



Patriot Press

January, 2010



Mrs. Calvert introduces the 1st through 3rd graders to the residents

Put a Smile On!

by Raquel, Senior

The Sunbeam and Sunshine Choirs (K-3rd grade), led by Mrs. Calvert, had the opportunity to sing at the Burke Healthcare Nursing Home on December 16. They sang an hours-worth of Christmas carols and fun songs. Their joyful noise put smiles on the residents' faces. They were also able to share hugs and Gospel tracts.

FBTA Christmas Concert

by Bana, Junior

On Thursday evening, December 10, FBTA held its annual Christmas Concert. Music was performed by several choral groups, choirs, orchestras, both handbell ensembles, and the Patriot Singers. The many hours of hard work by both the students and Mr. Cordeiro definitely paid off, as the parents, teachers, and guests enjoyed a beautiful concert which ultimately glorified the Lord.

In addition to the music, students from the 11th grade speech class performed a short reader's theatre adapted from "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. The adaptation was written by Heather Cooper in a Christian perspective. The cast consisted of Cameron (Narrator), Caleb (Ebenizer Scrooge), Robert (Scrooge's nephew), Andrew (Jacob), Abigail (Belle), and Mario (the mailboy).

With a "spot on" accent and gloomy facial expression, Fite's portrayal of Scrooge was certainly accurate. Credit also goes to Miss Dyck who meticulously chose the cast and made them practice until it was perfect. Throughout all the practicing and memorizing of lines, the cast accomplished an excellent performance and most of all, a memorable one.



Mr. Cordeiro directs the full choir as the students perform "The Many Moods of Christmas" by Robert Shaw and Robert Bennett during the grand finale.

Guys' Prayer Group

by Nate, Sophomore

Many have asked, "What is Guys' Prayer Group?" The Guys' Prayer Group is composed of concerned senior high guys who want to take the time out of their morning to pray for our school. This core group of guys is made up of those who desire to stand out as leaders in our school. They make it a goal to arrive early to school on Thursday mornings and meet in the computer lab.

To all of you senior high guys, make it a point to meet us in the computer lab or at the flag pole (when it gets warmer!) This is a great time of encouragement spiritually and physically; the invitation to join us is always open!



Basketball Season and Alumni Games

by Carrie, Sophomore

This basketball season is definitely one of rebuilding. After the loss of some of their best players—last year's seniors—the teams want to prove that they can handle the loss.

A fun highlight was the alumni games played on New Year's Day. Sadly for both of our home teams, the Alumni won both the girls' and the guys' games—although the guys' game was very close and they only lost by two points. It was very competitive and fun to watch, with a big rivalry between last year's seniors and their former coaches. The fans seemed to enjoy it as much as the players!

Practices, since then, have been intense, and though they have not had the best of starts, the basketball teams are optimistic about future games. They would love to put a new trophy in the trophy case, so make plans to attend some of the home games in January to cheer them on!

The Screwtape Letters

by Oliver, Senior

On Thursday, December 17, Miss Dyck's junior and senior English classes attended *The Screwtape Letters*, a play based on C.S. Lewis's book of the same name. Besides introducing the students to the theatre world, the play taught a spiritual lesson.

"[The show] reinforced the reality of continual temptation, but also its ability to be overcome through the power of Christ," said David, senior.

"The play gave me a new perspective on hell and temptation," agreed Taylor, junior.

With the spiritual applications that were reinforced, the field trip was a wonderful success.

"I am severely disappointed in you, Wormwood.

After all, what could be worse than to have them know our true identity."

—Your ravenously affectionate Uncle, Screwtape

Open Heart Surgery

by Crystabel, Senior

"Ugh! I'm gonna be sick!" That is what some of the seniors thought as they saw a surgeon cut open the chest of a patient.

On December 2 Mrs. Fea's physiology class took a field trip to Fairfax Hospital to watch a live open-heart surgery.

When the seniors arrived, they were greeted by Dr. Bassali (an anesthesiologist) and a nurse. The nurse asked several questions about the heart to which the physiology students artfully answered. Then they were led

up to a room where the nurse explained the workings of the heart, and told them what kind of surgery was going to be performed.

Last, the class was led to the "dome" — a room above the surgery room with a clear glass at the bottom, so that students can peek in and see what the doctors are doing. Excitement was in the air when the surgery finally began.

"It's hard to believe that when you see a human body slowly carved with a scalpel that there is no reaction from the patient. Thank you, Dr. Bassali, for keeping the patient asleep!" Michelle said.

After about four hours of surgery, the seniors were slightly nauseous and tired.

"All of that watching made me really hungry!" Oliver said.

Fortunately for Oliver, the seniors ate a healthy lunch at Subway on the way back to school.



First Place!

Congratulations to contest winners Annie, who won first place in the State AACCS Poetry Contest in the elementary division, and Bezi, who won first place in the State AACCS Essay Contest for junior high.

Both girls will go on to the National Essay and Poetry Competition. Congratulations for a great job well done!

We Asked Teachers— What was your best Christmas present this year?

"1½ snow days!" —Miss Hine

"Spending Christmas with my family one more time before moving to the Caribbean" —Miss Cuellar

"A surprise trip to California to visit Daniel, Melonee, and my grandchildren, Ariana and Micah" —Mrs. Pigott

"The gift of the two extra days off!" —Mrs. Naylor

"Staying home for Christmas for a change, instead of traveling all over the place" —Mrs. Dyck

"The Wii that I bought ... for my wife" —Mr. Probus

National Christmas Tree

by Camille, Freshman

A great time was had by all on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, as the Senior Choralaire performed on the Ellipse stage at the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. After a three-block hike from the bus to the Ellipse in their formal attire, members of the Choralaire spent a brief practice session in one of the warming tents.

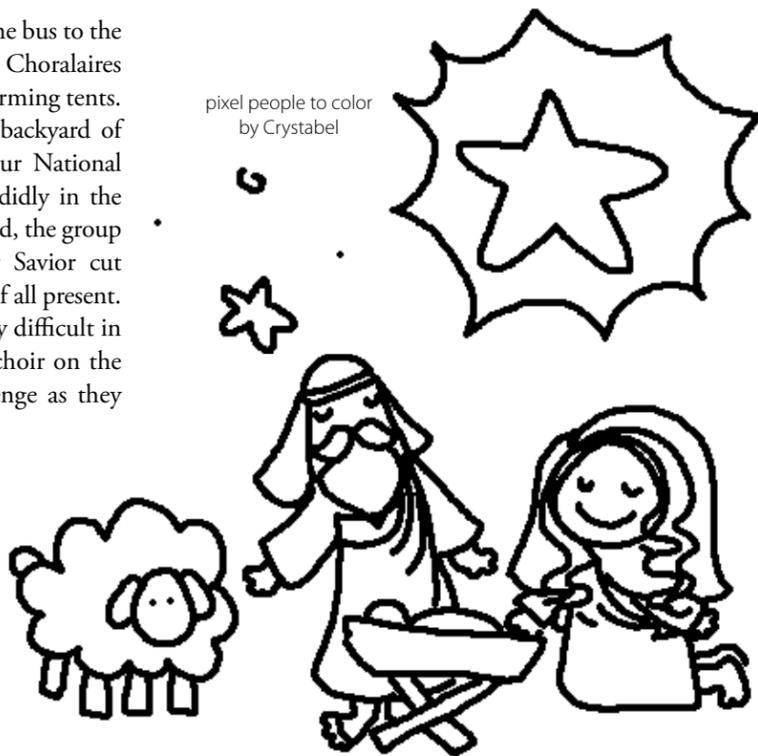
Taking to the stage, practically in the backyard of the White House and in the shadow of our National Christmas Tree, the group performed splendidly in the bitter cold! According to parents who attended, the group sounded spectacular as songs praising our Savior cut through the dark night and lifted the spirits of all present.

Not only was hitting the high notes very difficult in the cold, but those who accompanied the choir on the keyboard had a particularly difficult challenge as they played sans gloves!

Although the Lord chose to bless us with windy temps just above freezing that evening, He also blessed us all—friends, family members and visitors to the National Christmas Tree alike—with a flawless performance by the FBTA Choralaire!



Hannah (soph), Camille (freshman), Jacklyn (soph), and Bethany (freshman) trying to stay warm at the National Christmas Tree Concert.



Hung on a Tree

by Meghan, Winner of the Senior Writers' Lab Christmas Essay Contest

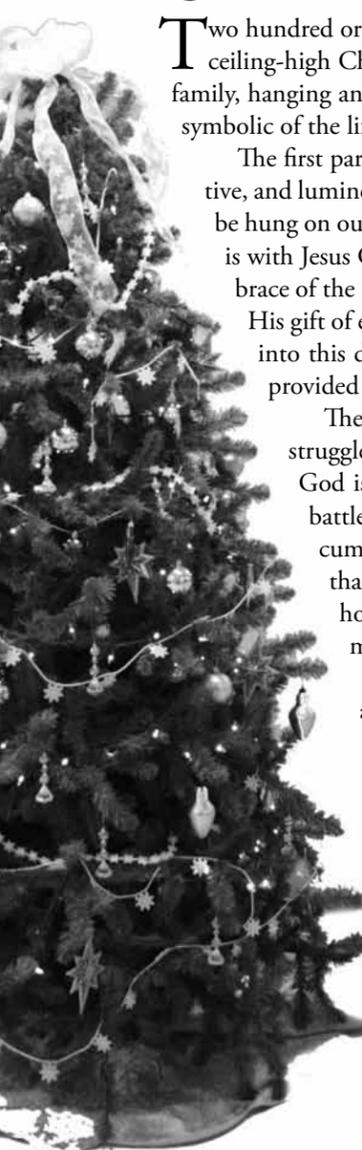
Two hundred ornaments. Two hundred glittering, sparkly, and festive ornaments hung precariously on two ceiling-high Christmas trees in my house. What makes these wads of metal and plastic so special? To my family, hanging an ornament on the tree is one of the biggest reminders of a saving God. Christmas trees are symbolic of the life Jesus Christ had while on earth.

The first parallel between Jesus Christ and ornaments is their light. Ornaments are always shiny, reflective, and luminescent which really magnify even the smallest amount of light. In the past, ornaments would be hung on outdoor trees so that people lost in blizzards could always find their way back home. The same is with Jesus Christ. The light radiating from His Word draws the cold, weary sinner into the warm embrace of the Heavenly Father. The one true light of this world is Jesus Christ, and we who have accepted His gift of eternal life are part of that light. God has commanded us as His followers to shine our lights into this dark world, according to Matthew 5:16. Ornaments are a true symbol of the eternal light provided by Jesus Christ.

The second parallel is hope. There are many things we hope for ... like relief from a burdensome struggle, attending the right college, or even that you got someone the right Christmas present. God is there for all of them, and ornaments are no different! Even though some may be full of battle scars from past Christmases, the struggles made them stronger. God puts us through circumstances, so that we can grow and learn to put more faith in Him. This reminds the Christian that even when times are tough, God will remain by our sides. He is the ultimate source of hope and only through His Son's shed blood are we guaranteed life in heaven with him. Ornaments remind us of the constant hope that Jesus is always by our side.

The last parallel is joy. Who can honestly look at a beautifully decorated Christmas tree and seriously fight the anger welling inside them to tear it down? Not many, I would say. The simple joy that comes from hanging ornaments together with my family is indescribable. The same with Jesus. Once He has entered one's heart, the joy and peace alone are overwhelming. He gave the greatest Christmas present of all: His life. Nothing we could ever give in return would ever equal this great treasure of eternal security. How could someone not be joyful after entering God's family? The simple joy and happiness from ornaments remind us that no earthly pleasure can come close to the joy provided by the Heavenly Father.

Christmas tree ornaments are more than just shiny pieces of plastic hung on a tree; they represent three attributes of Jesus Christ while on earth. Instead of merely thinking what a pretty ornament is hung on the tree, think about how Jesus was hung on a tree for us. So with this little reminder, we can glorify God by living our lives worthy of Christmas tree ornaments.



Where are they now?

Interview with Justin

by Brianna, Sophomore

On Wednesday, January 6, several college students returned for a brief seminar to give some advice to our juniors and seniors here at FBTA. The high school students enjoyed asking questions about the great "unknown" of going away to college, and learning a little more about what to expect.

One of the students, Justin, is a graduate of FBTA, now attending Pensacola Christian College.

Why did you choose this college?

I chose PCC because first and foremost it is a Christian college that doctrinally supports everything that the Bible says. I do not have to worry about the truth being compromised here. It is a Christian environment filled with Christian leaders and people who desire to serve God in any way they can. Majors are offered to anyone seeking to do anything in life.

There was a crossroads in my life during my senior year where I had to choose between going to a secular military school or a Christian school, and God showed me that I made a very good decision by attending PCC this fall.

What are you majoring in and why?

I am double majoring in history and English.

I am majoring in history because it is my favorite course of study, and it is something I truly have a passion for (although Miss Dyck would probably say that it's only because I have an undying affinity for Constantinople).

English ... well ... English is something in which I need to improve. That's fairly comical since I have been speaking it my whole life, but that's beside the point. It is the best way I can improve my writing and delve into the classics, and I think it compliments my history classes very nicely. Also, taking English will help me with the monstrous paper I have to write during my senior year. All in all, I think these two majors will really help in all facets of life; especially if I plan to attend law school in three years.

What are some of your favorite after school activities?

I would have to say that my favorite hobby at school was probably weight-lifting.

Other than that, there are plenty of sports activities to attend, dating opportunities to meet new people, Christian service activities to participate in, and a ton of entertainment available such as the sportscenter, swimcenter, planetarium, and of course who can forget the beautiful beaches?

Do you have any goals this year?

If so, explain why it's your goal.

My goal this year is to finish my freshman year with a 4.0 GPA. So far so good for the first semester.

The reason I am trying my hardest is because, quite frankly, this is when it really counts. There's no goofing off when your education is your profession. Technically, I am a student, a scholar, a learner; I believe that applying a strong Christian work ethic in school translates into good grades, which ultimately translates into success in life.

What words of advice would you pass on to the students of FBTA?

Enjoy the benefits of living under your parents and being close to home as long as you can. When you get to college, you are quickly going to realize that you took a lot of things for granted. Even simple things such as laundry, food, and your bed. You don't really realize how good you had it until it's all gone. Appreciate it, have a good attitude, and try your hardest.

Those of you seniors who are having a hard time finishing school, remember the words of Abraham Lincoln: "Your resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing." Don't let up now. Finish strong.

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Tracy, Editor

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Our apologies for the lateness of reporting December Christmas articles in January; however, our wonderful excuse was the nearly two feet of snow that fell on Sunday and Monday, December 20-21, and completely shut down all church and school activities for several days.

The students were delighted (as were many of the teachers, frankly) and most of our families enjoyed a little extra time home together this Christmas season, for which we can all be a little extra thankful.

Now, if we can just schedule it ahead of time next year