



THE COURIER

THE GENEVA
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 26, 2007



THE GENEVA SCHOOL CLASS OF 2007

From the top (left to right)

Andrew Yates (Illinois Institute of Technology)

Noah Bradon (Notre Dame University)

Craig White (Duke University)

Christopher Jainandan (Rollins College)

Michael Gmitro (Samford University)

Foster Lerner (Baylor University)

Scott Ritchie (Covenant College)

John Frame (Covenant College)

Weston Eakman (University of Miami)

Alexis Fulmer (Furman University)

Amanda Rowdon (Daytona Beach Community College)

Devon Fulmer (Furman University)

Melissa Gunter (Samford University)

Kirsten Peterson (Baylor University)

Baccalaureate

Sunday, May 20

Address given by Rev. Kevin Burrell



While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

The text I want to share this afternoon is Joshua 5, which carries in my Bible the subheading, “Circumcision at Gilgal.” I’m doubting that either one of those nouns is a word that comes to mind when you think of Baccalaureate. But I ask you to bear with me; I believe this text is very pertinent.

Seniors, it’s an honor to get to share with you this afternoon and to be a part of your graduation week. I know a lot of you, and I’m excited for you. I’m going to invite everyone else to eavesdrop as I talk, but I’m talking to you. I’d like to read something for you....

Joshua 5:1-12

As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted, and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time.” So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished because they did not obey the voice of the Lord; the Lord swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way.

When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today, I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

The following is an actual radio conversation released by the US Chief of Naval Operations on October 10, 1995. The first voice on the tape is that of a naval captain:

NAVY: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision. Over.

CIVILIAN: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to south to avoid a collision. Over.

NAVY: This is the captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course. Over.

CIVILIAN: No! I say again, you divert YOUR course. Over.

NAVY: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERPRISE, WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY. DIVERT YOUR COURSE NOW! OVER.

CIVILIAN: This is a lighthouse! Your call.

I suspect that all of you would say that Geneva has been



good to you, that it's been the kind of environment that has pushed you to excellence wherever that is: the classroom, the soccer field, the stage, wherever. And here you are this week, some of you graduating summa cum laude or magna cum laude or, just plain, "thank-ya laude," and with the conferring of that diploma, each of you is facing a change of course. The lighthouse is calling you to change your direction.

For some of you that's a fearful thing. Geneva has been a safe environment, and graduation is pushing you out the door into something much more unfamiliar. You didn't ask for it and you'd prefer the familiar, but this is just the way it works. You're in this process, maybe somewhat against your preferences. For others of you, this is an exciting thing. You are fully ready for the change, and you've been ready since last year. You know you were made for this. I could be wrong, but I'm imagining that for all of you, you feel both of these to



some extent—fear and excitement—differing degrees for each of you, but both passions at the same time. And this is why Joshua 5 applies to you right now—because it's about a time of change, and it addresses both of these:

- God calls on you in times of change to remember Him, and
- God calls on you in times of change to trust Him.

To explain this, I need us to all use our imaginations for a moment, and go back about 3400 years. And, if you would humor me for a moment, imagine yourself not as an American in the class of 2007 but as an Israelite in the class of 1407 BC (give or take a few years). For your senior trip, a river dried up so you could cross it, and you stepped into the Promised Land. This is an accomplishment that at least 440 previous graduating classes have been unable to attain. 400 of those classes were cheap slave labor in Egypt, and when God took Moses and led his people out of Egypt, they got so close to this land that twelve of them got to peek inside. But only two had the faith to believe that God would give them the victory. So, God said to those people (your



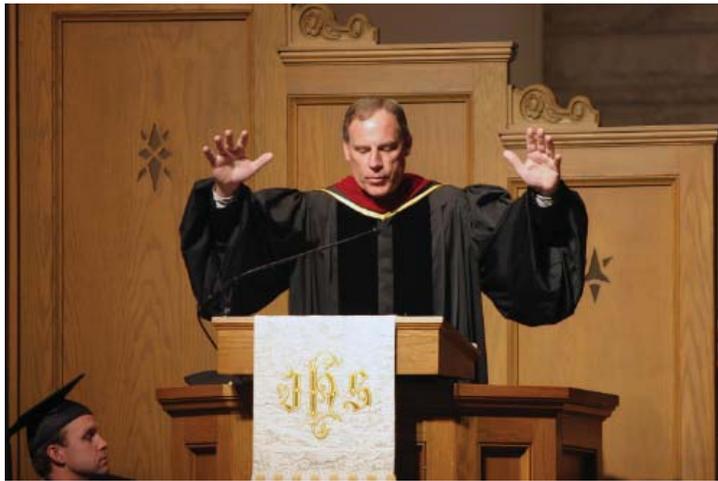
parents) that they weren't ready yet, and for forty more years, Israel wandered.

You were born into that—you were born a nomad, and your life has been filled with the hope that someday you'll see God's promise fulfilled. And you've lived your whole life knowing that the land was there, just out of reach. And your dreams have been filled with images of milk and honey, the smell of the air, and the taste of the fruit. You haven't seen it, but you've heard about it. All your life, as early as you can remember, your parents have told you the stories. When you asked, "Uhhh, Dad, why are we wandering around in the desert?" your dad would say, "Because God promised us a land of our own someday soon." You've never seen the land, but you can picture it, and it has been told to you throughout your life that there is a land waiting for you, waiting for the moment of your arrival. And you've just miraculously crossed a river and set foot on the soil of that promise. It's waiting to be conquered, and rumor has it that the current occupants are scared silly—they don't even have the courage to fight you. Think about what you're feeling right about now as you stand in the Promised Land for the first time. You were made for this! It's yours! Take it! Carpe diem! Let's go!

Verse 2: At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time." WHAT? The enthusiasm is at full throttle right now, and God pulls the brake, when tactically it would have made sense to press the attack while the enemy is panicking. Why did God do this?

I said this passage addresses two things for you as you move ahead, and this is the first one—God calls you in times of change to remember Him.

God hits the pause button here. The pause exists because Israel needed a reminder of what this was all about. God says, "Stop, I want you to remember the covenant that I made with Abraham and the sign of the covenant. This is the fulfillment of a promise I made to him, and I want you to remember that I am a God who is faithful to all generations." And then He says, "Hey,



sit down and have a meal with me—let’s celebrate the Passover. This is the fulfillment of a promise I made then too, when I led you out of Egypt.” And so God says, “Before we go any further, let me remind each of you what this is all about.” God hits the pause button as a reminder to you, the Class of 1407 B.C., that every piece of track that was laid right up to where you stand now is a result of God’s faithfulness and not your own accomplishments. And Class of 2007 A.D., that is no less true of you today. This week we celebrate your achievements, and we’re grateful for those achievements, but ultimately you are where you are because a faithful God has seen fit to bring you here. And instead of letting the excitement of the moment carry you right past the significance of it, God says, “Stop—remember what it’s all about; remember what I am doing.”

Here’s what He’s doing. He’s building a kingdom, and He’s using you and not on your own merit. You’re part of his work because He sent Christ, not to applaud your strengths but to overcome your weaknesses. What it’s all about is a trust in Christ to do what you cannot do: to present you faultless before a holy throne. And then, it’s about a deep daily dependence on Him as you glorify Him and enjoy the benefits of being His. Life doesn’t work well if you miss that.

At this transition time, you can charge into the next thing, and the next thing, and the next thing. You graduate from high school, and you can’t wait to get to college. You graduate from college, and you can’t wait to get your first job. You get your first job, and you can’t wait to get married. Get married, and you can’t wait to have kids. Have kids, and you can’t wait for THEM to graduate, and leave! They leave, and you can’t wait to retire. You spend 99 percent of your life waiting for the next big thing to happen. Life is not about the next big thing; life is about glorify-

ing God. Life is about a relationship with Jesus Christ that flows from a trust in Jesus Christ, and even though this is a Christian school, none of you is immune to missing that. The rest is just context; it’s important but just context. God wants the THEME of your story to be Jesus, and He calls you at this time of transition to remember Him and to remember what it’s all about.

So, that’s a reminder to those of you who are excited about what’s next and ready to charge into it. Do it, but don’t charge past the point of it all; do it His way, trust His faithfulness in your life.

But I also said this passage has a word for the fearful among you—God calls on us in times of change to trust Him.

I want to look at verse 12 because this verse amazes me. Unless you put on your Israelite caps and gowns again, you could shoot right past this. They have a great feast in the land—roasted grain and fresh produce. And then verse 12 says, “The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land.” Remember, Class of 1407 B.C., you’ve been eating manna your whole lives. You’ve never eaten anything else. Maybe some of you ate some quail, but it wasn’t very good! Every morning for as long as you can remember, you woke up and there was this honey-tasting wafer on the ground. We’re not sure what it is. In fact, we know so little about it that we actually name it after a question: we call it, “What is it?” But, it’s been the only item on the menu for your entire lives. Honey-tasting manna (I think of Frosted Flakes), as far as the eye can see in every direction, every morning.



There was a quartermaster general in the army who had worked in the desert. He did the math and said that Moses would have had to come up with 1,500 tons of food a day to feed all the Israelites in the desert. 1,500 tons of Frosted Flakes! I did the math: if you’re dealing with your grocery variety 16-oz. box of cereal, that’s 3 million boxes of cereal (2,400,000 if you go with the economy 20-oz. size). It’s a lot of cereal.

Maybe you’re tired of it by now. Maybe you’re taking it for granted. Regardless, it’s something familiar; it’s all you’ve known. And you cross into the land, and suddenly this daily familiar thing is gone. Gone! So,

here’s the question, what do we do when the familiar things in our lives disappear? Israel faced that, and now you face that too. I’ve got an answer for you, but I want to get there by talking about two major transitions in the life of Israel. Pay attention, because the answer is hidden in what I’m about to tell you.

First, let's talk about this transition we've just read about.

1. God provided for Israel food and sustenance for 40 years; he never missed a beat in providing for His people.
2. He did it to prepare Israel for entering the Promised Land.
3. But when the Israelites reached the land, the familiar blessing stopped. Why?
4. Because what was anticipated was now a reality; because now Israel was faced with a greater blessing. The land they were promised was now provided for them.
5. And now God was calling them to trust Him in new ways.



Fast forward, but not all the way. Go about 1400 years forward, and I ask you again, What do we do when the familiar in our lives disappears?

1. God provided for Israel the hope of a Messiah, and again, He never missed a beat in his ultimate faithfulness to His people.
2. He did it to prepare Israel for the coming Messiah.
3. But when Jesus came, the familiar way of life stopped. Why?
4. Because what was anticipated was now a reality; because now Israel was faced with a greater blessing. The Messiah they were promised was now provided for them.
5. And now God was calling them to trust Him in new ways, unfamiliar ways.

Christ basically said, "I am the fulfillment of all the prophecies. I am the way, the truth, and the life, and nobody comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus even claimed to be the manna! He said, "I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:48-50).

So, the Bible talks about the transition from the wilderness to the Promised Land and the transition from

awaiting the Messiah to embracing Him. What about the transition of your graduating from The Geneva School in a few days?

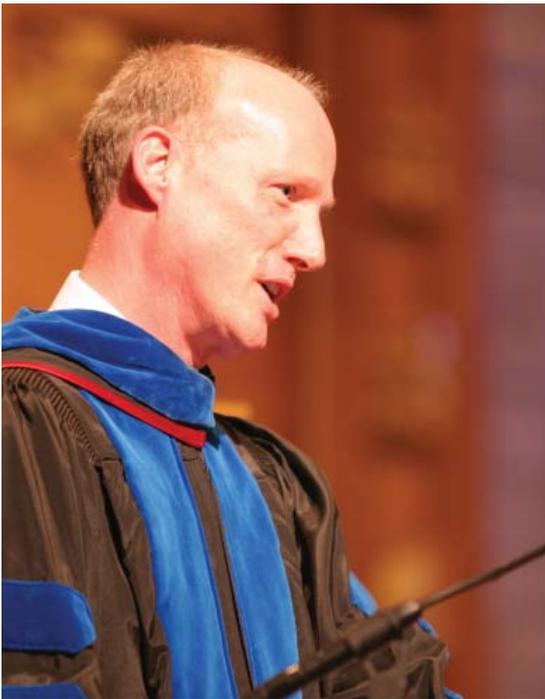
1. God provides for us all that we need for all our lives; He never misses a beat in his faithfulness to us.
2. He does it to prepare us for what lies ahead (both the future and, ultimately, that final day).
3. Soon, the familiar way of life, for most of you, will stop to some extent. Why?
4. Because what was anticipated will soon be a reality; now you are faced with something greater. Your teachers have prepared you for a place in the world; now you go to discover it. Your parents have prepared you to establish yourself in maturity; now you go to do it. And you have prepared yourself for the next step; now it's time to take it.
5. And God is calling you to trust Him in new ways.

God may not provide in the same ways, but He will provide. God may not console through the same friends, but He will console. He may not exhort through the same teachers, but He will exhort. Your opportunities to learn, to worship, and to fellowship will take on new forms. God will always provide in these ways. Every chapter of your book carries the theme: God is faithful, God is faithful, God is faithful. Now, anticipate what will be written next.

So, maybe there's a part of you that's afraid of what lies ahead. Maybe there's some anxiety there. But God's provision has been suitable to your past and is suitable to your present, and will be suitable for your future. A lot may change in the coming days, but His faithfulness is everlasting.

Rev. Burrell currently ministers as Pastor of Youth and Family at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Orlando. Kevin lives in Altamonte Springs with his wife, Beverly, and one-year-old son, Benjamin.





Commencement Service

Friday, May 25

Address given by Dr. Robert Littlejohn

ty. The minister's message began with one simple word: "OTHERS." Then he repeated it: "OTHERS."

He went on to describe a life that was completely focused upon others and, while I didn't know the woman well, I was reminded of someone I had known very well—the director of the summer camp where I spent most of my summers as a boy, served as a counselor while in college, and volunteered a bit as an adult when my own children attended the camp. The director was actually my cousin, but since she was of my father's generation, I called her "Aunt Peg." She was the only person ever to call me by my first and middle names, as if they were one name. I hated this at first, but I grew to love it since it made me feel that we had a special bond, an entirely unique relationship. Throughout my life, Aunt Peg always made me feel loved and special. I was well into my adulthood when I finally realized that Aunt Peg made everyone feel special. She had a gift, a wonderful way of finding a connection with everyone she knew and making them feel loved.

Both of these women, in my estimation, lived lives that truly fulfilled the great commandment and its companion commandment: To love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

The nurse's funeral caused me to reflect a great deal upon my own life, and I went away asking myself some probing questions. What would be said of me at my life's end? What would be true of me at my life's end? Would my life have been one of self-absorption and getting ahead? Would my legacy be merely one of professional accomplishment or the accumulation of wealth (as admirable as these may be)? Or, would I have fulfilled the Lord's command to love Him and others?

Now, I realize how strange it seems to speak of funerals at a commencement. After all, you have your whole life ahead of you. But as Christians we know that the funeral of a believer represents not only the conclusion to a life here on earth but the beginning of an eternity of living in God's own presence. It is a kind of graduation, if you will, a moving on to the next thing.

This day feels very much like a conclusion to you, but it is also a beginning, and today (or, perhaps in a few days when things settle down for you a little bit), would be

Now graduates, every commencement speaker says this, but I want you to know that it really is a privilege for me to be with you today, because you are not graduating from just any school. As one who has been involved in classical education for over 16 years, I have attended all the conferences, met all the people, visited many of the schools, read all the books (I've even written one). And as an outsider, I can tell you that The Geneva School has the reputation of being one of the finest schools, offering the best form of education available in the nation. You are not graduating from just any school. You are graduating from The Geneva School. It has not been as easy for you as other schools would have been, and you deserve to be recognized for your accomplishments. Please stand for us, as we offer you our sincere congratulations.

But The Geneva School would not be such a fine school without the contributions of its faculty, staff, administration and board, so if they would please stand, I would ask you to join me as we express our deep appreciation to them.

And without another group of people, we wouldn't be here celebrating your accomplishments today. So if all the parents and grandparents of our graduates would please stand, we want to offer you our heartfelt thanks, as well.

Thank you all for those expressions of appreciation to one another. It is so important for us to recognize others and to recognize how much others have contributed to our lives.

A few years ago, I attended the funeral of a long-serving faculty member at a school of nursing in my communi-

a very good time for you to ask the same kinds of questions that I asked myself after that funeral. What will be said of you at life's end? What will be true of you at life's end? Will you have fulfilled the Lord's command to love Him and to love others?

Jesus identifies these as the first and second great commandments...to love God and neighbor. And the disciple whom Jesus loved knits the two together when he says, "anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." John tells us that it is impossible to love God without loving others. So, loving God includes, and is best demonstrated, by loving others.

But how will we love others?

If you haven't read it already, I encourage you to read a slim volume by C.S. Lewis entitled *The Four Loves*. In it, Lewis describes (as you might imagine he would) four kinds of love: *eros*, or romantic love, *philia*, or brotherly love, *storge*, which is the love of companionship that you might have toward a family member or even toward the family pet, and *agape*, which is a selfless love. It is true that agape is the kind of love that God shows toward us, but it is also a kind of love that we can show toward others. It is selfless, or we might say it is "other-focused" love.

I am sure there are countless ways that we could show "agape" love toward others, but examining just a few should well serve our purpose today.

First, we can love others by listening....really listening. Few things make us feel better than knowing that we have been heard and understood. Too often, we impatiently tolerate another person's comments while preparing in our minds the next profound or witty thing we want to say. What they are saying begins to sound to us like the teacher in the Charley Brown cartoons, "whah, whah, whah, whah, whah, whah." But, loving others means listening to what they say with the goal of understanding them.

I must confess that I often fail at this kind of listening, but every now and then I get it right, and I notice when others get it right. And I have learned what a powerful expression of love this kind of listening can be.

A little over a year ago, my wife, Teresa, and I took her parents to Ireland. They are in their seventies and had never been on a plane. Teresa travels with her work and accumulates hundreds of thousands of frequent flyer miles, so she asked them one time "if you could go anywhere in the world for free, where would it be?" We still aren't sure why, but they said "Ireland."

So, off we went to Ireland. But, we did not stay in a major city or in hotels. We rented a little picturesque cottage, a post-cardesque cottage, in a tiny fishing village in southwest Ireland. There were only 20 buildings in the village of Gary-Kennedy, and two of them were pubs. (That's a pretty good pub-to-house ratio if you ask me). Now perhaps it is appropriate to point out that pubs in Ireland, like much of Europe, are not like American bars. They are public houses, gathering places, and, in a tiny fishing village, they are the only places to get a meal outside of the home.

Now, Teresa's parents were tired each night from our day trips and sight seeing, so they would retire early while Teresa and I would literally step next door to Larkin's Pub. They had live music, the kind you always hear about with fiddles and guitars, the Irish drum (or bodhran), and the little accordion-like concertinas and singing.

You can imagine that in such a small village, Americans were somewhat of a novelty, and the locals seemed to love engaging us both in conversation while the music played in the background. One gentleman, Joe, began talking to Teresa one evening and, before long, was telling her his life's story. She could barely understand his thick Irish brogue, so she strained to understand him, and I was a bit amused by her facial expressions as she nodded, squinted, and smiled in response to his words and gestures. She didn't bother to respond with her own counter stories but would ask the occasional ques-



tion to be sure she understood him. He told a sad story of a hard life, including the loss of a child and the loss of his wife. Teresa really worked hard at listening and understanding him, and I was quite touched by the respect and empathy that she was showing this stranger.

After a while, the instruments began to be put away and folks began to say good night, but a small group, including this one gentleman, invited us into a circle of stools where some sat and some stood, while each

offered a good old Irish song, *a capella*. After a couple of songs, Joe sang the most beautiful ballad about the comforts of home and family called "In my Father's House." He sang at least five stanzas from memory, and much of the song he sang directly to Teresa and me (well, mostly Teresa), gesturing toward us throughout the song.

It was months later before I connected the song's message about the comforts of home and family with how Teresa's kind attention had made him feel. But the power of listening as an expression of love was driven home to us both when the woman sitting next to Teresa leaned over and whispered, "In 20 years of coming to this pub, we have never heard him sing."

Second, we can love others by respecting them. We may strongly disagree with what others say or what they stand for, but they too, like us, are made in God's own image, and, for His sake, they deserve our honest respect.

I am sure I have been guilty of this myself, but I always cringe when my fellow believers become arrogant or condescending in their conversations or debates with non-believers. One of the greatest privileges we can ever have is that of encouraging others toward a closer relationship to God, but no one has ever been won over to a different point of view while not feeling respected.

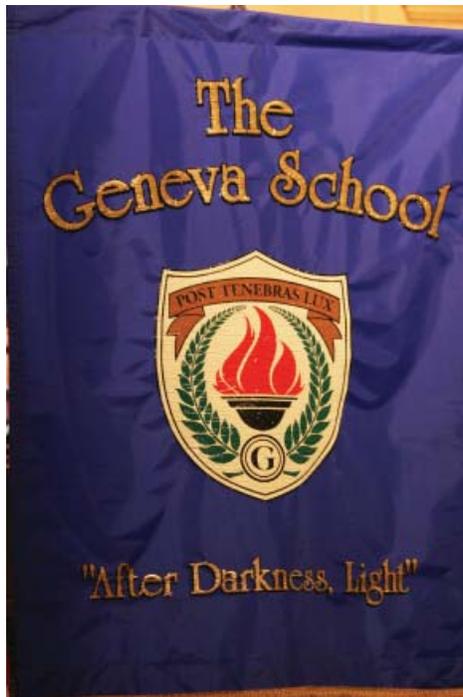
Third, we can love others by serving them. This does not mean being subservient or becoming a door mat for others. It simply means meeting their needs, even in small ways, when we have the chance. From his writings, it seems that the apostle John learned this lesson well, for (as we heard from Headmaster Ingram just moments ago) when John and his brother James asked to sit on either side of Christ in glory, Jesus replied by saying, "He who would be greatest among you must be the servant of all" ...the servant of others.

In fact, human service, respect and listening are among the most tangible ways that God shows his love and meets the needs of his children in this world. He has no hands but ours. He has no facial expression, no smile, but ours. He has no ears but ours. He has no resources to share but those he has entrusted to our stewardship. So, within God's ordinary providence, or another way of saying it is, "apart from a miracle," God meets the human needs of his children here on earth largely through our serving, respecting, and listening to one another. As John says, others can't see God, but they can see us and, for some, we may be the best rep-

resentatives of God that they will ever meet.

Fourth and last, I pray that you are never called upon to express the highest form of love for others, as a professor at Virginia Tech recently did and as we often hear about our soldiers in Iraq, "for greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

We can't know exactly what the future holds. God may call you to one or more of a myriad of professions. He may call you to serve him at home or abroad. He may or may not call you to marriage or to raise a house full of children. He may call you to executive leadership or political office, to teach, or to preach, or to invent the next generation of culture-transforming technology. Of such things we cannot be certain, but we can be certain that He calls us, as we journey through the rest of this life, to love Him and others.



Now, I had planned to wax far more theological today, and your yearbook may quote me on subjects like "becoming Christian" and "partnering with Christ in his redemptive work in the world," but I am confident that you already have a better understanding of these principles than could be gained in these 15 minutes. The simple reality is that being genuinely Christian and partnering with Christ in his work of redemption are both fully realized when we fulfill his command to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to demonstrate that love by loving others.

So my challenge to you, going forward from today, is to make these great commandments your own life's goal. Make them your first priority in life. Do nothing without considering how you might show your love

to God and God's love to others. You will find that pursuing this humble goal will be your surest path to a joy-filled life and to genuine success.

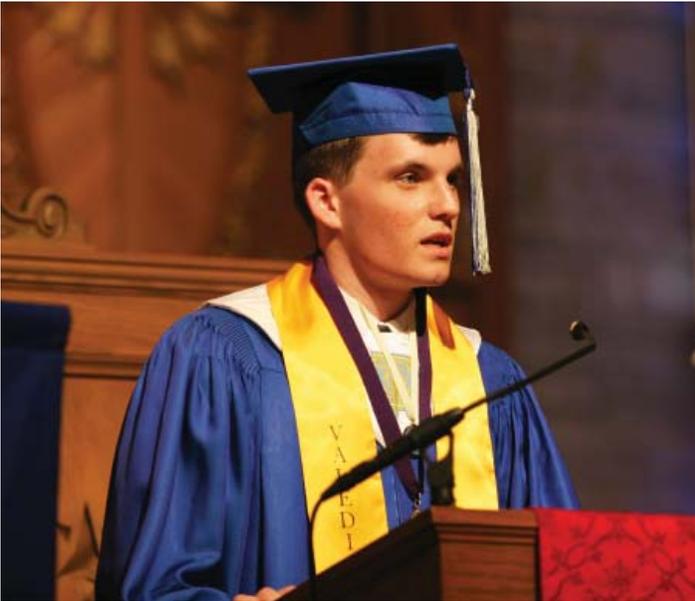
May God grant you a heart, soul, and mind to love Him, the strength to love others as yourself, and the grace to accomplish all that you can dream and more.

Thank you.

Dr. Littlejohn currently serves as Head of School at Trinity Academy of Raleigh in North Carolina. He is the author of two college-level biology laboratory text books and most recently co-authored Wisdom and Eloquence: A Christian Paradigm for Classical Learning, published by Crossway Books. He and his wife, Teresa, live in Wake Forest, North Carolina and have three grown children, all of whom have benefited from a classical education.

Co-Valedictorian

Craig White



How do you go about choosing a school for your child?

While I cannot claim to be able to answer this question from personal experience, I shall attempt a partial answer with a quote from a physicist with whose work I hope to become intimately familiar these next few years. Albert Einstein once said, “It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry.”

Dorothy Sayers would have agreed with Einstein’s assessment of the ills of modern education, surely, and she offered it a remedy. Sixty years ago in a speech on education at Oxford University, Sayers challenged educators to recover the lost tools of learning that had instilled such a “holy curiosity of inquiry” in previous generations of missionaries, teachers, writers, artists, mathematicians, musicians, and scientists. The challenge Sayers issued that day was for a return to the trivium, the foundation of the liberal arts tradition, a foundation that emphasizes logic and rhetoric and students’ active participation in their own learning.

We, the Geneva Class of 2007, are extremely thankful that the founders of this school took that challenge to heart, and because of their vision, one shared by our teachers, we have been given every opportunity and every encouragement to find, rekindle, and pursue that holy curiosity for inquiry. During my years at Geneva, and especially when I was younger and more foolish, I often asked my parents why they enrolled and kept me at Geneva. The answer was always the same: “So that you will learn how to think.”

The grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric stages of the trivium are designed to produce Christian thinkers.

As we passed through the grammar stage, we learned the books of the Bible, how to add and subtract, and the basics of Latin grammar. When we moved into the dialectic, we learned theology, how to manipulate mathematical equations, and to read Latin sentences. And in the rhetoric stage, we engaged in philosophical arguments, probed the mathematical structure of the universe, and read the prose and poetry of the Roman writers of millennia ago.

As we prepare to leave The Geneva School and go on to other academic institutions, we will share classes with some of the brightest minds of our generation. Many of these students will have superior academic résumés to our own, but how many will be able to look at our world from the vantage point of the great classical thinkers, while subsuming all to the wisdom of Scripture?

Einstein said that modern education strangles the holy curiosity of inquiry. Geneva, by contrast, engenders it. In 1st grade, as I am reminded, my curiosity was piqued by a class project on penguins. This unquenchable inquisitiveness for biology, and other sciences later, remains with me to this day. Similarly, each of my classmates has experienced a renewed curiosity to know God better through a deeper study of His creation, both in the arts and in the sciences.

In these past years, education for us has meant small classes driven by Socratic discussions guided by master teachers who are knowledgeable and passionate about what they teach. Geneva has indeed set a very high bar for the colleges we are entering, and I pray that they will not disappoint us, discourage our aspirations, or try to rob our holy curiosity.

So, how does one go about choosing a school for one’s child? I still cannot answer that question fully; nothing has changed in the last five minutes. But we, the Class of 2007, are thankful that our families chose a school for us where we would be given the tools to think and where we would recover a lost curiosity for a Holy God.

Craig attended The Geneva School for twelve years, beginning in first grade. He will be attending Duke University, majoring in Physics, possibly double majoring in Math. He also plans to continue with Latin in the Classics department and wants to take as much Biology as possible.

Co-Valedictorian

Foster Lerner



I remember a day in Mrs. King's English class when we her students complained to her that she was teaching us a style of English no longer in common use, that no one writes or talks today the way she was teaching us with such formal and precise punctuation, grammar, and style.

She responded, "I am not teaching you this because I expect you to write in just this way in the future; but now, when you write, you will have a choice of the manner in which you express yourselves."

I remember the lesson because that day Mrs. King was giving us freedom. Of course, back then we did not realize our liberation: freedom to express ourselves in new and creative ways without fear, knowing that we are not alone. That is what a liberal arts education is about, and that is what Geneva has been about working in us these long years, from the day we arrived until now.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends: I am honored to come before you today, along with each member of my class of '07, a graduate of the Geneva School. Each of us stands here having found not just a respect, not just an esteem, but the true friendship and love of the other 13. Attending Geneva has not always been easy. Some of us have traveled great distances each day to come to school. Our parents have sacrificed much. Our teachers have sacrificed much to give us an education so life-shaping, so liberating, that I believe its effects will be felt for generations to come through our influence on the people around us and our own children.

The choice Mrs. King gave us that day is still ours, as are the many choices Geneva has given us, and each of us has chosen to serve God with both our innate and acquired abilities. We have played on the field with our bodies to His glory, we have filled our minds with the facts of His world, and we have discovered the laws that govern this world. At the end of it all, each of us has found his own voice of praise, a voice witnessing to the mighty deeds of the Lord in our lives. And today He has done a mighty deed in us through this school, and we have faith that in the coming years God will be faithful, and He shall complete in each of us the good work He has begun.

We have been prepared by such exemplary teachers, we have created such relationships with each other, and we have been given not just an education of facts but the tools with which to build a lifetime of learning and glorifying God for all that is true, good, and beautiful. No matter what college we go to or where we are sent by Providence, we will be successful, walking in the way of the Lord.

Today is a happy day, a mountaintop experience, a day when we gather together to celebrate each other's accomplishments, to acknowledge our growth, our commencement. God has been faithful to me through the Kings (my English teachers), through Mr. Jain (my Natural Philosophy teacher), through Mr. Eatmon (my mentor and friend), through my parents, and through all of my friends. And so it is for each of us in the class of '07 and those gathered here today. God has indeed been faithful. As to our response: Choose you this day whom you will serve; but as for me and my class, we will serve the LORD.

Foster attended The Geneva School for six years, beginning in seventh grade. He plans to study Pre-Med. and Music at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.



Salutatorian Devon Fulmer gives the Charge to the Junior Class

Then, because of all the wisdom you have gained, it will also be your responsibility to lead and teach other children. I can remember my first experience of this early on in the year. As my friends and I were looking for a spot to rest our lunch boxes, the only unoccupied space seemed to be the benches in the Grammar School play area. As I began eating, the adorable kindergartners came out and a little girl named Rachel felt confident enough to sit down and talk with me. As the weeks and months passed, Rachel looked forward to spending a portion of her recess time with us and would give us hugs when we saw each other down the hall. I knew she looked up to me, and even though I only saw her for moments each day, I knew I had been given the responsibility of showing her how “big kids” act. I was a role model.

I am vertically challenged. I have also never played basketball. However, a man a foot and a half taller than I once said, “I’ve missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life.” And that is why Michael Jordan has succeeded. I have known you, Juniors, as my teammates, my study-buddies, and my friends. As such, I feel it is an honor and my responsibility to impart to you my gained wisdom.

As your senior year becomes a reality, some of you might have “senioritis” before classes even resume. In fact, some of you may be experiencing the first signs of senioritis as you sit here now. It is no secret that your senior year will be challenging, and the only way that any one of you will be able to survive is to have a firm grasp on your courage, honesty, humility, and faith. But while you are striving to reach your goals, I ask you to not take your last year as high school students for granted. For your senior year will be full of lasts...your last school dance, your last season in a sport, your last birthday at home. I know all too well that time can easily slip away without you noticing. Take time to stop, laugh, and cherish each moment.

Furthermore, having reached the highest rank of the rhetoric stage, it will be your responsibility to not only learn as much as you can but also be able to show that you have learned much and taken advantage of your time here at The Geneva School.

In addition, I ask you as rising seniors to take time to appreciate the beauty around you and to take the lead in showing the younger students why beauty is to be appreciated. As I have, hopefully, brought beauty to others through my art, so all of you have the responsibility to lead others to see God’s beauty through your art, your music, your words, and your deeds.

Finally, I am sure you all realize that you will be the last seniors to be in this building. You are in a crucial transitional year. No matter what, you will be leaving a mark on Geneva and molding the school’s future. I implore you, take a great deal of time to remember who you are, where you came from, and where you are going. I then pray you give just as much time to remembering what Geneva is, where Geneva came from, and where Geneva is going. Do not lose sight of this! Some of you have been at this school forever, and for some, it has only been a short time. No matter what, you will all become role models, so it is imperative that you step up to take the name of *leader*. Every single one of you Juniors has the ability to be successful leaders, and all of you must become one.

Class of 2008, I tell you now that failure teaches much more than any victory could. You must be responsible to learn and lead. Only then will you truly be successful. Hopefully, I have fulfilled my goal of helping one last time to see my fellow comrades grow. Thus, I leave you with Ralph Waldo Emerson’s definition of success: “Success: to laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!” Today you leave this church as Seniors; it is your time to succeed.

Devon attended The Geneva School for three years, from tenth through twelfth grade. She will attend Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, and at this time is unsure what her major will be. Her interests lie in the areas of fine art, classics, and biology.



Fide Award

Given to the senior who manifests in thought, word, and deed a sincere commitment to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, informed by the reformational distinctives of The Geneva School, the Fide Award is a \$500 scholarship granted by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the administration and rhetoric faculty.

Michael Gmitro

Literis Award

Given to the senior who best appreciates, appropriates, and applies the ideals of classical education, informed by the liberal arts tradition of The Geneva School, the Literis Award is a \$500 scholarship granted by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the administration and rhetoric faculty.

Foster Lerner



Imago Award for Fine Arts

Given to the seniors whose vibrant imaginations, remarkable skillfulness, and creative works in the fine arts and the performing arts best imitate the artistry of our Creator, the Imago Awards are \$500 scholarships granted by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the administration and the rhetoric faculty.

Devon Fulmer (fine arts)
Foster Lerner (performing arts)

The Geneva School Class of 2007 accepted over \$1,000,000 in scholarship monies toward their college educations. This is an impressive response by major colleges and universities to the quality of a Geneva education and to the caliber of Geneva students.



Come Along-Side Award

This award is presented by the Board of Governors to the person or persons deemed to have made singular contributions of time, talent, and treasure to the cause of Christian classical education and the life and well-being of The Geneva School.

On behalf of her husband, who was travelling in England, Mrs. Lynne Veerman received this award from board member Crosland Stuart.

For the last few years Ralph Veerman has honored The Geneva School by laboring along-side us as we seek to manage the economic realities of building and furthering an educational institution. He is widely sought after by different groups across the country, and his non-profit and development expertise have been

used to take any number of organizations to the next level, as well as given them the greatest gift of all—helping to ensure their financial stability for the future. Ralph has chosen to marshal his talents toward the advancement of the Kingdom, and his life's work testifies to God's goodness and benevolence.

Mr. Ralph Veerman

Order of the Towel

This award is granted to the person or persons within the Geneva community in recognition of their selfless leadership on behalf of others. Inspired by the biblical example of Jesus girding Himself with a towel and washing the feet of the disciples, this honor is bestowed upon those who gladly disadvantage themselves for the benefit of others and for the glory of God.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Headmaster Rev. Robert Ingram presented Mrs. Beth Abely with an engraved silver bowl and a monogrammed Geneva towel.

Beth has volunteered her time at Geneva since her twin daughters, Kathryn and Patricia, enrolled in Kindergarten three years ago. She leads a Brownie troop and serves on the finance committee. She more than fulfills the role of two homeroom moms to the teachers of her girls, and there is not an auction, play, special event, dinner, or field trip that has not known her leadership or gentle touch. Faculty clamor to have Beth involved in their classrooms, administrators debate the ethics of cloning her, and board members relax and smile, knowing her wisdom and proven faithfulness.



Mrs. Beth Abely

Parents' Knight Out



One of the unifying elements of Geneva is the sense of collaborating together with a common vision and goal for our children. We are a part of a community of people endeavoring to train up our children to love and serve the Lord, and we desire for them to be lovers of Truth wherever it may be found.

As a community of people with common goals, we also desire to have a place in that community, to know others and to be known. As the school continues to grow, it is very important that we work to preserve that sense of community and strive to nurture relationships with one another.

To this end, the staff has teamed up with a group of parents to arrange grade-level dinners next fall for every grade in the school. These dinners will be held in homes, with one goal in mind: to build community within each grade. Aptly named Parents' Knight Out, these dinners are intended to be just for parents, just for fun, and with no agenda for the evening.

Please mark your calendars now and plan on a great night out with the other parents in your child's class.

Pre-K	Friday, October 26
Kindergarten	Saturday, November 3
First Grade	Saturday, October 20
Second Grade	Saturday, September 15
Third Grade	Saturday, September 8
Fourth Grade	Saturday, October 6
Fifth Grade	Friday, September 21
Sixth Grade	Friday, August 24
Seventh Grade	Friday, September 14
Eighth Grade	Saturday, September 22
Ninth Grade	Friday, October 26
Tenth Grade	Saturday, September 8
Eleventh Grade	Friday, October 5
Twelfth Grade	Saturday, August 25

For those families with young children who need help finding a babysitter, please contact Sarah Cloke (sccloke@genevaschool.org). We have many eager teenagers who love to babysit! Another idea is to team up with a family with children in different grades and switch out watching each other's children for the evening.

More information and invitations are forthcoming.

Back to

Parent Orientation

Grammar School: Wednesday, August 8
Dialectic & Rhetoric School: Thursday, August 9
7:00 pm in the Gym

You won't want to miss the important information that will be covered and distributed. Please have at least one parent present to represent your family.

Meet the Teachers

Friday, August 10
10:00 am–12:00 pm

Picnic & Popsicles at Maitland Park

Friday, August 10
11:00 am–1:00 pm (following Meet the Teachers)
Bring your lunch and come on over to Maitland Park for a last bit of summer fun with new and old friends.

Introducing New Faculty and Staff



Edward Chandler: Dr. Chandler joins the Geneva administrative team as the Dean of Students. He comes to us from Oak Mountain Christian Classical School in Birmingham, AL, where for the last three years he has been the Chair of Classical Languages, as well as an instructor in church history and Bible.

Edward and his wife Victoria have been married for 17 years and have four children ranging in age from six to twelve.

Edward's educational background began with his undergraduate degree in business from Clemson University. He went on to earn an MBA from the University of Mississippi, a Master of Divinity from Covenant Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Semitic Philology (the study of Semitic languages and culture) from The Catholic University of America. He is a published author, guest lecturer at various colleges and seminaries in the United States and Ukraine, and has both teaching and administrative experience.

Dr. Chandler will do some teaching in Latin, but will primarily spend his time as the Dean of Students, working alongside Mr. Bill Wood, our new Dean of Faculty.



Heather Wayne: Heather graduated from Furman University this past spring with a double major in English Literature and Art. She joins Caroline Newkirk as the second Geneva graduate to return to the school as an employee. Heather graduated as Valedictorian of the class of 2003 and comes to Geneva for a one-year appointment. She will be our "Artist in Residence" for the first semester, lending her artistic flair to help create our new pre-K and Kindergarten campus before the move planned for fall break. She will also teach yearbook both

semesters, as well as rhetoric English after Maggie Iverson departs mid-year to have her baby.

Beth McNatt: Beth has taught second grade at Geneva for the past eight years. Next year she will join the fifth-grade team of Leslie Pollard and David Rowe.

Sarah Rothwell: As Geneva will not have three first-grade classes next year, Sarah will move from the first-grade team to take Beth's position teaching in second grade, joining Katie Sullivan and Mary Chris Rowe.

Caroline Newkirk: Caroline will continue to teach French I & II next year, but will give up her administrative duties to teach Latin to grammar-school students.

School Events

Convocation

Sunday, August 12
4:00 pm

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church
4725 East Lake Drive, Winter Springs

Geneva families join with faculty and staff for a time of worship and prayer for the upcoming school year.

New Moms' Coffee

Friday, August 17

After morning drop-off, at Aloma Baptist Church

Round out the first week of school with a time to meet other new mothers and hear some words of wisdom from a few "veteran" Geneva moms.

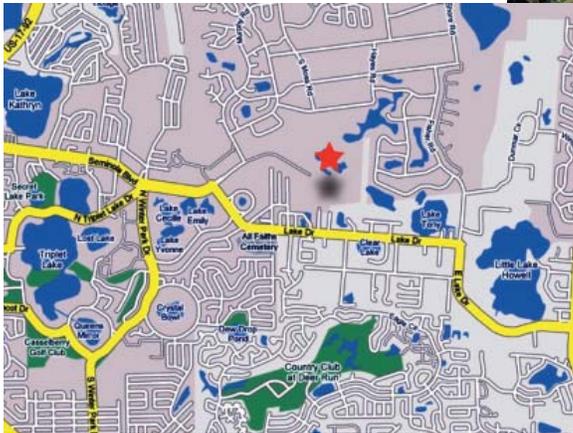
Back-to-School Skate Night

Friday, August 17 • 5:00–7:00 pm

Semoran Skateway on 436 in Casselberry

Announcing...

The Board of Governors of The Geneva School is thrilled to announce the completion of the purchase of Legacy Park, the 52 acres in Casselberry that will serve as the school's final home beginning in 2009. In March of this year, the school entered into a contract to purchase this property from Northland Community Church. After a four-month due diligence period, we can finally say the property is ours!



used for primary and secondary education. A building committee has been hard at work for several months consulting with architects and contractors to produce layouts and elevations for the academic buildings, as well as to master-plan the entire site. If sufficient donations can be secured, we hope to break ground and begin construction on Phase One in October of this year.

Located on Seminola Boulevard, between State Road 17-92 and Red Bug Lake Road, the new site is one of the largest tracts of land in Central Florida

Please join with us in expressing our deep gratitude to God for providing Geneva with such a magnificent gift! May He richly bless the generations of students who will benefit from what is built on this beautiful property.

The Geneva School
2025 State Road 436
Winter Park, FL 32792

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Mid-FL, FL
Permit No. 65098



Celebrating our 15th Academic Year