

# chimes

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



WINTER 2023-24 • FAITH IN ACTION

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Putting Our Faith  
Into Action

Highlights from  
Around Campus

Alumni Spotlight:  
Ashley Aucker '05







## Reflecting Christ

### A NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

---

Each year, I select a biblical theme and corresponding Bible verses to guide our spiritual focus, including our chapels, staff devotionals, classroom discussions, and various programs. The school theme provides a biblical principle to guide our words and behavior as members of the Westminster Christian Academy community.

This year's theme is Faith in Action. Our theme verse is Acts 20:35, "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

#### **It Is More Blessed To Give Than To Receive**

One of the many ways we integrate spiritual formation into the Westminster experience is by providing our students with opportunities to practice one of our core values: lead with our serve. This year's theme emphasizes and supports our newly expanded Faith in Action student service program. Faith in Action now includes student service for all grades, requiring students to complete a set number of service hours each year.

When we serve others, we:

1. Mimic Christ's giving of himself for our salvation
2. Shift our focus from ourselves to others
3. Cultivate empathy and gratitude
4. Nurture healthy relationships and peace (James 3:13-18)
5. Foster a healthy school community
6. Glorify our Lord (Matthew 5:16)

It is indeed "more blessed to give than to receive!"

Dr. Barrett Mosbacher  
Head of School

## Editor

Christian Meeks

## Graphic Designer

Amy Roff

## Photography

Mike Rohlfling  
Volunteer photographers

## Head of School

Dr. Barrett Mosbacher

## Head of Academic Development

Micah Gall

## Interim Head of Advancement

Shannon Kekhaev

## Head of Enrollment

Jennifer Sengpiel

## Head of Finance and Operations

Todd Fuller

## Head of Student Development

Dr. Dani Butler

## Athletic Director

Cory Snyder

## Westminster Christian Academy

800 Maryville Centre Drive  
Town & Country, MO 63017  
314.997.2900 • wcastl.org

*Chimes* is published by Westminster Christian Academy and mailed to alumni, families of current students, and friends of the school. Westminster honors Jesus Christ by providing an excellent education, rooted in biblical truth as interpreted by the Westminster Confession of Faith, for the children of Christian parents. Faculty and staff enable students to discover and embrace a biblical view of the world and integrate that view into every area of life. To request a free subscription, email [info@wcastl.org](mailto:info@wcastl.org).

© 2023 Westminster Christian Academy

## FEATURE

### 8

#### Putting Our Faith into Action

This past semester, our community has found many amazing ways to put their Faith into Action and serve others as Christ calls us to do.



## NEWS

### 4

#### On Campus

News & Events



## ADVANCEMENT

### 19

#### I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

By Shannon Kekhaev, Interim Head of Institutional Advancement

*Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

## ALUMNI

### 13

#### Alumni Spotlight

Ashley Aucker '05



### 14

#### Class Notes

Updates from Alumni

### 18

#### Alumni Reunions

Photos from the alumni soccer game and 10, 20, and 30 Year Reunions



# ON CAMPUS

## NEWS & EVENTS



### ACADEMIC HONORS

**Over 1.5 million students** each year submit their PSAT scores to the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Of that number, approximately 16,000 are selected as semi-finalists. This year, four of our students have been selected for this honor. Congratulations to seniors William Dana, Amila Pieris, Caidan Brophy, and Caden Collison for being named semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program!



### EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE

**For the fifth time,** Westminster's student-run newspaper's website, [thewildcatroar.com](http://thewildcatroar.com), was honored as a Distinguished Site by School Newspapers Online (SNO). Distinguished Sites is a journalistic competition run by SNO each school year from October to June. News staff are required to meet certain requirements in audience engagement, multimedia, story page excellence, continuous coverage, and site excellence. This year marked Westminster's highest-ever placement. Congratulations to our award-winning broadcast and newspaper teams!



### STUDENT WORK FEATURED AT ST. LOUIS ART MUSEUM

**Senior Jaime Marshall's artwork** was recently accepted into a student exhibition at the St. Louis Art Museum. Jaime's work is an original monotype she drew and then developed digitally as a repeating pattern. The work was created as a part of last year's Visual Arts Academy, and the original is currently on display in the Hub. The Young Artists exhibition was open to the public from September 15 through December 29.



### MUSICAL HONORS

**In early November,** 8th grader Clement Wong auditioned for the Metro 8 District Middle School Honor Band, where he made 1st chair clarinet. However, Clement did not stop there. Following his audition, he and his brother, sophomore Enoch Wong, traveled to Kansas City to participate in the Missouri Music Teachers Association piano competition. Their duet received 2nd place, and Enoch's solo performance received an honorable mention.





## A WILD HOMECOMING

In early October, hundreds of students, parents, alumni, and friends attended our annual Homecoming and Carnival weekend. Our Student Council put in many hours of hard work to make the Wild West-themed event a success. The community enjoyed carnival rides on Friday and dozens of booths filled with food, games, and even a little bit of Karaoke. The football team also faced off against John Burroughs, resulting in a commanding 41-13 victory.







## GATHERING TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

**On Thursday, September 7,** the Westminster community gathered together for Revive, a night of worship. Youth ministries around the St. Louis area attended, filling the Theatre as Refresh Community Church's worship team led the night's music. Along with singing praise to our Lord, guest John Smith, known from the movie *Breakthrough*, spoke about the importance of God's call for our lives.



## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WESTMINSTER

**Open House** is one of the biggest nights of the year, particularly for Admissions. Westminster had over 700 individual RSVPs for Open House this year, with over 540 in attendance on Thursday, October 19. The night's theme was the Wonderful World of Westminster, and hundreds of prospective families had the opportunity to tour our beautiful campus and meet the faculty and staff that make our school the 'wonderful world' it is.

## CAPTIVATING AN ENCHANTED AUDIENCE

**The theatre department** put on two phenomenal productions this past fall. At the end of October, upper school students performed an amazing rendition of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Starring an ensemble cast of talented students, the show was a great success, with the audience roaring with laughter and cheers by the end of each night.



*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

In November, talented 7th-9th grade students put on Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical Jr.* The show was another rousing success for the drama department as the students gave powerful performances, leaving the audience clapping and eager for more.



*Matilda The Musical Jr.*

## VISITS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**This past fall,** Westminster welcomed students and administrators from Japan and Spain. Our four guests from Spain attend Alpha y Omega, our partner school in Denia—a coastal city a few hours away from Madrid. Our guests from Japan, including four students and two administrators, visited us from Global Christian Academy, located approximately an hour and a half west of Tokyo. It was a joy to meet our brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world.



## ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

### New Athletics Website and App

This past fall, the Westminster athletics department launched a new website in August designed to showcase our talented athletes and teams. The site hosts team rosters, team and player statistics, schedules, and news articles. The athletics department also launched a companion mobile app. You can visit the new site by visiting [wcawildcats.org](http://wcawildcats.org).

### Cheer

In mid-October, the cheer team competed at the MCCA Regional Competition in Warrensburg. After a stellar day of competition and outstanding performances, the girls secured third place in their division. This fantastic achievement qualified them for the state competition, held on December 9 at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) where they finished 6th out of 10 teams in the Class 3A Small Division.

### Cross Country

The girls cross country team concluded their season securing 2nd place at the State Championships, with senior Lydia Bailey receiving medalist honors for her 6th place finish. On the boys team, freshman Joseph Skogen surpassed the previous freshman school record held by Coach Daniel Everett '11.

### Field Hockey

Field hockey finished the year 14-6. Senior Mia Scheulen earned the Metro League co-player of the year award and was invited to participate in the St. Louis Field Hockey Association All-Star Game along with fellow senior Sadie Schmidt. These invitations were well-deserved, as the girls played pivotal roles in leading the Wildcats to their first-ever Elite Eight berth.

### Football

The football team won the District Championship after an incredible 16-point second-half comeback against Orchard Farm. The team finished the season 7-6 with 18 seniors graduating.

### Golf (Girls)

The girls golf team won the district title, with all five girls qualifying for the state tournament. The team took 2nd place at state, with sophomore Caroline Domyan and junior Sophie Nall finishing T-15 and medaling individually.



### Soccer (Boys)

The boys soccer team made program history, winning their first-ever state championship. The team won the Class 2 State Championship with a 1-0 victory against an undefeated Logan-Rogersville. The title came off of an impressive 16-5 season record resulting in the team's first trip to the state Final Four tournament.

### Softball

The softball team set a program-best record with 22 regular season wins, finishing the year 24-5 after a tough 1-run loss to Parkway West in the District Championship.

### Swim (Boys)

The boys swim team had two individual events and three relays qualify for the State meet, where the swimmers performed admirably, finishing high in their heats during the first day of State. Freshman Harrison Frost set a remarkable school record in the 100 Free with a time of 49:36 in the first leg of the relay, just surpassing the previous record set by Jacob Schloss '22.

### Tennis (Girls)

The girls tennis team fought their way through the District playoffs, advancing to the Class 2 District 3 semifinal against Ladue.

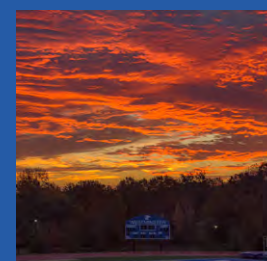
### Volleyball (Girls)

For the third straight season, the girls volleyball team won 20+ games. Junior Myah DeRossett was named Metro League Player of the Year and was Class 5 All-State.



## ARE YOU FOLLOWING WESTMINSTER ON INSTAGRAM?

If not, you should be! Follow your Wildcats [@wcastl](https://www.instagram.com/wcastl) for snapshots of daily life at Westminster, a look inside the classroom, announcements about upcoming community events, and more.



## LOOKING FOR MORE?

For access to even more photos, view full albums at [wcastl.org/photos](http://wcastl.org/photos).







# PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION

Jesus calls every one of us to serve. He calls us to love others, giving of our time, money, and abilities to care for those in need. Unfortunately, in a culture that demands much, we often find ourselves without the time, money, or motivation required to give and serve. We are busy, and busyness and service seem to pull us in opposite directions. To serve others, we first have to be willing to give.

The theme for our current school year is service. Specifically, Faith in Action. It is important to be reminded often of our calling to love and serve others because we are so often inclined to the opposite. As our Head of School, Dr. Barrett Mosbacher, said back in August, the idea that it is more blessed to give than to receive contradicts our natural inclinations of self-indulgence. Companies often appeal to our selfish desires to sell products, but Dr. Mosbacher also points out that “contrary to manipulative marketing, we are happier and blessed when we focus on serving others. Serving others shifts our focus from ourselves to others and cultivates empathy and gratitude.” Truthfully, by giving of our time and resources, we not only do as Jesus commands, but we mimic Christ himself.

For 36 years, our seniors have participated in Senior Service as part of a larger Faith in Action program, where each Thursday morning during the school year, they go out into the community and volunteer. Seniors serve in more than 70 nonprofit organizations in St. Louis such as hospitals, schools, animal rescue centers, and various humanitarian ministries. Senior Service does a lot of good for our community and our city, but we want to encourage all our students to serve—not just seniors. To accomplish this, we introduced an expansion of the Faith in Action program to include all grades from 7th through 12th beginning this school year.

When it comes to service, our initial thoughts are often that it is just another thing to add to our already busy schedules. Why do we have to volunteer and not get paid for the work? The answer is simple. As Jesus says, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” At Westminster, we want all our students to realize there are many opportunities to do good in their communities.

“I think we should serve others because, as Christians, we need to realize that God served us first,” says 8th grader Megan Mueller. “Jesus came to serve, and to try to be more Christ-like, we should show love to those around us through our actions. We can stand out for Christ by being willing to help others.” In the gospels, Jesus commands his disciples to go to the corners of the earth and proclaim the good news that Jesus himself has conquered death for us. Jesus also commands his disciples to go out and heal the sick and serve those in need—not for our own gain but to love as he loves. The purpose of expanding the Faith in Action program is not to add more work for our students. Our hope and prayer is that students see this as an opportunity to be good stewards of the gifts God has given them by sharing with others.

Leading with service is one of our core values at Westminster. For years, Dale Ribble, head coach of the boys varsity basketball team, has had his players volunteer in the St. Louis area throughout the season with organizations such as Crisis Aid International—a nonprofit that provides care for various communities and neighborhoods in St. Louis. Along with our athletes, many of our students have sought out opportunities to serve in various ways at Westminster. Likewise, every Tuesday, the Spanish club serves Los Vecinos—a Hispanic community in Chesterfield. Students spend their afternoons tutoring and mentoring grade →



IN ALL THINGS I HAVE SHOWN  
YOU THAT BY WORKING HARD  
IN THIS WAY WE MUST HELP  
THE WEAK AND REMEMBER  
THE WORDS OF THE LORD  
JESUS, HOW HE HIMSELF  
SAID, 'IT IS MORE BLESSED  
TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'

**ACTS 20:35**





school children. Gina Meeks, Spanish teacher and sponsor of the Spanish club, says she has been blessed to see students so eager to serve. With our core value of service, many students have sought out leadership positions within the Westminster community and have been a tremendous blessing.

Each year during Homecoming weekend, we host Carnival. Hundreds of families come to our campus for games, rides, food, and to see our varsity football team compete. In order to pull it off successfully each year, members of our Student Council work tirelessly to plan, coordinate, and operate the event. Similarly, students in our Ambassadors program attend many of our school events, such as New Student Orientation and Open House, welcoming new and prospective families to Westminster. These students do not serve because they want to earn service hours but because they want to serve and lead. According to Mrs. Meeks, providing these service opportunities is important because it allows students “to see the needs of others as well as the results of being willing to sacrifice their own time.”

7th grader Eleanora Ottolini has personally been blessed by the time she has spent serving at Delmar Gardens. “It feels so joyful to get to help others how Christ helps us,” says Eleanora. “I enjoy the smiles and how happy it makes me feel. I love showing people how much I love Christ and how much he’s done for me.” It is a joy to see our middle school students full of desire to show Christ’s love to others because that is what we are all called to do. This core value of service is at the heart of the culture of Westminster which is to enable our students to discover and embrace a biblical view of the world and integrate that view into every area of life.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul writes, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more

significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.” Self-indulgence and selfishness are prevalent in our culture because it is easy to focus on ourselves. Too easy. We focus on our wants and desires rather than focus on others. In their Bible classes, students learn that we live by four types of relationships: our relationship to God, to ourselves, to others, and to creation. By expanding the Faith in Action student service program, our students can intentionally seek opportunities to mimic Christ and lean into their relationships with others and with God’s creation.

“Every opportunity we have at Westminster and as Christians to make a positive impact in the world is a good opportunity,” says senior Isaac Boss. “We do a lot at Westminster to serve our community, but as much as we can make a mark on the outside world, particularly in places where Christ isn’t as known, makes a massive difference in people’s lives.” Isaac has served each Thursday morning of his senior year at Mason Pointe Lutheran Senior Services. When he arrives, his job is to escort people with mental or physical disabilities from the dining room after breakfast to the living area. Together, they toss a beach ball around for an hour. “These things can feel so monotonous,” he says. “But it brings me joy to see how much joy such a simple thing can bring. It feels like it might even be the highlight of their day.” Service brings joy. It is a simple statement but enlightening in its realization. When we focus on others, it brings joy to those we serve as well as ourselves. Our hope is that our students find opportunities to serve and find joy in their communities including here at Westminster.

There are many opportunities for students to connect, give, and serve at Westminster. The Peer Connector program connects juniors and seniors with middle school students, providing our students with the opportunity to engage with others and build →



relationships. Juniors and seniors lead group meetings and take time every other week to answer questions, chat about what's going on in each other's lives, and encourage one another. Additionally, Westminster hosts In the Spirit of Giving (ITSOG) every November, a weeklong event in which students bring in all sorts of goods to be donated to organizations across the St. Louis area. Students also donate each year to support African Vision of Hope, an organization that seeks to provide education to impoverished children. These little acts of service seem simple to us but have a tremendous impact elsewhere.

Colton Albers has been around the Westminster community for a few years, having worked during the past few summers with Camp Westminster and this year as part of our Faculty Fellows program teaching business. "I have seen students serve one another through encouragement as small as saying 'hi' to a stranger in the hallway," says Mr. Albers. "I've also seen our community of students come together in times of heartache and sadness to care for one another." This past semester, seniors in the capstone entrepreneurship class that operates Pawprint Coffee



began asking how they could do more for the community. The answer was the Pawprint Foundation—a branch of the Pawprint brand that plans to raise funds specifically for serving others, particularly in difficult situations. The past few years have been challenging, but our students continuously seek each other out for comfort and look for opportunities to make a lasting impact at Westminster—not just for today but for future generations as well.

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells his disciples, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to

me." Service is hard and takes real sacrifice, but there is joy in caring for others. We love and serve one another because of the example set by our heavenly Father, who loves us wholly, and in turn, serving others produces healthy relationships and peace. Throughout the Gospels, we see example after example of Jesus caring for the lost, the sick, and the broken. Jesus himself says in Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." We can tell our students they must complete service hours to receive a diploma. We can tell our seniors they need to participate in Senior Service to walk at graduation, but service is not just compliance. It takes a willing and loving heart which is part of the spiritual formation we desire for our students.

If our mission is to enable students to discover and embrace a biblical view of the world and to be able to integrate that view into every area of life, then spiritual formation has to be at the heart of what we do: academics, athletics, and student life. Every facet of life at Westminster is influenced by our desire to see our students grow in their relationship with Christ, and over the years, we have seen many examples of our students seeking out opportunities to love one another. Mr. Albers prays that students who are reluctant to serve or unsure where to begin understand that "service doesn't have to be grand or complex. It can start with simple, small acts of kindness." We hope that our students will give and love with willing hearts so that even when it gets hard and feels monotonous and repetitive, they can look to Christ and the example he sets for us.

Faith in Action. The purpose of the program is there in the name. Serving others is a practical way for us to put our faith in Christ into action, and all it takes is a bit of effort and intentionality to look past ourselves and our desires and see where God has called us to go. "My advice for others is to truly enjoy what you're doing, and don't just put on a smile," says Isaac Boss. "It brings me joy that something that doesn't take much effort for myself is so meaningful for other people."

At Westminster, we deeply value our community. Students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and all of us connected to Westminster in one way or another are part of a culture that seeks to live the way Christ wants us to live. We serve, following in his example, not for our own personal glory but to share his love with a broken world. Join us in prayer for our students and our community as a whole that we continuously live according to Christ's commands to love one another and serve those he calls us to serve. •





# The Gift of Service

## AN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON ASHLEY AUCKER '05

**A**shley Aucker '05 is a regional advocate for the Midwest for Help One Now, a non-profit organization working to end poverty. Ashley currently serves families surviving in extreme poverty in developing countries around the world by sharing Help One Now's mission in the St. Louis area and getting people excited to engage with families in need.

### **How did Westminster shape your perspective on serving others?**

My passion for serving others began when I was a senior at Westminster. Every Thursday, I found myself in South City serving a refugee family. My friend and I helped care for several children

in an in-home daycare, which was so fun for us. As we were helping these sweet children, we met a girl who was just a little bit older than us. She became a friend of ours, and it was then that I realized the true gift of service is relationship.

Serving others is truly my greatest joy. Whether it's a family working hard to dig themselves out of extreme poverty or a Help One Now donor in need of encouragement, I'm honored when an opportunity to serve presents itself.

### **Why should we serve others?**

I believe we should serve others not only because God tells us to—although that would be reason enough—but because God designed us to serve one another. We experience joy when we help others and when we receive help from others.

For current students, I hope they remember that we serve expecting nothing in return. We are often the beneficiaries of incredible blessing when we move in with open hearts and eager hands. Not because of anything we do, but because our greatest gift is one another. •

*If you would like to learn more about Help One Now and find ways to serve, contact Ashley at [ashley.aucker@helponenow.com](mailto:ashley.aucker@helponenow.com).*





## REFLECTIONS

### A Note from Your Alumni Relations Coordinator

This far into the school year, we've had a few alumni events, with more to come! Homecoming Weekend kicked off 2023-24 off with reunions for the classes of 1993, 2003, and 2013. A big thanks to the alumni class reps for their help in planning. Be sure to keep reading for pictures.

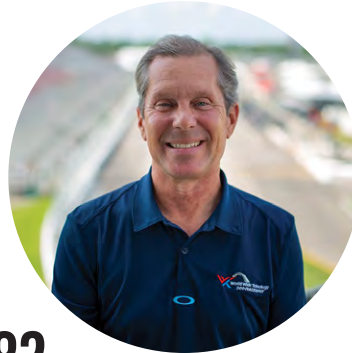
Westminster men's soccer alumni had the largest group to date, with 20 players coming out for the annual game. It was also a joy to see our football alumni at the Homecoming game. Many of you stopped by the alumni booth during Carnival. I loved watching the connections that took place as teachers greeted former students or classmates reunited with friends they hadn't seen in years.

Thank you to those who sent in updates on the following pages. When I see the many ways God has been working in your lives, I am filled with pride and gratefulness for this community. My goal is to connect, communicate with, and ultimately serve our alumni. It is an honor to work alongside this awesome group. We consider each of our graduates to be a part of the Westminster family—once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat!

Blessings,  
Hannah Wallace Murray '93

# CLASS NOTES

## ALUMNI NEWS



### '82

**Curtis Francois** was inducted into the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame on Thursday, September 14. Curtis is a former professional race car driver and is now the CEO of World Wide Technology Raceway.



### '86

**Beth Miller** has published a book on behavior euthanasia for pets. *The Most Painful Choice: A Dog Owner's Story of Behavior Euthanasia*, the hybrid memoir recounts her family's experience with Champ, a rescued German Shepherd dog who suffered physically and mentally from neglect and trauma from his first years of life. The book serves not only as an account of Champ's life and her family's attempts to help him but also as a resource on behavior euthanasia. The book is available through Amazon or McFarland Publishing.



### '85

**Peter Baity** lives in Timonium, Maryland, with his wife, Gail, and two daughters, Abigail and Lilly. Gail is the Executive Director at Timonium Presbyterian Church, where Peter serves as Deacon and Chair of the Finance team. Abigail is attending Covenant College, while Lilly attends high school locally. Peter recently sold his Financial Planning & Investment practice. He keeps busy landscaping the church campus while serving on the Board of Directors for Peter & John Ministries, which oversees the River Valley Ranch in northern MD, as well as 95.1 Bright FM in Baltimore. Peter wishes to thank WCA for the way it impacted his life for the Gospel.

### '90

**Karis (Hendrick) Burritt** is the mother of three teenagers, and on July 22, 2022, won and became a 3x International Federation of Bodybuilding pro.



### '91

**David Pinckert** lives with his wife and family in Cincinnati, Ohio. David's wife works at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, which David considers the WCA of Cincinnati. CHCA was visited by Jim Marsh because they see WCA as a national benchmark of Christian educational excellence. Go Wildcats!



'99

**Sarah (Reinwald) Guldalian** and her husband, Justin, launched an agency, Top Notch Brand Company, that she leads. The mission of Top Notch is to encourage, improve, and inspire the world. They do this by applying their creative gifts to life-giving ideas and products and by shining a spotlight on brands making the world better. Top Notch works with Christian businesses as well as numerous churches. Their primary areas are food and beverage, non-profit, and entertainment (events, music performances, pilot pitches). You can learn more about Sarah's business at [TopNotchBrandCompany.com](http://TopNotchBrandCompany.com).

---



'03

**Annie (Dudley) Arehart** has been spending time working as the Community Project Manager for Synapsory, a local non-profit benefiting special needs children and families. Annie's ultimate goal is to let God's light and love shine through her to impact and embrace future generations.

'05

**Jeff and Megan (Schmidt) Christianson** are grateful and proud parents of three precious children: Lily Grace (6), Sophi Hope (awaiting reunion in heaven), and Ian Victor (1).

'01

**Tali (Thompson) Shaw** – After 13 years, prayers were answered as Tali and her husband, Jared, welcomed their daughter, Jael Skyflyer Shaw, on May 17, 2022. She was dedicated in July 2022 by Pastor Rodney Howard-Browne. God still does miracles and is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

---



**Rachel (Borage) Pratt** asks for continued prayer for healing and is grateful for the love and support of the community after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma following the birth of their fifth child. Rachel and her husband, Jonathan, live in St. Louis with their five children.

---

**Derrick Langeneckert** was recently awarded the Community Innovator Award by the St. Louis Development Corp and St. Louis City Mayor, Tishaura Jones, for his work redeveloping an old industrial building in the Tower Grove South neighborhood. Derrick purchased the building in 2017 to redevelop and move his burgeoning brewery business, Alpha Brewing Company. Derrick plans on opening a new distillery facility in the Delmar Maker District in March 2024.

'02

**Natalie (Dixon) Bland** accepted a new position as the Manager of Structures and Mechanisms Integration Projects with Boeing in Houston on the International Space Station (ISS) program. One of her responsibilities in this new role is to oversee the production, delivery, and installation of the new roll-out solar arrays on ISS.

---



'04

**Katie (MacKoul) Hillgren** and her husband, Eric, welcomed their first child, Lincoln Joseph Allen Hillgren, on September 15, 2022.

---

**Kristin Shelberg and David Whitwell**, along with their daughter, Amelia, recently relocated to Amsterdam, Netherlands, from their longtime home in New York City to start a new life in Europe. Kristin is working for [booking.com](http://booking.com) and David is continuing his career as a combination trombone and countertenor soloist.





'05

**Emily (Ottson) Weber** and her husband, Jerry, welcomed baby girl Ellianna Kathryn to the family on February 21, 2022. She joins big brother Zachary.

---



**Seth Lillenberg** married his wife, Karlie Romas, on October 22, 2022.



**Christian Nicole Davis** is a television writer based in Los Angeles and has worked for networks such as Netflix, BET, the Oprah Winfrey Network, and creators such as Steve Harvey, LeBron James, Jimmy Kimmel, and Ava DuVernay. She is currently a writer on the new Disney series, "Saturdays," which is executive produced by Marsai Martin (Black-ish/ABC). "Saturdays" premiered on Disney Channel on Friday, March 24, 2023, and is also available for streaming on the Disney+ app. Christian's episode aired on Friday, April 7.

---



'09

**Corinne (Becker) Backer**, and her husband Neil, welcomed baby girl, Ava Margaret, on December 6, 2022.

---



**Alek Miller** and his wife, Juleah, celebrated the arrival of William Albert Miller in September 2022. Alek, Juleah, Chuck, Vala, and Will live in Neosho, Missouri.

---

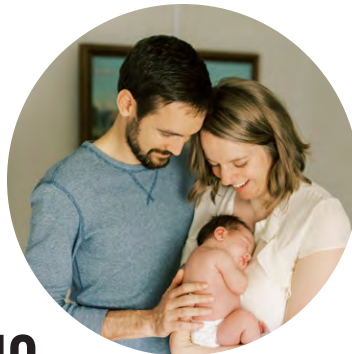
'11

**Danielle Cicka** received her PhD in Molecular and Systems Pharmacology at Emory University in 2022. She will be finishing her MD degree in May 2024.

---



**Jordan Duke** and his wife, Tracey, welcomed their daughter, Addison James, on May 24, 2023. Jordan, Tracey, and Addison reside in Libertyville, Illinois.



'10

**Heidi (Hunter) Boor** and her husband, Josh, had their first baby, Leisha Hope Boor, on August 24, 2022. The family currently lives in Mobile, Alabama.



'12

**Laura Hammann** and Cooper Weiss Jackman were married on July 23, 2022, at The Ritz-Carlton, North Lake Tahoe. Cooper's youth minister performed their outdoor ceremony. Laura and Cooper spent two weeks in Spain before returning home to Denver, Colorado. Cooper is the owner and CEO of Doorside, and Laura is the Partnership Manager. They both graduated from SMU in Dallas.

**Alumni:** If you would like to be included in the next issue of Chimes, please send your update, graduation year, and a recent photo to [alumninews@wcastl.org](mailto:alumninews@wcastl.org).



**Addison (Williams) McKinney** graduated in May with a master's in early childhood education. She and her husband, Jacob, were married in July 2019.



**'16**

**Blase Bell** graduated from St. Louis University School of Law in May 2023. He passed the Missouri Bar after taking it in July 2023 and was sworn in at the Missouri Supreme Court in September. He is currently working under a judge as a clerk in Illinois.



**Olivia Henderson-Winkelmann** married Sgt. Brian Winkelmann on June 3, 2022, at the Dogwood in St. Louis.



**'13**

**Nathan Arnold** lives in Ferguson, Missouri, with his wife, Anna Kate, and their son, Lewis. Nathan pastors a multi-cultural church called The Bridge North County that celebrated its 2-year anniversary in August.



**Julia Harre** married Logan Downs on October 14, 2022. The couple live in Fayetteville, Georgia.



**'18**

**Alyssa (Cannon) Wilson** married her husband, Walker, on June 24, 2022. Abbie Cannon '22 was Maid of Honor. Alyssa's mom, Stacey (Reidler) Cannon '93, was also in attendance.



**Ellie (Straub) Huff** works at Straub's as a Specialty Food Buyer. She and her husband, Derringer, were married on November 12, 2022, at Kirk of the Hills. Brooke Cusumano '13 and Sadie (Stipanovich) Montgomery '13 were bridesmaids.



**'17**

**Jillian (Klein) Millikin** and her husband, Adam, live in Wellman, Iowa, and work for Bayer Crop Science. Adam is in breeding and research, and Jillian is a field sales representative. This past year, they purchased their first hobby farm, where they keep four horses, several chickens, and hopefully, more critters to come.



**Blake Elder** competed in the USA Collegiate National Triathlon Championships representing Missouri S & T last spring. He was also crowned Homecoming King and elected President of the Christian Campus Fellowship House.

**'14**

**Rob Davidson** and his wife, Hannah Elizabeth, recently married on September 3, 2023.





'18

**Carter and Brooke (Lang) McCall** married earlier this summer and call St. Louis home. Carter works for Drury Hotels as a real estate developer, and Brooke is a nurse at Mercy Hospital.



'19

**Zach Cancila** graduated from the University of Tampa with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing. In June, Zach was promoted to full-time as a graphic designer for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

**Hannah Rupprecht** graduated *magna cum laude* from Southeast Missouri State with a BS in Agricultural Business and Animal Science. She is currently working with calves at the Purina Research Farm in Gray Summit, Missouri.

'23

**Jaron Lewis** recently became a member of the elite U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard following an intensive 10-week training program. Some of the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard's responsibilities include serving at Presidential inaugurations and at the arrival of foreign officials.

## ALUMNI REUNIONS



**Alumni Soccer Game**



**Class of 1993, 30 Year Reunion**



**Class of 2003, 20 Year Reunion**



**Class of 2013, 10 Year Reunion**

# I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

## PUTTING FAITH INTO ACTION AT WESTMINSTER

**By Shannon Kekhaev**

If you read the title of this article, you might have a familiar church song stuck in your head. Do yourself the favor of listening to Lynda Randle's stirring rendition. Goosebumps!

As a teenager returning from my first church camp, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" was a campfire song that stayed with me. It's simple. It's clear. And it's very personal. Admittedly, as a fourteen-year-old, I didn't fully comprehend what it meant to follow Jesus. But I was eager to learn. Over the years, as my knowledge of the Scriptures has grown, I've gained new insights and opportunities to put my faith into action.

As a young professional navigating the corporate marketing world in Chicago, following Jesus provided helpful guardrails of integrity, honesty, and decency.

When I dove head first into marriage, following Jesus provided me and my husband with a framework of unconditional love and plenty of forgiveness. Similarly, I can't imagine summoning the energy, wisdom, and joy needed for parenting without Jesus' words of instruction and comfort.

Last year, I followed the Holy Spirit's lead to serve on the advancement team at Westminster. My faith has grown in new ways as I see people all around me — from students and teachers to parents and volunteers — putting their faith into action by following Jesus' example of service and giving.

I think of our students (and their amazing parents) blowing the ITSOG goal out of the water this year by donating more than 26,000 items to help others in need. Incredible!

I think of the Moms and Dads in Prayer groups who take time every week to pray over Westminster students, families, and teachers. How inspiring.

I think of many parents of alumni whose children have long since graduated from Westminster, who give toward tuition grants so more families can benefit from their children receiving an excellent, Christ-centered education.

I think of the volunteers who come early and stay late to set up for events, help students in the bookstore, serve in concession stands, and so much more!

I think of the donors who set up monthly gifts to Westminster's Annual Fund, entrusting God to use their monetary support to meet the ongoing needs of the school. What a blessing!

There are more examples I could share, but I praise God and say "thank you" to everyone who lives out their faith through thoughtful acts of giving and sacrifice. You continue to model for the Westminster community — especially observant middle and high school students — what it looks like to follow Jesus in our everyday lives.

Living lives of generosity and consideration of others isn't always prioritized in our world. It is, however, an important lesson for Kingdom living as we prepare and equip more young men and women to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

Let's keep deciding to follow Jesus in all we do. No turning back. No turning back. •

---

*Shannon Kekhaev serves as Interim Head of Advancement. She is grateful to serve on the advancement team and enjoys connecting a donor's heart to give with the work God is doing at Westminster. You can contact Shannon at [skekhaev@wcastl.org](mailto:skekhaev@wcastl.org) or 314.997.2901 ext. 6424.*





Westminster Christian Academy  
800 Maryville Centre Drive  
Town & Country, MO 63017  
wcastl.org 314.997.2900



# HOME OF THE WILDCATS

▲ UPPER FIELDS  
SOCCER  
BOYS LACROSSE  
FIELD HOCKEY  
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL