



**John Isaac Pullen**, son of Robert and Sharon Pullen of Wake Forest, graduates after homeschooling from the beginning. He is very active in his church and enjoys doing short-term mission projects. John plans to work full-time after he graduates.



**Grace Addy Quaile**, daughter of Charlie and Wendy Quaile of Pittsboro, graduates in June after homeschooling for thirteen years. She has been very active in her church youth group, and special needs Sunday school classes. She was also the collection site coordinator at her church for Operation Christmas Child this year. She plans to take a gap year before attending college in the fall of 2018. We are very proud of her!



**Sarah Elizabeth Ramirez**, daughter of David and Noelle Ramirez of Goldsboro, will graduate after being homeschooled for thirteen years. Sarah has a passion to serve the Lord and to encourage others in their walk with Him. She enjoys

reading, writing, anything antique, and spending time with her friends. She plans to continue her education at Regent University. Her love for the Lord and for other people is a blessing to all who know her. Sarah, we are very proud of you and know the Lord's hand is upon you. May He lead, guide, and guard you all the days of your life.



**Carissa Allie Rayfield**, daughter of Kipp and Jeana Rayfield of Cherryville, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She has actively participated in the family's missionary work in Brazil for most of her life and speaks fluent

Portuguese. Carissa enjoys drawing, painting, crocheting, and reading. Her favorite Bible verse is Luke 6:37. Carissa will be attending Gaston College and is looking forward to God's plan for her future.



**Jonah Riddle**, son of Benjie and Bethany Riddle, graduates May 15 after being homeschooled for twelve years. He enjoys playing the banjo and singing at church, and for his bluegrass band Jonah Riddle & Carolina Express. They have released their

first CD and are currently working on a second one. Jonah is attending Mayland CC and plans to pursue a career in music and fire and rescue. He seeks God's direction for his life and is grateful for all the good things the Lord does for him. His favorite Scripture is Psalms 103. Jonah is a gift from God, and we are so proud of him!



**Grace Frances Roberts**, daughter of Will and Hope Roberts, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She has played the piano for ten years and loves to read, write, and sing. She is a member of Grace Reformed Baptist Church

in Mebane. Grace will be attending Patrick Henry College in the fall where she will be majoring in literature. She is looking forward to experiencing God's faithfulness in this new season of her life.



**Kelsie Lynn Rose**, daughter of Angel and Steve Rose of Mooresville, graduates in June after homeschooling for nine years. She is very active in Campus Impact, a Christian organization at MCC, for which she currently holds the position

of vice-president. Her life verse is Jeremiah 29:11. She currently attends Mitchell Community College in the Career Promise Program and plans to continue upon graduation pursuing a career in the medical field.



**Maggie Caroline Russ**, daughter of Ed and Mary Russ of Raleigh, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She is active in her church's small groups and children's ministry and enjoys her part-time job as a team leader at Chick-fil-A. She

is gifted on the violin and has been a member of the Triangle Youth Orchestras for the last five years. She plans to travel with a college missionary team in the fall and attend UNCW next spring.



**Helen Schmidt**, the youngest daughter of Steven and Debbie Schmidt of Cary, graduates after homeschooling for twelve years. She enjoys volunteering in her church, serving as summer staff at Teen Valley Ranch, and playing ultimate Frisbee. Helen will

attend Wake Tech to study human services technology

with a focus on mental health. Her favorite Bible verse is 2 Cor. 12:9-10. She is thankful that no matter what, God's grace is sufficient.



**Brianna Serva**, daughter of John and Jessica Serva, has younger brothers, Jonah and Abram. Brianna is a responsible, intelligent, hardworking, and determined Christian young lady. She is active with her youth group and church and serves in nursery, junior church, and choir. She has been on mission trips to Peru, NY, and local outreaches. She has participated at RCC Career and College Promise Program and plans to pursue a career in nursing.



**Sarah Ann Seymour**, daughter of Scotty and Pam Seymour of Lenoir, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Her predominant God-given talent is in music. She has used this gift to help many churches in our tri-county area.

Sarah enjoys being part of acoustic bands and studio recording as well. She will be attending Catawba College in Salisbury as a double major in popular music and music business. She is a blessing to many!



**Derrick Smyth Shealy**, son of Lance and Elizabeth Shealy of Hickory, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He has taken dual credit classes for the past two years at CVCC through the CCP program. Derrick plays lacrosse and played

football with the Hickory Hawks, who won the 2016 NACA National Championship. He will be playing lacrosse at North Greenville University where he will major in business administration.



**Christopher Benjamin Sheets**, son of Branson and Stephanie of Greenville, graduates after twelve years at Four Arrows Academy. He is a

small group leader at church and is on the tech team for worship services. His passion is spending time with and teaching the children in a karate after school program. He has a TKD second degree black belt and has been in the TEACH drama productions. He currently attends PCC and will continue there in the fall.



**Bonnie Claire Shelton**, daughter of Dave and Mary 'beth Shelton of Winston Salem, has been homeschooled from kindergarten to graduation! Bonnie has been on the FHE cheer squad all four years of high school and was team chaplain her senior year. She is active in her church youth group and music ministry. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing, with pediatric oncologist nurse as her goal.



**Gabrielle Renee Shepherd**, daughter of Jerad and Diana Shepherd, graduates after homeschooling for nine years. She is very active in her church youth group, participates in the youth worship team, and the adult worship team. She volunteered at a local hospital, helps teach Sunday school, and enjoys attending Bible studies with her friends. She plans to pursue a career in worship ministry.



**Miranda Holly Shepherd**, daughter of Lee and Sarah Shepherd of Salisbury, graduates after being homeschooled her entire school career. She will attend DCCC to pursue a degree in the medical field. She is a member of the Eta Sigma Alpha Delta Epsilon National Honor Society where she has served as both secretary and treasurer. She has attended three 4-H NC Electric Congresses. She loves to dance and cook. Her life verse is Joshua 1:9.



**Savannah Faith Shockey**, daughter of Jonathan and Joy Shockey of Sanford, graduates after homeschooling her entire life. Since starting violin at age four, she now teaches violin and piano, ministers to others by singing in the family's southern

gospel quartet, and plays violin in the Lee County Community orchestra. She plans to attend Liberty University and continue using her musical talents while majoring in string performance.



**Casey Lee Simpson**, daughter of Chris and Susan Simpson of Summerfield, graduates after thirteen years of homeschooling. Her love for missions and children's ministries increased with her travels to Guatemala. Her leadership skills

and love for Christ is reflected on and off the athletic field. Her future includes pursuing a degree in missions and children's ministries.



**Casey Lyn Sloan**, daughter of Elizabeth Sloan of Holly Springs, graduates after homeschooling for three years. Casey is very active in competitive cheerleading with Cheer Extreme and has won many national championships including NCA, as well as world

championships including Summit. She has also enjoyed becoming a lifeguard and likes to paddle board and wake board in her down time. She looks forward to a future in the arts.



**Julie Kathleen Sultan**, daughter of Aaron and Cheryl Sultan of Rolesville, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. She loves anything to do with voice, theatre, or dance, and she has participated in both community and regional theatre

productions. Julie plans to study musical theatre at a four-year Christian college where she has received both

talent and academic scholarships. She plans to make the stage her mission field.



**Ashley Joy Talladira**, daughter of Rick and Rose Talladira, is completing her lifelong home education journey by graduating from Child of the King Christian Academy in Lenoir. She is praying for God's direction for her future as she continues

to work at Chick-fil-A. Her interests include fashion, baking and decorating cakes, and criminal justice. She has earned her Citation Award with Awana.



**Hannah Nicole Talladira**, daughter of Rick and Rose Talladira, is completing her lifelong home education journey by graduating from Child of the King Christian Academy in Lenoir. She is interested in pet grooming and is interning with a groomer.

Her interests also include cosmetology and childcare. She is praying about which direction to pursue. She is earning her Citation Award in Awana.



**Lauren Elizabeth Tart**, daughter of James and Wendy Tart, graduates with honors after homeschooling for thirteen years. Her compassion for others and her unique sense of humor brings joy to everyone around

her. Lauren enjoys reading, makeup artistry, playing the piano, and spending time with friends and family. She also enjoys participating in Destiny Generation at Covenant Love Church and has volunteered with C-Luv Kids for three years. Lauren is currently dually enrolled at FTCC and plans to attend a four-year university.



**Tamia Marie Thomason**, daughter of Tommy and Sharon Thomason of Goldsboro, graduates after homeschooling for six years. She's very active in her church youth group, and she has volunteered as a youth counselor. She enjoys dancing

# Casey Sloan

You are loved my daughter. If I could give you one thing, it would be to see through my eyes, only then would you realize how special you are.

ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ARE BRAVER THAN YOU BELIEVE, STRONGER THAN YOU SEEM AND SMARTER THAN YOU THINK.

– Winnie the Pooh



with her dance team. She will be attending WCC in the fall for one year and later plans to attend FSU visual arts and music programs.



**Alston Mathu Thompson**, the youngest of three children, is the son of Glenn and Drenda Thompson. He graduates after being homeschooled for thirteen years. While maintaining a 3.5 GPA, he was very active in fine arts for the past two years, competing in local, state, and regional competitions through his local church. Alston has a heart for people and a caring spirit. He will pursue a fire science degree at GTCC and a career as a fire fighter.



**Anna Grace Thrailkill**, daughter of Bill and Angela Thrailkill of Mount Ulla, is graduating from Covenant Academy. She is a faithful member of Back Creek Presbyterian Church (PCA), their youth group, the Mexico Mission Team, and the Blackstone Mock Trial Team. She ministers to others by babysitting, cooking, and baking. She also enjoys journaling and reading. She plans to attend Mitchell CC to study writing, editing, and publishing.



**Gary Wayne Tinnes Jr.**, son of Gary and Hope Tinnes of Winston Salem, graduates in May. Gary enjoys riding dirt bikes, fishing, and hunting. He currently takes a form of martial arts from Israel called Krav Maga. Gary plans to attend DCCC or join the Navy. He will pursue a career in HVAC and carry on a family business. Gary, you are such a blessing to us, and we are so proud of you! We love you!



**Elisabeth Ruth Trantham**, daughter of Randy and Sharon Trantham of Canton, graduates after homeschooling for twelve years. Elisabeth plans to pursue a career as an x-ray tech at SWCC. She is active in church and is a member

of a puppet/drama team. She enjoys graphite sketching, basketball, and swimming. Working as a part-time lifeguard and swim instructor, Elisabeth continues to honor the Lord with her life and is a blessing to her family.



**Hannah Louise Trantham**, daughter of Randy and Sharon Trantham of Canton, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. Hannah plans to pursue a career as a physical therapist through Western Carolina. She is active in church, participating in a puppet/drama team. She enjoys hiking, working the family farm, and teaching horsemanship. Hannah is a young lady who loves the Lord and will continue to serve Him. Love, your family!



**Joseph Nathaniel Trebing**, son of Tom and Julie Trebing, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He has participated in sports throughout his schooling, and is very active in his church youth group. Joe's future includes working and attending Wake Tech CC where he plans to enroll in the dental hygiene program.



**Faith Victoria Tucker**, daughter of Roger and Janet Tucker of Indian Trail, graduates with honors after ten years of homeschooling. She is a member of National Honor Society, has participated in Key Club, 4-H, choir, Toastmasters, and has achieved the bronze star in Girl Scouts. She is a passionate volunteer in her community and an accomplished artist and writer in her free time. Faith has been accepted to UNC at Chapel Hill in the fall.



**Rachel Elizabeth Tucker**, daughter of Roger and Janet Tucker of Indian Trail, graduates with honors after ten years of homeschooling. She has participated in Key Club, 4-H, choir, and Toastmasters, and has achieved the bronze star in Girl Scouts. She is vice president of her National Honor Society

chapter. She is an active volunteer and loves to write and play guitar in her free time. Rachel has been accepted to UNC at Chapel Hill in the fall.



**Rhys William Tucker**, son of Roger and Janet Tucker of Indian Trail, graduates with honors after ten years of homeschooling. Rhys has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and is a committed volunteer in his community. He is a member of National Honor Society and has participated in Key Club, 4-H, choir, and Toastmasters. He loves to play guitar and skateboard in his free time. Rhys has been accepted to UNC at Chapel Hill in the fall.



**Carlos Andres Ubiñas**, of Newton, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. He spent half his senior year traveling across the country with his family and sibling band, YoungHeart. He is the lead singer and loves sharing the love of Christ through music, encouraging his generation to let go of who they think they are for all that Christ is making them to be. He currently attends Mitchell Community College.



**Kendall Nicole Vaughan**, daughter of Kelly and Marlea Vaughan of Waxhaw, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Kendall is a zealous reader and loves learning, especially about other cultures and languages. She enjoys drawing, listening to French and Korean music, watching Korean dramas, and spending time with those close to her. She plans to continue her education at CPEC and can't wait to see what the future holds.



**Caroline Leah Veater**, daughter of Eric and Denise Veater of Asheville, graduates with highest honors after thirteen years of homeschooling. She swam on the Trailblazers swim team and was team captain

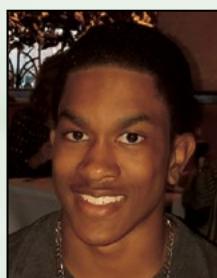
for three years. She also competed at the National Invitational Tournament of Champions in team-policy debate. She has been dually enrolled at the local CC and earned president's list honors. Caroline plans to attend Liberty University.



**Ethan Stencil Walton**, son of Jay and Robin Walton of Wilson, graduates after homeschooling nine years. With over a thousand volunteer hours served during high school, he has been active in scouting, Order of the Arrow, YMCA youth and government, 4-H, and his church and youth group. His accomplishments include earning his Eagle Scout rank and serving as senate page. He is a member of the Omega Chapter of the Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society. Ethan will attend Lynchburg College in Virginia as a Westover Honors Fellow and will major in political science.



**Alexander Michael Webb**, son of Stephen and Lynn Webb of Hickory, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Alex has been active in Boy Scouts of America for ten years, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 2015. He continues to volunteer in his troop as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Alex enjoys the outdoors, especially backpacking and camping. Alex currently attends Catawba Valley Community College in the Career and College Promise program. He plans to continue his studies at CVCC in pursuit of a degree in fire protection technology for a career as a professional firefighter.



**Jamel Timothy Webb**, of Fuquay-Varina, is the son of Charles and Genel Webb. He is graduating from Louise-Belle Christian Academy. He loves spending time with his brother and being involved in all things football. After graduating, he will attend Wake Tech Community College and UNCG.



**Jonathan Fisher Webster**, son of Jonathan and Janthi Webster of Charlotte, will graduate after thirteen years of homeschooling. Jonathan is an Eagle Scout and volunteers as an emergency medical responder with Lake Wylie EMS. He has been active in his

church youth touring choir for the past four years as a leader and bass guitar player. He will attend Anderson University in the fall to study emergency services management.



**Tracy Wiseman**, daughter of Tim and Penny Wiseman, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. She enjoys piano, drama and church activities. She has been dually enrolled at Pitt Community College and will continue as a freshman next year.

She plans to transfer to East Carolina University to study communications with a master's in student counseling.



**Daisy Lee Weil**, daughter of Paul and Sarah, graduates after five years of homeschooling. Daisy has played many years of softball, enjoys the beach, is interested in classic cars, and wants mom's Jeep! She enjoys designing clothes, making crafts, and honing her

baking and culinary skills. She loves children and volunteers at church with the infants and toddlers. Daisy is a free spirit, kind hearted, enjoys her family, and is a delight to all.



**Meagan Renee Womack**, daughter of Joel and Denise Womack of Scotland Neck, graduates after twelve years of homeschooling. Meagan is an accomplished artist who has attended summer classes at UNC School of the Arts and has

sold several commissioned pieces. She plans to major in art and psychiatry. After college, her goal is to open her own art therapy practice that specializes in working with autistic children.



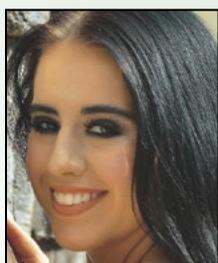
**Catherine White**, daughter of David and Amy White of Clayton, graduates after homeschooling twelve years. Catherine is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. She is a competitive dancer and instructor at her

dance studio. This past June she was crowned Miss North Carolina's Outstanding Teen. While representing our state, she was named first RU to Miss America's Outstanding Teen. Catherine has been accepted to ECU's School of Theatre and Dance. She will pursue a major in dance performance and choreography and a minor in communications. We are so proud of her.



**Lewis Michael Woodland**, son of Craig and Jo-Anne Woodland, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. Lewis has been the organizer of the RC Drivers Club and a member of the local RC flying club. He is an avid student

of space exploration and modern technology. He intends to pursue his passion for photography, videography, and aerial cinematography. An entrepreneur at heart, and an excellent communicator, Lewis plans to work in business.



**Cheyenne McKenzie Wilkerson**, daughter of Melissa and Lonnie Wilkerson of Staley, graduates after homeschooling for eight years. She plans to attend GTCC for nursing and then transfer to UNC Charlotte to study

for a master's degree in nurse anesthesia.



**Abigail Anne Wright**, daughter of Alan and Anne Wright of Bermuda Run, graduates after homeschooling for thirteen years. For over a decade, Abby has enjoyed weekly training in ballet and in equestrian skills. Within

NCFCA, Abby has blossomed as a public speaker, receiving multiple awards including a national title. At Reynolda Church, she serves as a student leader and

regular mission trip participant. She'll attend UNC-CH or Belmont University.



**Lily Rose Wright**, daughter of Steve and Jennifer Wright of Charlotte, is graduating with honors and has been homeschooled since the age of four. In addition to school, she has enjoyed volunteer work at her local library, theater group, and church. Having been called at a young age into overseas missions, she looks forward to starting the next part of her journey at Nyack College in Nyack, NY. Her life verse is Isaiah 6:8b: "Here I am! Send me." 

*Commit to the LORD  
whatever you do, and  
your plans will succeed.*

*(Proverbs 16:3)*

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# Alumni Updates

**Rebecca Fleming '03**, with three college degrees (two bachelors of arts degrees from High Point University and a masters of library science from ECU), is now the assistant manager of Archdale Public Library. Rebecca is also a contributing author to a six-volume series of books, *Holidays with Jane*, modernizing Jane Austen's novels with holiday themes.

**Stephanie Terry '05** began college early with the NC concurrent enrollment program and became an RN at nineteen. She had a very fulfilling career in pediatric nursing until her first child was born and has since worked intermittently in the nursing world as much (or as little!) as she wants. She is now a second-generation homeschooler!

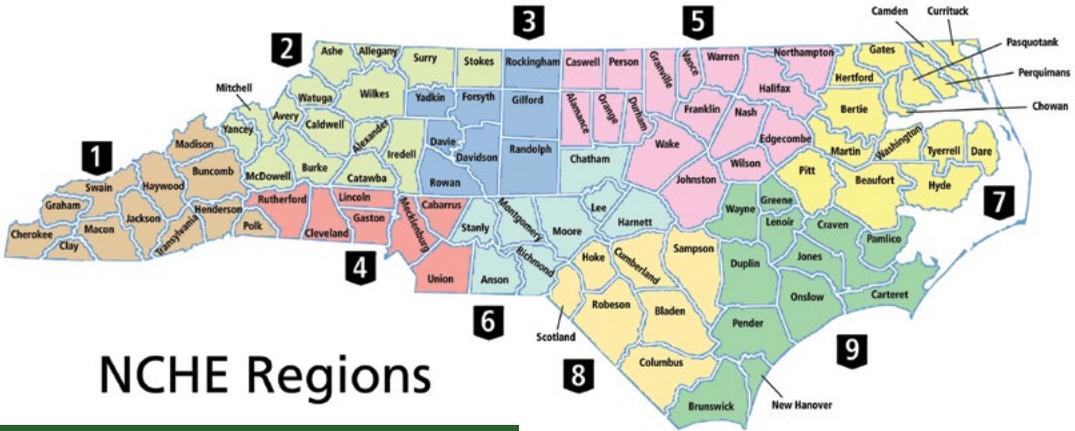
**Mereda Hart Farynyk (née Mason) '07** is a UNC Chapel Hill graduate, a wife, a mother of a baby boy, and an author of two novels (YA dystopian, *HYACINTH: the average girl* and YA fantasy/fairytale, *Daughter of the Rain*). Her third novel—the second in the Remnant trilogy (*HYACINTH*)—will be published soon.

**Kelsy Tai Dean '14** graduated at seventeen. Spending her first two years at Eckerd College studying marine science and Japanese, she transferred to WCU where she is majoring in Japanese and minoring in creative writing. She will spend the summer in a study abroad program with CIEE in Japan. She's made the dean's list and plans to graduate in 2018! 

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### About NCHE

In 1984, North Carolinians for Home Education was organized by homeschool parents to support and encourage home educators and to achieve the right to freely home educate in North Carolina. Since that time, NCHE has endeavored to serve the homeschoolers in NC. NCHE continues to work to promote the excellence of home education, provide support for those who choose to do so and protect the right to homeschool. Our name was selected so as to include all who are for home education, not just those who are currently homeschooling. NCHE is governed by a working board of directors who volunteer their time and efforts to serve homeschoolers. A non-profit organization, NCHE operates on the basis of biblical principles and welcomes members of all races and religions.

### NCHE Membership

Membership in NCHE is available to anyone who supports home education. NC residents who are homeschooling must be in compliance with the NC homeschool law. Membership is obtained by donating any amount to NCHE (suggested donation is \$25). The service of NCHE is made possible by the generous and consistent contributions of its supporters.

### GREENHOUSE Information

The GREENHOUSE is the periodical of North Carolinians for Home Education. It is published twice a year, spring and fall. There is also a special graduate publication in May. It is mailed to subscribers and posted online. The name GREENHOUSE was chosen to represent the type of care homeschooling parents are able to give to their children. Children are lovingly "tended" in a protected and nurturing environment until they are sufficiently mature to go out and take a place of service in the world. Letters and articles addressed to the GREENHOUSE become property of NCHE with full right to publication without further permission required. Ideas and opinions expressed in articles do not necessarily represent those of NCHE.

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A person with short reddish hair, seen from behind, is sitting cross-legged on a large, dark rock. They are looking out over a vast body of water towards a bright sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the sun is a large, glowing orb in the upper right. The water reflects the light, creating a shimmering effect. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

What lies behind us, and what lies  
before us are small matters  
compared to what lies within us.

---

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*