Greenville Christian School

THE CONVOCATION

The Unexpected Collective Noun for a Group of Eagles

Volume 1 Issue 2 | GC Journalism Staff | September 2024

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REMEMBERING SEPTEMER 11th



By Jillian Nelson

On September 11, 2001, a coordinated series of terrorist attacks shocked the American people. Four airplanes in total were hijacked to be used as weapons of destruction. Two planes hit the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York, reducing them to rubble. Many first responders were also injured as they tried to rescue those trapped in the collapsing towers. Another plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane fell short of its intended target and crashed into a field in Pennsylvania, killing all its passengers.

Many of our students and younger people in America do not fully comprehend the impact of September 11, 2001 on those who lived through it. However, many of our teachers here at GC remember vividly the confusion, shock, fear, and sadness of this horrible day.

Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Amanda Pierce remembers being a student at GCS on September 11, 2001. She recalls, "I felt sorry for the people, but really didn't get the significance of it until I went home and saw some of the video of it happening."

Secondary teacher Mrs. Carla Kinnard remembers first hearing about the attacks on the radio as she was driving to GCS. She also recalls that she was giving a test over The Scarlet Letter that day, but that the students could barely concentrate. Mrs. Kinnard says she thought at first that it was a terrible accident. Similarly, Mrs. Becky Shasteen, GC music teacher, thought it was an accident with a small plane when she heard the radio report. She did not comprehend the magnitude of the attacks until she saw the video footage later in the day. She said, "It was so shocking and sad. I knew things would never be the same again."

Third grade teacher, Mrs. Tina Maxwell, recalls the fear that spread across the nation. She says, "We were all confused and shocked. We watched the tv all day. We were also concerned there would be more attacks." Mrs. Selena Traverse, elementary administrator, was at GCS on that horrible day. She remembers "Parents started picking up students because they were afraid. It was a scary day for all of us." She also described how students on the playground at school the next day were afraid when they

Continued on page 12

STUDENTS ENJOY LEARNING WITH CLASS PETS

By Sadie Whitt

Greenville Christian School strives to provide an excellent education for our students. The learning experience is enhanced by the addition of class pets.

Mrs. Krystal Johnson's first grade class can observe axolotls in an aquarium in their classroom. According to student Jonas Nelson, an axolotl is "a type of creature that is born with small eyes, with a longish body, likes to drink water, and lives in fish tanks." Mrs. Johnson's class also helps take care of a piglet that they have fittingly named Miss Piggy.

There are class pets in the secondary building as well. History teacher Lewis Smith has kept reptiles in his classroom for many years. Currently Mr. Smith has two snakes named Napoleon and Onyx. Napoleon is a corn snake. He is twenty years old and has been auditing Mr. Smith's history classes since 2006. He also has an Instagram page called "Napoleon the history snake." Onyx is a Brooks kingsnake. Onyx came to GC for a visit back during the 2010-2011 school year and has returned recently. Mr. Smith also has a leopard gecko King Tut who was added to the classroom in 2021.



Kennedy Reeves shows the axolotl .



Harley Cooke and LynnLee Thompson feed Miss Piggy.





Seventh grader Anthony Stollsteimer meets one of Mr. Smith's snakes.

GC YEARBOOK RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

By Landon Wilburn



Plaque recognizing 2023-2024 GC Yearbook

On September 16 the 2023-2024 Greenville Christian yearbook staff received an award from the Josten's publishing company. Their yearbook, which was entitled "Look Deeper," earned the gold level in the Josten's Program of Excellence. The yearbook featured a "Where's Waldo" style page with GCS students and staff, and the yearbook staff hid a cross on every single page to remind its readers that Jesus should be present in every part of our lives.

Congratulations to yearbook staff members Rick Jackson, Audra Atteberry, Austin Wilburn, Ryder Brantner, Mason Kinnard, Jake Pletcher and Izzie Kelsey.

The yearbook staff would also like to thank Mrs. Andrea Foote and the 2023-2024 GC photography class for the awesome photos.

DADNATION HOLDS PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Group photo taken at the DadNation Pancake Breakfast

By Landon Wilburn

On September 14, about twenty fathers of GC students met for a pancake breakfast sponsored by GC DadNation. This organization exists for GC men to connect, serve, and lead. DadNation leader Brad Pletcher says the group "provides opportunities for dads to get involved in the school and help behind the scenes." The pancake breakfast was planned by James Smith, Paul Faseler, Richard Long, Brad Pletcher, and Cody Wacasey. Brad Pletcher served as the pancake chef for this event.

The men enjoyed food and fellowship at the pancake breakfast. Mr. Alex Boles won a gift card from DadNation to use as a date night.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE 2024

By Sofia Wagnon

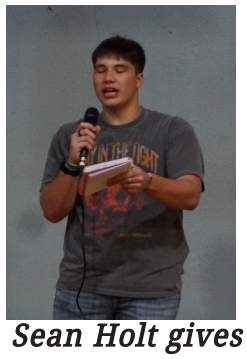
On Wednesday, September 25, 2024, many students, parents, and faculty arrived to the GC campus early in the morning to participate in the nationwide See You at the Pole event.

The first See You at the Pole event took place in 1990 when a group of teenagers from Burleson, Texas, met to pray over their schools. Their challenge to other students to meet and pray spread throughout Texas and the US. Students designated the flagpole as the meeting place because it was assumed that every school would have one. More than 45,000 students participated in the first See You at the Pole, but the number of participants has increased over the years. Now it is estimated that one million students meet to pray annually.

The GC See You at the Pole meeting for 2024 was moved to the gym because of rainy weather. The chapel worship team and the leadership class planned the event. After a few worship songs, students split up into groups and prayed together for our school, friends, faculty, government, and nation. Student Nathan Galyean said, "I liked how we got together and prayed. Overall, I think it was a really nice day."



Chapel Team prepares to lead worship.



Sean Holt gives prayer prompts



Mr. Nivens prays with a group of students



Students pray during See You at the Pole

FOOTBALL COACHING STAFF

By Ryder Brantner

GC football looks to rebuild their athletics program in 2024 with the hiring of head coach Brandon Fauley and many new members of the coaching staff.

Coach Fauley has quite a bit of football experience. He played on the first junior high team at GCS in 7th grade, and the varsity team from 2005-2009. During those years, the team was very successful, winning the state championship twice. Looking back, Coach Fauley says his favorite part of football was playing with his friends and being part of a team.

The Fauleys have been involved with Greenville Christian for a long time. In addition to his years playing football, Coach Fauley met his wife at GC. Currently, two of his children are enrolled in elementary school here as well.

Fauley said, “For many years, I felt called to be involved in the GC football program. When the opportunity became available to take over as head coach, my wife and I felt this was the path the Lord has asked me to move forward on faithfully.”

Fauley has set some high goals for the Eagles' football players. He expects them to daily honor God, improve, and win. He wants to establish a Standard of Excellence for the players on and off the field. Fauley explained his philosophy of coaching: “For me coaching is an opportunity to build a meaningful, Christlike relationship with a young man while teaching him to play the game of football."



Eagles Head Coach Brandon Fauley

Some other members of the coaching staff also have new positions. Marvin McFadden (Coach Mac) is the team's assistant coach. Alex Boles is varsity offensive coordinator. Joe Kilgore serves as the special teams and kicking coach. Chaz Garrett and Tim Pittsinger help with scouting, coordinating film, and strength training.

GCS is also blessed with a strong middle school team and coaching staff, which is very important in building the varsity team. The middle school head coach is Brad Pletcher. Scott Feezel is the offensive coordinator, and Cody Wacasey is the defensive coordinator for the middle school teams.



Coach Brad Pletcher



Coach Scott Feezel

BASKETBALL COACH HIRED

By Landon Wilburn



Greenville Christian hired a new high school basketball coach, James Smith. He has coached for many years at many different high schools and middle schools, and recently coached the GCS middle school team. He has been a part of the GC family for many years by being involved with the school. In his high school years he played basketball, football and baseball. After high school He got a college scholarship in football but hurt his knee and could not continue. His goals for the team is he wants the players to enjoy the sport, have good sportsmanship and good energy, be disciplined and be a leader spiritually. He also expects the players to have consistency, know what they are doing on the court, work together as a team, and be competitive.

BOSS TWINS EXCEL AT CROSS COUNTRY MEET

By Jillian Nelson



Eighth graders Lauren and Lindsey Boss

On August 17, GC competed in the Clay Minton Invitational in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Students Lindsey and Lauren Boss earned first and second place honors in the middle school division. Their times now lead the nation for Middle School girls in the 3200 meter event.

Lindsey and Lauren have been running since sixth grade. They run almost every morning for an average of 3.5 miles every day. Their motivation for running is that it is a great way to start their morning, it's great exercise, and they simply enjoy it. The twins' running times are very close. Usually only a few seconds separate them. Lauren admits that Lindsey is faster, but Lindsey said she feels bad leaving Lauren behind so they run together. She also likes having company. Lindsey said, " I want to run in college and just have a great time."

The twins recall that one time someone miscalculated a distance for them to run. It was supposed to be two miles, but they ran seven miles instead. They said they could not tell the difference.

When they were born, Lauren and Lindsey were premature. Their doctor said it was highly likely that they would have asthma and would not be able to run. However, with hard work, determination, and talent, these young ladies have overcome those predictions to represent their school as the best in the nation.

GREAT VOLLEYBALL WEEKEND

By Ryder Brantner

The GCS varsity volleyball team participated in the Grayson Christian Academy tournament September 19-21. Over this 3 day tournament, the Lady Eagles won first place in the gold bracket. After the tournament, the team went to a Gzim's Pizza in Leonard, Texas. The students discovered that the restaurant is named after the owner's son who died in a car accident. The restaurant owner complimented the team for being very well mannered and they all decided to get a picture together. The owner said that it was the first time in a long time that his wife had taken a picture with anyone. After hearing this, the volleyball team prayed for the owner and his wife. As they were trying to pay for their meals, the team found out that another couple had paid for all their dinners. This couple, the team learned, also happened to live in Greenville. They came to the GCS auction two years ago and bought some things to help the school. Grace Long commented, "It's a small world."



GC Varsity Volleyball Team
Back L-R: Trinity Epley, Gabby Lumby, Khloe Montenegro, Addie Pope, Kenzie Gladden, KeeLee Donnelly, Kaitlyn Boss
Front L-R: Rachel McClain, Grace Long, Mylie Wrinkle, Ella Lowe, Ava Lowe

GC CELEBRATES GRANDPARENTS' DAY

By GC Newspaper Staff

Greenville Christian School celebrated Grandparents' Day on Friday, September 27 with students performing a patriotic themed program entitled "Celebrate America."

The high school choir sang the National Anthem, and the elementary students sang a variety of songs about the United States' flag and history. The sixth grade narrated the program and danced the Virginia Reel for the audience. The program concluded with the singing of "God Bless America" by students and audience members.

After the program, grandparents were invited to visit elementary classrooms. Special thanks to music teachers Mrs. Becky Shasteen and Mrs. Audra Tibboel for planning this wonderful program for our school.



GC fifth and sixth graders sing a song for Grandparents' Day.



Mrs. Becky Shasteen introduces the program.



Secondary choir students sing the National Anthem to begin the program



Millie Sprouse waves her flags.

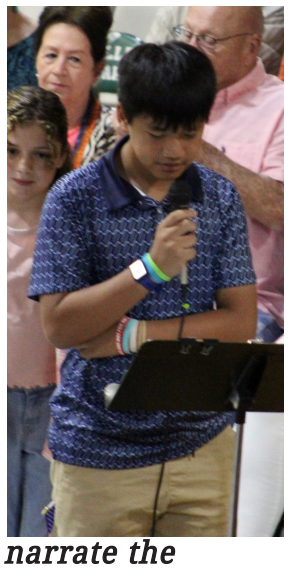


Jaylon Bland gets a hug on Grandparents' Day



Kye Franklin smiles for the camera





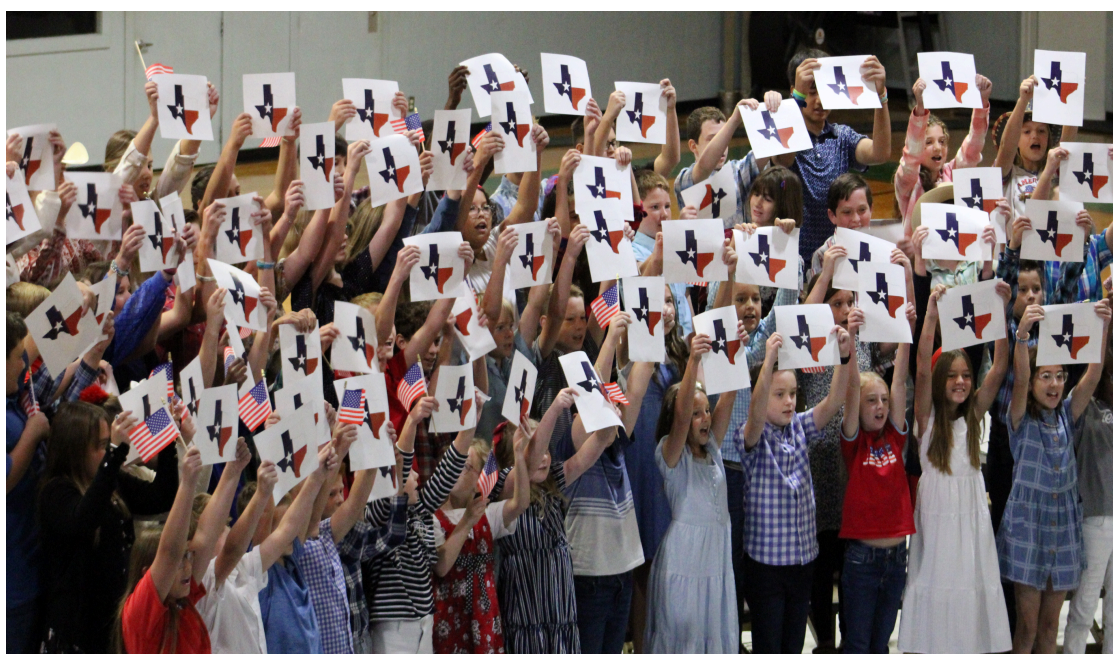
Aubree Safar, Birdie Miller, and Ezekiel Williams narrate the tribute to Veterans.



Sixth graders dance the Virginia Reel.



Amelia Audo waves her flags.



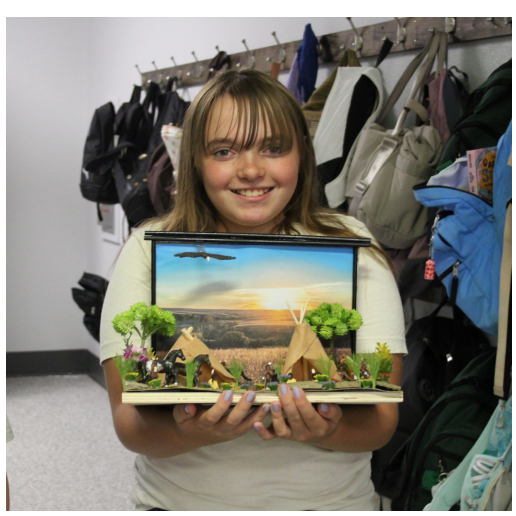
GC elementary students sing about the great state of Texas.

FOURTH GRADE DIORAMA PROJECTS

By Jillian Nelson

Mrs. Amanda Pierce's fourth grade class has recently been studying Native American tribes that lived in Texas as a part of their Texas history curriculum. They learned about the Caddo, Comanche, Jumano, Apache, and Karankawa tribes. Students completed 3D diorama projects about the different tribes. They had to create the landscape, the houses, and artifacts in their displays.






(L-R) Students Elijah Henderson, Presley Ellis, and Eli Killgore display their projects.

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

By Sadie Whitt

Our GC students recently voted for our 2024-2025 Student Council. Senior Kenzie Gladden will serve as Student Council President, and Senior Aiden Black will be the Vice President. Our head of school, Mrs. Laura Smith, will be the sponsor for the student council, and she has many big plans for the organization. Congratulations to the following students who have been elected by their peers.



7th Grade Representatives Cameron Faseler, Anna Feezel, and Kade Nelson



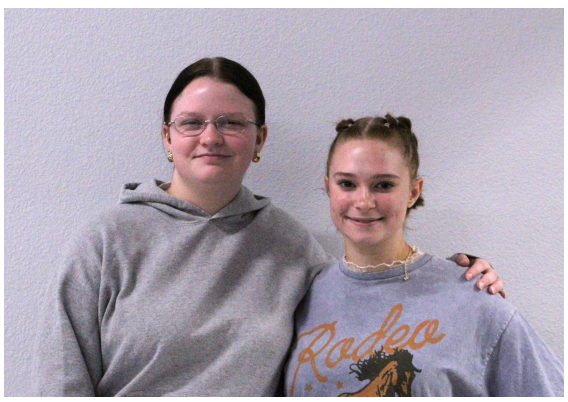
8th Grade Representatives Allyson White, Dawson Stephenson, and Alex Feezel



9th Grade Representatives Tristan Brown, Tripp Whitt, and Ella Lowe



10th Grade Representatives Grant Bench and Khloe Montenegro



11th Grade Representatives Allison Blaske and Sadie Whitt



12th Grade Representatives Taylor Mahan, Mylie Wrinkle, Kenzie Gladden, and Aiden Black

SULPHUR RIVER FIELD TRIP

By Jillian Nelson

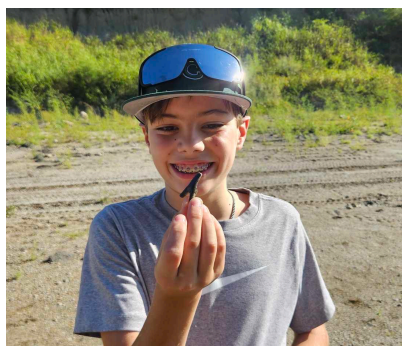
On September 20, 2024 Mr. Smith's 7th grade Texas History class went on a field trip to the south Sulphur River in east Ladonia, Texas. The class has been studying Native Texans. Mr. Smith has been taking his 7th grade class on his trip for over 25 years. They spent the day exploring the river bed and searching for fossils. Many of the students found shark teeth. They also discovered some baby snakes. The only arrowhead was found by parent Kaci Nelson. Mrs. Nelson said, "I went on this field trip as a 7th grader myself, so it felt very nostalgic to get to go back as a parent. I have even more appreciation for God's creation and the incredible history we have literally right below our feet."



Kade Nelson displays the arrowhead found on the trip



Anna Feezel and Samantha Nickell play with a baby snake



Cameron Faseler shows a fossil that he found



Jack Garrett also found a fossil.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Link Brown is a sophomore at GC. He plans to pursue a career as a chef after graduation. He provided a recipe in honor of National Pancake Day.

LINK'S PANCAKES

1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
3 1/2 teaspoons of baking soda
1 tablespoon of sugar
1 1/4 cups of milk
3 tablespoons of butter melted
One egg
1/4 teaspoon of salt

Sift flour, baking soda, sugar, and salt together into a large bowl make a well into the center and add milk, eggs, and melted butter mix until smooth.

Heat a lightly oiled pan over medium high heat. Pour or scoop 1/4 cup of batter into the pan for each pancake. Cook until bubbles form and edges dry, for about two - three minutes. Flip and cook until golden brown on each side. Repeat with remaining batter.

ATLATL USED IN TEXAS HISTORY

By Ryder Brantner

Mr. Smith's 7th grade Texas History class is learning about the Native Americans tribes that inhabited Texas in the past. One of the many things the 7th graders learned is to use is the atlatl. The atlatl is one of the first compound tools used by Native Americans. An atlatl is a throwing stick which could propel a spear further and faster than the human arm could. Mr. Smith demonstrated the use of the atlatl and allowed students to try it as well. Student Cameron Faseler said, "It was cool that it launched further than an arm could."



Mr. Smith displays the atlatl.



Student Jacob Spurlock uses the atlatl to launch a spear.

NATIONAL PANCAKE DAY

By Landon Wilburn

Greenville Christian's 9th grade World Geography class celebrated National Pancake Day on September 26 by eating different types of pancakes from around the world. Students sampled Finnish Pannu Kakku, Belgian waffles, and syrniki, Ukrainian cheese pancakes. Dutch baby pancakes from Germany and Pajeon from Korea were also available. Freshman Ava Lowe said, "These are the most sigma pancakes I've ever had." Overall, the class favorites were the Australian pikelets, Russian blini, and French crepes. Thanks to all the parents who helped with this activity.



Student Reagan Love enjoys a Belgian waffle.



Ava Lowe poses while preparing her plate of pancakes.



CHAPEL SPEAKER

By Jillian Nelson

On September 6, GC welcomed Hans Meinardus to speak at chapel about Geology at a Christian Worldview as a start of our study of apologetics. He is a good friend of Mr. Nivens. Mr. Meinardus is an executive director at Frontier Camp, which is south of Tyler. . He also has a Bachelors in Science and a Masters in Geology. Meinardus' definition of geology is, " The study of the earth, its materials, and the processes that form it." The scripture that he chose for this session was 2 Peter 3:3-7. The goal that he had for his message was to expose the GC students to the concept that a Biblical worldview allows us to interpret God's creation. His summary of the message was, " Science and faith are not in opposition. God's word is the authority over man's thoughts. A Biblical worldview allows us to make sense of what we see." Mr. Meinardus' most compelling epic of geological evidence to you for a Christian worldview is, "Seeing evidence of a catastrophe in the fossil record." We were very thankful to have Mr. Hans Meinardus at GC to fill us with God's word.

ARCHAEOLOGY VISIT

By Ryder Branter

On Friday September 6th Mr. Smiths' sophomore world history class welcomed Mr. Russ Davis who gave a lecture on ancient archaeology and displayed ancient artifacts from the Holy Land.

Mr. Davis is no stranger to Greenville Christian. His daughter, Rebecca, graduated as valedictorian from GC in 2019. He has gone on multiple digs to the Middle East and has found many incredible artifacts such as daggers, pottery, arrowheads, and coins. Mr Davis talked about his goal of the lecture stating, "The things we find can make the authenticity of the Bible stand out." He also said that we do not need archaeological evidence to support the Bible; however it can help us understand and view the Bible as authentic.

Some of the artifacts that were displayed included daggers from the bronze and iron age, arrowheads from the bronze and iron age, and pottery. Interesting facts about these artifacts are: the bronze age weapons are wider than that of the iron age because bronze was less expensive compared to iron the same fact goes for arrowheads. The bottles that were brought were not used for water but instead used for ointment and medicines.









SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: KENZIE GLADDEN

By Sofia Wagnon

Kenzie Gladden has been attending GC since the third grade. One of Kenzie's favorite memories at GCS is playing volleyball with her friends. She also stated that Coaches Ricky and Heather Basye have had a positive influence on her life. Kenzie shares that "They have loved me as their own, poured into me, been there to lean on and vent to, and encouraged me on and off the court."

Kenzie acknowledges that her faith has grown during her time at GC. She said, "High school seems like the biggest obstacle when you're in the midst of it, but through clinging to Christ and trusting in His plan for my life, the things that seemed devastating at the time, are now only small bumps in the rearview mirror. Sure, my faith has been challenged, but there was never a moment that God left my side." Kenzie plans to attend college and major in Christian Ministry after graduation.

WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE

By Sadie Whitt

On September 23 GC students traveled to Plano to attend the Biblical Worldview Leadership Conference, one of the largest apologetics conferences in the nation, at Prestonwood Christian Academy. The conference theme was "Worldview Matters – You will be inspired to think like Jesus, so you can live like Jesus." Key speakers for the day were Allen Parr, Justin Brierley and his son Noah Brierley, Alisa Childers, Tim Barnett, and Lee Strobel. Upon arrival at the conference, there was a general session beginning with speaker Rev. Allen Parr, who spoke on planting the seed of the gospel in someone else. Parr was followed by Justin Brierley and his son Noah, who discussed TikTok evangelism within Generation Z.

During breakout sessions, students chose to learn about different subjects relating to worldview and apologetics. Then all students attended another general session where they heard Christian author Lee Strobel speak about modern day miracles. After Strobel, students heard from Tim Barnett from Stand To Reason Christian Ministries and Alisa Childers, who spoke about the dangers of deconstruction of the faith. The worship at the conference was led by the DBU Chapel worship team.

During the lunch break students were able to visit college booths for schools such as Ouachita Baptist University, Dallas Baptist University and other private Christian colleges.

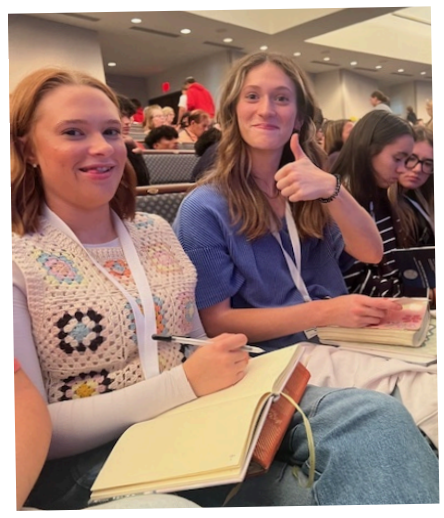


GC juniors and seniors attending Biblical Worldview Conference



(Left) Senior Jenna Gilley enjoys the conference.

(Right) Sadie Whitt and Kenzie Gladden prepare to take notes during the session.



September 11th continued from page 1.

heard a loud noise from a plane taking off from L3. They all hit the ground, thinking it was a bomb.

Mrs. Tiffany Feezel, middle school computer and math teacher, remembers September 11th starting off boring at work in Lubbock, Tx. She describes the shock, saying she remembers the world just stopping.

First grade teacher, Mrs. Krystal Johnson was a freshman in college at Oklahoma Christian University. She saw reports on televisions in the student center. She began praying for our country, and then called her family.

Secondary teacher Mrs. Catherine Deirschke was in her high school physics class when she heard the news. She said that she didn't believe the reports at first. She couldn't fathom the thought. Her school brought in televisions so students could watch the coverage.

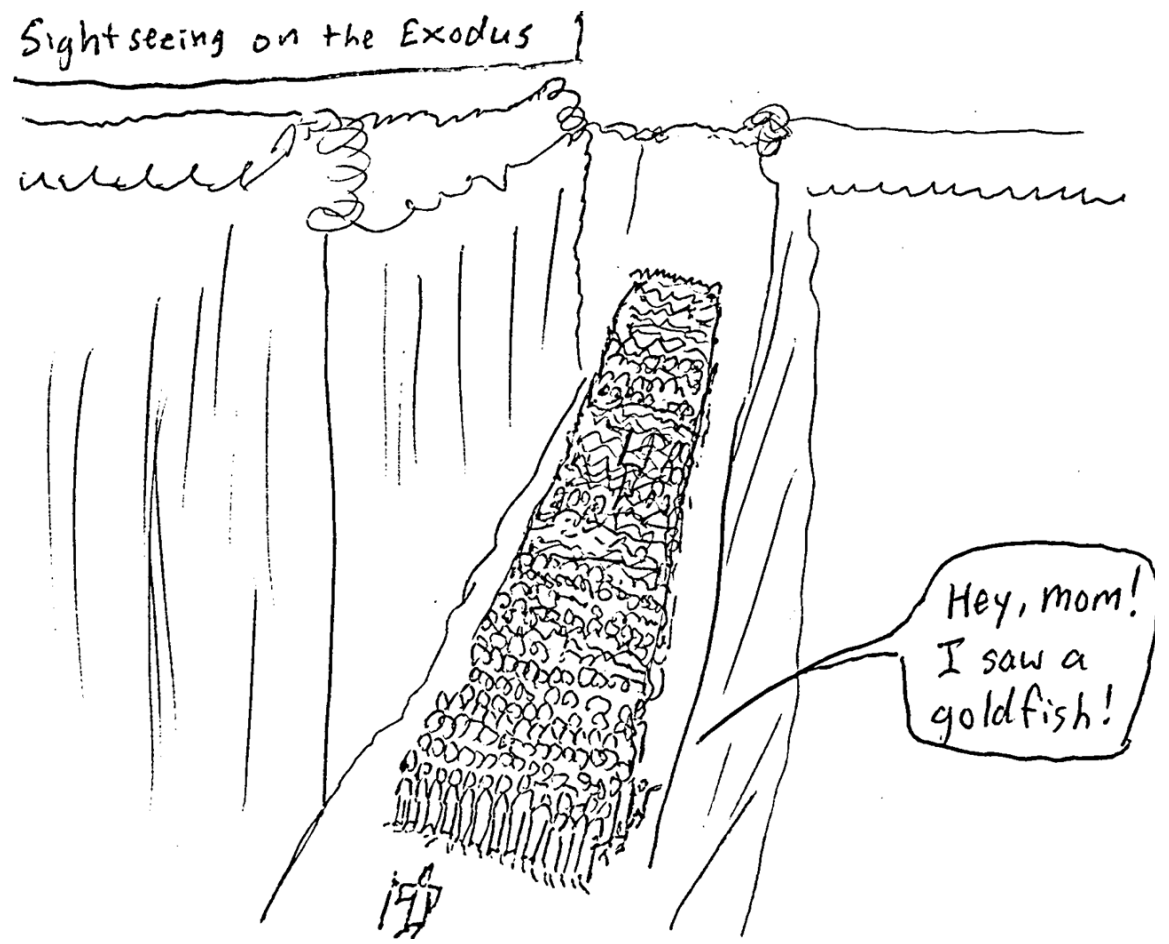
School librarian Mrs. Christa Sherman was in the ninth grade when it happened. She had only been living in Texas for two weeks. She said that the first sight of the attack was when her English teacher drew two towers on the board and a plane crashing into them.

Mr. Lewis Smith, GC history teacher, was at school taking his attendance to the office when the school secretary at that time, Mrs. Lisa White, told him that there was an attack on the World Trade Center. He was in complete shock. He said it was his saddest day in his thirty years at GC.

9-11 was a terrible day in American history. We will forever remember the impact that it had in our hearts and on our country.

COMICS

"A joyful heart is good medicine . . . " Proverbs 17:22



"High School Hijinks" by Lewis B. Smith

