

Greenhouse Report

North Carolinians for Home Education

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Burned Out? There Is Hope!

by Mari Fitz-Wynn

What happens when a creative, enthusiastic, home educator suddenly finds that the wonderful activities, projects and learning well has suddenly run dry? What happens when lunch and shopping dates with “the girls” have more appeal than history dates? It’s called *burnout*, the one small glitch in this otherwise wonderful endeavor called homeschool.

I remember the very first time I entered a period of burnout. After a year of intensely disciplined teaching, writing my own unit studies, planning all the appropriate field trips, creating and administering each student’s quizzes and exams, I found myself dreading another day of school, another lesson, another plan, another student. Amazingly, I, the dedicated teacher, had become easily distracted, and was avoiding all educational pursuits like the plague. As daily assignments began to stack into mountains of paper work, and we increased our P.E. days, I also had several Teacher Work days in a row. (The teacher sadly did no work.) Daily I felt more and more overwhelmed with what I needed to do and accomplish, versus what I actually felt like doing. My motivation to teach was dying a slow death.

In all my time spent researching the homeschool option, burnout—or even the dwindling of motivation—had not been covered, let alone mentioned. Where had I fallen short? What—was wrong with me?

Now, years later, looking back down that road, I realize that experiencing burnout is common in the lives of most teachers: home, public and private. Burnout is sometimes a result of *how* we homeschool, but, more often than not, it is the culmi-

nation of many factors. There are a few warning signals that alert us of its encroachment. I will share a few of the lessons I’ve learned.

Stop School

No, I don’t mean the confetti-in-the-air-and-cheers-all-around stopping of school. Just give yourself and your students a break. It is certainly warranted and well deserved. When you feel as though the walls are beginning to close in on you, or tensions start to run high, a teacher work day is probably in order. This time off will allow mom an opportunity to regroup, reorganize and revive that love of teaching. This is the ideal time to pray for your school and to ask for teaching endurance. It will definitely give you a fresh start for the next day.

One friend gave me this advice from her own experience with burnout. “Give yourself permission to take the day off and be together. Go to the park, or do something else that includes everyone. Or, alter your school plans to include lots of independent work for the children. Take this time to remind yourself and your children how much you really love and enjoy each other.”

Find Support

Initially, I believed that homeschool support groups were a fine idea for those who needed them (which I thought did not include me). First of all, I reasoned we had enough children to strike down the socialization argument. Secondly, I planned all of our field trips. I wanted field trips that were perfectly coordinated with our studies, and often the planned support group fieldtrips were not. (Don’t ask me how I knew this). Thirdly, I was just too busy teaching my children to be involved in something like a support group. What I did not realize was that each of my reasons for not joining a group was based solely on my focus on meeting the needs of the children. I had left myself entirely out of the equation and now I was the one burning out. With this new revelation, you may ask how long it took me to remedy the situation. I

immediately found a white pillow case, tied it to a stick, waved it and started looking for a support group.

Get Help

As a new homeschool mom, I believed that I had to do it all: teaching, grading, project building, transporting, etc. Since my husband was a full-time pastor and, therefore, out of the home some of the time, I felt it my duty to let him rest when he came in and did not involve him to any extent with the day-to-day teaching activities. Big mistake! I was burning myself out by not utilizing my greatest and most obvious source of help—my spouse. He enjoyed math, I hated it! Yet I continued to teach and grade papers on a subject which I loathed.

The light came on one day as I, almost completely discouraged and quite weary of silently bearing my burden, decided to openly express to my husband how much I dreaded looking at another math paper. There was probably a little bit of

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We do our best but test weeks are not guaranteed. Prices are subject to change. Orders may be revised but no refunds or cancellations.

Why order the TerraNova (1996 with updated 2005 norms) rather than an earlier (1970, 1986 or 1991) edition?

When publishers develop a new test edition, they analyze curriculum materials presently being used across the country.

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Test questions are then constructed that would demonstrate the students' ability to apply concepts and skills that will reflect achievement in the specific subjects. Most homeschools utilize recent curricula. Hence, the newer edition will more accurately indicate the students' achievement.

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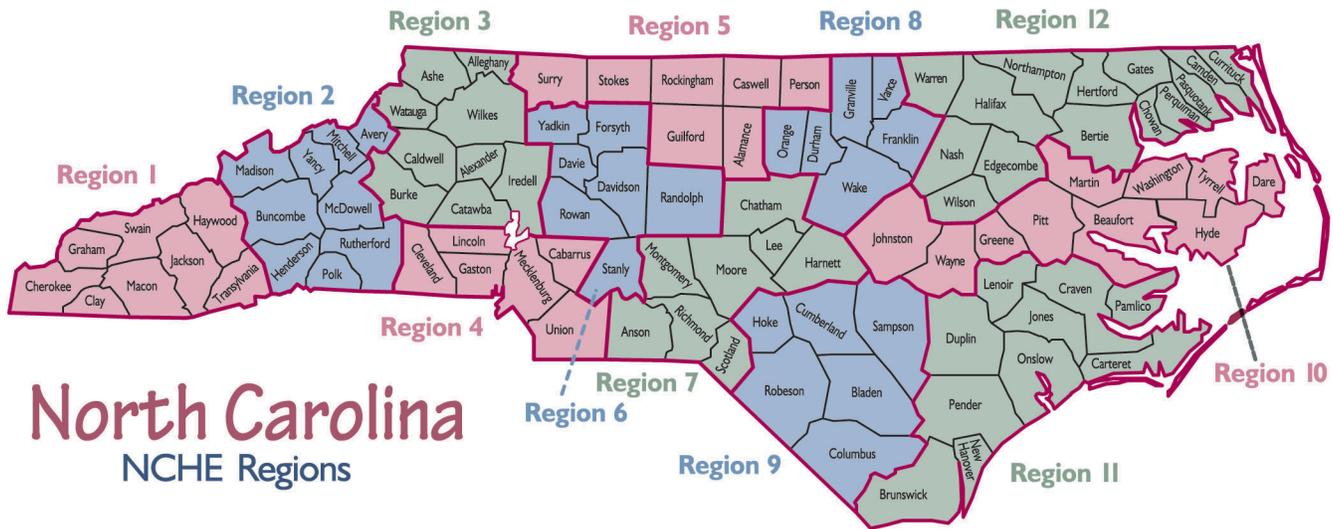
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North Carolina
NCHE Regions

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 home school 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

Our purpose is to protect the freedom to educate at home, to provide encouragement and support to families choosing home education for their children and to promote home education as an excellent educational alternative. Since its beginning in 1984, NCHE has grown from a few pioneering families to a statewide association of home educators that promotes home education and supports home educators. NCHE is governed by a working board of directors who volunteer their time and efforts to represent homeschoolers in every part of the state. A non-profit organization, NCHE operates on the basis of biblical principles and living faith. NCHE welcomes members of all races and religions.

Greenhouse Report Information

The *Greenhouse Report* is the newsletter of North Carolinians for Home Education. It is published six times a year, bimonthly. A paper copy is mailed to those who subscribe for \$15 per year. It is made available online to all members at the NCHE website <nche.com>. 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 Report* become property of NCHE with full right to publication without further permission required. Ideas and opinions expressed in letters and articles do not necessarily represent those of NCHE.

DEADLINES (Received By)

Issue Date	Letters and Articles	Ads and Announcements
Jan/Feb	Nov 15	Dec 1
Mar/Apr	Jan 15	Feb 1
May/Jun	Mar 15	Apr 1
Jul/Aug	May 15	Jun 1
Sep/Oct	Jul 15	Aug 1
Nov/Dec	Sep 15	Oct 1

Advertising: The publication of advertising in the *Greenhouse Report* in no way expresses or implies endorsement by NCHE of products or services.

NCHE Membership

Membership in NCHE is available to all residents of North Carolina who pledge to uphold the ideals of NCHE and comply with the North Carolina homeschool law. Membership is obtained by donating any amount to NCHE (recommended donation is \$25). NCHE is supported by the consistent contributions of its members. The NCHE ideals are: educational excellence, parental authority and responsibility for education, protection and promotion of the family, diligence in moral and ethical instruction, responsible citizenship, freedom of choice among educational alternatives, and defense of constitutional rights.

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Announcements

NCHE Announcements

NCHE Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference and Book Fair will be held May 24-26, 2012, at the M.C. Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC.

Attention All 2012 Graduates. The spring graduation information will be on the NCHE website <nche.com> January 1, 2012. The *completed* graduation application must be in the office or postmarked by March 1, 2012.

Conference Recordings are available from Manna Recording and Duplication, Inc., (505) 833-0065 or <www.mannarecording.com>.

NCHE Athletic Conference Team Locator. The NCHE Athletic Conference (NCHEAC) has a total of ninety-six teams competing in basketball, baseball, boys and girls soccer and volleyball. There are also four to six non-conference teams participating in softball and swimming. We would like to help you find sports in your area. Go to <http://nche.com/sports> to find a table that contains sports and contacts listed by area. Click on the *Team Locator* link to have your e-mail forwarded to a coach in your area.

Be an NCHE Facebook fan. A new way to interact in the NCHE community is to access the NCHE Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/nche1984>. On our page you may ask questions and get answers from others in the community, get links to helpful websites and be a part of the exchange of ideas with other homeschoolers.

NCHE Membership Policy. You may join or renew your membership with an annual tax-deductible donation of any amount. (The recommended donation is \$25.) The *Greenhouse Report* will be available online for all members. Those who prefer a paper copy in the mail may receive it for a \$15 subscription fee.

Policy on Spotlights. In order for a student to be included in a spotlight article, the student's family must be an NCHE member. For articles about groups, at least half of the families represented must be NCHE members. Send parents' names and member number with the article.

NCHE Ebrief. This email publication provides up-to-date news. To begin receiving this free (to members) publication, log into the website <nche.com> and click the "Receive NCHE-brief email" checkbox on your Member Account Information page or email <memberservices@nche.com>.

House, Senate and Governor's Page Weeks. If you are an NCHE member and would like your student to participate in this program, contact NCHE's legislative administrator, Mari Fitz-Wynn, at <LegAdmin@nche.com> for information about opportunities in Raleigh to page one week for a member of the legislature or the governor.

NCHE is a 501(c)(3), non-profit educational organization. All donations are tax deductible. Your donation will help NCHE to provide support to the homeschoolers of this state.

Moving? Please keep NCHE informed when you are planning to move. It saves us time, energy and money if you give us prompt notification of your address change. Schools listed with the state are required to notify the NC Division of Non-Public Education of address changes in writing or by calling (919) 733-4276.

Support Group Announcements

"Re-Energize!" Heart for Home School Ministries, Inc., presents its ninth annual Winter Conference, February 3-4, at Celebration Church, 8700 Capital Blvd., Raleigh. (The church is located just north

of the intersection of US Hwy 1 North and Durant/Perry Rd.) The keynote speaker is Phil Downer of DNA Ministries. Phil has presented workshops at the NCHE Conference, so we know you will enjoy him. Cost, registration and details can be found at <www.heartforhomeschool.org>. The ministry can be reached by email at <heartforhomeschool@earthlink.net> or by phone at (919) 872-2782.

The Jim Weiss mini-conference, sponsored by Forsyth Home Educators in Winston-Salem, will be Monday, January 23, with performances and storytelling workshops. Because Jim's Greathall Productions has won more than eighty-five major national awards, Jim has become a sought-after speaker and entertainer. The theme for the conference is American History, and anyone who would like to come in costume is encouraged to do so. For general and ticket information, go to <www.ncfhe.org>. If you have additional questions, you may contact FHE at <FHEJimWeissinfo@ncfhe.org>.

General Announcements

DNPE Website. The website for the NC Division of Non-Public Education is <www.ncdnpe.org>.



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Evaluate Your Activities as You Go Back to Work

Many homeschools took a break from academics during the busy Christmas holidays. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back to work. Before you jump back into the academics and the busy schedule that most home educators seem to have, stop and reflect on the reasons you chose to homeschool in the first place. Evaluate the activities you are about to involve your family in and think about whether these activities will move your homeschool toward your goals, or if they are simply nice to do, but will *not* help move your family toward your objectives. There are many worthwhile activities available for homeschool families. Also, there are many good activities that take your time, energy and resources, but that don't contribute to meeting your objectives. Reevaluating your activities at regular intervals is a good way to keep from getting off track.

Career and College Promise Program Begins

Beginning in 2012 the new Career and College Promise program will begin. This program will replace the community college concurrent enrollment program that homeschoolers have been using for many years. Eligibility requirements and course options are different from those of the familiar concurrent enrollment program.

There will be two educational tracks offered at all community colleges: 1. Core 44 College Transfer Pathway leading to a minimum of 30 hours of college transfer credit; and 2. Career and Technical Education Pathway leading to a certificate, diploma or degree. Community colleges also have an option to offer a third track called a Cooperative Innovative High School Pathway.

Core 44 College Transfer Pathway

The first track is most like the old concurrent enrollment program.

The courses offered are all college level courses and can be transferred to any state four-year college and most private colleges. The big difference is that students can no longer choose the courses they want to take. There are four rigid (very few electives or substitutions are allowed) curriculum options that are offered: 1. Humanities and Social Science; 2. Business and Economics;

3. Life and Health Sciences and 4. Engineering and Mathematics. These courses are designed for high school juniors and seniors who plan to earn a baccalaureate degree. Students who successfully complete these courses may continue to earn college transfer credits leading to the completion of the 44-hour general education transfer core.

Humanities and Social Science Basic Course

English Composition

ENG 111 Expository Writing

The second composition course must be selected from the following:

ENG 112 Argument-Based Research or
ENG 113 Literature-Based Research

Humanities/Fine Arts

ENG 131 Introduction to Literature

ART 111 Art Appreciation

Social/Behavioral Sciences

HIS 121 Western Civilization I

PSY 150 General Psychology

Natural Sciences/Mathematics

BIO 111 General Biology I

MAT 161 College Algebra

Other Required General Education

COM 231 Public Speaking

SPA 111 Elementary Spanish I

ACA 122 College Transfer Success

Business and Economics Basic Course

English Composition

ENG 111 Expository Writing

The second composition course must be selected from the following:

ENG 112 Argument-Based Research or
ENG 113 Literature-Based Research

Humanities/Fine Arts

ENG 131 Introduction to Literature

Social/Behavioral Sciences

HIS 121 Western Civilization I

SOC 210 Introduction to Sociology

ECO 251 Principles of Microeconomics

Natural Sciences/Mathematics

BIO 111 General Biology I

MAT 161 College Algebra (*or higher*)

Quantitative options may not be selected.

Other Required General Education

CIS 110 Introduction to Computers

COM 231 Public Speaking

ACA 122 College Transfer Success

Life and Health Sciences Basic Course

English Composition

ENG 111 Expository Writing

The second composition course must be selected from the following:

ENG 112 Argument-Based Research or
ENG 113 Literature-Based Research

Humanities/Fine Arts

ENG 131 Introduction to Literature

Social/Behavioral Sciences

HIS 121 World Civilization I

Natural Sciences/Mathematics

BIO 111 General Biology I

BIO 112 General Biology II

CHM 151 General Chemistry I

CHM 152 General Chemistry II

MAT 171 Precalculus Algebra

ACA 122 College Transfer Success

Engineering and Mathematics Basic Course

English Composition

ENG 111 Expository Writing

The second composition course must be selected from the following:

ENG 112 Argument-Based Research or

ENG 113 Literature-Based Research

Humanities/Fine Arts

ENG 131 Introduction to Literature

Social/Behavioral Sciences

HIS 121 Western Civilization I

ECO 251 Principles of Microeconomics

Natural Sciences/Mathematics

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CHM 151 General Chemistry I

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MAT 171 Precalculus Algebra

MAT 172 Precalculus Trigonometry

MAT 271 Calculus I

ACA 122 College Transfer Success

Continued on page 6

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Spencer's Space *(Continued from page 5)*

Core 44 College Transfer Pathway Eligibility Requirements

The student must:

1. Be a high school junior or senior; 2. have a weighted GPA of 3.0 on high school courses and 3. demonstrate college readiness on an assessment or placement test. (Typically the PLAN test, published by ACT is used.) A student must demonstrate college readiness in English, reading and mathematics to be eligible for enrollment in a Core 44 College Transfer Pathway. PSAT, ACT or SAT test scores may be accepted as demonstration of college readiness.

The table below lists the minimum scores that demonstrate college readiness for the purpose of the Core 44 College Transfer Pathway.

PSAT	ACT	SAT	
English 49	English 18	English 500	
Reading 50	Reading 21	Critical Reading 500	
Mathematics 50	Mathematics 22	Mathematics 500	

Currently enrolled high school students who have successfully completed a college transfer STEM course with a grade of "C" or better do not have to meet GPA or testing requirements in order to be admitted.

Career Technical Education Pathway

This pathway is for the student who doesn't plan to attend a four-year college, but wants to earn a certificate or diploma aligned with a high school Career Cluster. The student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be a high school junior or senior; 2. have a weighted GPA of 3.0 on high school courses or have the recommendation of the high school principal or his/her designee and 3. meet the prerequisites for the career pathway.

Currently enrolled high school

students who have successfully completed a community college technical education course with a grade of "C" or better do not have to meet GPA or testing requirements in order to be admitted.

Cooperative Innovative High School Programs

Community colleges have the option of creating specialized programs for high school students in their area that will provide an opportunity for high school students to earn an associate degree or earn up to two years of college credit within five years. The eligibility requirements are developed jointly by local boards of education and local community college boards of trustees. A homeschool student will be required to provide a transcript and official test scores from an approved assessment test.

Spencer Mason and his wife, Debbie, homeschooled four children for twenty-six years. They have served on the NCHE board since 1988.

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Burned Out? There Is Hope! *(Continued from page 1)*

pride mixed in with the other emotions. I'm not certain why I had pictured myself being able to teach everything. The words "Let me do it," never sounded sweeter. Trust me, it seemed as if the birds outside struck up a chorus, while dogs and cats in the neighborhood barked and meowed in harmony. The dark cloud over our homeschool parted and beams of sunshine poured in.

I had been so overwhelmed that I wanted to walk away. I longed to enjoy teaching again. Now, with the help of my spouse I began to make progress. Later in life, as a single mom, I needed to connect with other single moms and barter for services, or classes, or help on special projects. In other words, sometimes our friends become our greatest resources when we do not have the support of a husband at home.

Change Your Routine

On the one hand, routine is necessary. Establishing a routine for your family works well when the students are very young. They will know what to expect on Mondays or Thursday, for example. However, more of the same every day leads to what? Burnout! Change is great and sometimes change is all we need to give our students and school a pick-me-up! It didn't take long for me to learn that our children did not

want to sit for long periods of time to *do school*. Behaviors I interpreted as disinterest with the subject, or criticism of my teaching ability were merely the early symptoms of burnout (in most instances).

That homeschool students could burn-out was a revelation; that my students were burning out was startling! I quickly instituted *special days*—days that we broke our daily school routine. Here are a few fun suggestions that worked really well for us. Some have become official school day traditions.

Backwards Day. Everyone (even the teacher) wears his clothing backwards, and the school schedule is observed in reverse.

Pajama Day. Self explanatory. (When I shared this idea with a friend, she stared at me blankly, but, not to be outdone, she commented, "Our special day is actually getting dressed to do school." Okay, never mind.)

Color Day. No school colors? Choose two. This is a great way to reinforce family and school unity.

Bored Day. Aha! Fooled you, didn't I? This is when we spend most of the day playing board games related to our unit study, topic or class subject (i.e., science, math geography, etc.).

Opera Day. Gifted or not, we sing everything operatically for the entire school day.

Day of Silence. Communication is only by ASL. (Our students learned ASL—American Sign Language—as their foreign/second language.)

Heroes and Heroines Day. Our students dressed as their favorite historical figures. (We usually video taped this.)

Pray

Add prayer to your to-do list. Whether first thing in the morning, last thing at night or during the middle of the day; a quiet time with the Lord is a necessity. His direction is not given simply because we need it. It is given because we ask. I learned to find out from the Father how He wanted to order my day, and prayed earnestly for help to follow those orders!



Mari Fitz-Wynn, NCHE's legislative administrator, has homeschooled for seventeen years. The founder of Heart to Home School Ministries, Inc., Mari is often invited to share her homeschool and family life experiences with homeschool support groups and women's ministries.

Join Rachael Carman, Zan Tyler, and other inspiring, homeschool speakers for refreshment and encouragement custom-fit for homeschooling moms.



Rachael Carman is a homeschooling mom of 7. She and her husband, Davis, live in NC and are active board members of NCHE. Rachael is the author of 2 books, *SoundBites from Heaven* and *How to Have a HEART for Your Kids*.

Zan Tyler homeschooled and graduated 3 children and makes her home in SC with her husband, Joe. In 1984, the Tylers founded SCAIHS (South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools). She is the author of *7 Tools for Cultivating Your Child's Potential*.



Come hear Heidi St. John in Baltimore!
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Asheville Wins Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer 2011 NCHEAC State Championships

by Dale Brown

The 2011 NCHEAC Girls Volleyball State Championships were held in Winston-Salem on October 22. East and West regional play were held the day before, also in Winston-Salem. There were three divisions: middle school, high school junior varsity and high school varsity. Teams from the East were Alamance County, Durham County, Fayetteville, Harnett County, Johnston County, Western Wake County, and Wake Forest; teams from the West were Asheville, Cabarrus County, Forsyth County, and Greensboro. Alamance County and Durham County were new teams competing this season.

Advancing from Friday's regional play into Saturday's state round from the East were Harnett County and Wake Forest in the middle school division. From the East JV division Western Wake and Wake Forest advanced; and from the East varsity division Wake Forest and Alamance County advanced.

Teams advancing from Friday's West regional play into Saturday's state round were Asheville and Forsyth from the middle school division; Asheville and Cabarrus County advanced from the JV and Varsity divisions.

On Saturday, in the varsity division, Wake Forest defeated Cabarrus County in one state semi-final game, while Asheville defeated Alamance County in the other semi-final. Wake Forest and Asheville both advanced to the championship game. Asheville claimed the 2011 Varsity Girls Championship, as they defeated Wake Forest 3-1 (25-19; 18-25; 25-11; 25-21). This is Asheville's third state championship in the past five years.

The JV semi-finals matched Western Wake against Cabarrus County, while



Asheville player who was named to all-tournament team, Kami Watt, going for a kill in the championship match against Wake Forest

Asheville took on Wake Forest. Western Wake and Asheville prevailed in those contests and then met each other in the state final for the second straight year. Asheville won the state final in two games, (25-22; 25-22) to repeat as the JV state champion.

In the middle school division semi-finals, top seeded Harnett County of the East lost to the West second seeded team Forsyth, and the West top seeded Asheville team defeated the number two seeded East team, Wake Forest. This set up the championship final between Forsyth and Asheville. Asheville defeated Forsyth in two games (25-18, 25-14) to claim their fourth consecutive state title.

The games in Winston-Salem were played at Piedmont Baptist College and Wake Forest University. There were a total of twenty-six teams represented among the three age divisions.

All tournament team members in the varsity division were: Emily Strickland (Johnston); Emily Alexander (Greensboro); Anna Helfrich (Fayetteville); Madison Roland (Forsyth); Deborah Jodrey (Alamance); Kendyl Parker (Cabarrus); Michelle Hovey (Wake Forest); Brianna Smith (Wake Forest); Ashley Smith (Asheville); Hannah Smith (Asheville, *MVP); Kami Watt (Asheville).

All tournament team members in the JV division were: Melissa Gilliam (Durham); Haley Hill (Fayetteville); Ashton Hamlett (Alamance); Deanna Wallace (Greensboro); Abby Taylor (Harnett); Leslie Woodley (Forsyth); Brandy Parker (Cabarrus); Hailey Huffman (Wake Forest); Kimberly Hovey (West Wake); Janelle Legault (Western Wake); Danielle Bishop (Asheville); Gabie Marshall (Asheville, *MVP); Lauren White (Asheville).

All tournament team members in the middle school division were: Annabelle Polites (Fayetteville); Kara Adams (Western Wake); Mikhaela McClary (Cabarrus); Megan Lambert (Johnston); Sabrina Bedard (Wake Forest); Shelbi Jordan (Harnett); Hope Arrowood (Forsyth); Jessica Stephenson (Forsyth); Anna Hutchinson (Asheville, *MVP); Kelly McCall (Asheville); Shakinley Wilkie (Asheville).

The 2011 NCHEAC Boys Soccer State Championship was held in Winston-Salem on the weekend of October 21-22



Asheville Varsity girls after receiving the trophy for volleyball state championship



Asheville player and tournament mvp, Logan Woody, speeding toward a goal in the championship game against Cabarrus



Asheville (state champion) Varsity boys before the soccer championship game

on the campus of Wake Forest University. There were six teams competing in the tournament and seeding of those teams was based on regular season results. From those results, Asheville, the regular season winner, and five-time defending state champion, Forsyth County, earned byes into Friday afternoon's state semi-final contests. On Friday morning, fifth-seeded Northeast Wake defeated fourth-seeded Fayetteville, 3-0, and third seeded Cabarrus County defeated sixth-seeded Rocky Mount, 5-3. In the afternoon match-ups, top-seeded Asheville defeated Northeast Wake 5-1; and Cabarrus County stunned second-seeded Forsyth County, 3-2. Penalty kicks

were used to determine the outcome of this contest after two overtime periods, and Cabarrus edged Forsyth 3-2 on the penalty kicks. On Saturday afternoon, Asheville defeated Cabarrus County, 5-0, and earned their first state championship. Northeast Wake and Rocky Mount competed in their first state tournament.

All tournament team members were: Caleb Boyle (Fayetteville); Connor Thompson (Rocky Mount); Taylor Dougherty (Northeast Wake); Patrick Goldin (Forsyth); Brandon Smith (Forsyth); Thomas Goodwin (Cabarrus); Michael Levinson (Cabarrus); Harrison Seitz (Cabarrus); Corban Crosley (Asheville);

Sawyer Martin (Asheville); Ira Sorenson (Asheville); Logan Woody (Asheville, *MVP).



Dale Brown has served with the NCHE Athletic Commission for the past five years and has been the director of the volleyball and boys soccer tournament since 2007. He and his wife, Angela, have nine children and live in northern Orange County. They are in their nineteenth year of homeschooling and have three graduates.



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Betty Ford Called *by Carol Barnier*



"I called the Betty Ford Clinic! They still have an opening. Heh heh heh." My husband is so pleased with himself and his running joke.

"Yeah, honey, you're terribly funny.

You got me again."

One of my husband's favorite chuckles is to poke fun at my addiction. No, I don't have an alcohol or drug problem. (Caffeine notwithstanding.) I don't gamble or display typical compulsive behaviors. I am, by all generally accepted measures of mental health, a reliably stable person. But yes—there is a problem.

I collect books.

That sounds rather harmless, don't you think? When I say it that way, it sounds like a quaint hobby. She collects tea doilies. He collects antique glassware. And Carol? Oh, she collects books. But such a sweet pronouncement doesn't really do justice to the questionable intensity of activity that actually accompanies her "collecting". To make matters worse, now that she homeschools (I prefer to speak ill of myself only in third person) it almost puts a noble face on her addiction. Well, don't homeschoolers *always* need more books? Are there ever enough books when one homeschools? Why *can't* we put shelves up in front of that fire exit?

Over my years of homeschooling and speaking, I've walked the aisles of many a vendor hall. In the beginning, it was a painful experience. I saw so many wonderful books and materials that I wanted—I longed for—books that I was certain would radically revolutionize our schooling until my children were such prodigies they would make appearances on Jay Leno to amaze America with the wonders of homeschooling. But now, after so many years, after so many vendor halls, after so many used curriculum sales, local library sales and garages sales—now I walk those same halls, looking like a lost bag lady, scanning the many books being offered and muttering under my breath.

"Got it. Got it. Already got it. Got that, too. Whoops. Got two of those." (Big sigh.)

I am, after many long years, *finally* feeling a slowing in the drive to find, obtain and hold books. In fact, as I wander the aisles now, my mind travels in a different direction. Now that I've seen

every book that was ever written for homeschoolers, (no really, I'm pretty sure about this) I can indeed make the profound announcement: there are some books you will simply *never* find in a homeschool vendor hall. Isn't that amazing? Even with all the thousands of offerings, I have come to the conclusion, that though we are a diverse group of folks with a multiplicity of needs, wants and characteristics, there are still some books you will never see in our halls. In just such a spirit, I offer some possible titles:

- Creating Great Tattoos Using Things You've Probably Got around the House!
- 22 Ways to Encourage Social Workers to Come over for Tea
- NEA's Book of "Why YOU Should Homeschool"
- Keeping Your Hired Domestic Staff Motivated and Happy
- Harry Potter: A Unit Study for the Whole Year (lab materials included, eye of Newt, etc.)
- Getting Expelled From Your Support Group, and other Ways to Liven Up Meetings
- Dr. Seuss' Version of 10 Commandments. (I DO NOT want my neighbor's cow. I DO NOT want it then or now.)
- There are Absolutely NO Absolutes, Post-Modernism-Truths...er...um... suggestions...thoughts...well, you know.

I can safely proclaim, you'll not be seeing these. (Although I secretly think the Dr. Seuss book has great merit and potential.) Nonetheless, my mind continues to wander and wonder. What other books might we be missing and not know it? In fact, are there books that we actually *could* use that have not made an appearance? I pondered this a bit and sent off to my publisher a list of possible titles that could, indeed, come in handy for a homeschooler, but are as yet an untapped market.

- Making Usable Furniture from Unused Curriculum
- Mini-Van and Paper Mache: How Will You Find *Your* Van in a Conference Parking Lot?
- Coon Skin Caps from Road Kill—A Thrifty Mom's Story
- Some of My Best Friends Use Public Schools—The New Face of Tolerance
- Keeping the Heart of the Children Who Will One Day Choose Your Nursing Home
- Pot Holders, Pup Tents, and Other

Great Uses for Those Old Denim Jumpers

- Local Support Groups Launch New 12 Step-Recovery Program
- "He's One Stone Short of a Temple" and other Ancient Hebrew Jokes
- Our Weapon of Choice: The Glue Gun
- "I've Been Called for Jury Duty": 55 Great Ideas for Getting Dad to Teach Today
- I *ONLY* Have Three Children!—and Other Embarrassing Homeschool Confessions
- How to Win National Spelling Bee, Geography Bee and Quilting Bee in Five Easy Lessons!
- Creating a Walk-Through Digestive Tract (and other Science-Alive Moments)
- "I Wasn't Sleeping; I was Meditating on our Family's Mission Statement"—Quick and Believable Responses When Caught Dozing
- Classical—Shmassical: Whatever Happened To Recess?
- Dust Bunny/Cheerios Sculptures: Creative Ways to Get *YOUR* Kids to Tidy Up
- "I Just Can't Get That Tomato Out of My Head!" One Mom's Courageous Battle with Veggie Tales Abuse
- Boundaries and the Deadbolt Solution: Finally Going to the Bathroom Alone

So far, I haven't heard from my publisher. But I can only assume that he's shopping these titles around with marketing executives. The possibilities are just staggering. The spin-offs are endless. The energy is infectious! Then again, perhaps it's time to feed that other addiction and get my morning cup of coffee.

Carol Barnier is author of three books, mother to three children and wife to one husband. She will be a speaker at the 2012 NCHE Annual Conference. She is a popular speaker and radio guest across the country. You may have heard her on Focus on the Family's Weekend Magazine or Moody Radio. She has written for Proverbs 31 Woman, The Old Schoolhouse, Club House Jr., Homeschool Enrichment, Thriving Family, and others. She strives to provide lots of practical ideas in each and every talk. And while she can be quite serious, probably the best description of her is what you find on her business cards: Delightful Speaker, Entertaining Author, Adequate Wife, Pitiful Housekeeper. Find out more at <www.carolbarnier.com>.



Scavenging the Sites *by Lorie Codispoti*

Not everyone has the time to scavenge the Internet to find informative, fun, and educational websites for their family to enjoy. That's why we offer this column. By dividing it into four sections, we work towards our goal—to provide something for everyone. We hope that you will enjoy what we've scavenged for you this month.

Articles of Interest

"Homeschooling With Young Children," Parts I and II, by Rebecca Capuano

www.thehomeschoolmom.com/blog/homeschooling/homeschooling-with-children-part-1/

"When young children are in the home, it is a full-time job just to get basic needs met, much less actually educate someone. So aside from shipping out the little ones until they are old enough to write on their own, what's a homeschool mom to do?" (R.C.)

"10 Compelling Reasons to Keep Homeschooling," by Home School Starter

<http://www.homeschoolstarter.com/keephomeschoolingten.html>

"Home is where..." times ten. (HSS)

Teacher Feature

DonnaYoung.org Printables and Resources for Home, Homeschool, and Classroom

<http://donnayoung.org/index.htm>

Are you looking for resources? Here's your one-stop-shop. The first thing I recommend is that you visit the site index just to familiarize yourself with the plethora of wonderful resources Donna has worked so hard to create. Beware, however, you might spend a lot of time exploring! Donna has outdone herself on this project.

Homeschool Movie Club

<http://www.homeschoolmovieclub.com/homepage>

This community was created to help homeschooling families discover new and old movies, media, and curriculum to use in their homeschool. They also have special screenings of selected movies, with accompanying downloadable curriculum. On this site you can join the Future Filmmaker Club to learn more about making movies and breaking into the entertainment industry.

It's Elementary

San Francisco Symphony Kids

<http://www.sfskids.org/templates/home.asp?pageid=1>

This educational website includes enjoyable music-related games for kids. Visit The Music Lab to learn about the language of music, tempo, rhythm, harmony, pitch, etc. Learn about string, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments in the Instruments of the Orchestra section. Turn on the Radio and choose from a playlist of wonderful pieces.

A Picture's Worth A Thousand Words: Decoding Intercultural Symbols

http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/techlp/techlp051.shtml

Here's something fun to do with tools provided by this site:

interpret what a set of pictographs mean and then use them to "write" a few sentences.

High School and Beyond

What Makes A Great Speech

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/student_engagers/what_makes_a_great_speech.shtml

This is a lesson plan booster for teachers to help students understand the components that make up a great speech. Students will learn how to identify these traits in famous addresses including those of some of our presidents. The site also provides three links to other websites for further guidance and tips.

Skool—Learning and Teaching Technology

<http://lgfl.skool.co.uk/keystage4.aspx?id=314>

This UK site has a large number of high-quality, animated tutorials and activities in the fields of biology, chemistry, and physics.



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 <GatesOfEllore@gmail.com>.

Camp Willow Run Summer Camp 2012

Camp Willow Run is an interdenominational Christian camp located on Lake Gaston in Littleton, North Carolina. The camp is built on a unique railroad theme using air-conditioned boxcars for dormitories. The three-fold purpose of Camp Willow Run is to win youth to Christ, help mature those who are already Christians, and demonstrate that you can be a Christian and have fun. Every effort is made to ensure a safe, action-filled experience for each camper. Activities include: swimming, sailing, waterskiing and wakeboarding, archery, riflery, high ropes, giant swing, climbing wall, crafts, model rocketry, canoeing, low ropes, and more! The Christian lifestyle is demonstrated by a carefully selected staff and taught through Bible study, devotions, music, and times of personal interaction. Our program is available to rising 3rd grade through 12th grade students without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, limited disabilities, or religious preference.

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When Life Broad-sides Your Homeschool by Vicki Bentley



You had a wonderful plan this fall for a well-rounded education, envisioning academic excellence and character development in your smiling, well-adjusted offspring. But then—*it* happened (pick one):

- Your husband got transferred, and you have now moved cross-country, separated from your family or community support system.
- Your husband has been deployed, and you pray for his safety while holding down the fort alone.
- The morning sickness has lasted five months and shows no sign of slowing.
- The house burned down and the rental you finally found, sparsely furnished with blessings from the community, has been home for longer than you'd expected.
- The test came back malignant.
- You are now the sole caregiver for an elderly relative.
- The builders have been saying, "Just two more weeks" for two years.
- Or _____ (fill in the crisis) _____

Even the *good* stress of joyful events, such as that one tiny bleep on the ultrasound that turned out to be three, or the upcoming wedding or family reunion, can blindsides us. Ah, the best-laid plans....

A homeschool mom who found herself in the midst of great upheaval, with one trauma after another in a short period, recently wrote me:

"We got a good start with school, ever so many months ago, but it has been almost three months since we have been able to study regularly. I feel so far behind that I am completely overwhelmed as to how to go from here. Do I just start at the beginning of all the texts again? Do I review and try to catch up to where we are supposed to be? I don't know. I am completely overwhelmed by the seeming enormity of the task facing me."

My friend Vanessa, who has struggled valiantly to homeschool the past two years while her husband has been going through cancer surgery and treatments, shares this insightful bit of wisdom: "When life broadsides you, the most important—and difficult—thing to do is *re-establish normal*. *Normal* provides a framework for healing."

How do you find 'normal' again?

Start with a routine. When you feel so incredibly overwhelmed, just start with the basics of normal. What is getting dropped that just can't? Meals? Bedtimes?

Basic housekeeping? Re-visit your routine—I don't mean the sort of schedule that has you checking the to-do list every eight minutes or dinging a bell to move from lunch to naptime. I mean covering at least the basics and having some regularity to your day.

Knowing what comes next, without having to make *one more decision*, can be a relief. Children find security in routine, and we moms can find emotional freedom in having a basic structure for the day or week. For example: "I'll make a great effort to have breakfast by 7:30 and then lunch ready at 1:00 and supper at 6:30, and everyone has to be in their rooms by 9:00 P.M., whether they are in bed or quietly reading or something else safe (depending on ages)."

It helped us to have a morning start-up time of, say, 8:45 to meet in the living room for fifteen minutes of family devotions. I would drop all else at 8:45 and call the kids in and put on a praise and worship CD, and we'd just close our eyes and sing for one or two songs. Then we'd have a quickie devotional or Bible/character lesson for about eight to ten minutes (from a book and the Bible—no major planning or thinking required), then pray together, either one of us or anyone who cared to (or some days, I'd have everyone pray aloud).

This gave me a consistent, prayerful, focused start to my school day, got everyone in one room, and gave us a launching point. That doesn't mean we didn't occasionally crash and burn *later*, but at least we started right!

Make a short list of what has to be done. During times of major stress, such as miscarriages, family deaths, job losses and relocations, unexpected diagnoses and more, the house stayed up pretty well because we use a practical but simple chore system, which has worked well through fifty kids, the changes of foster kids, moves, job losses and more. At a minimum, make a list of the basic housekeeping or cleanliness standards that you consider non-negotiable. For example, my crisis list might look like this:

- Do dishes.
- Make the beds. (Critical for me! But simplify bed-making with easy linens.)
- Wash clothes (hint: we don't need fifteen outfits per person).
- Tidy bathroom daily and clean it weekly.
- Sweep kitchen in the morning and clean up spills as needed.
- Vacuum once a week.
- Clean the fingerprints on the door glass and bathroom mirror (but the windows can wait).
- Feed the pets.

- Feed the family. Oh, my—that means *meals!*

Work on meal planning. Consistent meals were a major challenge for me when I was overwhelmed by life. I was *much* better about consistent, nutritious, on-time-ish meals when I'd made menus. If you are having trouble coming up with menus, remember that your family is probably more impressed with eating nourishing food at a regular time each day than with trying a vast array of new foods each week.

To get into the habit of regular, healthy dinner times, consider something as basic as a weekly rotation of the same basic meals. You can work up to scheduling certain *categories* of meals on the weekdays (for example: meatless meal on Monday, poultry meal on Tuesday, ground beef meal on Wednesday, poultry on Thursday, new recipe on Friday, etc.). Then, as you are more comfortable with menu planning, you could even plan a month at a time, if you have room to store the groceries for that many meals. (I found that when I planned/shopped for a month at a time, my cost per meal was significantly reduced.) Some moms find it helpful to make a family project of once-a-month cooking, to stock up on meals or pre-cooked components of meals.

What does all that have to do with your homeschooling? I specified those homemaking items first: meals, routines and bedtimes (including yours), and basic housekeeping because if your house isn't functioning, then *school* won't either. If we feel that *something* has to give, it will be the homeschooling that gets the boot.

Make a plan, starting from where you are now. Sit down (with your spouse, preferably) and re-group. Where are you right now? Where do you want to be at the end of the year? Don't look at grade level; look at what is reasonable to expect to accomplish between now and June. The tests will most likely be fine, regardless of where the children are in *the books*.

And speaking of *the books*: this may be a great time to prayerfully evaluate what you are utilizing to meet your academic goals. Are you attempting to re-create school at home, or are you creating an environment for a learning lifestyle? Maybe you are overwhelmed because you are expecting too much of yourself or your children. There are many ways to multi-level teach, saving wear and tear on your lesson planning, your schedule, your emotions, and your budget.

If you need help feeling accountable and staying on target, a planner or a notebook with calendar pages on which you can jot your plan can be helpful. The lesson

Continued on page 14



Homeschoolers Run at First Homeschool State Meet

by Ernie Hodges

The North Carolinians for Home Education Athletic Commission (NCHEAC) sponsored the first annual state cross-country championship at Hanes Park in Winston-Salem, NC, on October 21. The competition was open to both



homeschoolers on organized cross county teams and individual runners. The boys teams were from Asheville and Winston-Salem and the girls teams were from Winston-Salem and Surry County. There were also ten unaffiliated runners.

The boys and girls divisions were won by the Forsyth Hawks with Forsyth edging out Asheville by a single point in the boys division while the girls cruised to a comfortable win in their division.

The top five finishers in the boys division with their teams and their times were: Daniel Shirley, Forsyth, 19:00.87; Rush Newland, Forsyth, 19:27; Colton Brookshire, Asheville, 19:40; Tucker Besosa, Asheville, 20:21; Jared Ingersoll, 20:29.

The top six finishers in the girls division, their teams and their times were: Mary Frith, 19:33; Leslie Woodley, Forsyth, 21:02; Anna Hamilton, Forsyth, 22:35;

Joelle Ingersoll, 22:44; Christina Cantario, Forsyth, 24:08; Isabella Brookshire, 24:08.

This five kilometer (3.1 mile) race will be held again next year and is open to any North Carolina Homeschool Team or home-school individual runner.



Ernie Hodges is the NCHEAC state director.

When Life Broad-sides Your Homeschool *(Continued from page 13)*

plan book we used not only had lesson planning sheets, field trip logs, reading logs, and more, but it included a chart and guidelines to set a few goals for each child, so I could then focus my attention on materials or activities that would help us to achieve those goals.

Anything that isn't helping you achieve your goals is *extra* and should be included only if it doesn't impede your forward progress. In most cases, your children have been learning just through the natural processes of life. You may be very surprised at the cognitive progress they have made, even if you're not where you want to be academically. Children whose parents have had to slow down on the textbook studies because of family crises often do remarkably well on standardized achievement tests. Not only do they usually do acceptably on the tests, they have learned valuable lessons in how to live through crisis, how to serve one another under stress and how to trust in God for each moment. I am not recommending that you never expect excellence and diligence in formal studies; I am saying don't let a temporary setback make you quit or panic—you can all learn and grow through it.

Know that God is the Author of new beginnings. The following is a very big "if," so please do not allow the enemy to condemn you. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, but there can be conviction to make new choices. If you happen to be in your academic situation because of a shortcoming on your own part,

remember that the Lord's mercies are new every morning. I was not always as diligent as I wished I were, or as patient, or as discerning, or

But if they learned nothing else, I wanted my children to see a mother who was humble and repentant and teachable before the Lord and in front of her family. I needed to model a Christ-like attitude. (I often failed miserably!) They needed to see a woman who could admit those failings, humble herself to ask forgiveness, and try her best to rely on God to honor her Lord and her family in the future. I needed to stay on my knees and in the Word. I prayed for my children, just as Jesus did for his disciples (John 17).

You can't change what you have or haven't already done the last year. Just start where you are, ask the Lord to make you a *joyful mother of children*, pray for grace and wisdom (and strength and patience), and move forward.

Vicki Bentley is happily married to her high school sweetheart, Jim, and is the blessed mother of eight daughters, foster mom of over fifty since

1985, and grandma to fourteen wonderful grandbabies (so far). She is the author of Home Education 101: A Mentoring Program for New Homeschoolers, My Homeschool Planner, The Everyday Family Chore System, Everyday Cooking, and various articles, and serves as HSLDA's Early Years coordinator. Vicki has a heart for moms, with strong practical wisdom and encouraging words. More homemaking, homeschooling, and time management helps and articles can be found at her site <www.everydayhomemaking.com> or at <www.HSLDA.org/earlyyears>.

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Sponsored by Forsyth Home Educators

by Mark Fox



A recent weekend I shared with my five sons was meticulously planned. Well, let me qualify that. It was about as planned as it could be by my standards. My motto is, "If I get there and I don't have it, well, that's what Walmart is for." My wife's motto is, "If I am leaving the house and I have forgotten something, then the four checklists, six spreadsheets and four days of planning that would rival the preparation for D-Day were not enough." I am kidding about Cindy; but some of you men will recognize this statement as you are backing out of the garage to go on vacation or even just to church: "I just feel like I have forgotten something." She often looks at me as she says it, and I will say, "Of course you feel that way, darling. But you never do forget anything. And if you did, well, that's what Walmart is for."

This weekend trip was just me and my sons, and we were headed for the mountains to camp, cook over the open fire, laugh a lot and talk about our lives. The campsite was a little over two hours

away from home, and about fifteen miles from our destination the transmission started to give up the ghost. That's what I forgot to bring, I thought—a spare transmission! All the rental car places were closed, so we limped back toward home, thinking that if the tranny was going to die completely, the closer to home we were, the better.

Four hours later, we arrived at a lake lot owned by a family in the church, just twenty miles from home, and tried to pick the lock to the Dutch barn on their property, with their permission, of course. That's another thing our spreadsheet failed to include: a lock-pick. We gave up after an hour and decided to pitch our tent in the dark. I wasn't worried about sleeping; my friend Mark had loaned us his family's tent and a queen size air mattress. I realized as we were setting up camp that I forgot a pump. The prospect of two hours of blowing up the mattress left me feeling breathless, and there wasn't a Walmart in sight, so I decided to sleep on the queen-size sheets.

We built a fire, ate s'mores and talked about college, relationships, jobs and future plans. The next day we had planned to drive north a few miles to play disc golf.

That plan was changed when we realized the transmission had not been healed as we slept, so we started toward home. A twenty-mile trip took an hour and included some scenes worthy of a sit-com episode as Micah drove while the rest of us jumped out and pushed the van up hills, then made a mad dash to jump back into the moving vehicle. Don't try this at home.

We traded the van in for two worthier vehicles back at the house and still got in three hours of disc golf. Judah said later, "That was the best day of my life."

This camping trip will go down in the Foxian chronicles and be told for generations. It was not at all what we planned, but it was everything we needed, and a powerful reminder that "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." We can trust Him for a camping trip, for a college career, for a marriage decision and for every other step we take.

It's often the unplanned that makes the best memories. Still, next time we're taking Micah's car.

Mark and Cindy Fox have homeschooled for more than twenty-two years. Mark is pastor of Antioch Community Church in Elon, NC.

In the Spotlight

Homeschool Engineering Team Wins Trebuchet Event

The Charlotte Corps of Engineers homeschool team garnered three of the six trophies awarded at the October 18 NCJETS (North Carolina Junior Engineering and Technology Society) competition held at UNC-Charlotte. This competition, which is the first in an annual series of three, was a challenge to build a trebuchet (similar to a catapult) that could accurately throw a tennis ball a long distance. The trebuchets had to fit specific build criteria. The fall event pitted the homeschool team against seven public high schools from the surrounding counties and against thirty-three trebuchets.

The students did an awesome job on their trebs this year, and the results showed it. The team fielded two trebuchets. Team one, using the Floating Axle King Arthur (FAKA) treb, took first place in *both* accuracy and distance. (The average of the top three shots in accuracy was 186.4'; the distance was 288'.) Team two, using the Look Mom One Wheel (LM1W) design,

came in third in the accuracy competition. (The average of top three shots was 184.8'; the distance was 219'.)

Team members this year included Jason Bickley, Ben Bradley, Nathan Brady, Dana Murphy, Gabe Murphy, Daniel Rankin, Paul Rankin and Alec Whittington.

Founded in 2003, NCJETS is an exciting program sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Lee College of Engineering, Department of Engineering Technology. The program provides a variety of fun and interactive activities that help hundreds of high school students from seven counties in the Charlotte metropolitan region to learn



about the profession of engineering.

If you are interested in joining the NCJETS homeschool team or want information about upcoming competitions, contact team advisor Laura Rankin at <larankin@aol.com>.

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The Last Note

Treasured Memories of Homeschooling

by Kathy Fletcher



Decluttering and simplifying life remains a popular topic of blogs and books (electronic and print). I read them often, and occasionally even print an article that is extra-inspirational.

As our son prepares to graduate from our homeschool and begin a new and exciting life as a university student, I am quietly beginning to sift through all that will remain of our homeschool as he receives his high school diploma next spring and I reluctantly give notice to the DNPE that our school is closing forever. To me, it is liberating, yet heart-rending to gather curriculum and teacher-help books to take to the local homeschool consignment store.

Today I found a large basket full of catalogs, some dating back to the late 1990s. I spent a few extra minutes lovingly glancing through the words of advice from some of my favorite companies that no

longer exist as we used to know them—The Elijah Company, The Book Peddler, The Always Incomplete Resource Guide and Catalog (Lifetime Books & Gifts, Bob and Tina Farewell), and more. I even found a Twentieth Anniversary copy of the Rainbow Resources Catalog! Finding all these catalogs brought back many fond memories of NCHE Conferences and Book Fairs that my husband and I were so very fortunate to attend over the years.

I recently reluctantly admitted this to someone who serves with me on the NCHE Board: I have every single paper *Greenhouse Report* that has been published since we joined NCHE at least nineteen years ago when our daughter was two years old and our son had not yet been born! This is embarrassing to admit to the general public, but it speaks of my care and concern to get solid information and re-read it occasionally as a reminder of why we committed to homeschool in the first place. (Also, I am a bit sentimental.) It is against everything in my being to discard

these treasures, even though I know that practically everyone else in NCHE has done just that—and probably in a more timely manner! By next summer, I plan to let them go, if I can. Change is inevitable, and I can read the *Greenhouse Report* online now, but I just keep getting the print copy because it is something special to me.

Now, I have to go back to my former schoolroom/office/spare bedroom/junk room/soon-to-be hobby room and weed through all the old homeschooling magazines that are in a bin, just waiting to be emptied. Time moves forward, priorities change, books become items for the consignment store, but the memories of home educating my children are treasures that will never be tossed out!

Kathy Fletcher, and her husband, Eric, homeschooled their children from the beginning. They have absolutely no regrets. They have served one term on the NCHE board.