



nc advance

nebraska christian schools

building lives for eternity

Stay the Course

by Tim Hekrdle, Superintendent



Greetings! From any role in my tenure as an educator, I have always enjoyed collaborating and learning from those around me. Sometimes that includes reading a book, visiting another school, or looking back on those that have served before me.

For those that have been following along with Nebraska Christian for a little while, you recognize the name Dr. David Edgren, a former administrator here. He is one of several beloved administrators who have served in the 60-plus year history of Nebraska Christian, and when his name comes up, it often includes a reference to our international program. For those who recognize the name, did you know he is still hopping on military planes and working to get Chinese students to school over here in the United States? He has been doing this regularly since he departed from Nebraska Christian. While I aspire to meet Dr. Edgren at some point, the next best thing literally landed in Nebraska recently. Andy Edgren, Dave's son, is also working with international missions by working to attain Chinese students for Christian schools in the United States, and he recently visited Nebraska Christian. He was sure to pop into our lunch room and surprise our Chinese cohort by speaking fluently in Chinese. Being bilingual is a gift from the Lord and a major advantage for what he does.

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35 (NIV)

As Andy assessed the international program and gave us areas to grow in, most of his feedback was really affirming for our program, especially for our director Gib Killion and our dorm parents. The Lord has blessed our school through an extremely caring and relational leader in Gib

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Krugs Receive Hall of Faith Award

At this year's Harvest Concert, Tom Dockweiler presented the Hall of Faith Award to Norm and Sue Krug. All four of the Krugs' children — Andrea Plucker ('99), Nathan ('01), Samuel ('06), and Abigail Ritta ('10) — graduated from Nebraska Christian, and their granddaughters Kaley and Aubrey Krug are currently enrolled in the elementary. Below is the text of Dockweiler's speech at the Harvest Concert.

I have been asked to present the Hall of Faith Award tonight on behalf of the Nebraska Christian Schools Board of Directors. This award has been presented most years since 1983. One of the goals the board had when they created this award was to honor individuals who have had a long supportive association with Nebraska Christian Schools. The couple we are honoring tonight certainly meets that criteria.

My first awareness of this couple came when a colleague of mine shared his admiration for the behavior of their oldest daughter. John Ellefson found it impressive that this kindergarten child consistently thanked her bus driver each time she got off the bus. In the 32 years since then, this couple's oldest daughter and her three siblings have all graduated from Nebraska Christian Schools. As a side note, and I don't know if it's related or not, the practice of thanking a bus driver when you exit the bus has almost become a tradition around here.

Like most parents of students at Nebraska Christian, this couple was heavily involved in the events and activities that their kids were a part of. More than that, they seemed to really enjoy it. They helped set up and clean up for a lot of events and attended their children's activities. At one point, she got involved in the speech program as both



Olivia Janssen, Keith Wasomi, Clay Purkerson

Students Selected to Special Music Groups

Several Nebraska Christian students have recently received the honor of being selected to elite music groups. In the fall, seniors Clay Purkerson and Keith Wasomi participated in the Nebraska All-State Chorus. In late January, three NC students participated in UNK's Honor Band & Choral Clinic: seniors Clay Purkerson and Keith Wasomi and junior Olivia Janssen. All three sang in the Honor Choir. Congratulations to these musicians!

a coach and a judge. He accepted an invitation to join the advisory council and was later elected to the board, where he served for at least 14 years, with at least six of those as the board chairman.

It has been nine years since their youngest child graduated, and we haven't seen them around quite as often as we used to. I have a suspicion that is about to change, since they currently have two granddaughters enrolled in the elementary school at Nebraska Christian Schools.

As it says on the plaque I am about to present, they have been used of the Lord in His service as faithful soldiers in spiritual warfare at Nebraska Christian Schools. Please join me in thanking Norm and Sue Krug.

The NC Elementary invites you to

THE FINAL VOYAGE?

a Patch the Pirate Musical

Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., PAC in Central City

Admission is Free!

nc advance

volume 50 • number 1

Tim Hekrdle, *Administrator*

Becky Ritta ('99), *Editor*

Beth (Ritta '98) Keim, *Layout & Design*

The NC Advance is available free of charge. To subscribe, change your address, stop receiving the publication, or submit information, please contact us at:

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Editorial Submissions: All news or information from NC Alumni, students and teachers is welcome. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

NC Board of Directors:

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Mission:

The mission of Nebraska Christian Schools is to assist the family and church by providing a Christ-centered education, equipping students with a biblical worldview and encouraging a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.



While recently on campus, Andy Edgren (back) visited with several current staff members who worked directly with Dr. David Edgren during his tenure at NC. Pictured are a few of those staff members (left to right): Daurice (Pizzolato '87) Hower, Becky Ritta ('99), Karen Miotke, Robert Ritta ('69), Susan Ritta.

Hekrdle, continued from pg. 1

Killion. After pressing into our international program more lately, we have gleaned clarity. We have an excellent program and lots of momentum happening academically, culturally, and spiritually. While the Lord may steer us in other ways in the future, at the moment it seems the message is "stay the course and continue to sharpen the international program."

For those who want the best value out of their NC education, engage your child or grandchild with the world through our adopt-a-Sunday initiative or host an after school activity. There is educational value

built into the principle of "it is more blessed to give than to receive," and it very much applies to the fact that the whole world is coming to Central City, Nebraska. Can you believe it? We have students from Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea, Kenya, and China coming to our little town of Central City. There is an untapped resource of knowledge and experience to learn from and influence. Be bold. Work through the awkward stages. Embrace what you can learn from those around you. Not only will you bless our students, but they will also bless you.

For His glory, Tim Hekrdle



Dollars & Sense by Tom Dockweiler ('79), Business Manager

It is cold today, but I am in a warm place. What is happening outside my window has very little impact on me right now. I feel the same way about the financial situation at Nebraska Christian Schools. The gift income numbers are lagging behind our budgeted amount. We currently have \$153,595 of the \$572,550 needed to meet the budget we set for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which ends June 30. We are short, but we are in a secure place. Obviously, if the weather stayed this cold indefinitely, I would have reason to be concerned.

The same is true for our current shortfall in budgeted gift income. Having observed the hand of God over the last 50 plus winters, I have reason to believe that the weather will not stay this cold indefinitely. And, having watched God provide from my position in the business office of Nebraska Christian Schools for nearly 25 years, I have good reason to believe that God has a plan to meet our financial needs, as well. Indeed, part of the reason that we are able to function more than half way through the school year with barely a quarter of the budgeted gift income, is because God has so graciously blessed us in previous years. We are grateful to God and to each of you who have had a part in that.

Just a quick word about the preservation projects and recent construction, because it would seem a prudent thing to look at cutting back

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 6 Elementary Musical
7 p.m., PAC in Central City
- 15 Choir Tour
10 a.m., Oakland E. Free
- 27 Auction Preview Night
5 p.m.
- 28 Dinner & Benefit Auction
5 p.m. (see p. 5 for details)

APRIL

- 5 Choir Tour
10:45 a.m., Wescott Baptist Church
in Comstock
- 30 Spring Concert
7 p.m., PAC in Central City

19 Choir Tour

MAY

- 14 Awards & Scholarship
Assembly, 8 a.m.
- 16 Graduation, 10:30 a.m.
- 20 Last Day of School

For additional events visit
nebraskachristian.org/calendar



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for up-to-date info on the Preservation Project & Phase 2A!

The new addition to the gym building includes an expanded concessions and commons area that enhances our ability to serve guests at home events.

on those as the budget appears to be getting tight. So far, the expense of those projects has been covered entirely by designated gifts from the Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation and from payments from our insurance company. We are blessed to be in that position. Needed repairs for existing buildings could be paid from general funds if necessary, but the Ad Building Preservation Project and the Phase 2A construction project have been and will continue to be funded by gifts given specifically for those purposes.

Obviously, we could see a long cold snap yet this winter. God could also ask us to operate on less money than we have currently budgeted for. He is God. He can do whatever He wants to, and we will do our best to be faithful with whatever he provides.

Until next time, may God bless you and yours.

Gym Building Addition in Use!

by Jody Heuermann, Foundation Director



We are grateful to announce that, through the Lord's provision through many of you, the first part of Phase 2A is nearing completion and is already in use! The new entryway, ADA restrooms, and an additional commons area with concessions have been completed, and all that remains is some exterior work. This is such a wonderful addition to our current gymnasium, and we are grateful that we have been able to use it throughout our winter sports season. This much-needed update benefits both our students and guests to our campus.

As dollars permit, we look forward to moving on with the remainder

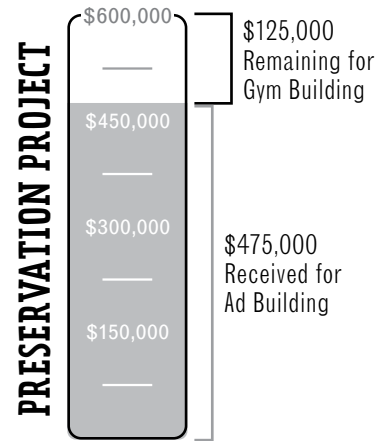
of Phase 2A, which includes a new kitchen and dining area. We would ask you to pray that the Lord will move hearts to give towards this next building project. To complete all of Phase 2A, our goal is to raise 1.9 million dollars. We are currently at \$435,000. We cannot express how much we appreciate the faithfulness and generosity of so many of our supporters.

As stated in the fall Advance, the Ad Building Preservation Project successfully sealed the building and addressed many of the critical exterior needs. In the spring, we plan to continue with a few exterior needs and then address the interior of the Ad Building. There are plans which will allow the building much more functionality without losing

its historical ambience and value.

Please consider what your part may be in helping us reach our goal of raising an additional \$125,000 in Preservation Project funds to continue the work of preserving our facilities and improving the gymnasium building. So many of our students' activities are in that facility. Without you, none of this would be possible.

If you would like more information about Phase 2A of The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign or the Gym Building Preservation Project, visit <https://nebraskachristian.org/support-ne/foundation/> or contact Jody Heuermann at jheuermann@nebraskachristian.org or 308-940-0249. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to the



NCS Foundation and designate Phase 2A or Preservation Project in the memo line.

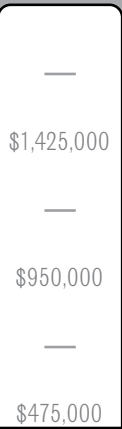
We stand in awe of all that God continues to do here at Nebraska Christian Schools. Rejoice with us, and thank you for partnering in this great ministry!

The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign

Phase 2

New Kitchen, Commons Area & Gymnasium

Phase 2A
\$1.9 million



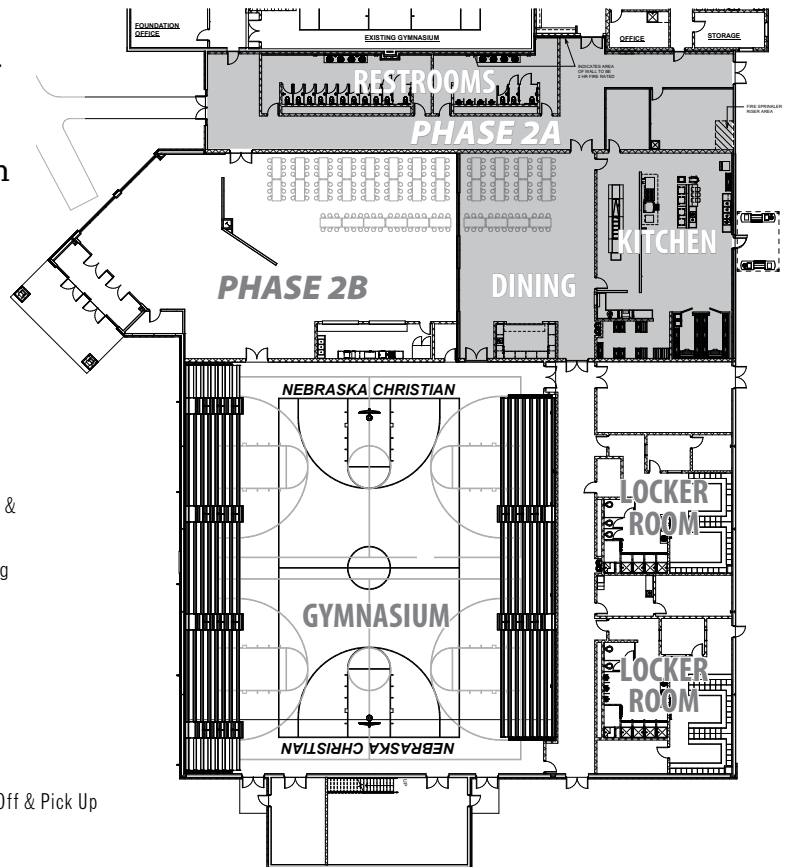
\$435,000
Received

Phase 2A \$1.9 million

- ADA Restrooms
- State of the Art Kitchen
- Dining Hall with Seating for Over 200

Phase 2B \$4.1 million

- Collegiate Sized 94' Competition Gymnasium & Activity Center with Seating for Over 900
- Concession Stand for Activities & Fundraising
- Boys & Girls Locker Rooms
- Athletic Training Room & Uniform Storage
- Athletic Storage Space
- Fine Arts/Programming Storage
- Entrance & Commons Area
- Expanded Parking Lot with Convenient Drop Off & Pick Up



Make checks payable to Nebraska Christian Schools Foundation

Memo line: Phase 2A or Preservation Project

Mail to:
NCS Foundation
PO Box 222, Central City, NE 68826

EIN: 45-1300291
foundation@nebraskachristian.org
nebraskachristian.org/foundation

Contact
Jody: 308.940.0249 / NC: 308.946.3836
Jody Heuermann, Foundation Director



Festival Ushers in Christmas Season *by Jody Heuermann, Festival Director*

The Nebraska Christian Festival of Lessons and Carols, entitled “Voices of Angels,” ushered in the most wonderful time of the year by presenting the entire Gospel of Jesus Christ in a beautiful setting. 140 teenage and adult voices, 40 orchestra members, 32 children’s voices, a world renowned organist and pianist, and an international conductor all combined to make the 14th presentation of Nebraska Christian’s Festival of Lessons and Carols one of the best yet.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. It was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King’s College, Cambridge, England. The nine Scripture lessons are each followed by songs and hymns, always beginning with the hymn “Once in Royal David’s City.” Through Scripture and song, participants are taken through Creation, the birth of Christ, the life of Christ, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the return of Jesus to earth. Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. “The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God...” seen “through the windows and words of the Bible.” The center of the service is still found by those who “go in heart and mind” and who consent to follow where the story leads.

This event was directed once again by Maestro Eric Dale Knapp, who is a native Nebraskan. Maestro Knapp has enjoyed much success in the music field. He has conducted concerts all over the world, and in many prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Sydney Opera House, Shanghai’s Oriental Arts Center, the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, Dvorak Hall in Prague, Vienna’s famed Musikverein, and Southwark Cathedral in London. We are very fortunate that Maestro Knapp desires to direct this performance in rural Nebraska to give our community a world-class musical experience.

Linda Sweetman-Waters from New Jersey provided accompaniment on the organ and piano throughout the evening. She is also a professional musician who has performed in New York City at Carnegie Hall, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Weill Recital Hall, Lincoln Center’s Bruno Walter Auditorium Merkin Hall and WQXR’s “Listening Room,” and the Williamsburg Symphonia in Williamsburg, Virginia. Linda has dazzled audiences with her keyboard talents both in the United States and abroad.

The artistic merit of this event is unparalleled in rural Nebraska at this time. The program is designed to give students who would not otherwise be exposed to this caliber of event a chance to participate in a first-rate program without having to travel hours from home and incur

personal travel expenses. Over the course of several years, local educators have seen the value of having their students participate in an event like this. We are very pleased to be able to provide this opportunity for local Nebraska students and musicians. We continue to promote music education and fine arts as a necessity in rural Nebraska schools.

This year’s choir was made up of students from Nebraska Christian Schools, High Plains High School, Heartland Lutheran High School, and Silver Lake High School. We were blessed to have several area adult singers and musicians in the performance as well as our elementary students from grades 3-6. It was

certainly a great honor and blessing for these musicians to perform under the direction of Maestro Knapp with the audience singing and worshipping around the Advent wreath.

This production is planned and worked on throughout the entire year. We are very blessed to have people who believe in this ministry who step up to help in numerous ways behind the scenes. It also takes financial support to present such a professional event, and we are thankful for the ones who help in this way.

Mark your calendars for the 15th presentation of the Festival of Lessons and Carols to be held on December 11, 2020!

Memorial Gifts

For: Vernon Anthony	For: Rich Hankel
From: Jerry & Linda Beck	From: Linda Peterson
Dorothy Ritta	For: Jeff Hower
Ed & Marilyn Ritta	From: Don & Kayleen Riley
For: Doris Aylor	Ed & Marilyn Ritta
From: Don & Kayleen Riley	For: Ken Martin
For: Donna Bankson	From: Ed & Marilyn Ritta
From: Linda Peterson	For: Elinor Moody
For: Linda Bebee	From: Dorothy Glad
From: Don & Kayleen Riley	Ed & Marilyn Ritta
For: Beverly Bergum	For: Marlin Rasmussen
From: Becky Deichmann	From: Ed & Marilyn Ritta
For: Betty Chambers	For: Norma Rodine
From: Anna Marie Moore	From: Dorothy Glad
For: Jacqueline Cunningham	For: Marion Scroggins
From: Kent & Diana Holtorf	From: Don & Kayleen Riley
For: Georgene Elge	For: Dorene Sorensen
From: Anna Marie Moore	From: Linda Peterson
For: Lynn Green	For: Betty Start
From: Family & Friends	From: Anna Marie Moore
Ross & Linda Garwood	In Honor of all Veterans
	From: Don & Kayleen Riley



2020 Dinner & Benefit Auction March 27th & 28th



by Kristy Langemeier, Special Events Coordinator

You are invited to attend this very important dinner and auction! By God's grace, this event has raised over \$2.4 million during the past 17 years and has afforded NC the ability to supplement teacher' salaries and provide scholarships for those students who may not otherwise be able to attend NC. As we are preparing for our 18th auction, we can see God's hand all over this event. He has chosen to bless us not only financially, but also through the community exposure it gives us and the opportunity to invite people to our campus that might not come for any other reason. It is also a time for the entire NC family to work together and give back to the school we all appreciate so much.

You can partner with Nebraska Christian by:

- **Providing items, gift certificates, and/or services.** We will be accepting items for our Silent and Live Auctions until February 14th. Feel free to call with your creative ideas. We may be able to network some items to create a total package, or you may be able to give us a lead to something we haven't thought of. Unique experiences have brought thousands of dollars to this fundraiser.
- **Donating cash to underwrite the expenses of the event.** The more of our expenses that are underwritten by your donations, the greater the profit the school realizes from the sale of tickets and items.

- **Sponsoring a table.**

Corporate Level:

\$1000 Table Sponsor/8 guests and prominent recognition in the catalog at the event and in our publications

Standard Level:

\$400.00 Table Sponsor/8 guests

Individual Level:

\$50.00 Per Dinner Reservation

- **Donating money to go directly to the scholarship fund.**

We have found our donors to be very enthusiastic about giving to scholarship, thus making a Christian education available to students who might not otherwise be able to attend NC.

Aubrey Jae Jackson daughter of Dustin & Stephany (Krieger '11) Jackson

Aubrey Jae Jackson was born September 7, 2019, to Dustin & Stephany Jackson of O'Neill. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Lowell ('82) & Vicky (Masters '81) Krieger and David & Cindy Jackson of O'Neill, NE.

Reservations and donations can be made by stopping by the Special Events Office, calling the office at 308-946-3836, calling Kristy's cell at 402-209-3282, or emailing klangemeier@nebraskachristian.org.

NC Flashback



Every spring, the elementary puts on a Patch the Pirate play. (This year's will be March 6 at 7 p.m. at the PAC in Central City.) This flashback features cast members from the 2012 production of "The Tumbleweed Opera." Can you identify them? (Hint: They're all now NC alumni who graduated in 2018 or 2019.) You'll earn one entry in our giveaway for each student you can correctly identify.

Send your guesses to advance@nebraskachristian.org.

From the last issue:

The building project pictured is the construction of the Music & Worship and locker rooms, which were added to the east side of the gymnasium. No one correctly identified the project, so we don't have a winner.



NC Almanac

10 years ago (Winter '09-'10)

- A used over-the-road bus is purchased with the help of funds raised through the "Walk-for-a-Ride" campaign.
- 8th grader Scott Smith ('14) takes first place at the Merrick County Spelling Bee, while his classmate Beran Fisher ('14) is the runner up.

20 years ago (Winter '99-'00)

- NC alum Wes Hitchcock ('89) speaks to students during Spiritual Emphasis Week.
- Between the elementary pancake feed and elementary candy sales, more than \$3,000 is raised to benefit the elementary!

30 years ago (Winter '89-'90)

- Chad Jividen ('90) and Amy Ferris ('90) are crowned Homecoming King & Queen at the Valentine Banquet and Talent Show during homecoming week.
- Five students join the student body for the second semester.

40 years ago (Winter '79-'80)

- The NC boys basketball team breaks its 45-game losing streak (the longest ongoing losing streak in the state of Nebraska) with a 53-43 win over Marquette.
- NC receives a \$2,000 grant from the Bethesda Foundation.

50 years ago (Winter '69-'70)

- The board agrees to grant administrator Walter Ediger a one-year leave of absence after the current school year.

60 years ago (Winter '59-'60)

- The board votes to allow staff members' children to attend NC tuition free.

See the Choir on Tour! Our choir will be touring on three Sundays this spring:
March 15 | 10 a.m., Oakland E. Free • **April 5** | 10:45 a.m., Wescott Baptist Church in Comstock • **April 19** | All times available

Watch our Facebook page for more information! All of the dates still have openings, so if you're interested in having the choir at your church, please contact Susan at 308.946.3836 or sritta@nebraskachristian.org.



**Nebraska
Christian**

SCHOOLS

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Winter Sports Teams

Top: Girls' Basketball.

Row 1: Tabitha Seip, Tennesynn Sebek, Shelby Swanson, Sidney McHargue, Molly Griess. Row 2: Head Coach Erin Mankin, Reghan Flynn, Chandra Davis, Shelby McHargue, Tina Wang, Assistant Coach Marty Griess. Row 3: Claire Pipher, Sophie Swanson, Maryah Wheeler, Amanda Carlson, Makayla Wheeler, Marlie Mundt.



Center: Boys' Basketball.

Row 1: Garrett Nokolby, Seth Hower, Kalob Green. Row 2: Dayton Falk, Elijah Boersen, Aidan Pipher, Ethan Merchant, Kobe Morris. Row 3: Micah Davis, Charlie Cheng, Nehemiah Peters, Terrigen Sebek, Isaac Herman, Owen Morris. Row 4: Head Coach Andy Perdue, Truitt Merchant, Drew Perdue, Gabe Langemeier, Riley Schreiber, Jacob Nokolby, Assistant Coach Drew Schreiber ('04).



Bottom: Wrestling.

Row 1: Jacob Frey, Ethan Carlson, Kaleb Morton, Micah Green, Will Twogood, Daniel Musgrave. Row 2: Head Coach Terry Elge, Elijah Green, Garrett Swantek, James Thomas, Carl Mundt, Stone Swantek, Gabe Huenefeld.