Last year I celebrated the twentieth anniversary of my graduation from Hobe Sound Christian Academy. Next year HSCA will celebrate its sixtieth anniversary. If Dr. Steve Herron and Dr. Connie Palm could be here today to see what God has built upon the foundation He helped them establish, I know they would be amazed.

While elementary classes were begun in 1960, Hobe Sound Bible Academy began in earnest with the establishment of a high school in 1962. It is no coincidence that 1962 was the year the US Supreme Court had ruled a New York Board of Regents approved prayer unconstitutional. A year later the Supreme Court ruled school-sponsored Bible reading unconstitutional.

The resulting alarm in the Christian community was ultimately channeled into an explosion of Christian day schools which popped up all across the country. Ten years later Rev. Levi Whitener won a landmark case (State v. Whitener) at the Ohio Supreme Court which established solid legal precedent for the operation of Christian day schools. Throughout those turbulent years, HSCA served as a model for holiness across the country. While many bedeviling schools struggled with inadequate facilities, insufficient funds and under-qualified teachers, God was enabling Dr. Connie Palm (and numerous others) to lay a solid foundation of quality.

In the decades that have followed, HSCA has expanded its sphere of influence. The Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools—our state accrediting body which serves over 100 schools and 50,000 students—now has a Hobe Sound address. Our principal, Dr. Brent Jones serves as Director of Programs and Services for FACCS and our academic dean Dr. Cliff Churchill is one of the four officers of FACCS. HSCA hosts FACCS events on our campus, and our staff members serve on teams that evaluate other schools for accreditation. In other words Hobe Sound Christian Academy has become a model for schools of many denominations across the state of Florida.

Over 75 percent of HSCA teachers hold graduate degrees or are in the process of completing them. HSCA is accredited by two regional accrediting bodies (SACCS and MSA) and one state accrediting body (FACCS). Our enrollment at the end of this last school year stood at 224, and Dr. Jones tells me that we are expecting a significant increase this fall. We are launching a K-2 and K-3 program this fall, following the successful launch of our K-4 program three years ago.

More importantly, our graduates have been successful. Joe Negron just completed his final term as president of the Florida Senate. Dr. John Bandela, a brain surgeon, is currently designing artificial intelligence technology for Google that will assist in the performance of neurosurgery. Stephen Kuo graduated from West Point in 2000 and served his country in Iraq. I am even more inspired as I think about alumnus Wesley Peterson who is serving with his family as a missionary in Lesotho, Africa. Pastor Brian Bailey and his family have faithfully served in Evart, Michigan, at the Bible Methodist Church and Daystar Christian Academy. Our own principal, Dr. Brent Jones, attended HSCA from kindergarten through twelfth grade and graduated with a BA from Hobe Sound Bible College.

I was personally impacted by HSCA. I can hardly believe it has been two decades since I graduated. I am grateful to teachers such as Kathy Wright for teaching me how to articulate my thoughts using proper grammar and technique. Not only did she prepare me to present my thoughts professionally, she infused her class content with Scripture, Christian poetry and literature to instill biblical values in her students. She, like so many others, modeled servant leadership as she sacrificed to teach at a Christian school for low pay while raising three children as a single mother. Last year she was honored by the PVF as Teacher of the Year—a well-deserved recognition for a dedicated mentor of so many students. I entered college and later graduate school with a solid foundation for which I continue to be grateful. I am so proud of Hobe Sound Christian Academy!
In September 1620 approximately 130 people we refer to today as the Pilgrims loaded into a 100-foot ship christened the Mayflower and headed west from Europe across the Atlantic Ocean toward the New World. Travel conditions were far from ideal. Men, women, children, and animals were packed into cramped living conditions for weeks at sea. Any passenger over five feet tall could not stand upright below deck, and the living quarters of the ship provided approximately fifteen to twenty square feet per person. Privacy and dignity were among the items left behind as they headed for a new life. These were not just thrill-seekers looking for adventure (though undoubtedly some were in the mix). Entire families were on board. At least two mothers were pregnant during the trip and one, Elizabeth Hopkins, gave birth to a daughter (appropriately named Oceanus). The Pilgrims recognized they were part of a larger presence of God and one another, covenant and combine. There was “a great hope and inward zeal they had of laying some doors before HSCA, and with God’s help we will continue to lay stepping stones for Christ.”

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The Pilgrims recognized they were part of a larger narrative. They had a history and tradition to preserve and maintain, but more importantly, they had a future to build. Their vision was bigger than their lives’ span, and they intended for their efforts to continue long after their names were forgotten. They were advancing the Kingdom of God to future generations. They were stepping stones.

For over fifty years Hobe Sound Christian Academy has been providing stepping stones for students and families. Our goal is to help lay a good foundation and train up children in the way they should go so they will be spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and academically prepared to advance the Kingdom of God to future generations. This means that not only are we striving to continue a legacy of godly excellence, but we are actively seeking new opportunities to expand the stepping stones we provide to our students, families, and faculty. Recently, God has provided us with several significant opportunities to expand and improve our capacity for service.

Over forty years ago HSCA sought and earned accreditation from the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (FACCS). Begin in 1968, FACCS is the oldest state-level association of Christian schools in the nation and currently serves over 100 schools and tens of thousands of Christian school students across Florida. Not only has HSCA maintained continuous accreditation with FACCS for the past four decades, but God has provided an opportunity for HSCA to contribute to FACCS and Christian education across the state of Florida. Currently, the FACCS Office of Accreditation and the FACCS Office of Program Services operate from the campus of HSCA. The Office of Accreditation oversees the accreditation of all FACCS-accredited schools, and the Office of Program Services coordinates all FACCS events (e.g. conventions, conferences, competitions, etc.) and provides many services to FACCS schools (e.g. personnel certification, data management). Both FACCS offices are overseen by HSCA personnel allowing HSCA to give back to both FACCS and the field of Christian education across the state.

In order to maintain accreditation, HSCA undergoes a thorough re-accreditation process every five years. During the 2019-2020 school year, we will again go through our re-accreditation process; however, this cycle will be different. In addition to undergoing review by FACCS, we will be under review by two additional accreditation organizations—the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA) and AdvancED. Both of these are regional accreditors which provide accreditation to schools across the nation and around the world. The purpose for undergoing review by these organizations simultaneously is to expose our school program to high levels of scrutiny to ensure we are providing high quality educational products as possible to our students. We believe in “whatsoever [we] do,” we are to do “heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Accreditation review allows us to conduct a thorough examination of every aspect of HSCA so that we can continue to grow and improve as an institution.

HSCA was also provided another significant opportunity to improve recently. In March of 2018 Hobe Sound Bible College began offering graduate degrees in the field of education. The majority of the first class of students progressing through the new Master of Education program are HSCA faculty members. At the time of this writing, half the teaching staff at HSCA was actively pursuing either a master’s or doctoral degree in the field of education. This means HSCA faculty members are actively seeking to improve their teaching skills. These skills will in turn be poured back into the classrooms and students at HSCA. Our goal is to take advantage of the opportunities available for professional and personal growth so we can be better equipped to serve those whom God has entrusted to us.

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One last area of growth for HSCA involves expanding the range of students we are capable of serving. Beginning in the fall of 2019, HSCA will offer a K-2 program serving children aged two and three. There is significant need in our community for services to this age group, and this provides HSCA with the opportunity to give back to our community while expanding our mission into new age groups. Our goal is to partner with families to help them begin training young children in biblical truth as well as areas such as academics and music.

Why pursue these opportunities? Why allow HSCA to operate on our campus and our personnel to hold dual roles at HSCA and FACCS? It is not because we have an abundance of space on campus or because our personnel are not busy with HSCA responsibilities. Why pursue multiple levels of accreditation? It is not because our staff is looking for extra documentation to prepare. Why do HSCA teachers instruct all day in their classrooms, then labor throughout the evening and into the night as graduate students in pursuit of additional education? It is not because HSCA teachers carry light workloads. Why expand into new areas of educational service? It is not because HSCA has excess capacity that needs to be filled.

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s I was writing this article, I realized three things: I have had the pleasure of teaching under every principal HSCA has had; I have taught 8,000+ days; and I have far too many memories to fit into a brief article. However, when I ponder on our principals—Mrs. Palm, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Marshall, Dr. McElwain, and Dr. Jones—there are some memories and characteristics that simply cannot go without being mentioned.

Mrs. Palm was a teacher at heart and expected all the teachers to be as dedicated to the students as she was to the teachers. She was tough yet caring. She made sure the teachers actually knew the materials they were teaching, instead of simply reading from the book or showing a movie (or a PowerPoint with today’s technology); thus, making sure each of us was providing a unique and unparalleled education in the classroom. She was also quite motivating and always enjoyed healthy competition. As I recall, the elementary began collecting Campbell’s Soup labels for a worthy classroom prize that benefited the teachers and students. We quickly had a raging soup label war. When Mrs. Hendricks (6th grade) realized she was falling behind, she purchased cases of soup. However, in her excitement to win, she forgot to re-label her now bare cans. So Mrs. Palm along with the teachers got to eat plenty of mystery soup for lunch throughout that year. I cannot recall who won, but the winning classroom received PE and classroom equipment lunch throughout that year. I cannot recall who won, but the winning classroom received PE and classroom equipment.

Dr. McElwain had a way of reinforcing positive behaviors and making sure the teachers found every student special in their own way. He found ways, even when the teachers did not, to recognize students who achieved their individual goals. He also strongly encouraged the students to learn something new every day. One of the things I feel teachers and students remember most is that he was in the car line to welcome them each morning and wave a see-you-later in the afternoons. A random memory I have of him is how much he enjoyed Diet Coke. At one point, we were the only two staff members who drank Diet Coke. If there was only one remaining in the lounge refrigerator, I would tend to find notes worded something like, “Reserved for Dr. McElwain.” I would laugh, contemplate drinking it, but then ultimately leave it since he probably needed it more than I did.

Our current principal Dr. Jones by example has shown the students that academic excellence is important and achievable as he was serving as HSCA principal while also working toward his PhD. My most recent but also distinctive memory took place a few months ago when I needed to meet with him and get clearance on an idea I had concocted for the students. But for a moment I probably stood there seeming to have lost my mind as I unexpectedly found myself amazed and amused that my former kindergarten student now had the authority to tell me no.

There are probably many other memories that have fallen through the cracks. But regardless I—along with many other teachers, staff, and students—have thrived under the leadership of these principals. Our common connection may be HSCA, but I second Ama Ata Aidoo’s sentiments, “Humans, not places, make memories.”
Walk into the K-4 classroom during the school year at Hobe Sound Christian Academy and you will see a calm, smiling teacher leading several wiggly children as they recite, “‘A’ says a, a, a as in apple.” Julie Fuller is the much-loved instructor in this bright, cheerful classroom.

Julie was born and raised in Penns Creek, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Hobe Sound Bible College in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education. She went on to earn a Master of Education from Palm Beach Atlantic University. Julie lives in Hobe Sound and attends Hobe Sound Bible Church where she is actively involved in the choir and special singing.

Julie says, “I feel like HSBC prepared me well for my calling as a teacher. The education classes and my student teaching were great experiences. I grew spiritually through school revivals and camp meeting and have good memories of choir tours and traveling in summer groups.

“Teaching at HSCA for the last nine years has been a joy. My fellow teachers are wonderful and supportive. Over the course of my time here, Dr. McElwain, and now Dr. Jones have been excellent administrators. I am looking forward to a great tenth year in the fall!”

A new batch of excited preschoolers also look forward to beginning their educational journey under the guidance of Miss Fuller.

Each week during academy chapel, one student from each class is recognized for a positive character trait. One often heard called out is “dependability.” This trait is also portrayed by our faculty and staff. Cheryl (Hannold) Jones is someone who can be counted on to do her job and then some—even with a heavy load of classes and other responsibilities.

Cheryl was born in New Castle, Pennsylvania. When she was two, her family moved to Hobe Sound. She has lived here ever since except for one year of teaching in Pell City, Alabama. Cheryl was a member of the first kindergarten class opened at HSCA. She graduated from the academy in 1986 and from HSBC in 1991 with a BA in Secondary Math Education.

At HSBC Cheryl met Phil Jones from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Phil graduated from HSBC in 1994 with a BA in Missions, and they were married that summer. They have three daughters: Bethany Lynne, married to Junior Cianne; Elizabeth Anne; and Rebecca Lee. They live in Hobe Sound.

Phil earned a Master in Information and Library Science degree in 2009 from Florida State University. Cheryl is presently enrolled in the master in education program at HSBC. Cheryl has taught in the HSCA high school for twenty-five years—everything from math to drama to yearbook. Phil serves as the college librarian and as an adjunct for Hobe Online.

Cheryl is grateful to be a part of the Hobe Sound community. She says, “I have grown up in Hobe Sound. I started school in the first kindergarten class and completed my education with a college degree. I am now working on my master’s degree. Phil and I met at Hobe Sound and have raised our girls here. They all attended the academy from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The teachers at Hobe Sound influenced me and shaped me into the person I am today. I learned what it is to live a Christian life from watching their lives. I hope I am able to be that kind of teacher to my students.”
The Hobe Sound Bible College Administrative Board provided a beautiful meal for the faculty and staff of the college and academy. On Thursday, April 11, around 100 enjoyed the evening together in the dining room of Monarch Country Club.
about the money he was going to save the church. He was one of, if not the, hardest working guy I know. You could learn faith from Lester. God worked so many miracles in my home being built through Lester. Lester gave me the nickname of Zachariah because I lost my voice for nine days. I felt God was calling me to build my house debt-free. Lester was convinced we could do it, and I didn’t know. Lester told me, “God took your voice because you’re not believing Him.” And I think he was right.

Lester was, you might say, thrifty. But I’ll tell you what. We had made this agreement (to start building the house), but we ran out of money. I told Lester one day, “Lester, money’s out, man. We made the agreement that you’re gonna work until we run out of money. It’s time.”

But he showed up the next day. I said, “Lester, I told you yesterday, we can’t pay you right now.” This is what he told me. “It’s only money.” At the end of that month, I owed him $20,000. We came to church that Sunday, and somebody did something in my son’s pocket. He pulled out a check, and it was $20,000. I don’t think I’d have got there if Lester had not pushed me. He said, “Trust Him.”

You could learn to give your all from Lester. A lot of what you see in this church—from this wall, to this stage I’m standing on, the cross out there, to so many different things—Lester hung it, built it.

You could learn to worship from Lester. Lester told me, “Sue, I’m always running with the business and family at home. When I think it’s my time with the Lord, just Me and Him.” Lester worshiped God with what he did. When Job did not understand, he did understand this—that there was something bigger. He mourned—it was proper. He shaved his head; he tore his robes. It says he dropped to the ground, and he said, “It’s my time with the Lord. Just Me and Him.”

Lester Bump

Lester was born in Vancleve, Kentucky. Interment was at Lawson Cemetery.

Memorial Services were held April 20, 2019, in the Calvary Community Church in Dallas with interment in Crum Cemetery. On-line condolences may be shared at oswaldfuneralservices.com/Lester-Bump.

Those who knew Lester will remember him as a man of faith, love, and compassion. He was one of the most loved members of the church and will be missed by everyone who knew him. He will always be remembered for his dedication to the church and his love for his family.

Lester Bump was survived by his wife Kristin (Brown) Bump and his daughters Alaina, Briella, Christina, and Daniella, and an unborn child; his parents Daniel and Elaine Bump; siblings Charles and Jody Bump, Stephen and Caitlin Bump, and Sharon and Dana Price; as well as countless friends and relatives.

The family requests that instead of flowers, donations be made to the Lester Bump Scholarship Fund at the church. Those who would like to make a contribution may do so online at oswaldfuneralservices.com/Lester-Bump.

Lester Bump was an inspiration to all who knew him, and his legacy will live on through the love and support he gave to his family, friends, and community.

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Lois Deetz Smerek


Lois graduated from HSBC. She taught at Penn View Bible Institute in Penns Creek, Pennsylvania, and attended New Colombia’s Gammonian Missionary Church. She is survived by stepchildren Robert Smerek II, Jonathan Smerek, and Lorena Davies; numerous step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and siblings Rev. Dorris Smerek and Jack Aaron.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Euma (Ramey) Deetz, and siblings Dorris Smerek and Jack Aaron.

A funeral was held on April 17 at Hummel Funeral Home in Middleburg, Pennsylvania, Rev. Brian Spangler officiating. Burial was at Mountain View Cemetery in Penns Creek.

Shirley (Freling) Wambach

Shirley Ann Freling Wambach, 83, of Sunnyside, Florida, went to be with the Lord April 14, 2019, surrounded by her loving family. Mrs. Wambach was born January 12, 1936, in Tichnor, Arkansas, to Tom Marce and Edie L. (Rees) Freling. She attended HSBC for two years, graduating in 1956. She was a retired nurse and musician’s wife. Shirley was a member of the Hattie Allogren Wesleyan Methodist Church. She is survived by children Manny Wambach of Mineral City, Ohio; Esther and Dennis Carter of Racine, Wisconsin; and eight grandchildren.

Shirley was preceded in death by her loving husband Marilyn and a sister. Funeral services were held April 20, 2019, in the Cadwell Community Church in Dallas with interment in Crum Cemetery. On-line condolences may be shared by visiting www.bandpfunerals.com/ShirleyWambach.

Keith Studelbaker

Rev. Dr. Keith James Studelbaker, 66, of Fisherville, Kentucky, went to be with Jesus on Sunday, May 12, 2019. Dr. Studelbaker attended HSBC graduating in 1978. He also held a B.A. and M.S.M. from Indiana Wesleyan University, an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a DMin (ABD) from Liberty University.

Dr. Studelbaker previously served as a counselor and pastor. For the past twenty years he has taught for Indiana Wesleyan University, serving as a faculty recruiter, regional dean, administrative faculty, faculty development, and full-time assistant professor. He also delighted in spending time with his family.

Keith was preceded in death by his wife of thirty-five years Gloria Studelbaker; children John and Rebecca Grignon Reker, Kerry and Lydia Nelson, Andrew Studelbaker, Joshua and Aubrey Studelbaker, Jacob and Deborah Mills, Joy and Kate Studelbaker, and Benjamin Studelbaker; eight grandchildren; two brothers and two sisters. Funeral services were held May 10, 2019, at Owen Funeral Home in Louisville, Kentucky.
Spring Choir Tour

A large crowd gathered for the annual HSBC/HSCA Alumni Reception at the 2019 IH Convention. Attendees enjoyed snacks, fellowship with old friends, and an update from President Stetler. Plan to join us next year as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the school.

Hobe Sound Concert Series

The campus and community enjoyed a wonderful concert series this school year with music from Greater Vision to the Treasure Coast Youth Symphony directed by Dr. John Eaton. Make plans to join us next year for several concerts.

Jan. 11, 2020 Convention Quartet
Jan. 18, 2020 Partnership Banquet
Jan. 25, 2020 King’s Brass
Feb. 7-8, 2020 HSBC/CA 60th Anniversary
Feb. 29, 2020 Gospel Celebration
Mar. 20-21, 2020 Piano Extravaganza
April 3, 2020 3 Heath Brothers

RV Donation

This summer Tim and Julia Cole and their baby Maxwell will be traveling with Unity Trio. A previous donation of an RV was be traveling with Unity Trio. A previous donation of an RV was for the next stage of their life.

Welcome Week

The 2019 Welcome Week brought together an excited group of students eager to get acquainted with HSBC. Eighty-five young people visited classes, enjoyed chapel services, and participated in South Florida activities. Student Recruiter Trar Lanes encouraged each one to “Find Your Purpose” by seeking God’s will for the next stage of their life.

Dr. & Mrs. Danny McCain Honored in Nigeria

On September 9, 2019, Dr. Danny and Mary McCain were honored in Jos, Nigeria, for thirty years of faithful Christian service to the country. Dr. and Mrs. McCain both graduated from HSBC in 1949 and from EBSIC in 1975—she with a BA in Biblical Education and he with a BA in English Education. Dr. McCain served as dean of men and a college professor. Mrs. McCain worked in the college academic office. Dr. McCain went on to earn master’s degrees in Bible and theology and a doctorate in New Testament. While in the States, he also served as a pastor, principal, and prison chaplain.

In 1988 the McCains and their three children moved to Nigeria for what they thought would be a four-year stint. Dr. McCain was the first instructors for International Institute for Christian Studies, now Global Scholars. They lived in Port Harcourt, then moved to Jos where they are today. Dr. McCain began the Diploma in Christian Studies program at University of Jos and continues to teach classes there.

Mrs. McCain has served for many years with Bible Study Fellowship in Nigeria. She also handled the bookkeeping for the in-service training program and other projects. Dr. McCain has written eighteen books and eleven training manuals. Mrs. McCain edited all of them. During the 2001 Jos Crisis and again in 2008 the McCain home became a camp for internally displaced persons. Over seventy people slept there, and Mrs. McCain led a team in feeding 1,500 people each day. Mrs. McCain has also managed the guest houses at the University of Jos and led a Bible study for children.

In his time in Africa Dr. McCain has accomplished numerous endeavors.

- Created Africa Christian Textbooks and serves as its chairman.
- Along with another professor started an in-service training program for Christian Religious Education teachers. Over 2,000 teachers have received this training.
- Created Faith-Based AIDS Awareness Initiative, a joint Christian-Muslim project.
- Served in the Nigerian delegation to Africa Forum on Religion and Governance and Lausanne International Congress on World Evangelism.
- With a Nigerian professor wrote extensive materials that stressed family for Nigeria Lausanne Movement.
- Preached to Presidents Obasanjo and Goodluck Jonathan.
- Provided counseling training for the Nigerian Army Protestant Chaplaincy.
- Been involved in peace-making activities.
- Led forty researchers in studying Pentecostalism in Nigeria funded by a grant.
- With a Nigerian professor wrote extensive materials that stressed family for Nigeria Lausanne Movement.

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2019 Phonathon

Thank you to everyone who responded to our student callers during the annual Phonathon. Over $29,000 was pledged and given. Students were encouraged by the response of those with whom they spoke.

Spring Choir Tour

Chapel Choir and Director Mr. Lucas Ryder spent spring break traveling to eight states ministering to congregations and representing HSBC. Mrs. Carla Case accompanied on the piano, and Mr. Phil Case served as bus driver.

IHC Alumni Reception

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The Alumni Association of Hobe Sound Bible College and Christian Academy is holding its biannual elections of officers. Mr. Jon Stratton is stepping down after completing his term as alumni president. Elections are open for president and treasurer.

Previously, according to the constitution of the Alumni Association, elections were held through the Torch, and at the annual alumni gatherings during Sea Breeze Camp and the Inter-Church Holiness Convention. Due to the advancement of technology, the Administrative Council has approved holding the election entirely online.

### 2019 GRADUATES

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<th>Bachelor of Arts</th>
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All alumni of Hobe Sound Bible College and/or Hobe Sound Christian Academy are eligible to vote for alumni officers. Alumni include anyone who attended school for at least one semester. It is not required that alumni be graduates. Current and former faculty and staff are considered alumni and are not eligible to vote in elections.

Please go online to HSBC.edu and click on Alumni Officers Election. Vote for only one candidate for each position. Voting will be monitored to ensure that no individual is voting more than one time. Voting is open through September 15, 2019.

### The Torch in the Future

We now have almost sixty years of history behind us. I believe with all my heart that I can say the original vision lives on. It has not dimmed or deviated from its original purpose, and the result is a host of alumni who are serving God in a whole variety of places around the world. We have graduates in every facet of church, music, and ministry.

Our graduates are deeply involved in missions and education (both Christian and secular). We have graduates serving in the armed forces, in law enforcement, and in government—local, state, and national. We have graduates serving in the field of medicine at all levels and in businesses ranging from the Google Corporation—where one of our graduates is currently developing computer programming to enable robots to perform intricate brain-surgery—to local businesses right here in Hobe Sound where alumni are representing us well through the honesty, integrity, and quality of their workmanship.

So I saw them again this morning in elementary chapel—the children who will become the subjects of someone’s Torch article in the future long after I have gone. I saw the potential. I felt the passion for Christian education, and I wanted to shout back to those who have gone before—caught up in the vision! We are carrying the torch of your mission! Has been good, and the future for HSBC is as bright as the promises of God!

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### GRADUATE HIGHLIGHTS

### Wesley Holden

Attending Hobe Sound Bible College was one of the chapters I never expected would be in the book that I call my life. All through high school, when trying to decide what my next step would be, I knew I could never attend one of these bible schools and follow all their silly rules. However, God had several plans in mind for my life that was not expecting, and His timing was definitely not a part of my plan.

I came to Hobe Sound in January 2015 after three and a half years of study at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a liberal arts college in my hometown. I was close to completing a double major in Music Education and Violin Performance. My plan was to stay at HSBC for a semester to get my life on track and then head back to Alaska to finish up. I had always thought of myself as a Christian, but in an unexpected obstacle got in my way. I started each week feeling discouraged and frustrated. Despite the obstacles, God got me back on track for each fall quickly, and along the way he had so many conversations about our past and what we thought God had in store for our future. Now we are married, graduates of Hobe Sound Bible College, and moving on to the next chapter of our lives.

I couldn't be more grateful for God's unexpected timing. Even when it seems like everything is falling apart, He is wrapping up every piece to make a story more amazing than you or I could have ever written.

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### Rebecca Hoard

I have been changed deeply throughout these four years in Hobe Sound. I could not imagine I would be so different until I came here. As an international student, the purpose I came to is to learn English and go back home to get a better job. Honestly, I did not care about my spiritual growth at first. I remember in the first few years, I even doubted God, thinking He was not even looking out for me. I was bored, I had no friends, and didn't want to come to church. I wanted to go back to my country and give up on my Christian life. But I had to suffer so much: stay in the academy classroom and serve lots of people I didn't know. Thankfully, God knew I knew Him and refused to let me leave. So He used my time here to help me grow in faith, and I've been thankful for that. I wanted to be prepared to go back to my home country with a heart full of hope and love for others.

He used each trial and challenge to humble me and help me learn how to be a leader in the way the students used to. I learned much to me personally and spiritually. As a husband, father, full-time pastor, student, and part-time handyman, I have been blessed by the flexibility the online program offers. I had wanted to complete my bachelor's degree for many years, and, because of Hobe Online, that dream has now been made a reality. I have grown spiritually and personally as a result of a wonderful curriculum and have found much of the material I studied to be easily implemented into my teaching and devotional ministry.

Graduating from an ABHE-accredited institution has also opened the door for me to pursue a post-graduate degree beginning next spring. I look forward to continuing my educational journey in pursuit of a master's degree.

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### Angelita Bates

Earning my degree online at Hobe Sound Bible College has been a wonderful experience and has meant so much to me personally and spiritually. As a husband, father, full-time pastor, student, and part-time handyman, I have been blessed by the flexibility the online program offers. I had wanted to complete my bachelor's degree for many years, and, because of Hobe Online, that dream has now been made a reality. I have grown spiritually and personally as a result of a wonderful curriculum and have found much of the material I studied to be easily implemented into my teaching and devotional ministry.

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### Jordan Tofte

I transferred to a new school. There are so many people in Hobe Sound who impacted me so deeply through every moment of my life. All through high school, when trying to decide what my next step would be, I knew I could never attend one of these bible schools and follow all their silly rules. However, God had several plans in mind for my life that was not expecting, and His timing was definitely not a part of my plan.

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### Gaye Armstrong

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Six years ago my wife and I knew God was calling us elsewhere, but were uncertain as to where He wanted us to go. As we sought God’s direction, it became clear to us that Hobe Sound was where we should go. In the process information came to us from Hobe Sound Christian Academy as we began to enroll our oldest daughter into kindergarten.

As I read through the packet of information, I will never forget when I came across the mission statement of HSCA. It reads, “Hobe Sound Christian Academy seeks to provide a Christ-centered education that trains the whole person intellectually, socially, and spiritually to be a servant leader in today’s society.” When I read that, I felt peace. I knew if the academy was true to its mission statement, my girls would receive an excellent education. Six years later as a dad of three academy students, and five years later as one of HSCA’s teachers, I can say the Academy lives out its mission statement.

Every school is undergirded and motivated by a philosophy which is reflected in the character of its students. Hobe Sound Christian Academy is committed to a definite philosophical viewpoint which ultimately is theological. HSCA’s philosophy of Christian education is evident in all elementary classrooms. In addition to my girls receiving an excellent education, I observe quality teachers helping to form my daughters spiritually. My daughters talk to me about things they have learned in Bible class, character traits their teachers talk about in all subjects, and what they learn in chapel. I hear components of redemptive teaching and discipline and small opportunities for them to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

In junior high and high school, I see our philosophy of Christian education taking place as well. The core of the curriculum is the Bible. In an age of shifting tides in educational philosophy, HSCA stands upon God’s unchanging eternal Word. Not only is the Bible the principle subject of study, but all other studies are permeated and directed by the truth of God’s Word. Our students learn about Scripture in Bible classes, and spiritual development happens in class by our teachers. Our teachers model what Christ-likeness looks like.

Over the past few years I have more closely observed graduates of Hobe Sound Christian Academy. I see them investing in the lives of others. I see them fulfilling God’s call for their lives. I see them being the hands and feet of Jesus.

In *Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland* written by Lewis Carroll, Alice has a conversation with the Cheshire Cat that I have never forgotten.

“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat.

“I don’t much care where...,” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the Cat.

Cheshire Cat has wisdom for us today. If we do not know where we want to go, if we do not know in which direction to head, we may just end up where we never intended. At HSCA we recognize the importance of knowing where one is going. A student’s education from elementary through high school is a journey, and HSCA partners with parents in guiding students along that journey. In keeping with our mission, vision, and values, we work and pray towards the goal that each of our students will become a fully devoted follower of Jesus.
HOME COMING 2020
FEBRUARY 7-8

HONORING THE CLASSES OF ’70, ’80, ’90, ’00, ’10

Join us at the 2020 HSBC and HSCA Homecoming for lots of fellowship and reminiscing.

The school service will be Friday, February 7, followed by an afterglow in the cafeteria. On Saturday we will have our annual alumni service in the CEC Auditorium, then lunch and a softball game at Oben Field.

Decade classes will also be holding individual reunions.

ROOM RESERVATIONS: Visit tjministries.org/camp or call 772-545-1140 ext. 2255.
Reservations can be made starting January 14.

For more information, contact us at faithtofe@hsbc.edu

It’s time to come home!