



The Messenger

www.mnchristianschools.org Volume XXIII, Issue 1

November 2015

In this Issue ...

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Erosion Explosion | 1 |
| NMS Commendation | 3 |
| Granite City Tournament | 4 |
| MACS Teacher of the Year ... | 5 |
| MACS Calendar..... | 5 |
| LRCS Accreditation..... | 6 |
| Teacher Convention | 6 |
| MACS Choir Festival..... | 7 |
| MACS Tournament | 8 |

Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

The Erosion Explosion

By Alan J. Hodak

"Liberal (progressive) government expansion equals a further erosion of religious freedom in America."
~Alan J. Hodak

Five years ago, Minnesota jumped on the Early Learning Grant bandwagon and accepted federal grant monies for preschool. Millions of dollars poured into the state to give preschool and daycare aide to low income families. The argument was that the earlier children enter school, the better their achievement resulting in the narrowing of the achievement gap. So far, the focus of "free" preschool for lower income children has been the emphasis as our federal government is pouring billions of dollars of taxpayer money into "free" preschool in our state. Head Start, a government-run preschool program, is the main recipient of federal aid for preschool. At a federal taxpayer cost of \$8,000 per child annually, one must ask, "Is it working?"

After 48 years of our federal government funding the operation of the Head Start program, a Congressional mandated evaluation has been published by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The report reveals the failure of the Head Start program "to improve the cognitive abilities of children, their access to health care, and the parenting practices of participants." In an article written by Lindsey Burke entitled, "Head Start Fails Poor Children," Mrs. Burke stated the following: "What is particularly alarming is that access to Head Start actually has some negative impacts on enrolled children. In addition to having little to no

impact on the cognitive, social-emotional, health, or parenting practices of its participants, federal researchers reported worse peer relations and lower teacher-assessed math ability for Head Start children." This latest evaluation is important because of its design. The study tracked 5,000 children who were randomly assigned to either a group receiving Head Start services or a group that did not participate in Head Start. It followed

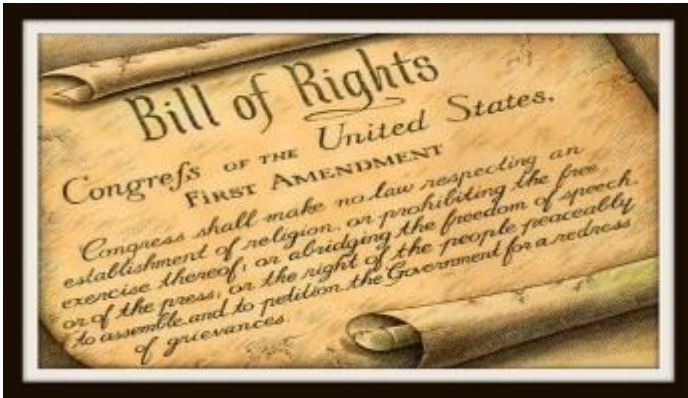


their progression from ages 3 or 4 through the end of third grade, and was a continuation of HHS's Head Start Impact Study, which followed children through the end of first grade. "This design is scientifically rigorous. It allows us to say, without a shadow of a doubt that exposure to Head Start itself results in poorer outcomes for poor children."¹

The desire of our President is to see preschool funding expanded. The liberal agenda is to one day make universal preschool mandated and paid for by our government. Minnesota's own Governor Dayton wanted to expand aid for average wage earners spending our state's

(Continued on page 2)

(Erosion Explosion, continued from page 1)



budget surplus on preschool and daycare programs. While this was rejected by our state House, mandated preschool will surely be on the forefront of the liberal agenda for years to come.

As a result of government-mandated preschool, parental choice may be minimized further eroding our right to choose whether or not we want our children to be in a preschool program at all or what kind of a program we might want to select. The addition of a “free” price tag takes away our freedom to choose.

Another freedom that is being eroded is in the area of religious freedom. With the legalization of gay marriage, our nation is confronted with a number of new challenges with regard to religious rights. According to Title 9 discrimination laws, court cases are being brought which are challenging private Christian colleges and universities with regard to their admissions policies. Can private religious schools prevent gay students from attending (or living in their dorms) when the schools are accepting government Pell grants and other monies? What happens to private Christian organizations who write policies which prevent or eliminate certain individuals from participation based on stated biblical positions and policies? Can the Christian businessman or woman refuse to perform services based on conscience? Can a pastor refuse to perform a same-sex marriage in his church when he is licensed by the state to perform marriages?

Didn't think this would happen so fast, did you? Neither did I, but we must understand that the current liberal agenda is on the fast track. These issues and many others will be decided for us by a government that is actively minimizing the value of religious freedom in our nation. As the gay rights issues are changing many of the laws related to discrimination and civil rights, we find that the devaluation of religion in our culture seems to be the by-product. If the government forces universal preschool upon us, everyone will run to “free” and the options of private, religious programs may not be available too much longer. The truth is that these schools will just go out of business, because

there is a “free” alternative.

“I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the minds of man.” ~Thomas Jefferson quote – engraved in the walls of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Representative Paul R. Labrador (ID) has introduced legislation, which currently has 151 co-sponsors including MN Representatives Kline and Emmer. The legislation is called the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA-H.R. 2802). The bill was written to protect religious liberty against newly created understandings of fundamental civil rights. FADA would prevent our own federal government from discriminating against individuals or organizations that believe that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Specifically, the bill would prevent the government from denying tax-exempt status, a federal grant or contract, or employment based on a person's or group's beliefs in natural or traditional marriage.

The bill allows for freedom of conscience, which is the main freedom that our government seems to be intent upon taking away. Currently, FADA is sitting in the

Where an excess of power prevails, property of no sort is duly respected. No man is safe in his opinions, his person, his faculties, or his possessions.

– James Madison

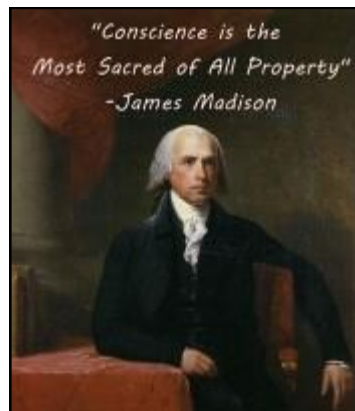
Oversight and Government Reform Committee chaired by Rep. Jason Chaffetz from Utah. There is a very good chance that this bill will go on to the House of Representatives after a Legislative Hearing on the bill. At the hearing, amendments may be introduced on the specific bill and then the final version of that bill would go to the floor for a discussion and a potential vote.

What is freedom of conscience?

Freedom of conscience is the right given to doctors to decide not to perform abortions. If their conscience dictates that they cannot perform a procedure which they believe is

wrong, then they are not forced to perform it based upon that very conscience. Our liberal government wants to change that.

They want us to “change our faith practice” in matters of conscience. Whether it is requiring a flower shop owner to provide flowers for a gay



(Continued on page 3)

Commended Student Honors for FBCS Senior



September 2015

COMMENDED STUDENT IN THE 2016 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Administrator, Alan Hodak, of Fourth Baptist Christian School announces that Nathan Hayes has been named a Commended Student in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSAC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the administrator to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2016 competition for National merit scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

We congratulate FBCS Senior, Nathan Hayes, and wish him all God's best in his college career. Galatians 6:9, "*And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not.*"

(Erosion Explosion, Continued from page 2)

marriage, a pastor refusing to perform a gay marriage ceremony, or a private, religious college denying admission for a gay student, government wants us to change the expression of our faith practice.

It was James Madison who wrote, "Conscience is the most sacred of all property" (Madison).² This founding truth in America is rooted in the First Amendment which states: "***Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...***" Government seems to be forgetting this part of the First Amendment and so has most of America!

What will the living out of our faith look like in a few years if we don't consider the ramifications of a government determined to change the way we look at religious freedom and our expression of it? "Please remember that preeminent to all the rights given to us by our Constitution and Bill of Rights is religious freedom. It was the reason our founders came to this nation. It is the pillar and the chief core value of our democracy and it is an integral part of our American identity." (Sen. Oren Hatch (Utah) in a speech to AACs representatives on 9/15/15).

The key to victory in both the battle for preschool choice and religious rights is an educated electorate. We must stand against free universal preschool by placing into our legislature folks who understand the value of choice for the education of our children. Our families must remain consistent examples of what a stable and loving traditional

family should look like, a kind but truthful rejection of the notion that consenting adults should be able to do anything they want to do, and a continued witness of the truth as we live out our faith. To squash the "living out" of our faith will stifle the "right of conscience" we have enjoyed in our country for the duration of our history. We must again be proactive in our fight for maintaining our religious liberties. Please call your MN Representative to encourage him to vote for FADA. The left would say that this is a "hate bill." That is simply not true. Should you hear that kind of language, ask folks to please educate themselves by taking the time to read the bill in its entirety. A summary of the bill may be found at the following website: www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2802. Should the bill pass the House then we will need your help to contact your Senators.

Contact information for our Representatives may be found at www.house.gov and click on "Find Your Representative." For our Senators, please go to www.senate.gov.

God bless you.

Mr. Alan J. Hodak, *Administrator*

Fourth Baptist Christian School

Executive Director, MN Association of Christian Schools (MACS)

¹Burke, Lindsay. "Head Start Fails Poor Children." *The Heritage Foundation*. N.p., Jan.-Feb., 2013. Web. 10 Nov., 2015.

²The Papers of James Madison. Edited by William T. Hutchinson et al. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1962—77 (vols. 1-10); Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1977—(vols.1--).

Granite City Invitational Tournament

September 18 & 19, Granite City hosted their 28th annual soccer and volleyball tournament. Three soccer teams and four volleyball teams participated. Pastor Campbell notes, "It was a great two days, praise the Lord! We appreciate the attention of all during the Friday challenge, as well as the good Christian testimony on and off the field. Having had such a fun tournament, it's exciting to look forward to next year."

Following are the results from this year's event.

| SOCCER | W | L | VOLLEYBALL | W | L |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Heritage (Karlstad) | 2 | 0 | Hurricanes (Poplar WI) | 2 | 1 |
| Valley Christian | 1 | 1 | Eagles (Twin Ports & GCBA) | 0 | 3 |
| St. Cloud / Twin Points | 0 | 2 | Redstorm (Foundation Christian) | 3 | 0 |
| | | | Valley Christian | 1 | 2 |
| ALL-TOURNAMENT | | | ALL-TOURNAMENT | | |
| Tyler Hugg – GCBA | | | Kaitlyn Shold – Twin Ports | | |
| Moresse Chatman – GCBA | | | Leann Claude – Valley | | |
| Levi Thurnbeck – Valley | | | Allyssa Bjerklien – Poplar | | |
| Carl Stignani – Valley | | | Shaina Cristilly – Poplar | | |
| Aaron Russell – Heritage | | | Emily McCarroll – Redstorm | | |
| MVP: Bryton Hanson – Heritage | | | MVP: Danielle Wright – Redstorm | | |



Woodcrest Teacher Named MACS Teacher of the Year



Over the years at WBA, no teacher has had more impact on young people than Scott Halsey. His history classes are dynamic, informative, thought-provoking, Christ-honoring, and, of course, entertaining. No student will forget when he dressed as Teddy Roosevelt and invited his classes to join the Rough Riders for a day.

Since his addition to the Woodcrest staff in 1985, Mr. Halsey has been employed in various programs and fields of study. Mr. Halsey's history classes (all students from 5th-12th grades) are always a topic of interest among students and their parents, some of whom had him as their teacher "way back when."

Mr. Halsey has worn many hats during his time at Woodcrest Baptist Academy: that of PE teacher, baseball coach, basketball coach, counsellor, and drama coach. His productions shown every other year include *Anne Frank*, *You Can't Take It with You*, and *As You Like It*.

His family has been supportive at the ministry as well since all three of his children spent their school days at Woodcrest, graduating, and going on to serve in various capacities. His daughter-in-law Becky has started her 2nd year as high school science teacher, and his wife Kelly has both taught and served in the school's administrative offices as secretary for over 20 years.

It has not always been an easy journey for the Halsey's. Several years ago, Scott's wife Kelly was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, an autoimmune disorder which attacks the nerve tissue. Scott and Kelly have not let this setback stop them. They continue to faithfully serve in church at Woodcrest Baptist Church and can be seen in many roles, leading by example.

Scott is a man who does not seek stardom, He does not search for fame, and He does not yearn for worldly accolades. Scott Halsey is a man who quietly walks the road his Saviour has given him, reaching out to touch others as he travels on this journey. He would not desire this attention here today, but he is certainly deserving of the appreciation we extend through the means of this award.

I present Scott Halsey as...Minnesota Teacher of the Year.
-Rebekah Hanks, Woodcrest



2015 – 2016 MACS Calendar

November 9 – Official Start of Basketball Season

January 22 – Student Leadership Conference at Fourth Baptist

February 4 – Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest

February 25 - 27 – MACS State Basketball Tourney at Fourth Baptist

March 4 – MACS Jr. High Festival at Rosemount

April 8 – MACS Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist and
MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist also

May 13 – Granite City Baptist Annual Track Meet, St. Cloud



Lake Region Christian School Achieves Accreditation Status



We are pleased to announce that as of October 2015, Lake Region Christian School of Baxter, MN has completed the accreditation requirements and has achieved 5-year accreditation status with the American Association of Christian Schools.

Congratulations to LRCS Administrator, Steve Ogren, and to his staff for their hard work in preparing for the Accreditation Team's visit.

MN/WI Teacher's Convention at The Wisconsin Dells

"A Cause... Walk Worthy (Eph. 4:1)" was the title of this year's WACS/MACS Educator's Conference held at the Glacier Canyon Lodge at the Wisconsin Dells this October 8-9, 2015. The conference grew this year with the addition of one large Wisconsin school and a number of others attending for the first time.

Keynotes included Dr. Marty Marriott from Maranatha Baptist University and Mrs. Juliane Appling of the Wisconsin Family Council.

Pictured below and at right is the staff of First Baptist Christian School of Rosemount, MN. ♦



MUSICAL REVIEW: MACS CHOIR FESTIVAL

On Friday, November 6, 125 students from seven MACS schools participated in our bi-annual MACS Choir Festival. Dr. David Brown and Dr. David Ledgerwood from Maranatha Baptist University were our guest clinicians. They also brought 16 MBU students to sing with the students. The students rehearsed four songs in advance and then combined together in 5 hours of rehearsal to put the songs together as a collective group. The composer of *Psalm 150*, Mr. Lloyd Larson, met with the students to talk about writing music and about being a composer. Students had masterclasses with Dr. Mary Kay Geston (ladies' masterclass) and Mr. Richard

Joseph (guy's masterclass) where they learned more basics of proper singing. We enjoyed times of great food and fellowship as well. The day culminated with a concert with performances by Chisago Lakes, Fourth Baptist, and the Festival Choir. The Festival Choir sang Lloyd Larson's *Psalm 150*, Eric Whitacre's *Lux Aurumque*, Dan Forrest's *Arise, My Soul, Arise*, and John Kander's *Coffee in a Cardboard Cup*. The festival choir and audience of 175 truly enjoyed the songs – especially the high energy, caffeinated final selection.

Archived video of the concert can be viewed at:

<https://vimeo.com/144942084>.

We look forward to hosting the Band Festival next year! - *Levi Kohwinka, FBCS Music Director*





2015 MACS State Soccer & Volleyball Tourney Results

Boys' Soccer

Champions: Fourth Baptist Warriors

Second Place: Chisago Patriots

Third Place: Lake Region Hornets

Consolation: Owatonna/Mankato/Prior Lake Sabres



Girls' Volleyball

Champions: Fourth Baptist Warriors

Second Place: Woodcrest Warriors

Third Place: First Baptist Crusaders—Rosemount

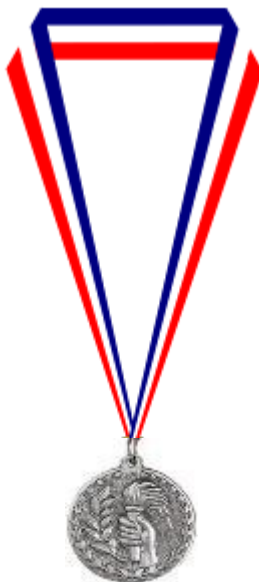
Consolation: Lake Region Hornets



All Tournament Teams

Boys Soccer:

1. Jared Leith—Fourth Baptist
2. JJ Webster—Fourth Baptist
3. Ben King—Fourth Baptist
4. Luke Neilson—Chisago
5. Austin Hraba—Chisago
6. Luke Hraba—Chisago
7. Tanner Wikstrom—Lake Region
8. Tyler Ogren—Lake Region
9. John Yeom—Rosemount
10. Andy Fruetel—Rosemount
11. Kaleb Walters—Woodcrest



Girls Volleyball:

1. Jayden Webster—Fourth Baptist
2. Cara Hodak – Fourth Baptist
3. Jessica Ureke—Woodcrest
4. Allison Tutt—Woodcrest
5. Cassie Douglas—Rosemount
6. Jenna Grandstrand—Heritage



MACS Soccer Champions: Fourth Baptist Warriors



MACS Soccer 2nd place: Chisago Patriots



MACS Volleyball Champions : Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors



MACS Volleyball 2nd place: Woodcrest Warriors

All-Conference Soccer

First Team - Soccer

1. Tanner Wikstrom—Lake Region
2. Mike Steien—Heritage
3. Andy Fruetel—Rosemount
4. John Yeom—Rosemount
5. Luke Hraba—Chisago
6. Austin Hraba—Chisago
7. Luke Neilson—Chisago
8. Nick Poe—OCS/Mankato/PL
9. Jared Leith—Fourth Baptist
10. Noah Kinniburgh—Fourth Baptist
11. Kaleb Walters—Woodcrest

Second Team - Soccer

1. Tyler Ogren—Lake Region
2. Levi Jensen—Lake Region
3. Tommy Thompson—Lake Region
4. Abe Imdieke—Lake Region
5. Jae Kim—Rosemount
6. Seth Murphy—Rosemount
7. Ben King—Fourth Baptist
8. Vivek Mohinani—Fourth Baptist
9. Ashton Schultz—OCS/Mankato/PL
10. Bryton Hanson—Heritage
11. Tyler Hugg—Granite City

Honorable Mention - Soccer

1. Nick Christenson—Lake Region
2. Aaron Russell—Heritage
3. Toan Phan—Rosemount
4. Sam Bryant—Rosemount
5. Alex Brink—Chisago
6. Josiah Choi—OCS/Grace/PL
7. Thomas Stewart—St. Francis
8. Kevin Penner—Woodcrest
9. Windel Dawson—Fourth Baptist



2015

All-Conference Volleyball

First Team – Volleyball

1. Jayden Webster—Fourth Baptist
2. Jessica Ureke—Woodcrest
3. Cassie Douglas—Rosemount
4. Abby Grider—Lake Region
5. Sarah Wilson—Heritage
6. Cara Hodak—Fourth Baptist

Second Team – Volleyball

1. Danielle Wright—Foundation
2. Allison Tutt—Woodcrest
3. Catie Pierson—Rosemount
4. Emily Stange—Prior Lake
5. Jenna Grandstrand—Heritage
6. Alayna Hraba—Chisago
7. Bethany Roberts—Owatonna
8. Grace Wikstrom—Lake Region

Honorable Mention – Volleyball

1. Krystal Wikstrom—Heritage
2. Emily McCarroll—Foundation
3. Natalie Greiner—Owatonna
4. Melissa Fischer—Prior Lake
5. Rebekah Andrus—St. Francis
6. Ashley Towberman—Woodcrest
7. Lillie Schultz—Grace
8. Hanna Kennedy—Lake Region





MACS All-Tournament Team: (L to R): Ben King (MVP), Jared Leith, Luke Neilson, Tanner Wikstrom, Austin Hraba, Tyler Ogren, Luke Hraba, John Yeom, Andy Fruetel, Kaleb Walters, J.J. Webster



MACS All-Conference First Team: (L to R): Kaleb Walters, Tanner Wikstrom, Andy Fruetel, John Yeom, Luke Hraba, Austin Hraba, Luke Neilson, Nick Poe, Jared Leith, Noah Kinniburgh.



MACS All-Tourney Team: (L to R): Cara Hodak, Jayden Webster (MVP), Jessica Ureke, Allison Tutt, Cassie Douglas.



MACS All-Conference First Team: (L to R): Abby Grider, Cara Hodak, Jayden Webster, Jessica Ureke, Cassie Douglas, Sarah Wilson.