A Living Legacy.

Faith, Family, and Christian Education

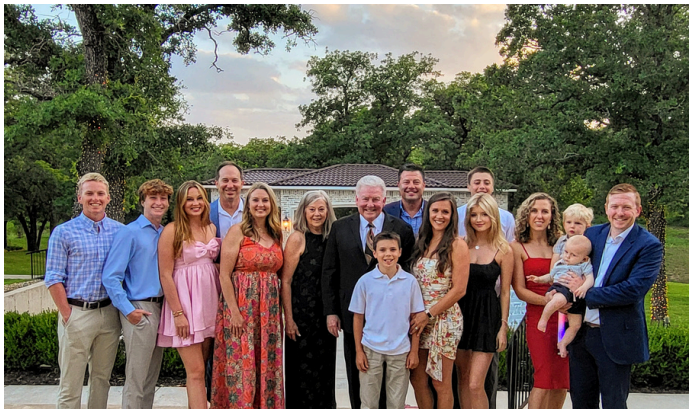
THE BANKES/SHOEMAKER FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

James and Ann Shoemaker Bankes, Fort Worth Christian School Class of 1968, are honoring the legacy of their parents, Robert and Myrle Bankes and Ernie and Bess Shoemaker, through a fund created to help future students experience a Christ-centered education.

Established in 2026, the endowed scholarship provides annual tuition assistance to students with demonstrated financial need, with priority for children of ministers, pastors, missionaries, or church staff. If those needs are met, the fund may support need-based scholarships for children of FWC alumni.

A Living Legacy.

Faith, Family, and Christian Education



A Living Legacy Faith, Family, and Christian Education The Bankes/Shoemaker Family Endowed Scholarship Fund James and Ann Shoemaker Bankes, Fort Worth Christian School Class of 1968, are honoring the legacy of their parents, Robert and Myrle Bankes and Ernie and Bess Shoemaker, who made many personal sacrifices so that their children could receive a Christian education, by creating The Bankes/Shoemaker Family Endowed Scholarship Fund

This endowed fund was established in 2026 at Fort Worth Christian School to provide annual financial assistance to students with demonstrated financial need. Specifically, the Fund is to provide tuition assistance to students of ministers, pastors, missionaries, or church staff who desire to attend FWC. If there is not sufficient need for students/families meeting these criteria, the endowment may be used to fund the need-based scholarships of students of FWC alumni.
"One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts." — Psalm 145:4 (ESV)

From the Office of the President "The Bankes and Shoemaker families have faithfully invested in Fort Worth Christian for nearly six decades—not only through their generosity, but through their leadership, service, and unwavering commitment to Christian education. Their story reminds us that an endowment is far more than a financial gift; it is an investment in generations of students whose lives will be changed because someone chose to be faithful."
— Dr. Terry Rodgers President & Head of School

Rooted at Fort Worth Christian For nearly six decades, Fort Worth Christian School has been woven into the life of the Bankes and Shoemaker families.

It is where James Bankes ‘68 and Ann Shoemaker ‘68 met as students, where lifelong friendships were formed, and where a shared commitment to Christian education took root. That commitment has shaped not only their own lives, but those of their children, grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

Today, the Bankes/Shoemaker Family Endowed Scholarship Fund reflects that lifelong commitment, creating opportunities for future students to experience the same Christ-centered education that has profoundly influenced their family.

For James and Ann, however, the scholarship has never been about recognition. It is an expression of gratitude—honoring parents who sacrificed to provide them with a Christian education and extending that same opportunity to students they may never meet.

Few families have been more closely connected to Fort Worth Christian than the Bankes and Shoemaker families.

James' commitment to the school extended well beyond graduation. At just twenty-five years old, he began his first term on the Board of Trustees, becoming one of the youngest trustees in the school's history. Years later, he returned for a second term and ultimately served as President of the Board of Trustees, helping guide Fort Worth Christian through two significant seasons of leadership.

When it came time to educate their own children, James and Ann never questioned where they wanted them to attend school. Their Cardinal tradition continued through Jamie Bankes Ridgell ‘96, Jeremy Bankes ‘98, and Jeffry Bankes ‘07, and expanded when Jeremy married fellow Fort Worth Christian alumna Kelli Kauitzsch Bankes ‘99.

Today, a third generation is carrying that tradition forward. Their grandchildren—Anna Ridgell ‘24, Andrew Ridgell ‘26, Austin Ridgell ‘29, James Bankes ‘28, and Isaac Bankes ‘33—represent the newest chapter in a family story that now spans three generations.



The family's connection extends well beyond their immediate household. Siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws have studied, taught, coached, served on staff, and provided leadership at Fort Worth Christian for decades. (See "Three Generations of Faithfulness" sidebar.)

Their investment has never been limited to attending the school. Across the years, members of the Bankes and Shoemaker families have served as trustees, teachers, coaches, administrators, volunteers, parents, grandparents, alumni, and faithful supporters.

For them, Fort Worth Christian has never been defined by its buildings or classrooms.

It has been a place where faith has been nurtured, leaders have been developed, and one generation has prepared the next to

follow Christ.

The Legacy They Inherited The story of the Bankes/Shoemaker Family Endowed Scholarship Fund did not begin with James and Ann. It began with two families whose values were rooted deeply in faith, hard work, and Christian education.

For James, those lessons were learned in the home of a minister. His father, Robert Bankes, faithfully preached the Gospel for more than sixty years and also served on FWC's Board of Trustees. His mother, Myrle, quietly modeled humility, generosity, and unwavering faith.



Looking back, James remembers not material wealth, but what mattered most.
"They demonstrated that the important things in life are valued more than money."

Ann's foundation was remarkably similar. When Ernie and Bess Shoemaker moved their family to North Richland Hills, they enrolled Ann and her brother, Rob, at FWC. Before long, school, church, and home became inseparable parts of their family's life. Years later, Bess returned to FWC as the school's librarian, investing in students with the same servant's heart she demonstrated at home.



When Ann reflects on her parents and James' parents, one quality rises above all the others.
"Our parents were very humble people. The endowment is a way James and I can honor our parents for the sacrifices they made to send us to FWC and hopefully provide the same opportunity to other kids."

Those sacrifices gave James and Ann far more than an education. They gave them a foundation rooted in faith, humility, hard work, generosity, and a desire to put Christ first.
"Our parents instilled a strong work ethic," Ann says. "By their example, both in work and spiritually, we have had a lifetime of building on their example of putting the Lord first and giving back to those less fortunate."

Over time, those values became part of the rhythm of their own family. Their children did not simply hear about generosity and faithfulness—they watched them lived out every day.

As Jamie reflects on what Christian education has meant across three generations, she doesn't begin with academics. She begins with something much deeper.
"When I think of my grandparents, parents, myself and my children and the impact of Christian education, what I think of most is community and relationships. Community with the purpose of following Jesus and expanding His Kingdom, and relationships that have helped each generation of our family grow in our walk with the Lord."

Ask James and Ann why they established this scholarship, and they rarely begin by talking about the gift itself. They begin with gratitude—gratitude for parents who sacrificed, for the opportunities they received, and for God's faithfulness throughout their lives.

For them, the Bankes/Shoemaker Family Endowed Scholarship Fund is another opportunity to pass those blessings to the next generation.

The influence of Robert and Myrle Bankes and Ernie and Bess Shoemaker did not end with their children or grandchildren.

It continues today.

A Place That Shaped a Family For the Bankes family, Fort Worth Christian has never been just a school. It has been the place where faith matured, lifelong friendships were formed, and each generation was encouraged to love Christ and serve others. Over nearly six decades, James and Ann have experienced Fort Worth Christian as students, parents, grandparents, trustees, volunteers, donors, and faithful supporters. Their children see Fort Worth Christian's influence through the lens of generations as Jeremy said: "When I look back, it's easy to see that Christian education has been woven into our family's story for generations. My parents met and fell in love at Fort Worth Christian, and years later Kelli and I did the same." Jamie believes one of the greatest blessings has been the community created through Christian education. "Each generation of my family has lifelong friends and relationships that began at Fort Worth Christian and have impacted our walks with the Lord long after we were students at FWC." Jeff has never known life apart from that influence. "All I have known my entire life is the impact of a Christian education. Now I can confidently look back and see the impact that started long before me and that will continue long after." Although each tells the story differently, they all arrive at the same conclusion: FWC became far more than the place where they received an education. It became part of the family's identity. Looking across those generations, Jeremy believes the foundation was laid long before he was born. "They loved God, loved people, and faithfully served wherever He called them." Those simple words describe not only his grandparents, but the values that have guided the Bankes and Shoemaker families for generations. First modeled

at home and strengthened through Christian education, those values have been faithfully passed from one generation to the next.

Passing It On



For James and Ann, establishing an endowed scholarship was about creating a living legacy that would continue serving students for generations to come. "We are grateful to establish this endowment, and we have plans to continue investing in the growth of the fund. We believe God will lead others to join us and magnify its perpetual impact." That vision became the Bankes/Shoemaker Family Endowed Scholarship Fund—a permanent investment in students whose lives may be changed long after James and Ann are gone. For James, the scholarship is deeply personal. Growing up as the son of a minister, he understands the sacrifices many ministry families make to provide a Christian education for their children. "My father was a minister. So I'm aware of the financial sacrifice it is on a minister to send their kids to FWC." Because of that experience, the scholarship gives first priority to students from ministry families who demonstrate financial need. When those needs have been met, assistance may also be provided to children of Fort Worth Christian alumni with demonstrated financial need. Those priorities reflect the blessings James and Ann received and their desire to extend those same opportunities to others. Ann speaks about the scholarship with the same humility that characterized her parents. "If our endowment fund can help them, we give God all the glory for the blessing of being able to help." Jamie believes that perspective reflects the heart of both the Bankes and Shoemaker families. "When I see the names Bankes and Shoemaker together, I think of my grandparents and the humility in the way they lived and sacrificed. They would not want their names elevated, but the name of Jesus elevated. Their deepest desire would be for this scholarship to help point students and families to Jesus." Their hope reaches far beyond helping students attend Fort Worth Christian. They pray every student who benefits from the scholarship will come to know Christ more deeply, follow Him faithfully, and influence the world for His Kingdom. "My hope and prayer would be for children to come to know the Lord Jesus, fully surrender their lives to Him, and make a difference in the world by the way they live and serve others."

A Living Legacy Robert and Myrle Bankes and Ernie and Bess Shoemaker invested in their children. James and Ann invested in theirs. Today, through the Bankes/Shoemaker Family Endowed Scholarship Fund, that same investment will continue in students and families they may never know. Yet their lives will be touched by the faithfulness of those who came before them. For James and Ann, that has always been their prayer. "We wanted to pass on the blessing God has given us in a way that would encourage students to be strong in the Lord and courageous enough to go into the world and be a shining light for Christ—wherever He calls them." That is the legacy of the Bankes family—not simply an endowed scholarship, but generations of young men and women equipped to love Christ, serve others, and lead lives of Christian influence. As future generations of Cardinals are known, loved, and valued, taught excellence in and out of the classroom, and empowered by a connection biblical worldview, the influence of the Bankes

family will continue because their faithfulness is reflected in the lives of those they will never meet. That is a living legacy.







THREE GENERATIONS OF FAITHFULNESS

The Bankes and Shoemaker Family's Connection to Fort Worth Christian

FOUNDING GENERATION

- James Bankes — Class of 1968
- Ann Shoemaker Bankes — Class of 1968

CHILDREN

- Jamie Bankes Ridgell — Class of 1996
- Jeremy Bankes — Class of 1998
- Jeffry Bankes — Class of 2007

SPOUSE

- Kelli Kauitzsch Bankes — Class of 1999

GRANDCHILDREN

- Anna Ridgell — Class of 2024
- Andrew Ridgell — Class of 2026
- Austin Ridgell — Class of 2029
- James Bankes — Class of 2028
- Isaac Bankes — Class of 2033

EXTENDED FAMILY ALUMNI

- Karen Bankes Miller — Class of 1971
- Calvin Bankes — Class of 1974
- Rob Shoemaker — Class of 1975
- Daren Miller — Class of 1993
- Kevin Miller — Class of 1996
- Chad Bankes — Class of 1997
- Chelsea Bankes Langthorp — Class of 2012
- Maylen Miller Webb — Class of 2021
- Mary Kate Miller — Class of 2026
- Manning Miller — Class of 2026

FAMILY MEMBERS WHO SERVE OR HAVE SERVED FWC

BOARD LEADERSHIP

- Robert Bankes — Trustee
- James Bankes — Trustee (two terms), including Board President
- Joe Don Ridgell — Current Trustee

FACULTY & STAFF

- Bess Shoemaker — Librarian
- Danny Miller — Coach
- Kari Bankes — Administration
- Elizabeth Miller — Current Director of Admissions
- Kylie Miller — Administrative Receptionist; Former Lower School Teacher
- Daren Miller — Teacher & Coach & Middle School Athletic Coordinator



BESS SHOEMAKER
Librarian

For nearly six decades, members of the Bankes and Shoemaker families have served Fort Worth Christian as students, parents, grandparents, trustees, teachers, coaches, administrators, staff members, volunteers, alumni, and donors. Their legacy continues through the Bankes/Shoemaker Family Endowed Scholarship Fund, helping future generations experience the life-changing impact of Christian education.