

SUMMER 2015
Volume 33 | No. 4

GREENHOUSE

Nurturing Home Education in North Carolina and Beyond



In This Issue



- A Beautiful Calling, but a Real Struggle—
• The Life of a Single Homeschool Mom
- Make This Summer a Turning Point for
• Struggling Readers
- Who Benefits the Most from Homeschooling?
- The Redesigned SAT—Math
- Teaching the Important Stuff
- Trusting God in the Process
- Invisible Disabilities
- Learning to Serve
- Marking Memorable Moments in Your
• Homeschool



2016 Thirty-Second NCHE Annual Conference

M.C. BENTON CONVENTION CENTER, WINSTON-SALEM, NC



June 2-4, 2016 — Mark Your Calendars!

These speakers are already scheduled for the 2016 conference.



Carol Barrier
Funny and Encouraging
Homeschool Speaker



Brett Kunkle
Student Impact Director
at Stand to Reason



David Elkind
Author of *The Hurried Child*, *The
Power of Play* and *Miseducation*



Sonya Shafer
Co-founder of Simply
Charlotte Mason



Kirk Martin
Founder of
Celebrate Calm



MUCH EDUCATION TODAY IS
MONUMENTALLY INEFFECTIVE.

ALL TOO OFTEN WE ARE
GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE CUT
FLOWERS WHEN WE SHOULD
BE TEACHING THEM TO GROW
THEIR OWN PLANTS.

— John W. Gardner —

About GREENHOUSE

The GREENHOUSE is the periodical of North Carolinians for Home Education. It is a quarterly—four issues, plus a special graduate issue 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.

ADVERTISING: The publication of advertising in the GREENHOUSE in no way expresses or implies endorsement by NCHE of products or services.

DEADLINES (Received By)

Issue Date	Articles	Ads and Announcements
Winter - Jan/Feb/Mar	Nov 20	Dec 1
Spring - Apr/May/June	Feb 20	Mar 1
Summer - Jul/Aug/Sep	May 20	Jun 1
Fall - Oct/Nov/Dec	Aug 20	Sep 1

GREENHOUSE Editor

Debbie Mason Charlotte
(704) 541-5145 • email GREditor@nche.com

Published by:

North Carolinians for Home Education

4441 Six Forks Rd, Suite 106, Box 144 Raleigh, NC 27609

(919) 790-1100 • email nche@nche.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2** Kevin’s Kluge: Behind the Scenes at the Thrive! Conference Teen Game Night
- 6** Surveying the Sites
- 8** A Beautiful Calling, but a Real Struggle—The Life of a Single Homeschool Mom
- 10** Make This Summer a Turning Point for Struggling Readers
- 12** Who Benefits the Most from Homeschooling?
- 14** NC Treasures: Pickin’ and Grinnin’ with Music and NC History at the Earl Scroggs Center
- 16** The Redesigned SAT—Math
- 18** Teaching the Important Stuff
- 20** Trusting God in the Process
- 24** Never Too Old to Continue to Learn
- 26** Invisible Disabilities
- 28** From Classroom to School Room
- 30** Learning to Serve
- 32** Marking Memorable Moments in Your Homeschool
- 35** Bulletin Board

Behind the Scenes at the Thrive!

CONFERENCE TEEN GAME NIGHT



Kevin introduces the new NCHE board and liaisons

by Kevin McClain

The annual conference, our thirty-first, just concluded. It was an exciting experience with wonderful opportunities, as usual. There were lots of things I did during the conference that left an impression on me. It was great hearing and interacting with our speakers and also participating in the graduation ceremony. I could tell you about having dinner with Steve and Jane Lambert of Five in a Row and hearing Steve tell jokes. I then accidentally became the butt of several jokes as I revealed to everyone at the table that I don't know enough about how catered meals work. I could tell you about being interviewed by the Plaid Dads and being asked the Dr. Who question. This started a record-breaking run for me (eight times in three days) that I was asked some variation of, "Has anyone ever told you that you look like Dr. Who?" I struggled with creating equally varied and genuine responses to this question, from the simple: "Indeed," to the more engaging, tailored for fans of the show, "Which one, David Tennant or Matt Smith?" I could tell you about waiting with the soon-to-be graduates after practice while their parents and loved ones were being seated, as I congratulated them and encouraged them to do great things and later taking a selfie with a sharply-dressed bow-tie wearing young man named Jackson. But I am not going to tell you about any of those things. That would not be Klugey enough. Instead, I am going to tell you about something that I imagine most of our readers have little knowledge: Conference Teen Game Night.

First, let it be known that I am an introvert. The word *introvert* conjures



Kevin with graduate Jackson

different images for different people, no doubt. Being an introvert does not mean you hate crowds or loud noises or don't have the skills to mingle well with others. These are skills anyone can develop. An introvert is someone who finds being in groups exhausting and who recharges their battery in solitude. My favorite activity is a long walk. So when I told events director and conference chairperson, Debbie Mason, that as president and chief-servant of the organization that I was willing to do any conference job she needed help with, I am not sure which conference involving roughly 7000 people I was thinking about. And I certainly did not think she would take my words so literally and ask me to lead several hundred teenagers in an ice-breaking activity.

For some years, the conference has included a Teen and Alumni Game Social that provides an opportunity for the teens and alumni to socialize and relax (in non-introverted ways).

During this conference it was Friday night from 9:30 to 11:00 P.M. in the Embassy Grand Pavilion. NCHE provides tons of board games, playing cards, etc., for the several hundred kids who typically break into smaller groups to play these games and socialize. However, it has been NCHE's practice to start the games with an ice-breaker to help these

young people meet each other. This year I was asked to lead the initial, crucial ice-breaking activity because, with million-winning-powerball kind of predictability, no sane person had volunteered for the job.

To be honest, I don't know any large-group ice-breaking activities, and the Internet was not being friendly to my Googling. And I am a professional Googler—seriously, I am compensated monthly by a state institution to administer all things Googlely! But even my professional standing couldn't hone my search for a decent large group game for teens. Instead my search only yielded things that sounded like fun to professional torturers and youth pastors. Most of the suggestions I could find involved doing things like forming long chains by holding hands or interacting with other people's shoes. I asked my teenage sons if any of these ideas struck them as fun, and the faces they made told

me anything involving holding hands or another person's shoe was not going to fly. I asked Debbie what large scale ice-breaking things had been done in past. She told me about one time when she led a large-scale Pictionary-type game. According to her, it was fun, but *cheating* became rampant. I wasn't there, but I can only imagine. I am tempted to cheat any time I play any game involving doodling, simply because I cannot draw and find most people with whom I am playing don't know how to draw either. So, I'm not sure what happened in the past, and it's not my place to judge; I just knew that the ideas that were before me sounded more like "Teen Lame Night." I was determined to do a better job than past ice-breaker Teen Game Night leaders, so I did what every other leader does—I ignored the problem and procrastinated.

At 9:00 P.M. I found myself in the Grand Pavilion, a room organized with about thirty round tables each seating at least

ten. There were about thirty board games spread out on the stage. In about thirty minutes, several hundred teens were going to be walking through the door, excited and ready to play games. I had one idea: some variation of the game of Spoons. I learned this game as a teen, and I have always loved it. About a dozen teens showed up early, and

so I quickly recruited them to play this game with me to see if maybe it could work on a large scale. For the uninitiated, Spoons is like Musical Chairs, except instead of music, you use playing cards, and instead of chairs, you use spoons. The goal is to avoid being the person in the end without a spoon. I explained this game quickly, and the dozen kids played it twice. They seemed to enjoy it, but I instantly knew it wouldn't scale. In addition, there is not a lot of ice-breaking going on with the game. I knew it wasn't going to work.

It was then about 9:25 P.M., and I understood that I was in trouble. Several hundred teens were going to be there any second, and the only thing between them and the game of their choice was going to be one leader requiring them to participate in large group ice-breaking activity. I imagined their cold stares if I tried to encourage them to hold hands or another person's





Kevin playing Ninja with the teens

shoe, and I longed for my own time machine into which I could escape. Times like these form and shape a homeschool leader and cause him or her to wisely use what assets they have so that they can be an example to others. In this particular case, my second-born son was my asset.

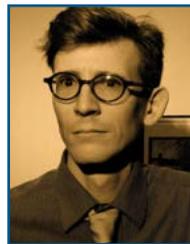
My fourteen-year-old son and I literally made up a game in four minutes. My son's initials are ATM, and he sometimes jokes that his name is "Automatic Teller Machine." So starting with his name, he and I generated two alternative names with those initials to go along with his true name. I wrote all three names on a whiteboard. When the kids arrived, they were excited. My son and I were on the stage with my whiteboard. I introduced my son without saying his name; then I showed them the three names I'd written. I polled the room and asked the room to guess which one was my son's real name. Incredibly, the whole room seemed to get into it, and in the end, voted for one of the legitimate sounding fabrications. When they were told the real name, I could hear throughout the room teens laughing and saying to each other that was what they were *really* thinking (oh sure, like I believe that!). I then told the teens to do the same thing with the kids at the tables where they were seated. If they already knew a person, they could recuse themselves on that person's turn. If they wanted to change tables really quickly, they could. I sat down at one table with about ten young ladies. Together we played the game for about twenty minutes, and I was most delightfully deceived by some ingenious fabrications three times. I tell you this because I am confident this thing has potential to shake up the large group ice-

breaking market. I will soon be patenting this game and am already exploring options for a website address. Sadly, TheInitialGame.com is already taken but MyNamesNotAutomaticTellerMachine.com is still up for grabs.

Afterwards, I walked about the room and saw kids playing board and card games. Some teens were not sitting, but were standing and playing more physical games. Some were playing a very strange game that looked like a combination of underwater ballet or slow-motion fighting. I learned it was a game called *Ninja* in which everyone in a circle formed a Ninja stance and took turns making a single move in which the goal was to slap another person's hand.

You could only initiate a move if it was your turn or move in a reactionary way if someone else moved to attack you. I played a few rounds of this game and had a lot of fun. I was not very good at it. However, I've been recently reassessing some personal goals. I think mastering *Ninja* might be one worth pursuing. Don't be surprised if at next year's conference, I get introduced as Kevin McClain, Game Originator, *Ninja* Master and NCHC president.

So, in conclusion, I consider the Teen Game Night a success. I saw kids having fun, interacting and making friends. This year we renamed the annual conference. We call it Thrive! because that is our vision for families of North Carolina. However, when the conference committee voted on the name, I doubt they imagined that that included the idea of a group of teenagers being a pilot for a future-award winning game—which just goes to show that part of thriving is being full of surprises.



Kevin McClain, NCHC's president, and his bride, Brea, are embarking on their tenth year of homeschooling. Kevin recently earned his Ph.D. in educational philosophy from UNCG where he is employed as an educational technologist. 🇺🇸

An Academic Home as Strong as Their First.

Josh, Edward and Sarah call their transition to Regent university "seamless." These formerly homeschooled students grew up in environments that encouraged academic challenge, supported by a solid Christian foundation. They're experiencing this and more, thanks to Regent's 60+ undergraduate degree options, caring professors, and community of students who share similar goals. Ready to join them? Learn about our homeschool-friendly admissions policies and tuition discounts for HSLDA members.

**Associate | Bachelor's
Master's | Doctoral**

ON CAMPUS & ONLINE

**Top 7% Most Affordable Undergraduate
Christian Colleges-CCCU, 2015 Survey**



**REGENT
UNIVERSITY**

College of Arts
& Sciences

Christian Leadership to Change the World

APPLY NOW FOR FALL.
regent.edu/success | 888.718.1222



SURVEYING THE SITES

by Lorie Codispoti

We've been busy surveying the Internet for websites that you will enjoy. Our goal is to provide something for everyone so we've organized these fun, informative, and educational sites into four categories for you to explore.

Articles of Interest

"Motivating Your Child Is Easy as P.I.E." by Debbie Elder

<http://www.theoldschoolhouse.com/motivating-your-child-easy-as-pie/>

Like baking a pie, motivating your children requires preparation: "P" for planning, "I" for involvement and "E" for enthusiastic encouragement. In order to prepare for this task, you need to know what it is you are trying to accomplish. What type of person do you want walking out your door at age eighteen? And what is your plan to achieve this goal? Making this decision is necessary because once the big decisions are made, the little ones are easy. Ask: does it get me closer to my goal or not? (DE)

"Nurturing Your Children's Language Development" by Fran S. Hamilton

<http://grammarandmore.com/tips/printlanguage.htm>

Parents, whether or not they homeschool their children, are in the best position to give their children a solid foundation in English. Here are some things they can do. (FSH)

Teacher Feature

Homeschool Curriculum Free for Shipping

<http://www.homeschoolfree.org/p/welcome.html>



This is a non-profit, pay-it-forward homeschool community that helps to provide new and used curriculum to families in need. You can sign up for email updates and follow them on Facebook. They host a series called "I've Been There" on their website where you can go to read articles written by real families that have made it through real struggles.

Learning American History through Movies and Free Timeline

<http://heartofwisdom.com/blog/learning-american-history-through-movies-free-timeline/>

This blog post article offers a free downloadable American history timeline that spans twelve eras. The movies are listed chronologically by era also. And don't forget to look at the reader comments for added suggestions. This is a great resource.

It's Elementary Today I Found Out

<http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2014/06/50-u-s-states-got-names/>

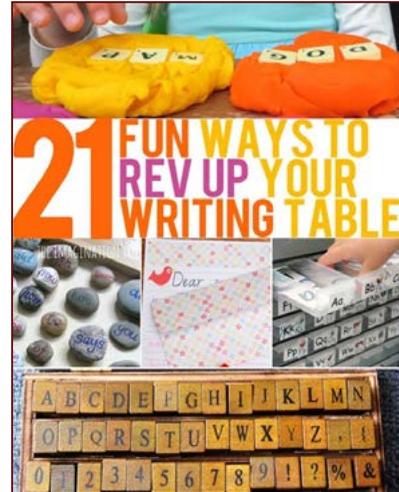
Feed your brain with fun facts about how the states got their names, and that's just a

taste of what this website has to offer. There are literally thousands of interesting facts you can tap into here. They come in the form of videos, articles, podcasts and more.

21 Fun Ways to Rev Up Interest in Your Writing Table

<http://childhood101.com/2014/08/21-fun-ways-to-rev-up-interest-in-your-writing-table/>

This is a great site for anyone that thinks of themselves as artistically challenged when it comes to thinking up creative ways to teach basic writing concepts. The ideas presented here will add to the value of learning through play. Don't be surprised if the whole family joins in the fun.



High School and Beyond Memorize the Periodic Table

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1GeU_qJ6KY

This fun and informative video series will show you the easiest way to memorize the periodic table through visualization and association.

100 Words Every High School Freshman Should Know

<http://blog.writeathome.com/index.php/2013/06/100-words-every-high-school-freshman-should-know/>

This blog entry is written by a word lover and also includes links to words every middle schooler and high school graduate should know. For extra fun, try taking the quiz that tests just how well you know each of these words.

Note: Ideas and opinions expressed on the websites in this column are not necessarily those of the author or NCHE.



Lorie Codispoti is retired from homeschooling after successfully graduating her two children. She and her husband, John, are former NCHE board members. Lorie can be reached at GatesOfElloree@gmail.com.



A Beautiful Calling, but a Real Struggle— The Life of a Single Homeschool Mom

by *Debbie Crawford*
and *Joanne Giff*

Anyone who has been called by God to homeschool will immediately understand the title of this article. Homeschooling can be romanticized in our minds. We have pictures in our head of our sweet children getting along, breezing through a school day, being kind to each other and doing their chores without being asked.

The truth is usually not as pretty as our imagined picture. Our children are rebellious or don't get along; teaching is harder work than we envisioned, and we get discouraged and are tempted to believe that we misheard what God was saying!

When they consider the day-to-day things that also must be done, it's no wonder single moms feel like they can't make homeschooling work. Time is at a premium, and there already aren't enough hours in the day for all of the other things, besides teaching our children.

Though the task feels overwhelming, nationwide there are a lot of us doing it every day—approximately 137,000 home educated students in single parent homes according to a 2012 study by the National Center for Education Statistics. We admit that most nights we collapse into our beds and pray that the next day will be easier, but with determination and God's help, we make it through each day. We were called to homeschool, and as long as God wants us to, we will.

So how can you homeschool as a single? We hear this question a lot! Here are some things that have helped us along the way:

1. *Prayer, prayer and more prayer!* We want to emphasize that we wouldn't make it through the day without prayer.

2. **Organization**—It helps to have a routine so that the kids know what to expect when they start their day. This does not mean that you don't ever stray from your routine, I (Debbie) admit that I don't always follow my plan, but it's there to guide me if I get stuck and forget what I need to do next. A family calendar is a *must!*
3. **Flexibility**—You need to learn to be flexible! Changes to your schedule are going to happen. A child getting sick, getting called in to work or a sports game not written on the calendar will throw you into a tailspin if you are not flexible.
4. **Teaching with practicality in mind**—Math can be taught while measuring ingredients for dinner. Science can be taught while outside working in the yard or garden. History can be taught with educational and fun videos. Don't forget to teach life skills, such as cooking, cleaning and other chores; this is very important, as every child should be able to do basic housekeeping and cook at least a few meals before they leave for college.
5. **Remembering that we are not out to duplicate the public school system.** Do what the schools can't—find out about your child's learning style and tailor your teaching to it.

If you are recently divorced or widowed and struggling with whether or not to start or continue to homeschool, please do not underestimate the healing power of the relationship you have with your children. This relationship will only be strengthened as you educate them at home. Most of the greatest moments of joy in our lives are those that have involved our children. Let the power of your conviction to honor your commitment to the Lord to raise your children so that they will not leave the faith (Proverbs 22:6)

be your driving force. Our children are precious to us, and we are all precious to our Father in Heaven. We wish you peace and joy in the storm. Have faith to step out and join Jesus on the adventure of a lifetime, one you will never regret.



Debbie Crawford is a widowed, single homeschooling mom of two. Her daughter, who is twenty, graduated from homeschool in 2012 and is currently at NCSU where she is studying industrial design. Her son is going into the eleventh grade. She became widowed in her first year of homeschooling and now has ten years of homeschooling experience. She is excited to encourage those who are on the solo parent and homeschooling journey! She can be reached at debbie.crawford@mail.com.



Joanne Giff graduated from the UNC Chapel Hill and worked for the federal government for ten years. Approximately two years after her first child was born, she decided to be at home with her daughter. She now has four children, two in college and two still at home. She has been a home educator for fourteen years and singly homeschooling for approximately seven of those years. She has been trained in the Orton-Gillingham approach to dyslexia. She can be reached at giffjoanne@gmail.com

Their website is [website http://www.flyingsolo-singlehomeschool.com](http://www.flyingsolo-singlehomeschool.com).

We've been going to bat for homeschool freedom since 1983.

HSLDA

Join Our Team

www.hslda.org • 540-338-5600



MAKE THIS SUMMER A TURNING POINT FOR STRUGGLING READERS

by Elizabeth Macdonald

As the summer draws in, parents around the country are carefully planning their summer strategies for encouraging learning. The strategies themselves vary hugely depending on the children, however, there is one element that is consistent across the board, and it is some form of reading. For those with struggling readers this element can be extremely daunting. There are countless parents in the US who feel that they have tried every option and gotten every medical opinion, but nothing seems to end the struggle.

For those parents, here's a strange question: Have you ever asked your child what the text looks like to them?

It has been discovered that many of us see text differently than the majority of readers—for some, the words themselves may move or jump on the page; others describe color appearing on the page, while others say the lines “scrunch” or jumble together. These are just a few examples! Would you not agree that being able to see text clearly is a fairly basic pre-requisite of reading effectively?

We can learn from our British counterparts who now recognize this condition, known as visual stress. Visual stress is a neurological condition characterized by hyperactivity of the brain's visual cortex, whereby improper processing of visual information causes perceived distortions when viewing text. Amazingly, it has been found to affect nearly 20% of the population; however, the percentage is much greater in those with other learning disabilities such as dyslexia.

This over-stimulation occurs as a result of two things: first, the high contrast of the black text on a white page, and second, the patterns that the lines of text create. The two combined cause

what is called “pattern glare.” This pattern glare creates excess electrical activity in the visual cortex which can creep into other areas of the brain, which in turn, creates the distortions.

For many, visual stress simply means that they do not like reading for prolonged periods, or they may get a headache after a while when reading. However, for 5% of the population, visual stress can have such an effect that reading can become very difficult indeed. Symptoms of visual stress vary but can include headaches and migraines (especially when working at the computer), and eyestrain.

Some, or all, or the following can be noted while sufferers are reading. They may:

- Fatigue quickly when working with text or seem to experience increased difficulty after an initial period of about ten minutes
- Skip words or lines when reading
- Read slowly and haltingly and have difficulty absorbing information
- Track with the finger
- Yawn while reading or frequently rub their eyes
- Keep moving their head or body position or move closer to or further away from the page

Visual Stress typically causes the following distortions of print, although not all of the following will necessarily be experienced by one person:

- The print appears to jump or otherwise move on the page—sometimes appearing to move off the page altogether.
- Swirling effects appear in the text.
- Whole lines of text may appear to move.
- Shimmering colors may appear on the page.
- White rivers may seem to run down the page where the white background, as opposed to the black text, has become the dominant image perceived.
- Letters may double, reverse, fade or blur.

Basically, the image of the letters and words is unstable against the white background, and this instability can be experienced in a number of ways.

So what can be done? Well fortunately there is a simple solution, which is to read in color!

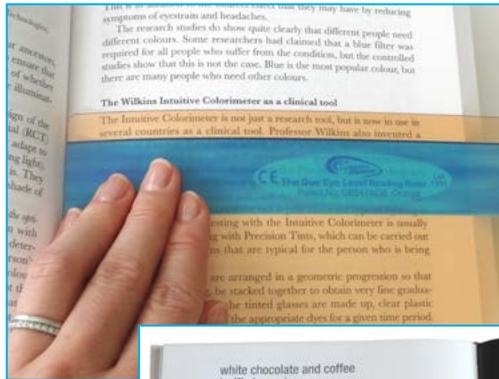
“Ladybug said that the yellow color of the Reading Ruler made the words more in focus. . . She went from struggling to finish one chapter book a week (in spite of good decoding skills) to reading one (eagerly and confidently) in a day *and* writing about it in her Reading Response Journal!” (The Old Schoolhouse review)

It has been found that for each of us there are specific wavelengths of light which cause the most stimulation, and when these are filtered out by reading through the correct color overlay, it *calms* the brain down

enough to process the information correctly and fix the text in place—simple! The effective color is not the same for everyone, so assessing correctly is very important; for example, yellow may help Jack, but it may make things worse for

Jill. Fortunately, all that is required is a set of ten overlays or Reading Rulers of different colors to systematically work through. These are increasingly available from companies such as Crossbow Education. It may seem too good to be true, but color overlays are now being used for this reason in over 65% of schools in the UK.

So before you despair when you look at your summer reading list, ask your child what the page looks like to them, and try reading through color!



Elizabeth Macdonald runs the US branch of Crossbow Education. Crossbow has become one of the leading British suppliers of educational resources, supplying to over 60 percent of all schools and colleges in the UK. Elizabeth has focused her attention on visual stress in the last year, a syndrome which affects over 20% of the population. She is dedicated to ensuring that all of the latest research carried out in Europe is successfully brought to the US. For more information, contact her at e.mac@crossboweducation.com or 252-773-3033.



Who Benefits the Most from Homeschooling?

by Steve Lambert

Study after study demonstrates that statically speaking, children taught at home do better academically than children taught in classrooms. We know homeschool students excel academically, are well-adjusted socially and often have time and opportunity to pursue non-academic interests, developing natural gifts in areas such as music, sports, robotics and debate.

We homeschoolers assume homeschooling is the best choice for our children and few would argue. We know there is great sacrifice on the part of parents to make the homeschooling dream come true. We generally make ends meet on a single income. It's not uncommon for mom to also work a part-time job and dad may even have a second part-time job. Being at home all day with children has its own rewards but lacks some of the benefits of a workplace community of peers and co-workers.

Your friends all assume you are somewhere between heroic and crazy to be homeschooling, but most will eventually (and perhaps begrudgingly) acknowledge your kids turned out just fine. In fact, more than a few friends and family will someday be willing to admit your kids turned out fantastic and homeschooling really did work beautifully for your family. But I want to suggest that in the end, the person who might benefit most from homeschooling may not be your child; it may be you.

But wait. You're the one making the financial and career sacrifices. You're the one spending endless days juggling parenting, homemaking, teaching and being a wife. You're the one spending hours upon hours going over multiplication tables and consonant blends. How can you possibly be the primary beneficiary of homeschooling?

Let me begin by saying I'm convinced the decision to homeschool is the response to a divine invitation. I believe God invites us to go on a homeschooling journey that often defies logic, financial wisdom and popular culture. I believe the Lord invites us to go on a journey of faith—a walk of trust as we move into an enormous unknown and unknowable realm when we respond to the divine urge in our spirit.

And I believe God has invited you on this journey for your benefit every much as for the benefit of your children. He knows you and your husband just as well as he knows your child, and as the ultimate multi-tasker, God sees value for all of you. This isn't being heroic for the children's sake, as much as it's being obedient for everyone's sake. Your entire family was in the Lord's heart when he invited you to homeschool.

There are issues in each of us that God has been working on for decades. Perhaps it's our temper, our perfectionism, our procrastination, our poor self-image, our quick tongue, our pessimism, our critical spirit or our lack of willpower. But, for whatever reason, we've been unable (or unwilling) to take control of these behaviors and conquer them.

Through homeschooling, the Lord has created a tremendous opportunity for us to experience victory in every one of those areas. What we often won't do because it's the right thing to do, we'll do because of love. Love is a tremendous motivator which can cause a 150 pound person to lift a 3000 pound car off a loved one who is trapped beneath. Love allows people with long-term addictions to break free for the sake of newly found love. And it often allows parents to experience victory over lifelong destructive behaviors for the sake of their children.

Spending seven days each week face to face with your children provides you with living witnesses to your behavior. You've seen the look of fear in their faces when you lost your temper—again. You've seen the look of disappointment in their faces when you didn't get your act together and cancelled the field trip—again. You've seen the look of hurt in their faces when you lashed out with a critical spirit and harsh words when all they deserved was a gentle correction—again.

As parents, we're human. We make mistakes. We will always make mistakes. Children don't come with operating instructions. We're learning on the fly and discovering our role in real time. We will never be perfect.

But I'm convinced homeschooling will make us not only better parents, better spouses and better men and women in our community, but it will also make us better individuals. Having a child hold a mirror up to your face every day is a tremendous incentive to finally do business with God about the *stuff* that has hindered you for too long.

God looked at you, your spouse and your children and concluded that homeschooling would be good—for each of you.

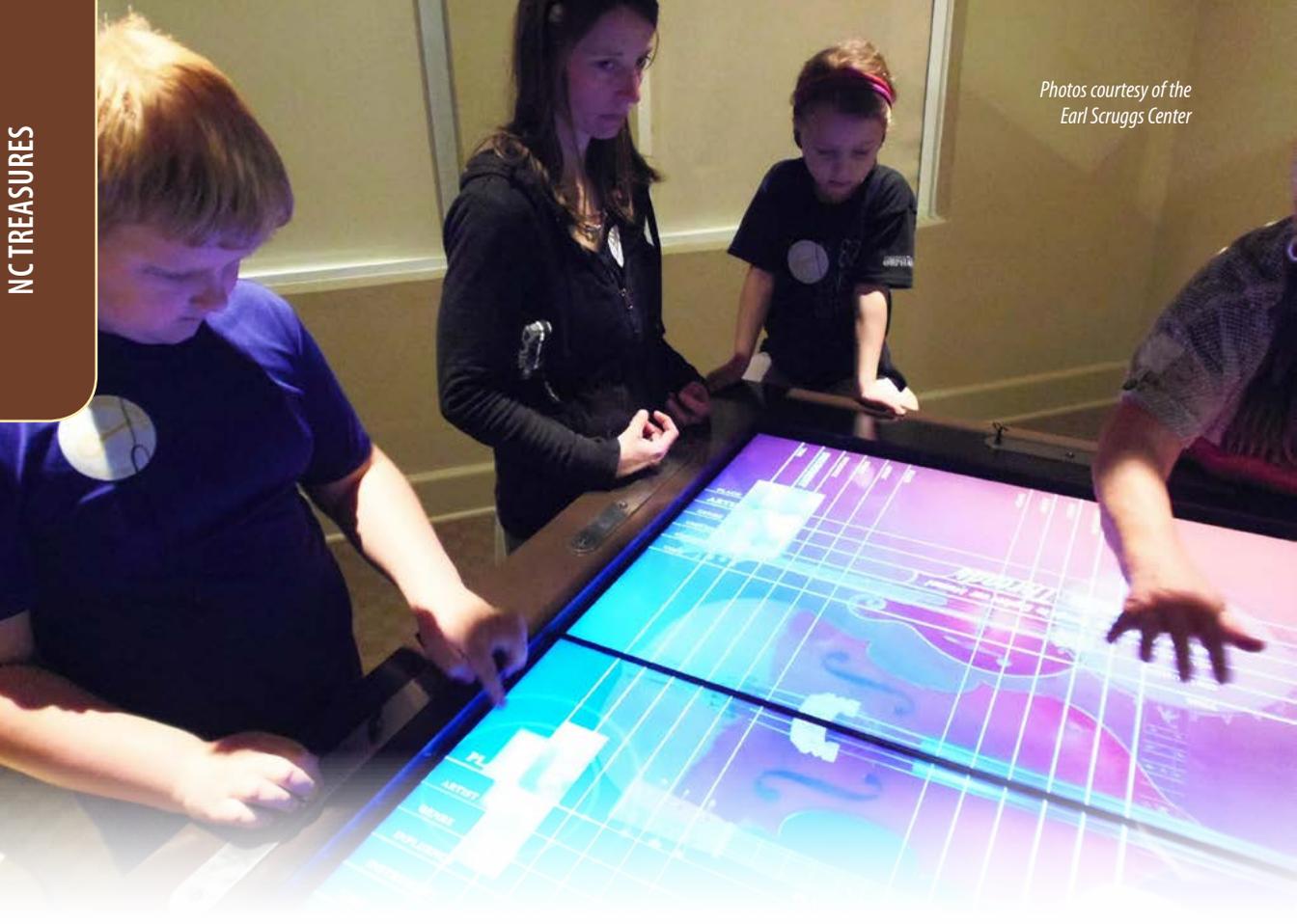
Embrace that truth this year and in the years ahead. Give thanks for the opportunities that homeschooling provides, not just academically or for your children's avocations and hobbies, but give thanks for the growth that it has accelerated in your own life. Embrace the challenging areas of homeschooling knowing the Lord has a plan for your life as well as for your children's lives.

The Lord has seen us with all of our faults and failings, and He has not only invited us to help shape the next generation, but in His mercy, He has given us undeniable evidence that we are daily growing up and being conformed to the likeness of his Son, in part, because of this wonderful opportunity called homeschooling.



Steve Lambert and his wife, Jane, began homeschooling in 1981, and today all six of their grandchildren are also being homeschooled. Jane Lambert wrote the award-winning curriculum "Five in a Row," and together they have been traveling the country and encouraging homeschoolers for more than twenty years. Each year Steve speaks to thousands of homeschoolers offering the perspective, wisdom and insight that comes from nearly forty years in the homeschooling field. Steve was a featured speaker at the 2015 NCHC conference.





Pickin' and Grinnin' with Music and NC History at the EARL SCRUGGS CENTER

by Sally Matheny

If you grew up watching *The Beverly Hillbillies*, you may remember musicians Earl Scruggs and Lester Flatt. Occasionally, they sauntered through the Clampetts' mansion door pickin' and grinnin'. If you missed their appearances, you didn't miss out on their music. Scruggs and Flat also performed the theme song for the show.

You can share the history of the toe-tapping, bluegrass music with your children by visiting a wonderful museum in western North Carolina. The Earl Scruggs Center, which opened in January 2014, is located on Lafayette Street in Shelby, North Carolina.

My local homeschool group recently visited the multi-faceted museum, housed in the former 1907 Cleveland County Courthouse. An array of activities provided opportunities for learning the history, music and cultural traditions of western North



Carolina. Presented with complimentary ear buds upon arrival, each visitor is encouraged to plug in and participate throughout the museum.

You'll learn about the legendary banjo player, Earl Scruggs, known for popularizing the three-finger playing style. Through live demonstrations, short films and exhibits you'll discover how Scruggs continually stretched music boundaries by learning new techniques to grow with the changing times.

The museum is definitely pushing the edge with fascinating technology. One of the most popular, interactive exhibits is the Common Threads table. Touch screens, the size of your dinner table, make different instruments, various music styles and musicians come to life. The students in our group found the hands-on learning extremely fun!



Another exhibit allows participants to adjust the speed of a banjo picking visual so they can actually see the placement of each finger and the sound it produces.

In addition to the evolution of banjos and playing styles, the Earl Scruggs Center also houses exhibits on other aspects of NC history, such as the cotton industry, cooking and the

advancements of technology.

Special events occur on a regular basis—from southern cooking demonstrations to outdoor performances. You can find out what's taking place as well as the hours and prices on the website: www.earlscruggscenter.org.

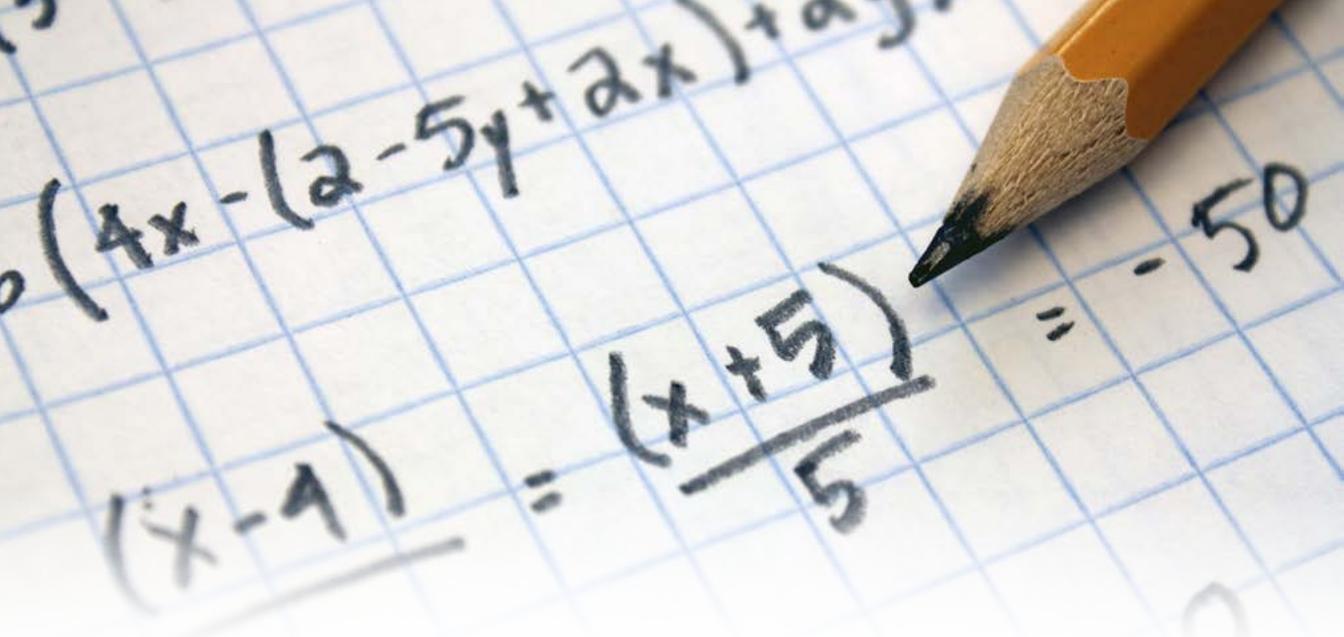
Also on the website, you'll find a multitude of free downloads to use in your homeschooling. Resources include project guides, journaling pages, as well as helpful teaching tips. There are suggestions for activities to do before, during and after your museum visit.

All ages will find things of interest at the Earl Scruggs Center. The exhibits are best suited for children over age five, but those under five get in free. Discounts are available for groups of twenty or more.

Allow plenty of time for your visit. We went with a group of sixty people and stayed about three hours. We still didn't feel like we explored it fully and look forward to returning. Most of the homeschoolers in our group aren't pickers, but we all left the enjoyable Earl Scruggs Center grinning.



Sally Matheny's mission in life is encouraging others. She enjoys "reflecting on ordinary life under God's extraordinary Light." A member of SCBWI and ACW, her articles appear in children's magazines Clubhouse Jr., Appleseeds, Keys for Kids and others. Sally also writes about parenting, homeschooling and Christian living for Practical Homeschooling, GREENHOUSE and Homeschooling Today. A former public school teacher, with an M.Ed., Sally is currently in her sixteenth year of homeschooling. She serves on the Write2Ignite! Conference team and enjoys teaching writing classes for homeschool co-ops. She and her husband make their home in western North Carolina. They are blessed with three children and one son-in-law. Connect with Sally on her blog: www.sallymatheny.blogspot.com, on Facebook and twitter. 🍷



The Redesigned SAT—Math

by Kathryn Gomes

Last winter the College Board announced a completely redesigned SAT, creating lots of questions and anxiety about the new format. In this article, I'd like to address the changes to the math sections of the test. All of the information I am citing is available on the College Board website. This is the snapshot version.

First of all, this is a dramatic change. They've reevaluated the goals of the test and tried to address many of its weaknesses. The math content has shifted, as well as the goal of the questions. Everything is based on research about the essential mathematical knowledge students need in order to succeed in college or in a post-secondary career.

There are now more multi-step problems and even scenarios attached to several questions. The majority of the questions involve simpler mathematics, but they emphasize conceptual understanding. Rather than being disconnected from real-world applications, the scenarios are drawn from other academic disciplines, such as science. In addition, there is now a twenty-question non-calculator section.

Most important: everything is aligned to rigorous high school mathematics. They have dropped all the tricky problems that previously characterized the SAT. Gone are the days of tricks, guessing C, and trying to beat the test, as if it was some type of a game. Now the questions correlate with the traditional high school math scope and sequence.

There are four areas of content: heart of algebra, problem solving and data analysis, passport to advanced mathematics and additional topics. A breakdown of the material included in each area is available on the College Board website. One important thing to note is that "additional topics," which is mainly geometry, comprises only six questions on the whole test. This reflects a movement in the math education world away from teaching geometry. The argument is that it is not essential for college-level mathematics. I wouldn't overreact and cancel all plans for a geometry class just yet, but it is something to keep in mind. The other takeaway is that the content isn't as broad as earlier tests, but it is deep. So it is going to be more important to master a few skills very well, than to make it to the final chapter of the math textbook.

My four suggestions to students preparing for the test:

1. Follow a rigorous course of study in high school. Completing algebra 1, geometry, and algebra 2 before you take the test will prepare you better than anything else. Of the three, geometry is probably the

least important, but I wouldn't skip it entirely. When you're taking these classes, be sure you thoroughly understand the material. Don't skip to problems at the end of the section (as I did!). See if you can explain the concepts to a younger sibling. Talk about what you are learning. This will prepare you for the higher-level questions on the SAT.

2. Spend time developing your problem solving skills. Signing up for programs like Drexel University's Problem of the Week will give you lots of practice with multi-step math problems. Or you could join a math club or co-op class so you have the opportunity to work in groups and discuss mathematics. Do something that involves mixing skills together and applying the concepts you have learned to real-life situations.
3. Sign up with Khan Academy. This is a great and completely free resource. The College Board is partnering with Sal Khan to create lots and lots of free test prep. They've given Khan Academy exclusive access to sample questions so that excellent test prep material can be developed. If you haven't been to the Khan Academy site recently, you should check it out. In addition to their famous videos, they now have quizzes and points that you can earn. It is a lot of fun.
4. Finally, look for redesigned SAT prep materials. The main one

I am watching is the College Board's guide. All of the other test prep books should be releasing new editions, so make sure if you buy one it is for the redesigned SAT. The College Board has also recently released a practice PSAT test on their website which is aligned with the new test.

Those are my suggestions. The test will be challenging, but it is manageable if you take sufficient time to prepare.



Kathryn (Bell) Gomes, the third child of Kermit and Debra Bell, was homeschooled K-12. A Commended National Merit Scholar and AP Scholar with Distinction, she earned a full tuition scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh where she double majored in French and mathematics with a minor in Arabic. She then continued her studies at the University of Pennsylvania where she earned a master's in education. Now a stay-at-home mom, she teaches math and French online through Debra Bell's Aim Academy. Kathryn and her husband, Jason, live in an ethnically diverse neighborhood on the outskirts of Philadelphia with their one-year-old son, Joseph.

WE ARE GARDNER WEBB

APPROXIMATELY 4,700 STUDENTS

22 NCAA DIVISION I SPORTS

60+ CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE OF 25

13:1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

Join us on October 2 for our Homeschool Visit Day!

Gardner-Webb is a university with a rigorous curriculum and a belief in the transformative power of a Christian liberal arts education.

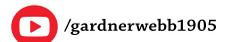
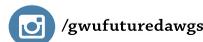
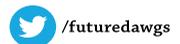
With 55 major and minor programs of specialized study to choose from, top-tier faculty, and academic programs with a strong emphasis on service-learning, Gardner-Webb graduates leave campus with more than just a college degree.

gardner-webb.edu/visit



GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY

800.253.6472 admissions@gardner-webb.edu





TEACHING THE IMPORTANT STUFF

by D. Kevin Brown

Most homeschool families desire to teach the principles of God to their children so that they grasp, and eventually own, their own faith—they *get it*, when it comes to following Jesus Christ. Therefore, for many homeschool families, one of the principal factors for choosing to homeschool is the opportunity to teach their children godly principles from the Bible. They desire to do more than just teach reading, writing and arithmetic. Their goal is that their children have a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ and follow Him. Accomplishing this task is easier said than done, right?

According to *Barna Research Group*, 70% to 90% of Christian teenagers will abandon their faith by their twentieth birthday. That's a shocking statistic! According to the research, these children were raised in *Christian* homes and taken to church—so how could this happen? Could it be that we aren't being intentional about transferring our faith to our children? Could it be that we are more interested in our children's success than their character? Could it be that we feel pressure from outside influences to focus on our kids' mental abilities, in comparison to their peers at church and other public school children, to the detriment of focusing on the state of their heart?

I believe the Apostle Paul hit the nail on the head in Philippians 1. He writes as a father yearning for his children. You can almost feel Paul's heart pounding in his chest as he writes:

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:8-11

That's it! That's what I want for my children! I truly want my children to be able "to approve what is excellent." I want them to know what it is to be "pure and blameless." I want them to be "filled with the fruit of righteousness." But, these qualities won't be acquired by osmosis. We must intentionally teach and train our children so that they will know what is excellent and acceptable.

Today our children are being bombarded by so many influences that are outside the home and church. They have computers, iPads, smart phones, TVs, friends, etc., that come with worldviews that aren't always godly. Do you know what your children really believe? Do you know what they are really thinking? Do they have a godly worldview?

You see, just because our children are growing up in our *godly* home, and we take them to church, and we have a morning prayer before we start homeschooling, this doesn't mean they are going to automatically follow Christ. The truth is: for many years, our family was simply *public schooling* at the kitchen table. We were so concerned about the *important* stuff (education) that we neglected the spiritual. Marvin Olasky of *World Magazine* says it best:

The prime purpose of Christian education is not to instill in students a certain set of behaviors, although that may be a side effect of good teaching and learning. It's not even to put into our children's heads a certain amount of factual information, although a well-stocked memory is a great aid. No, our greatest educational task is to help our children see the hand of God in all things and to

give Him glory. You see Christianity isn't a hobby we play around with when we are not doing more important things.

That last statement hits me hard: "Christianity isn't a hobby we play around with when we are not doing more important things." Ouch! Yes indeed, the truth hurts.

So, the choice is ours. We can teach our children to be intelligent, brilliant and successful. They can grow up and live the American Dream and retire one day with a fortune, but would that really make them a success?

We do want to teach our children the quadratic equation, the Pythagorean Theorem and that "K" stands for potassium on the Periodic Table of Elements. But, let's not neglect the important stuff—the stuff that Jesus talked about—you know: *Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33.*

Yep, that's the really important stuff and all that will matter in the end.



*D. Kevin Brown and his wife, Pam, are parents of four children (two adopted from China) and have one grandchild. They have been homeschooling for eighteen years and have one married daughter (a homeschool graduate) and three children still in the home. Kevin pastors Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Wilkesboro, NC, and has written *Rite of Passage for the Home and Church—Raising Christ-Centered Young Adults* and *To Date or Not to Date—What the Bible Says about Premarital Relationships*. Brown has a passion to transfer the gospel and the principles of Scripture from one generation to the next.* 🇺🇸

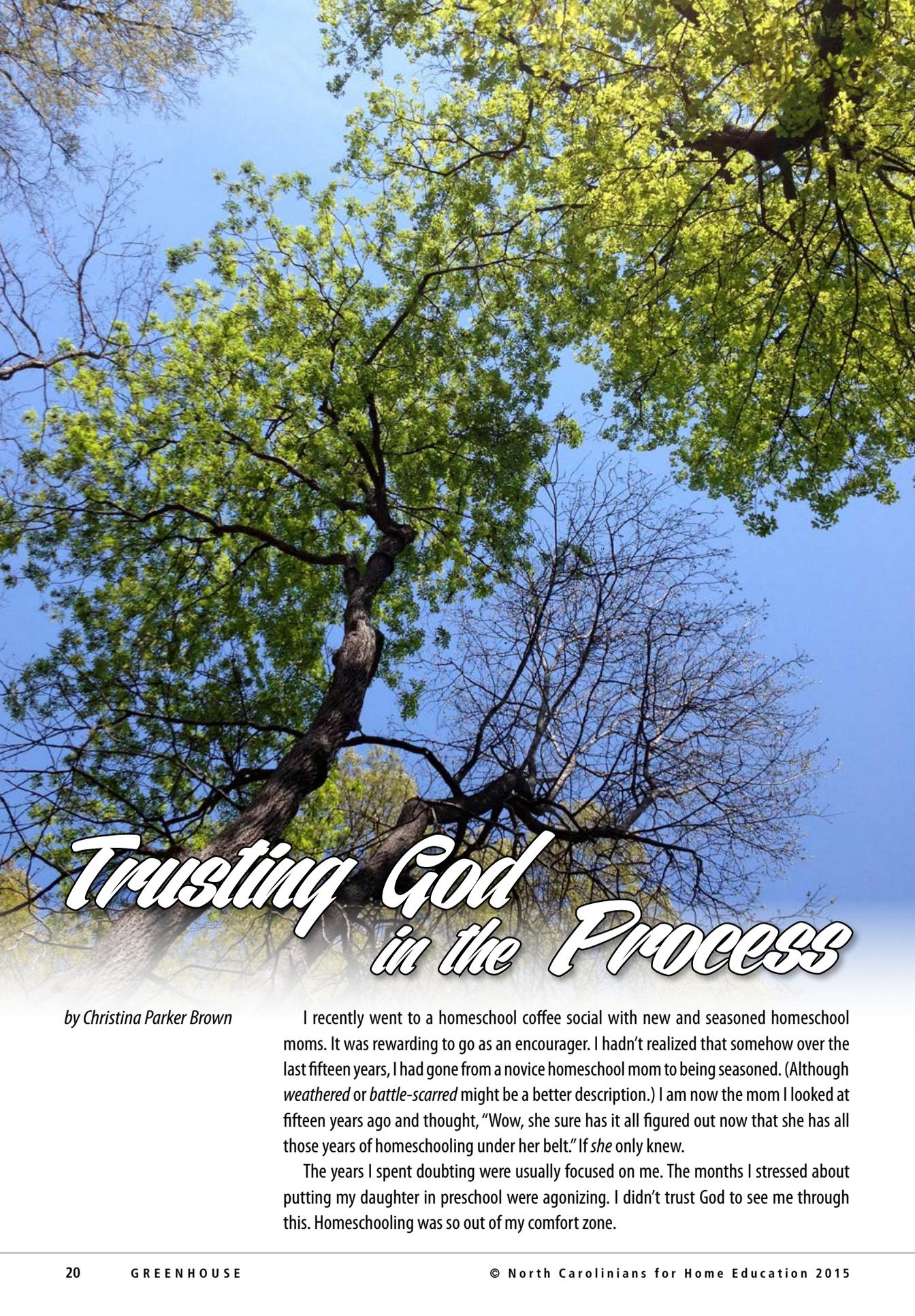


Institute for Inquiry Science

Anatomy and Physiology Course

offered online in 7 weeks with lab activities. Great opportunity for high school students. Monthly enrollments. Certificate with successful completion of the course and the exam. Visit our website

www.inquiry-science.com



Trusting God in the Process

by Christina Parker Brown

I recently went to a homeschool coffee social with new and seasoned homeschool moms. It was rewarding to go as an encourager. I hadn't realized that somehow over the last fifteen years, I had gone from a novice homeschool mom to being seasoned. (Although *weathered* or *battle-scarred* might be a better description.) I am now the mom I looked at fifteen years ago and thought, "Wow, she sure has it all figured out now that she has all those years of homeschooling under her belt." If *she* only knew.

The years I spent doubting were usually focused on me. The months I stressed about putting my daughter in preschool were agonizing. I didn't trust God to see me through this. Homeschooling was so out of my comfort zone.

Christi Deason, the president of Homeschool Charlotte and the coordinator of the coffee social said something that resonated with me. I haven't been able to shake it. She, having graduated and married off two successful children, said "Trust the process." As a new homeschool mom, you just aren't able to fully see the fruit of your efforts. Sometimes it is hard just to lift your head out of the trenches to even pause for a view. God has placed you as a homeschool mom over your children for a reason. Trust Him to see you through struggles, conflicts and disappointments. No one ever said it was going to be easy. But it will be good. God is good.

Then he [Jesus] asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Mark 4:40

As my oldest prepares to graduate, I am realizing the fruit of our homeschool experience.

My graduate is kind. She believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. She is compassionate. She knows how to learn. She is a giver, a tremendous leader and (although I'm a little biased) an exceptional human being. He did that—even with all my holes in her education, all my faults and all my short comings.

Just this morning I received a mom's note saying, "Last night at the dance I watched [your daughter] treat a young, fumbling, feet-shuffling, awkward young man with such kindness and grace. She just smiled and never lost step while he tried his best. You have reared a lovely young lady!"

I have gotten other comments like this over the years as well. As much as I would like to take the credit, I know in my heart that it has been Him who has overseen her education. God took this stubborn heart of mine and placed me (out of my comfort zone) in His will to homeschool my kids. Now, I see why more than ever.

And just this past week, as my eight-year-old and I went

for a run, I found her chalk art all up and down our cul-de-sac street.

"Trust the process" is becoming my new mantra, not only in homeschooling but in other areas of my life as well. I only wish I would have *gotten* this truth sooner. And although I still struggle at times, I know in my heart, God's got this.

Tips for trusting God in the process of life:

- Pray, pray, pray. As a homeschool mom, sometimes just dropping to your knees and trusting is the way to get through the day. I have done this with my



God loves you

kids as well. Philippians 4:4-7 says we are to do this with thanksgiving. Start a monthly prayer group; ask others to pray for you and begin each day in prayer, intentionally giving Him your requests.

- Read His life letter to you. Soaking in scripture grows your faith. When you can produce His promises on the tip of your tongue to encourage yourself or another, you will strengthen your trust. The more you know Him, the easier it is to trust Him.
- Trust Him, not yourself. This isn't easy for the control freak in me. If God placed you as a homeschool mom, trust Him to finish the good work in you. Proverbs 3:5,6 says, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.* (NKJV)
- Look for fruit whether from a kind comment from a stranger or improvements you can see yourself. Intentionally seek it out.
- Remember this is a life-long journey. Every crisis will call for a new commitment to trusting Him.

I am grateful He trusted me to be a homeschool mom. It is a priceless gift. And I never could have done it on my own.



Christina Parker Brown attempts to capture grateful everyday moments with words and a camera. Her writing is inspired from her faith in Jesus, being a homeschool mom of eleven years and authentically embracing an imperfect life. Her passion is to encourage others. Most often you can find her yard saling, reading, or writing about her faith, family and adventures in NC on www.akahomeschoolmom.com.



Subscribe Today.

To continue receiving GREENHOUSE, subscribe today. Go to nche.com or call the NCHE office at (919) 790-1100.

I AM APOLOGIA SCIENCE

"The biblical worldview of the Exploring Creation series and its authors is refreshing. These are real scientists who present God's creation in all of its awe and splendor. References to God's handiwork are intertwined throughout the texts at appropriate times. As we learned science, we were reminded where the earth and all of its creations come from."

Sue Mercer
Homeschooling Mom

"Apologia Science was a great launching point that helped me succeed throughout college. I would absolutely recommend Apologia to parents and students looking for an effective and interesting science curriculum.

In fact, I already do whenever I meet homeschooling families!"

Allyson Mercer
Bachelor of Science in Food Science, Purdue University"





Never Too Old to Continue to Learn

by Denise Moore

I have always loved learning new things. While my children were still at home, I learned how to run sound (for my church), how to buy stocks (for a stock club) and Latin (just for fun). These were topics that I initially knew absolutely nothing about—I was definitely a “Greek to me” novice.

Now, after spending the last fourteen years homeschooling my children and sending them off to college, I am turning my attention to learning math. My last algebra course was in my early college years about forty years ago, and my current plan is to begin at algebra and get through pre-calculus over the summer. This should prepare me for re-learning science, specifically chemistry and physics—my goal for the future.

Okay, I know what you are thinking. It is the same reaction I have received from others when I tell them my summer plans. With scrunched up faces and an obvious wrinkled brow, they respond with “Really?” or “Why?”

Why would a woman of sixty-plus years seek to embark upon such a rigorous mental journey? Isn't it time for her to retire, relax and take a well-deserved break from school (especially after having homeschooled *all* those long years)? I have asked myself that same question, and I have come up with three reasons why I continue to seek new things to learn:

1. To shore up my humanity
2. To know God
3. To learn because I love learning

The first reason I am learning a new discipline is to shore up my humanity. I have been one of those folks who spent their academic learning life in the humanities. Although I was very good at algebra as a young student, working math problems still took so very long, and then if you made a mistake, you had to start all over again! I wanted instant results, mainly so that I could spend my time on the good stuff, like literature and history. I used to think, why do I need to recreate the experiments myself? Can't I just read about your findings?

However, now that I am older, I see that I am only half-made. I know very little about the sciences and math. Maybe my curiosity is stronger, but now I am interested in how and why things work.

The second reason I am learning a new discipline is that I want to know God better. It occurred to me

that I would not hesitate to join yet another Bible study (I have been in many) or head off to the next conference (been to a fair share of those, too!) to take the opportunity to learn more about God. However, I was ignoring the God of creation. I have never even given myself the chance to hear Him speak through nature, to see His beauty reflected in what He has made and to try to understand how He made it.

I am just starting out on this math and science journey, so I do not have much to say—yet. But I will take the word of those who have gone before me that God can be gloriously found in rationals and radicals, ionic bonds and stoichiometry.

The third reason that I am learning a new discipline is that I love to learn! I love to learn about things that I know absolutely nothing about. The joy that comes from learning something new and foreign has led me to spend many hours in the process, just for the fun of it.

While I was learning different topics, I was also being exposed to an explanation of the three stages of learning: grammar, dialectic and rhetoric. In the first stage, the grammar stage, the student learns the facts, rules, definitions and concrete aspects of a given subject. In the second stage, the dialectic, the student learns how the grammar pieces fit together, the “how and why” of the grammar they learned in the first stage. In the third stage, the rhetoric stage, the student is ready to take what she has learned in the grammar and dialectic stages and produce an artifact, perform an activity or even teach others.

For example, to learn to play a board game, the novice player must first learn the details of the game. What are the names of the pieces? What are the rules? Are there new definitions to be learned? Second, the player must play the game as a dry run to see how it works. At this stage, the player will ask many questions to acquire the best understanding of the game in order to play well. The game may need to be played many times before the player can begin to understand how to play the game well. The final stage occurs when the player has reached a thorough understanding and can finally play at a level where she now begins to employ her own strategies and countermoves to become a worthy opponent.

Looking back, I clearly recognize these three stages in my learning of sound engineering, stocks and Latin, although the learning I did in each of these areas was achieved through different methods. When I learned how to run sound, it was through on-the-job training. Being taught a skill by a mentor was a wonderful experience, although my learning curve was very noticeable, especially when things went wrong. Even if I could do a particular task quite well, if something did go wrong, it was difficult for me to find the cause because I had jumped over the grammar stage and dialectic stages into the rhetoric stage. I had skill, but no real

understanding of the technical aspects of audio reproduction.

I learned about the stock market simply by reading everything I could get my hands on. I learned quickly how important the grammar stage was as I continuously returned to definitions to understand the mysterious workings of the stock market. Although learning on your own can be very difficult, the rewards are great. The light-bulb moments are indeed precious when you have struggled yourself to acquire them.

Learning Latin was not difficult, but it required lots of time. I decided to attend an online class because I knew I needed the accountability and because having someone to answer my questions would be beneficial. Another advantage of learning from someone who has experience is that they have knowledge of the difficulties that might be encountered, and they can give good guidance for being successful. In fact, one thing I admired about my Latin instructor was that he never gave the answer when a student did not know it. He simply kept asking questions until the student arrived at the place where she knew something. It would quickly become evident to the student that she lacked the knowledge of the vocabulary or Latin endings, or that she was lacking in understanding of a certain concept. Whether it was back to the basics of grammar or revisiting the logic of Latin syntax, the student knew where she needed to place her efforts to do well the next time.

All in all, I love learning new things, but the best part is learning about learning itself. Either you learn that you can do it yourself or you enjoy learning from others and gleaning from their knowledge (and maybe you even learn how they teach others). My experience has given me the confidence to say that there is nothing that I cannot learn. Consequently, by learning new things, I reap the additional benefit of shoring up my humanity, increasing my knowledge of God and experiencing joy in the process.

In closing, after I accomplish these two goals of learning math and science, then I can wait around for my girls to start producing grandbabies. At which time, I can begin once again to fulfill my three reasons for learning, but in an area I hope I know at least a little bit about.



Denise has been involved with Classical Conversations since 2003 in various tutoring roles: Foundations, Essentials and Challenge I and IV (sixth-twelfth grade). She has worked for corporate Classical Conversations since 2009 and currently serves as product support director. She has graduated two of four daughters from Classical Conversations and currently resides in Knightdale, NC.



Invisible Disabilities

by Amanda Garner

We faced a new season in our homeschool this past year as we decided not to return to the co-op we had participated in for a number of years. Although it was a tough decision, it allowed the children and me to participate in a wonderful group called Community Bible Study—something I've always wanted to do. We enjoyed this new avenue for making friends and studying the scriptures together.

After meeting corporately, the moms and kids divide into smaller core groups to discuss the week's lesson. My group is diverse in age, background, ethnicity and ability. One of my new friends has shared transparently about her battle with severe chronic pain. She regularly struggles with basic, daily tasks that most of us take for granted and often does so with a smile. You'd never know just by looking at her that she suffers with debilitating pain on a constant basis. But internally her body hurts, and sometimes her heart too. She has rightly described herself, and many others, as having an invisible disability.

As I was thinking about this sweet friend one evening, I began to wonder how often the same can be said of homeschool moms. I say that, not to marginalize a person's physical disabilities, or to inflate a home-educating mom's plight; it was a genuine concern that came to mind. Although most of us possess a certain degree of strong independence and grit that is inherent in directing our children's education, I imagine there are some among us who are struggling silently.

You know that mom who has a dozen kids and makes it look so easy? She might be battling postpartum depression.

What about that mom who seems to have unlimited financial resources for curriculum or activities? Perhaps she struggles in her marriage with a husband who's gone more than he's home.

What about that mom with all the talented kids who are successful in all things academic or athletic? It's possible she's dealing with a rebellious heart and attitude in one of her children.

And what about that mom who always seems so godly and spiritually mature? She just might be struggling with her faith, doubting God's goodness, questioning His faithfulness.

My dear friend encourages others suffering with unseen disabilities to be bold in telling others about their invisible illnesses so that those around them will be aware of their needs. I think all moms, and especially homeschool moms, would benefit from doing the same. So my challenge to you is two-fold

First, tell a friend. We need to be honest with each other, sharing our struggles, fears and burdens. If you keep wearing a smile and never allow yourself to be vulnerable, no one will ever know, and if they don't know, they can't help. So whether it's as simple as the frustration of lost library books and pencils that mysteriously vanish at math time or as serious as a rebellious child or troubled marriage, please talk to someone. Confide in a close friend, a church member, a mentor or a staff person at the church you attend. Most importantly, tell your Father. He's a *good* Father who loves you perfectly and unconditionally.

Second, be a friend. Some of you may not have a particular burden or problem you're struggling with at the moment. If that happens to be the case, praise the Lord and then ask Him to show you who might need your help. That might mean asking your friend

the hard questions: *How's your marriage? How's your walk with the Lord? Do you have your child's heart?* Then once you ask, simply listen. Don't try to fix it. Don't give unsolicited opinions, advice or suggestions. Just listen to her heart. People are sometimes helped simply knowing they are not alone.

Perhaps you can identify with my sweet friend; your outer appearance may not accurately reflect your inner struggle. Or perhaps you find yourself tied up in the *daily*ness of life and fail to notice those around you who need help. Whatever the case may be, I pray that we all would have the courage to be real and honest with each other, to "...bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal.6:2)



Amanda and her husband, Wes, serve in full-time ministry in Oxford, NC, where they live, love and learn together. Married for twenty-one years, they have home educated their four children for the past eleven years. Amanda also enjoys encouraging other homeschool moms via her blog: www.dropsofdelight.weebly.com

Looking for an easy way to **assess** your student's progress in **Math and Reading**?



Standardized Tests for Grades K-12

Let's Go Learn

Affordable, Valid, and Reliable
Online Diagnostic Tests in Reading and Math

Easy-to-read results provide a comprehensive report to:

- Monitor student progress and discover potential
- Diagnose student strengths and weaknesses
- Provide information on curriculum effectiveness
- Help with placement in classes and programs.
- For grades PreK through 12!

Also Available

- Stanford 10 Online for Grades 3-12
- (CAT 6) TerraNova 2 Tests
- California Achievement Tests
- Iowa Tests (ITBS and ITED)

www.setontesting.com

800-542-1066



From Classroom to School Room

by Rebekah Hendricks

It's amazing how God can change your heart in ways you would never expect.

As a girl I always wanted to be a teacher. That desire never went away. Sure, there were times when I wanted to be a 911 dispatcher (stemming from the old *Rescue 911* show) and or the next Kathie Lee Gifford on *Regis and Kathie Lee*, but the desire to be a teacher remained.

As I graduated from UNC Chapel Hill and started my first job, I was completely happy. I was finally fulfilling my lifelong dreams as an elementary school teacher. I always felt, and was always told, that it was something I was born to do.

When I met my husband, Tommy, he was extremely supportive of my job and encouraged me daily, but he shared with me his desire that his children be homeschooled. My response was a very quick, yet mostly kind, "I'm not sure that's going to happen, Babe." After that one conversation, I was quick to forget about it all and move on.

Tommy never forgot. He knew me, he knew my desires, and he respected them. I was born to be a teacher, and I had no desire to stop working in the public school system to homeschool my children. It just wasn't me at all. He knew that he would never change my mind, and if he tried to do so, it could have easily become a point of contention in our marriage.

What Tommy also knew was that God alone could change my heart.

Having twins born in August and also a two-year old, I decided to take the next school year off. I remember being so excited to return to school the following year. I loved my kids, but I did not feel like I could ever be the stay-at-home mom. I needed to plan, stay busy and stay active. That year, I became pregnant with our fourth child and continued working after his delivery.

Almost two years ago, we bought our new house. We bought it with the expectation that both Tommy and I would have full-time jobs. About six months after we moved into our new house, thoughts of homeschool started to enter my mind. I kept the thoughts to myself for a while before I shared those thoughts with Tommy. He, of course, was encouraging. My fear and my excuse was our financial situation.

In the first month after moving into our house, we accumulated a lot of debt. It cost us thousands just to get out of our old house. Tommy's car needed several major expensive repairs. Our credit card debt skyrocketed. In addition to this, we still had college loans. All of this debt totaled somewhere between \$45,000 to \$50,000.

Needless to say, we did not like this debt at all. In February 2014, we decided to do a Dave Ramsey financial study during our Bible study group time. We found this study to be very beneficial. It was what we needed to feel that we could control our money instead of our money controlling us. Our first step was using

an envelope system. At the beginning of each month, I took out the planned amount of money to spend on gas and the planned amount to spend on groceries. It was my goal to spend only the planned amount each month. I began focusing on ways to decrease our grocery bill.

As I started really focusing on what we spent during the month, Tommy was focusing on using the snowball effect to pay off our debt. First, we came up with a monthly budget and cut out all unnecessary spending. We made a plan how to most effectively take everything that was left to begin eliminating our debt.

I shared my interest in homeschool with my friend Susan who homeschools her three children. She and her husband, Josh, were our Bible study leaders. She was completely shocked by my interest in homeschool, but encouraged us to attend the NCHE conference in Winston-Salem to get a peek into the world of homeschool.

In May, Tommy and I attended the homeschool conference. We had no clue what to expect, but we loved it! It felt a lot like a parenting conference. We left with the intention and desire to start homeschooling after the twins finished kindergarten and Taylor finished second grade. That would give us an additional three years with my paycheck to use for debt consolidation and savings.

That fall, we attended the Weekend to Remember marriage conference. The entire conference was geared solely to the relationship with your spouse. On the last day of the conference couples split for a women's session and a men's session. Before my speaker began, I prayed that God would make it known exactly what He desired from me to be a better wife to Tommy. She never once mentioned the need to be a stay-at-home mom. She never mentioned the term "homeschool." She never encouraged the women to leave their job. All of that being said, the only thing that I kept hearing was "Quit your job."

Quit my job? Yeah, right. That was definitely *not* what I wanted to hear. I wasn't ready yet. It wasn't in my very well-thought out plan! As she continued to speak, tears streamed down my cheek. This was not what I wanted to hear. It's not what I wanted to do, but it was clearly and undeniably what God was calling me to do.

Halfway through the men's session, the speaker asked the guys to take a minute to pray and write down the one thing that their wives needed from them to feel the most love. The thing Tommy heard was get the school room ready.

Following the session we shared what we learned and the different things we heard God telling us. It was surprising to us that we both heard God telling us something that was completely unrelated to the conference and something that we had not really discussed much on this trip.

God knows the plans he has for us. His plans may take us out of our comfort zone. They may shock us. But we trust Him. He has been faithful to provide. We're now almost debt free and hope to

be debt free, with the exception of our house, by the time I receive my last paycheck. He has shown us that His ways are better than our ways.

This was my last year teaching. I am leaving my classroom and moving into our school room where I will begin my new journey as a homeschool mom to my four kids. I will greatly miss my school family, my amazing fourth grade team and my co-workers. There are no words to express the appreciation and love I feel for this school. They have loved me, supported me and encouraged me in countless ways over the last twelve years. They've become some of my closest friends. It's hard to leave and let go of this school and family that I love so dearly, but I must.

I choose to obey God.



Rebekah Hendricks graduated from the UNC Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. After spending eleven years teaching in Buncombe County Schools, God has called her and her husband, Tommy, into a transformation she never expected—from being a full-time teacher in the public school room to being a full-time teacher in their home to their four children, ages three to seven.

Bayside School Services

Do It Yourself Testing \$50

25 years supplying tests worldwide

Easy ordering, available all year

No extra or hidden costs, free USA postage to you

Genuine McGraw-Hill Education Scoring

Free Practice Exercise for Grades K-8

Scholarship assistance available

Prepare with our **Teacher Guide for the CAT/6™**

Order online right from our website, or call and we'll send you our informative brochure with order form. Email your questions and we'll get you answers right away!

Bayside School Services

PO Box 250, Kill Devil Hills NC 27948

baysideschoolservices.com

orders@baysideschoolservices.com

voice messaging 800-723-3057



Learning to Serve

by Dara Halydier

Homeschooling opens up a myriad of opportunities for service and allows the parent to display servant leadership that can then be emulated by the children. Servant leadership is the biblical leadership model that Jesus used. He did not sit to the side and give orders. Nor did He leave orders and go off and expect them to have been accomplished when He returned. Rather, Jesus worked alongside His disciples and served with them teaching them and training them along the way.

So how can you as the parent teach service to your children? It starts when they are very little by teaching them to put away their toys, encouraging them to help with household chores and teaching them that they are important to the family because they can help to make the days go smoothly by pitching in. This includes making beds, sweeping, cooking, cleaning floors, cleaning their bedrooms and even cleaning the garage and mowing. Cutting vegetables for stew and fruit for fruit salad are family events. And it is always fun to have the children help you with a special surprise for someone like surprising Dad with a clean garage or really making Mom's day by having dinner on when she gets home from an activity. I often encouraged a child to sneak into a brother's room and make his bed for him while the brother was in the shower. The benefits from this game will be appreciated by every mom when the children pick up on the idea and begin to surprise family members and others on their own!

Fun is a part of the equation of training your children for service. One autumn we needed to rake a lot of leaves in the front yard. We divided into two teams and raced to see which team could get their section raked the fastest! The reward was getting to choose a movie that evening, and the losing team had to serve the ice cream!

We put a broom into our kids' hands as soon as they could walk. They loved pushing the vacuum cleaner as early as age three, and by age nine, their rite of passage was getting to clean the bathroom! Let me explain. On each birthday we gave our children a new privilege and a new responsibility. For example, along with getting to clean bathrooms at age nine, the children also got their bedtimes extended to 9:00. But if the bathroom wasn't cleaned on Saturday without Mom having to nag, the child lost the bedtime and went to bed at 8:30 with the younger children. By seventeen when our boys started driving, their privilege was getting to drive. The responsibility included doing chores while they

were out. If they complained about the chores, they would lose the keys for a week.

So, service starts in the home where the children learn that hard work leads to reward—but the reward is often merely the satisfaction of a job well done! As parents we tried not to criticize when the job was not done up to our standards. Rather, we chose to give a word of appreciation for the effort that was put forth, and then we stepped in and to help the child finish the project to our expectations. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Proverbs 18:21). We did not flatter them with praise when the job was not done well. Praise always came when we saw hard work and good attitudes.

As the boys’ service moved out from the family to include neighbors, church members and others, we always gave the guarantee that the job would meet Mommy approval. This made the boys work hard, so that Mom wouldn’t need to step in. They took pride in a job well done on their own. Often, service projects included helping Dad and Mom at the church—setting up chairs, putting away tables, even checking the parking lot by driving a golf cart! See, service can be fun! Mom and Dad showed by example and worked alongside the boys. We often raced or just talked and enjoyed the time together as we worked. This is how you teach servant leadership—by example.

When the boys were eight or nine, they began a company called “Any Odd Jobs.” They took flyers to all the neighbors, and we told people at church. Pretty soon their evenings and weekends were full with mowing, taking in groceries, weeding, raking, cleaning attics, etc. They always negotiated the price, often charging a coke to the older ladies that couldn’t afford lawn care. They were eventually able to buy their own riding lawnmower and got a contract with the church to keep the church properties neat and tidy.

Our older boys went on mission trips with their dad to Haiti, Mexico and Russia where they taught karate, played volleyball and soccer and gave away soccer balls. The boys helped to erect a bunkhouse for a school in Haiti, and also constructed a playground. The Haitian boys and girls had never seen swings and teeter totters. Our boys came home with a new appreciation for what they have!

As adults, our boys continue to serve. They are involved with missions in India, in mentoring younger boys, in teaching inner

city children weight lifting and karate.

There are opportunities for service all around you. Maybe you have an elderly neighbor that would appreciate your children visiting with him or reading to him. Baking pies or cakes and taking them to a neighbor is a great way to serve others. During the holidays, chipping in by serving meals at a homeless shelter or the



Salvation Army can teach your children appreciation and humility. Jesus was the epitome of servant leadership when He knelt and washed His disciples’ feet. The King of Kings, the Creator of the universe, the Lord Jesus knelt at the feet of lowly man and washed the dust off of their feet. Wow! Service requires humility and produces humility. It is hard to put yourself above others when you are on the ground looking up at them!

Hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, local mission groups and your local church all have programs for volunteers. Learn your child’s interests and help them to plug in. One friend has a daughter who loves to crochet, so she crochets hats and blankets for the local

fire department and police station to give to children who have lost everything. My oldest son did the story hour at the local library for years because he loves to read and loves children.

Pray that God will show you and your family how He would have you to serve. Teach your children good work habits, the joy of doing a job well, the satisfaction of finishing a job, the humility of doing for others and the joy of serving. Work alongside your children and be the greatest example of servanthood to them. This is a legacy that will serve them well all of their lives and that they will pass down to your grandchildren.



Dara Halydier has five boys and homeschooled over twenty-one years. The boys are now launched and doing well! She is the author of Practical Proverbs for Older and Younger Students and As They Sit and Stand: A Resource and Guide for Teaching Your Children the Bible. Dara is the executive director of Abiding Truth Ministry, Inc., a non-profit organization that uses biblical training to mentor, train and teach life skills to young people and families. Dara spoke at the 2015 NCHC Thrive! Conference.



Marking Memorable Moments in Your Homeschool

by Debra Bell

One of the attractions of homeschooling is the opportunity to seamlessly fuse our children's education with the rhythms of family life. One of the downsides, I learned, is children are never quite sure where they stand in terms of their educational progress.

More than one of my four kids looked confused when a stranger asked, "What grade are you in, Honey?" When they were old enough to realize they could get rewards from local restaurants if they produced a report card, they held a summit and presented their demands: *We want a definitive answer on our grade placement. We further insist on report cards, recess, snow days and back-to-school shopping trips.*

In the early years, I was eager to throw off any trappings of a traditional education. My educational philosophy was *learning all the time* and the blurring of the lines between family life and the school day was an important part of living this out. It was a shock to end up with children who demanded that conventions be observed. In their view, they were being denied something of value.

With experience, I came to see that many of these traditions create touchstone moments for kids—evidence of progress, achievement and maturity. While I loved homeschooling for its flexibility and informalities, my kids wanted a homeschool where rites of passage were duly noted and cultural conventions observed. *Fair enough, I conceded, I agree to your terms, but I'm drawing the line at report cards for French fries. We will mark those milestones that are noteworthy and establish some traditions of our own.*

Now that my homeschool days are over, I have the benefit of hearing my adult children reminisce about their childhood, and it is those traditions they remember. In hindsight, here are the takeaways I see from making those concessions:

- Establishing traditions in our homeschools create meaningful memories for our children. These, in turn, contribute to what they value about their family.

- Marking milestones gives kids a sense of accomplishment, and that produces motivation to keep exerting effort. Without recognition, enthusiasm can lag.

- Observing cultural traditions; such as snow days or participation in organized sports, gives our kids a point of connection with their more conventionally-educated peers. Few kids want to enter the broader culture without some shared experiences in common.

So what can we do to mark these memorable moments and make them meaningful? First, sit down and decide what kinds of memories you want to create with your children. Settle upon a few traditions you can achieve, especially those where the kids can help. Homeschool parents do not need more busywork or commitments they can't keep.

Here are some ideas:

Back-to-School Shopping: During the elementary years, my kids were happy to get new backpacks, a supply of pencils and, for my daughters, the latest flair pens and markers. Even though we weren't really going anywhere, those backpacks became a great place to keep their supplies organized. Most companies who offer these incentives will extend them to qualified homeschool parents. Just ask.

Once kids are pre-teens, then back-to-school traditions will surely include some serious clothes shopping. Here's where you can kill two birds with one stone if you are shrewd: Most grandparents are looking for ways to be a part of their grandkids' education—and at our house we made back-to-school shopping another opportunity for gift-giving (just for grandma!).

Take a Photo: One homeschool mom in our support group had the foresight to take a photo of her daughter posed on their front porch on the first day of school each year. Those charming pictures captured the history of her daughter's fashion statements and youthful manias enshrined on each year's backpack, from *Aladdin* to *Lord of the Rings*.



Kick-off Field Trip: This was our family tradition, started when my sons complained about missing out on riding a school bus. I said I'd go one better, and we instituted a surprise field trip, often an overnight, as the official start of each school year.

Family Recognition Night: Our local homeschool co-op ends

The Homeschool Gathering Place

We provide new and consigned curricula, a wide array of other homeschool and family resource material, and guidance in making the best selections for your needs.

Tues-Sat 10am-5:30pm
*Tues & Thurs evenings
6-8:30pm for adults &
nursing babies only, please.
Closed Sunday & Monday.

919.571.8106
www.homeschoolgatheringplace.com

Near 440 & 540 Belllines in
Oak Park Shopping Center:

5204 Hollyridge Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27612

Copyright © 2009 The Homeschool Gathering Place



the year with an awards ceremony that also doubles as a huge church social. Each family is given a table to display that year's memorable accomplishments: 4-H awards, science projects, arts and crafts, photographs, creative writing or athletic competitions. Students man their tables and share their experiences with visitors and friends. We found creating a broader audience for student work increases the amount of effort kids put into the work they display.

The evening begins with a short program that features the musical or dramatic talents of some of the students, and the co-op teachers recognize outstanding achievements. The emcee also announces any distinguished accomplishments; such as, National Merit or Eagle Scout awards. The evening concludes with refreshments. Family recognition nights are a great way to end the school year on a high note by highlighting the progress each child has made.

Call the Media: The bread and butter of your community newspaper is reporting on local school news. These folks will be more than happy to cover your homeschool events, too, if someone just takes the time to give them a call or shoot them an email. Kids love to see their pictures in the newspaper, and it lends legitimacy to your educational choice.

Portfolios: It isn't just homeschoolers who eschew grades these days; many conventional schools are shifting to portfolio assessments. This is a collection of a child's best work in each subject area and sustained progress is the goal. Submitting an annual portfolio is required of homeschoolers in the state where I live, and what started out as a burdensome task for me became a treasured rite of passage once I brought my kids into the process. My children kept a file of their work throughout the year, as well as lists of field trips, activities and books they'd read. The last two weeks of school were spent sorting through these files, selecting their favorite pieces and photos, revising writing assignments one more time and regluing or stapling projects back together. These were compiled in a binder and decorated with a unique handmade cover. Now that my children are grown, those portfolios bring back a flood of warm memories. Here's where we documented how homeschooling and family life did

Achievement, Cognitive, Career and Practice Tests

www.TriangleEd.com

National standardized achievement tests



Specializing in

- The Iowa Tests®** for grades K-12
- Stanford** for grades K-12 **Paper & Online**
- Terra Nova** for grades K-12 **Complete & Survey**
- former CAT Test (California Achievement Test)
- Woodcock-Johnson® III** for ages 4-99
- Brigance®** - up to 7 yrs. developmentally
- CogAT®** for grades K-12
- OLSAT** for grades 2-12 **Paper & Online**
- Interest Explorer™** for grades 9-12

The Iowa Practice Test, CogAT/OLSAT Practice Test, Scoring High Test Prep Books

Group discounts available • Some restrictions apply
Your *Child* is Uniquely & Wonderfully Made

Triangle Education Assessments, LLC
5512 Merion Station Dr, Apex, NC 27539
Ph. 919.387.7004 • orders@triangleed.com
Toll free or fax order:
1.877.8.GET TEST (1.877.843.8837)

indeed fit seamlessly together. It's in the projects, photos and stories we've collected and catalogued here.

Celebration Dinners: One of the easiest and most meaningful ways to mark a special achievement or important milestone for a child (such as, learning to read or sitting for their first SAT or ACT exam) is to turn your family dinner table into a formal occasion. Prepare a favorite meal, ask Dad to make some formal remarks, have everyone stand and toast the accomplishment, and clap wildly until the celebrant blushes; then post photos of the evening to your Facebook page. There are appropriate times to make a big deal out of each of our kids and focus the spotlight only on one.

Snow Days, Senior Skip Day and Wear-Your-PJs-to-School Day: If your homeschool is anything like mine was, then you will not need to organize any of these events—you just have to be a good sport and go along with it when your kids declare they are observing these national holidays. That's part of the rite of passage—school children in revolt against the powers that be. You can add to the thrill by initially acting perturbed by the interruption, but then join in the fun by showing off your snow fort building skills and the secret to making the perfect snowball. Senior Skip Day, in case you're wondering, is a tradition now at our local co-op—the kids all head out for pizza while their siblings are left behind. And if you're thinking Wear-Your-PJs-Day is *every day* at your house, then you can change that up by announcing a Dress Up day.

That summit meeting years ago triggered a shift in my approach to homeschooling. My purposes were serious and weighty—a better education, I thought, an opportunity to infuse all of life with our faith and values. But my kids wanted a childhood marked by memorable moments of recognition, hilarity and shared experiences with their neighborhood friends. I'm glad they carried the day—because these memorable moments are now my cherished memories from homeschooling, too.



Debra Bell, Ph.D., is the executive director of Aim Academy and the best-selling author of the award-winning Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling, Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens, and the Ultimate Planners for moms, teens, and students (Apologia Press).

Writers-in-Residence: A Writing-Focused Language Arts Program and Readers-in-Residence: A Literacy Program will be released in 2015. More information about her online classes and curriculum is available at DebraBell.com. Debra was a featured speaker at the 2015 NCHC conference.



Classic Productions for Students®

a non-profit corporation

2015-2016 Theatre Field Trips

CHARLOTTE

Ovens Auditorium – 9:45 & 11:45 - \$9.65*

Junie B. Jones - October 13, 2015

A Christmas Carol - November 30, 2015

Freedom Train - February 5, 2016

FAYETTEVILLE

Crown Center Theatre " 9:45 & 11:45 - \$8.56*

Junie B. Jones - October 29, 2015

A Christmas Carol - December 3, 2015

Freedom Train - February 4, 2016

Seussical - March 18, 2016

GREENSBORO

Carolina Theatre – 9:45 & 11:45 - \$8.54*

Junie B Jones - October 15, 2015

A Christmas Carol - December 2, 2015

Freedom Train - February 19, 2016

Seussical - March 16, 2016

HICKORY

P.E. Monroe Aud., Lenoir Rhyne University

9:45 & 11:45 - \$8.56*

Junie B. Jones - October 28, 2015

A Christmas Carol - December 10, 2015

Freedom Train - February 3, 2016

Seussical - March 11, 2016

RALEIGH

Duke Energy Center – 9:45 & 11:45 - \$9.61*

Freedom Train - February 1, 2016

Seussical - March 15, 2016

WINSTON-SALEM

WSSU " 9:45 & 11:45 - \$8.54*

Junie B Jones - October 16, 2015

A Christmas Carol - December 11, 2015

Reynolds Auditorium – 9:45 & 11:45 - \$8.54*

Freedom Train - February 2, 2016

Seussical - March 17, 2016

* All prices include NC state & county entertainment tax.

*** Reservations Required ***

Reservations @ www.classicproductions.org

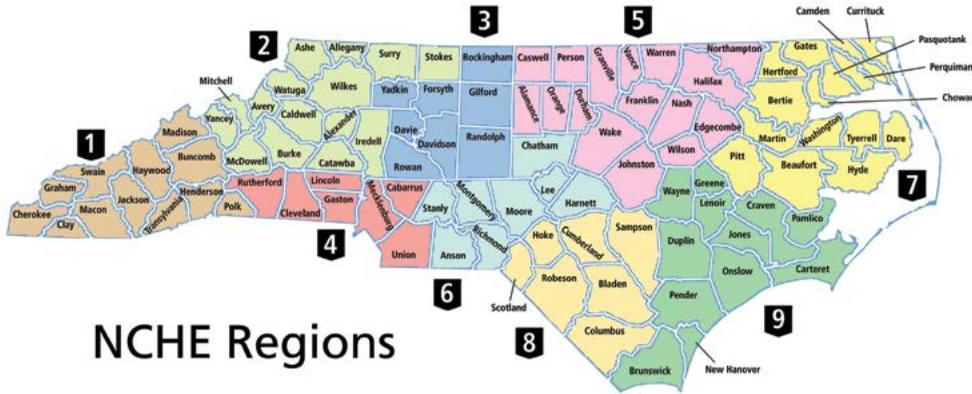
or call 1-800-272-8874

Study Guides & more information available on our website

NCHE Board of Directors (Statewide Officers and Regional Liaisons)

Kevin McClain, President(919) 576-0696 • president@nche.com
 Vacant, Development Director
 Vacant, Media Manager
 John Kirkland, IT Director(704) 753-9320 • it@nche.com
 Brian Gilpin, Marketing Director(727) 804-2432 • marketing@nche.com
 Debbie Mason, Events Director(704) 541-5145 • events@nche.com
 Vacant, Activities Director
 Kathy Iandoli, Community Relations Director ..(910) 398-7172 • community@nche.com
 Amanda Wares, Homeschool Helps Director(336) 210-7449 • helps@nche.com
 Spencer Mason, Law and Policy Director(704) 541-5145 • law-policy@nche.com
 Tanya Dickens, Treasurer(336) 383-7020 • treasurer@nche.com
 Jolene Kreiling, Secretary(910) 818-4678 • secretary@nche.com

Ronda Marshall, Advisor ..(828) 633-0060 ronda.marshall@nche.com
 Mike Marshall, Advisor ... (828) 633-0060 ronda.marshall@nche.com
 1. Jerri Neal(828) 349-0647 • region1@nche.com
 2. Matthew McDill(828) 406-1594 • region2@nche.com
 3. Fran Jones(704) 209-5507 • region3@nche.com
 4. Anita Hudson(704) 661-3930 • region4@nche.com
 5. Briggs Greenwood(919) 219-1363 • region5@nche.com
 6. Jonathan Shockey(919) 776-7868 • region6@nche.com
 7. April Briley.....(252) 916-9150 • region7@nche.com
 8. Diane Helfrich(910) 527-7445 • region8@nche.com
 9. Kathy Iandoli.....(910) 398-7172 • region9@nche.com
NCHE Office - Raleigh.....(919) 790-1100 • nche@nche.com



NCHE Regions

ADVERTISERS

Apologia Educational Ministries.....	23
Bayside School Service	29
Classic Productions for Students ...	35
Gardner Webb	17
Homeschool Gathering Place	33
HSLDA.....	9
Institute for Inquiry Science	19
Regent University	5
Seton Testing	27
Triangle Education Assessments ...	34

Visit Us Online at nche.com

North Carolina Homeschool History

Although home education is the oldest form of education, it was not officially recognized in North Carolina until a Supreme Court decision in 1985 ruled that a homeschool could operate under the existing private school law. Through the efforts of concerned members of North Carolinians for Home Education, a bill was passed in 1988 that specifically named home education as an alternative for complying with compulsory school attendance requirements.

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.

BULLETIN BOARD



Thrive! The NCHE Homeschool Conference will be June 2-4, 2016, at the M.C. Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC. For the first time in many years, the conference will not be the weekend of Memorial Day. The 2016 Thrive! Conference will be the weekend after Memorial Day.

Conference talks in MP3 format are available until July 19 for just \$4 each. Go to the conference homepage, <http://www.nche.com/conference>, and click on the link to the 2015 recordings. If you have any trouble with your downloads, contact Spencer Mason at spencer.mason@nche.com.

Email addresses wanted. Since NCHE uses email for much of its communication, we need your email addresses to stay in touch. If you would like to receive our weekly emails, you can go online to nche.com and sign up for the weekly email.

From Our Friends

Johnston County Home Educators' Annual Homeschool Conference will be August 21-22, 2015, at Wilson's Mills Baptist Church in Smithfield, NC. There will be a keynote speaker from Answers in Genesis (AIG) and multiple workshops to aid homeschool moms and children. For more information, please visit their website at www.jchenc.org and select the tab for the conference or contact Robyn Williams at nc.robyn@gmail.com or Malinda Johnson at mjohnson365@nc.rr.com.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

To ensure you continue to receive GREENHOUSE, subscribe today. To subscribe, go to nche.com or call the NCHE office (919) 790-1100.

North Carolinians for Home Education
4441 Six Forks Rd., Suite 106, Box 144
Raleigh, NC 27609

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ECP

Develop a
passion for
learning. If you
do, you will
never cease to
grow.

— *Anthony J. D'Angelo* —

