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THORNWELL
home for children



Your ministry with children and families here at Thornwell is so inspiring! The commitment of our dedicated staff and the love for the children whom God has entrusted to our care has been evident in every meeting and interaction I have witnessed since I began my duties as Thornwell's 9th president on June 1. It is an honor and privilege to serve alongside all of you at this exciting time in Thornwell's history!

Your children here at Thornwell concluded another successful school year on June 2. On my second day here I had the honor of joining with a number of kids over a pizza lunch to celebrate their success in meeting their reading goals for the last semester. Three of our young people graduated from high school this year and, come this fall, will join our current group of young adults who are furthering their educations by participating in job-training programs, technical school, and/or junior colleges and universities.

Summer is in full swing this month with our kids enjoying the kinds of summer activities that all kids enjoy such as swimming, church camp, mission trips and cottage family vacations. However, the learning does not stop during the summer as our children attend the Thornwell Learning Center for instruction and support in building their math and reading skills. This important summer program insures that when school begins in a few short months our students will be well prepared to succeed academically.

Our children learn about serving God and others through worship and a variety of church experiences as they participate in worship and ministry at local Presbyterian churches. One of our church homes, Bethany Presbyterian Church, sponsors a week-long Summer Youth Camp in June. Many Thornwell young people will participate. They will experience Christian community as they camp-out for the week on the church grounds, take part in daily team building exercises, then divide into ministry teams to do a variety of mission activities in the community. In the afternoon, they will go to First Presbyterian Church for their meals and to work on

preparing Bible skits that they will perform before area churches.

The Thornwell community said farewell to the Rev. Dr. Charles Elliott who retired at the end of May. If you did not know Charles, suffice it to say that his love for God, for children and for this ministry, coupled with his knowledge of the church (including just about everyone in it), made him an ambassador par excellence who will indeed be missed. We give thanks to God for Charles' ministry here over the last 8 years and his able leadership over the past 10 months as Thornwell's interim president.

God's ministry we share that is Thornwell has its best days ahead. I invite each of you to join with me, our staff, and board of trustees going forward as we build upon the core strengths that have been a part of Thornwell's 136-year history of serving God's most vulnerable children. Together, by God's grace, may we keep the promises we have all made in baptism and build a positive and hopeful future for the children and families we serve.

Our thanks to God indeed!

The Rev. Elliot M. Smith
President

If it's been a while since you have visited the campus please do, for you too will be inspired by what you see and experience in this caring Christian community that you make possible with your prayers and gifts.



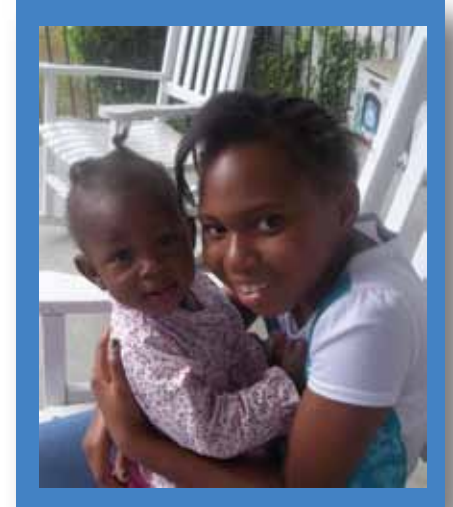
Campus and Cottage

June 2011

June has been a busy month thus far with the shift from school to summer activities. The boys of Tom Hartness Cottage began the summer with a trip to Topsail Beach in North Carolina. Ferguson Cottage boys spent a week at St. Simon's Island with Thornwell trustee Jimmy Wilfong and his family. The girls of Wilson Cottage will be leaving for Gulf Shore, Alabama, this Friday to spend a week with our Board of Visitor member, Lisa Brown. Other cottages will take vacations before summer's end. The children are also involved in church camps and conferences.

The renovation on Anita-Nancy Cottage continues as the work has moved into the interior. The girls from Wilson Cottage, along with their Family Teachers, will move to Anita-Nancy when it is completed. The girls are looking forward to being more in the center of campus.

We currently have 66 children on our campus. A sibling group of four children left Thornwell during the first week of June to live with their mother.



The Learning Center

School is out for the summer, but Thornwell children will take the time to improve their reading and math skills. When they are not away on vacation or attending camps, our children will come to the Learning Center Mondays through Thursdays for fifty minutes each day to receive math instruction and to participate in our summer reading program. We have found these programs to be very successful.

For the last three years our children have gained on average about one-third of a school year in math over the summer months. These gains are very significant since many of our children come to us performing behind grade level.



Congratulations to our students who made honor roll for the fourth nine weeks.

A Honor Roll:

Betsey Henderson, Amanda Jones, Katlyn Krivenko, Katelin Moore, Chantel Reynolds, Keisha Roberts, and Joseph Rodriguez

AB Honor Roll:

Cristin Albritton, Kenyon Brown, Alexis Deal, Joseph Harris, Chase Hayes, Destiny LaCount, Jada McAbee, Caroline Mikouchi, Mary Katherine Nichols, Anna Smith, Eric Trouteaud, Devon Westbury, Jamaya Williams

Faith Development and Christian Nurture

June 2011

“Searching for the Signal” was the theme for 2011 Montreat Youth Conference I (June 5-11). We took 4 boys from TPH Cottage, 3 girls from Berkele Cottage, and 3 girls from Silliman Cottage. We stayed in two houses generously shared with us by friends of Thornwell. It was a great conference with a super theme. Each night in our back home devotions it was apparent that our youth were listening and learning. Rodger Nishioka made sure we used our Bibles each morning in keynote. We hiked on our free afternoon on one of the mountains in Montreat; we made lots of friends in small groups and were invited to dinner with several churches. It was truly a mountain top experience for all of us.

The week of June 12-17 two of our cottages (TPH and Berkele) are attending the Smyrna Campground and Mission Work Camp in Conyers, GA. They are living in cottages at the campground of the Smyrna Presbyterian Church and going out each day to work on houses. Ferguson Cottage and Wilson Cottage are attending Vacation Bible School at First Presbyterian Church, Clinton, June 13-17. The theme is “Noah and the Ark.” Friday night, June 17, there will be a hot dog supper and a program called, “Get on Board” presented by the VBS children.

Bethany Summer Youth Camp, “Greater Things Have Yet to Come,” begins Saturday, June 18. Thornwell has 17 youth participating. This is a work camp sponsored by Bethany Presbyterian Church in Clinton.

Each youth joins a work team (i.e. journalism, creative ministries, helping the disabled in Laurens county, etc.). It is a great opportunity for our kids to serve others and come to know the true meaning of discipleship.

Our children and youth have many opportunities for Christian growth this summer. They will be presented the gospel in many ways and will have the opportunity to be the “Signal” to others of the love of God.



2011 Montreat Youth Conference

Thornwell has been blessed to receive over \$3 million in bequest income since October 1, 2010. We give thanks for our special partners in ministry who have remembered Thornwell in such a kind and generous way.

We also celebrate the creation of a new legacy fund. Ms. Kathleen Mowry and her family in Clio, SC, have established the Angus G. Newton and Virginia Page Newton MacDonald Fund for Children.

The Graham Foundation of Greenville, SC, has made a contribution of \$5,000 to help underwrite the costs of renovations at Bryan Mac Cottage. We're grateful to Mr. Bill Bridges and the trustees of the Graham Foundation for their steadfast support.

Our Friends for Thornwell summer campaign will officially begin on July 1. This summer, we are asking our Thornwell Board of Trustees, Board of Visitors, staff members and alumni to carve out some time during the month of July to introduce Thornwell to their friends and family, and ask for their prayers and support for the ministry. Everyone should receive an information packet by mail no later than June 22. If you have not received your packet by this date, please call the development office at 864-938-2713 and we will make sure your packet is mailed.

On Saturday, May 14, members of the 360th Army Division of Fort Jackson, SC came to campus. Chandra Coleman, our Director of Sponsorship, took the group on a tour of the campus. Following the tour, they visited Berkele Cottage. In Sgt Amy Fletcher's thank you note she says, "We walked away with such pride and gratitude after meeting everyone on campus. We would like to keep in touch."

We are very fortunate to have so many good friends of this ministry. On Saturday, June 4, Charlie and Ann Nichols of Lake Murray Presbyterian Church hosted a barbecue for the entire campus. Charlie and Ann prepared grilled chicken, green beans and coleslaw, and served this delicious meal to everyone. Many thanks to Charlie and Ann!

Our camps and conferences appeal was mailed the second week of May. We are grateful to those of you who provide the means for our children to attend summer camps, youth conferences, work camps and VBS. If you have not yet made your gift but plan to support this effort, please do so today! These opportunities make such a positive impact in the lives of our children.



Members of the 360th Army Division of Fort Jackson, SC visit campus.