

Salem Academy Christian Schools . Salem, Oregon . Spring/Summer 2023

# SA TIMES



LEAVE A LEGACY

## FEATURES

04 **Graduations**

12 **Staff Profiles**

14 **2023 Auction**

## DEPARTMENTS

03 **Superintendent's Message**

**SA Times** is published  
for alumni, current families,  
and friends of Salem Academy.

06 **Campus Corner**

SUPERINTENDENT  
Tim Peterson  
EDITOR & GRAPHIC DESIGN  
Angela Jones '91

09 **The Arts**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTORS  
JH & HS Yearbook  
Michelle Iverson  
Orso Photography  
Saffeels Social  
SA Students, Alumni, & Friends

10 **Athletics**

SEND CORRESPONDENCE  
Salem Academy  
942 Lancaster Drive NE  
Salem, OR 97301

14 **Development Office**

E-MAIL PHOTOS AND ALUMNI UPDATES  
[ajones@salemacademy.org](mailto:ajones@salemacademy.org)

16 **Alumni News**

SA BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Dr. Matthew Boles (Chair)  
Kevin Campbell (Vice-Chair)  
Nate Cooke (Treasurer)  
Lori (Klopfenstein) Muscatt '77 (Secretary)  
Angela Williams  
Aaron Imig '94

17 **SA Milestones**

17 **In Memory**

# Superintendent's Message



Dear SA Family and Friends,

**“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”**  
(John 15:13 NIV)

I am excited and blessed to be a part of the Salem Academy Christian School community. Before officially starting this

new position, the Lord gave me opportunities to see joy and beauty resonating in our school. I was able to spend time meeting students and staff while substituting as needed during busy spring moments. I even competed with staff in the high stakes, end of the year kickball game where (I think) all of us got some scrapes and bruises as we took on the sixth graders. I shared an evening with parents, hearing messages from their hearts about their learners; and was honored to see our 2023 graduates celebrate with family, friends, and community as they head towards new directions in their pursuit of the Living God’s plan for their lives. The moments in the classroom, on the playground, and walking the halls intensified my excitement for the seasons to come at Salem Academy.

Moving into the role of Superintendent at Salem Academy brings with it great anticipation as the Lord leads in new moments and experiences for His school. I want to share with you what the Lord has been laying on my heart as my wife and I have been praying for this time of transition and next steps; and what has already been accomplished as we look to the new school year.

Forming, building, and intensifying deep and healthy, Christ-centered relationships will be the focus for the 2023-24 school year. Relationships are at the foundation of why God created you and me. It is so important that God said, through Jesus, we need to love Him first, and then love those who are around us. We often get that priority mixed up, and we put ourselves ahead of the hierarchy God has directed. The acronym JOY (Jesus - Others - Yourself) is a good reference. If you want true JOY - a deep longing for something beyond the brokenness of this world - put Jesus first, then attend to the needs of others, and follow with yourself.

As I start to build relationships with parents, staff, and students, my desire is for authentic relationships that are built on trust and transparency. The disciple John records

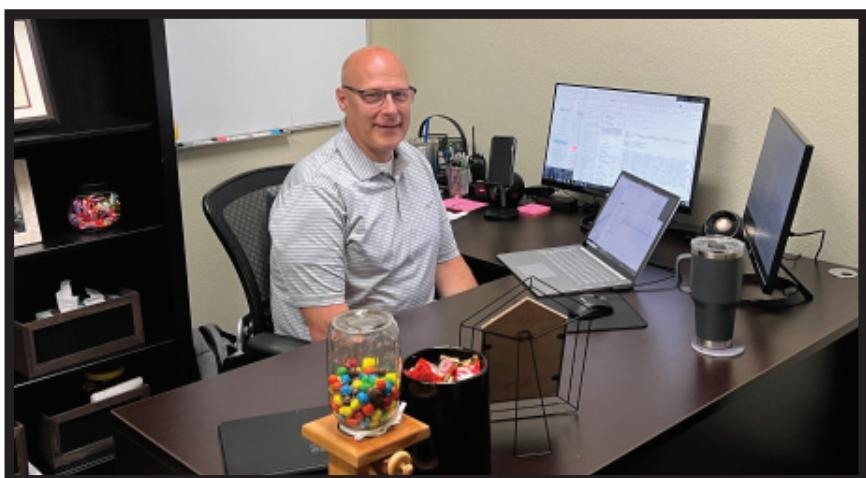
Jesus’ words when He said, “*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*” (John 8:32 NIV). Jesus is talking about knowing the truth of the gospel which provides freedom in our lives. It is the light of the gospel - the acceptance of Christ and obedience to His righteousness - that allows us to live lives of openness, free to experience authentic relationships and to grow as a body. It is my desire that as we walk in the truths of the gospel, trust and transparency will emanate from every facet of Salem Academy. Be praying with me for God’s redemption of every situation, experience, and opportunity as our school nurtures students to know, serve, and walk with the Living God.

This summer there have been some much needed updates completed. The main gym floor was sanded down and resurfaced, track lines repainted, and our football field received new turf with a new scoreboard to match. Elementary staff and students will enjoy some added air conditioning during the hot days of school. We also did some major moving of classrooms to accommodate our increasing enrollment while continuing to meet student needs. This includes bringing all secondary (7th-12th) together in one building and Bridge 56 (5th-6th) together in the former JH building. Burgeoning enrollment is a good problem to have. As we continue to grow, the need for more space is very apparent. Please pray with us as the Lord leads and provides for Salem Academy’s future plans and needed facilities.

God is doing amazing things in the lives of students, and I am glad to participate and be a part of His upcoming plans. I look forward to meeting the SA community and partnering with you as we experience together the exciting future of Salem Academy Christian Schools.



**Tim Peterson**  
Superintendent

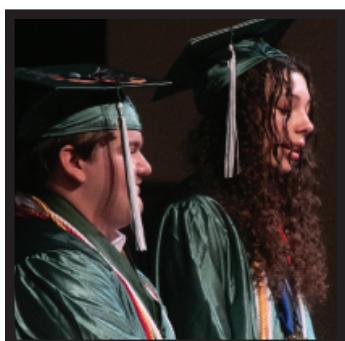


# GRADUATION 2023



High school for our 2023 graduates was far from typical due to the start of the pandemic their freshman year...but look how far they have come with much to show for it!

The Student Address was shared by **Frankie Pineda-Volk '23** and **Kacyn Hiley '23**. They reflected on the reputation and legacy their class of 2023 would leave.



*"Reputation. That is the word we heard most about our class throughout our lengthy time at Salem Academy. Teachers were warned about how we just didn't really seem to care about authority...And to be honest, that statement was true. However...we were also told about our potential to lead.*

*...we only had one year to walk through the hallways (well, hallway) as underclassmen...We had to fill shoes that were just too big for our feet at the time. At the beginning of this year Mrs. Brownell and Mrs. Haslebacher gave us a challenge...leave a legacy. Joshua 4:21-22 says, "And he said to the people of Israel, 'When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.'"*

*"To just about everyone's surprise we rose to the occasion...we used our individuality and unique leadership skills to reach the potential we were always told we could reach...Remember the legacy we are leaving behind...Our reputation is not one of apathy or disrespect. It is one of individuality, service, and leadership.*

The Address to Graduates was given by College/Career Coach and Senior Seminar teacher, **Melissa Turner**, sharing Psalms

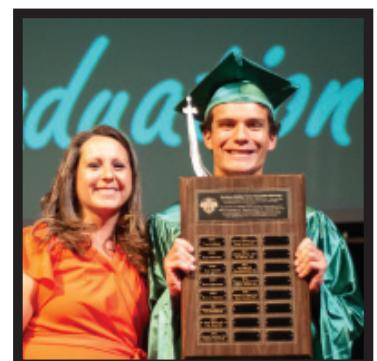
139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."



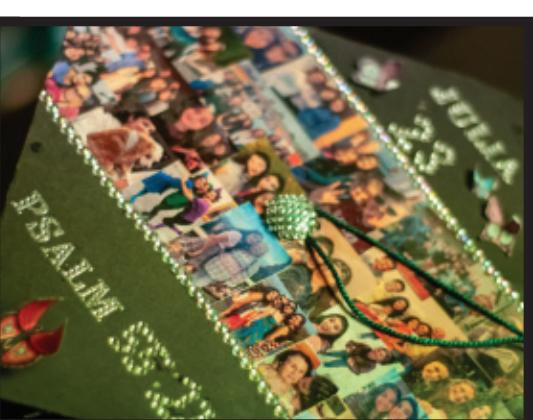
*"Do better...not sure how many times I've said that to you all. And I need you all to know that it was not because what you did was not enough, it's because I could, and CAN, see the potential. Be better...Being a leader doesn't mean you have to make a huge worldly change - it can be lollipop moments. Each and every day, even when you don't even know what you've done. You truly can change someone's life by doing one small thing."*

*"Life is HARD you guys! You are going to fail. You are going to make mistakes, But you'll learn from it...You won't give up. And you'll be better and stronger because of it...Find those who will walk beside you; those who will push you from behind...Learn to control what you can control, and let go of the rest. And don't forget to give yourself lots of grace along the way! So, Seniors, I challenge you: Do better. Be better. Communicate. Write those thank you notes. Forgive and forget. Apologize...be willing to take the higher road. Be ok that you might not be everyone's cup of tea. Continue being those servant leaders we've seen bits and pieces of this year...We are all so proud of you.*

This year's annual Davidson, Ditchen, & Taylor Scholarship Senior recipient was **Brady Brownell '23** (8th Grade recipient Alysha Law).



*View the graduation ceremony at [SalemAcademy.org/Blog](http://SalemAcademy.org/Blog).*





**Class of 2023:** Susan Louise Barker, Elizabeth Victoria Blair, Liem Blayze Brawn, Wyatt Owen Brown, Brady Michael Brownell, Aden Michael Sean Dardis, Ronan Patrick Dougherty, Parker Alan Eastman, Cerina Rose Garcia, Mackenzie Rae Griswold, Jaden Brooks Haller, Shiloh Marie Hardin-Schrock, Cooper Allen Harris, Alyssa Marie Herber, Kacyn Mae Hiley, Grace Mackenzie Hinkle, Mark James Hoffman, Paige Noelle Hurley, Caleb Paul Ivey, Carley Rose Jenkins, Hunter Brice Kline, Eliseo Emanuel Lara, Alyssa Tiana Merkord, Caleb James Mikeska, Landen James Mitchell, Luke Derrick Molan, Jackson Ryan Oglesby, Jaren Cordell Oglesby, Frank R. Pineda-Volk, Jamin Petrovich Potloff, Monique Pressman, Jose Arcadio Rios Ortiz, Malena Marie Robnett, Julia Fraga Moreira Lopes da Rosa, Jacob Joshua Sandall, Lexie A. Santana, Isaiah Wyatt Sullivan, Sophia Anneliese Byeman Thomas, Austin Patrick Webb, Nathan Daniel Williams, & Sophia S. Zellner.



# CAMPUS CORNER



## *The Principal's Desk*

Lindsay Brownell (Secondary Principal)

*"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* Mark 10:45 was our verse focusing on Servant Leadership as our 2022-23 spiritual theme for the school year. When considering Servant Leadership, the many ways the Living God demonstrated what active servant leadership looks like, key thoughts included: be a follower of Jesus, humble your heart, meet the needs of others, and take risks in serving others. The idea of being brave and bold as we step out in faith to follow Jesus into the close proximity of others leads us out of our comfort zone. God leads us to act with compassionate hearts, consider our power of influence, and learn to see others one at a time. Much as Jesus demonstrates throughout the Gospels, we have spent the school year considering how we can actively reach out and impact others in a loving, life-giving way. Jesus has called us to love beyond what is comfortable for us and to bravely enter into community in a way that builds others up, and spurs one another on to love and good deeds. The focus of Servant Leadership has propelled us as a school community to consider the questions, "Who do you need to love? Who is hard for you to love? How has God loved me?" Kyle Idleman beautifully sums up in his quote, "We don't conjure up love; we are conduits of it."



## 5th Grade Outdoor School



## Bridge 56 Robotics



## The Principal's Desk

Carrie Ferguson (K-6 Principal)

We started this year by rejuvenating our Parent Teacher Club with our Race for Education fundraiser. Thanks to the generous donations from our community we were able to raise enough to have

a new playground purchased and installed this summer. We are thrilled about having our kids come back in the fall to a new playground! Our spiritual focus this year was Servant Leadership: Learning to Lead like Jesus. This theme was based on Mark 10:45 which says, *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* We took that theme and integrated it with the character traits found in scripture that support a description of servant leadership. As we explored Biblical examples, we also celebrated our students every month as we noticed these attributes being exhibited in our community. We had opportunities for our students to serve in our community through supporting Hope Station (food drive) and Hope Pregnancy Center (bottle drive). We also sent hundreds of boxes to children around the world through Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Most importantly, we saw many students accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior for the first time this year and were able to start a discipleship program in our upper elementary grades. We are excited about what God is doing in our community and are grateful for our parent partners. We are hopeful about what is to come as we prepare for the 23-24 school year.

## Living History Museum



## Book Character Day



## PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

# KNOW & SERVE



## JUNIOR HIGH CHAPEL

### ACCREDITATION RENEWAL

As you may know, Salem Academy's high school program has been dually accredited with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Cognia (formerly AdvancedEd). This spring we welcomed a team of administrators from other Christian schools to campus for 3-days. This re-accreditation



visit is an important step of satisfying the requirements to remain a 9-12 dually accredited school, as well as, adding on our K-7 grades. Being dually accredited shows our commitment to be spiritually authentic, academically excellent, and dedicated to student success. These visits allow us to receive an outside perspective to help us grow in excellence as an organization. Every step in the accreditation process is designed to be useful for driving improvement so schools

can truly flourish as they strive for academic excellence based on a solid Christian philosophy of education. For over a year our administration and others in our SA community have contributed to our self-evaluation through assessments, surveys, and research. We are grateful for the visiting team's sacrifice of time and energy - and are pleased to announce we have been renewed and are officially accredited for K-12.



### SERVICE PROJECTS

In addition to annual service projects benefitting Doernbecher Hospital, Destiny Rescue (Rock-a-Thon saving 4 kids from slavery), and Hope Pregnancy (Bottle Drive raised \$4,768!), once again students brought in food to support Hope Station. A representative shared afterwards, *"What a fabulous job you and the team have done!!! You broke the record - last year you donated 2,893 lbs. and this year....4,376 lbs. of food items! Did you know that we were very low on groceries and had an increase of about 30% of families coming for services? We were in big need for more groceries and God used you to help us out. You are a great blessing to all the families we serve."*



Doernbecher

Rock-A-Thon

Bottle Drive

# THE ARTS



JH & HS Choir and Band



Elementary Spring Concert



Bridge 56 Spring Concert



Secondary Spring Theatre Performances



Art Class

# ATHLETICS



**SA Boys - State Champs!**

Another year completed in true Crusader fashion and one our school, community, and families can be so proud of. It was our first “normal” year back since the Covid shut down...a full year of packed events, electric crowds, amazing competition, and God’s grace shining on and through each of our student athletes as they represented Him and our school. We had tremendous success again this year, highlighted by Salem Academy being represented in state championships during the fall, winter, and spring seasons. A big congratulations to our back-to-back State champions in girl’s volleyball, our state champion boy’s basketball, and girl’s individual champion in track and field. We look forward to next year as our athletic participation continues to soar! We are thrilled to see the SA community and students build a culture of service, competition, and leadership. Glory to God! Go Crusaders!





## MORE SPRING SPORTS



### Passing the Football Torch

Salem Academy bid farewell to Coach Leeper and his family as he moved back to Hermann, Missouri, where he will coach his alma mater, The Hermann Bearcats. While at SA he led the charge as only one of two 2A football teams to

make the jump and play up at the 3A level. Coach Leeper has been a fixture of consistency and Godly leadership for our young men and their families. Under his leadership we have seen amazing growth and vertical alignment of all levels of our program and unprecedented numbers of participants. This left a big hole to fill, but we are excited to welcome Andrew Copeland as our new Head Coach. He has strong football experience as a coach and player having played football at McNary and at WOU. He has coached the past 10 years including 3 years at McNary HS as the wide receiver coach - and most recently as assistant coach with SA's 7th and 8th grade team. He is committed to modeling authentic faith and Christian values through his coaching ministry. *"My family and I are thankful and honored to be a part of the SA family. Coach Leeper has done a great job leading the football team for the past few years. I hope to continue building a Christ-centered football program that student athletes can thrive in. Thank you all for the opportunity!"*



For more SA Athletic all conference honors, news, and photo galleries visit the team pages at: [SalemAcademy.org/Athletics](http://SalemAcademy.org/Athletics).

## 22-23 RESULTS

### Boys Basketball

State: 1st Place

League: Champions

Coach of the Year - Ben Brown

2A All-State 1st Team: Jackson Oglesby

All-Tournament 1st Team BBX - Jackson Oglesby & Landen Mitchell

### Girls Basketball

State: 4th Place

All-Tournament 2nd Team GBX - Aly Herber

League: 2nd Place

### Swimming

SA reperesented in 2 events @ State

Districts Results:

200 Medley Relay: Maya Cooke, Haley Krieger, Eliana

Kuenz, & Ella Ditchen (4th)

200 IM: Maya Cooke (6th)

50 Free: Eliana Kuenz (2nd)

100 Free: Eliana Kuenz (4th)

100 Butterfly: Haley Krieger (5th)

500 Free: David Griggs (6th)

200 Free Relay: Maya Cooke, Ella Ditchen, Eliana Kuenz,

& Haley Krieger (4th)

100 Breaststroke: Haley Krieger (6th)

100 Backstroke: Eliana Kuenz (4th)

### Track

League: 2nd Place (Girls) and 3rd Place (Boys)

#### Individual State Results:

4x100 Relay: Riley Tillary, Chase Sullivan, Lynia Jones, & Celia James (6th); Logan Brownell, Noah Dettwyler, Brady Brownell, & Jesse Bauldree (6th)

4x400 Relay: Lynia Jones, Chase Sullivan, Riley Tillary, & Celia James (3rd)

400M: Celia James (4th)

800M: Jase Potloff (8th)

300M Hurdles: Noah Dettwyler (3rd)

Triple Jump: Emma Brewer (CHAMPION)

Shot Put: Caleb McGraw (2nd) & Aden Dardis (4th)

Discus: Caleb McGraw (3rd) & Aden Dardis (8th)

High Jump: Emma Brewer (5th)

### OHSET

Carley Jenkins (Senior)

5th in IHOR (regional qualifier)

Emily Morris (2nd year)

9th in Showmanship & Driving

Cameron Jenkins (1st year rookie)

7th in Showmanship, 4th in Driving (regional qualifier), & 5th In Hand Trail (regional qualifier)



# STAFF PROFILES

## NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

*“Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.”* (Proverbs 32:8)

Early 2023, it was shared with our Salem Academy faculty, staff, and parents that God had a new path for Superintendent John Tyler. Just as God unexpectedly called the Tylers to Salem six years ago, they are now following Him to serve and lead in Arizona. In the months following John's news, a search was initiated by the Salem Academy Board of Trustees. After a thorough process of application, screening, interviews, and much prayer, Tim Peterson was confirmed as the next head of school.

Board Chairman Nate Cooke shared, *“The SA Board of Trustees is excited to welcome Tim Peterson to Salem Academy as our new superintendent. It has been evident thru this process that as God moves one Leader into a new season, He is preparing another Leader to come. We are excited for the future and believing that the best days of SA are still to come.”*

Tim brings an extensive background in education to Salem Academy. He began his educational career as a high school teacher, and then moved through different administrative positions at the secondary level. He has been teaching and mentoring as a business professor at Corban University for

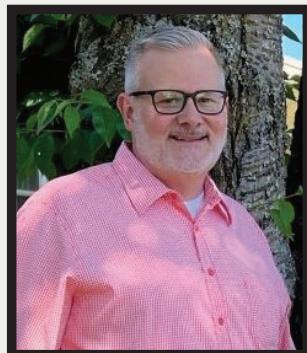


the past four years. He holds a Master's Degree from Heritage University in Educational Leadership and a second Masters from Corban in Business Administration. Currently he is working on his Doctorate in Strategic Leadership from Liberty University. Tim and his wife Tricia (also an SA staff member) have three biological children (Trevor, Taylor, and Tanner) and one son (Carlos) who joined their family later in life. They are proud grandparents of Cooper and have one more grandchild on the way. The Peterson's enjoy entertaining, working on their property, and spending time with family.

*“I am excited to watch the Lord do great things through Salem Academy. It is an honor to work with such a great leadership team watching students grow and develop both spiritually and academically. I look forward to serving God, staff, students, and the parent partners as we watch God work through His school.”*

## THANK YOU TYLERS - WE WISH YOU WELL!

The end of the school year meant time to say farewell to John and Dina Tyler. We are so grateful for their many years of service and for being truly a part of our SA family. As they head to Arizona on the new path God has laid before them at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, we wish them all the best and say “come visit any time!”



**JOHN:** *“I have been blessed to call SA home for the past 6 years, and God has been so faithful in every way to His school. You have welcomed Dina and I with open arms, and we are grateful. It is difficult to say goodbye. We certainly were not looking to leave, but God has made it abundantly clear that we are called to serve him in Arizona. Although we are sad to go, we are so excited for the future of Salem Academy Christian Schools. Not only is the school thriving in so many ways, but the Lord has also provided an excellent leader to shepherd the next season of education and ministry at SA. Tim Peterson is a Godly man, a great friend, and an experienced administrator. I have great peace knowing that I am turning over a healthy organization to such a capable leader. Thanks for your continued support and prayers.”*

**DINA:** *“I cannot express how grateful I am that I have been a part of this wonderful Salem Academy community. John and I have been so incredibly blessed by our time here. Our co-workers have become our friends and family. It has been a blessing to have the opportunity to teach math to such incredible students. I will miss teaching at SA and seeing the faces of all the kiddos I have grown to love. While we will miss the ones we love here so much, we are excited for our new adventure. However....we will be back in Oregon frequently. In October, our second grandbaby will be born here! We are so blessed. To my students, their wonderful families, and my dear SA family, I pray that the Lord blesses and keeps you and makes His face shine upon you and is gracious to you and gives you peace! Much, much love!”*



# FAREWELLS



**HEATHER IVEY:** I want to express how much I have loved being a part of Salem Academy, first as a parent, and then as a teacher. This school has been such a blessing to my two children. They both entered SA as high school Freshmen, and they grew academically, as well as, in their faith and friendships. I have also been so blessed to work with some of the most amazing people, who have encouraged me, strengthened me, and supported me in countless ways. I doubt I could've made it through the COVID years anywhere else! This team of people is absolutely the best! This school year, I have enjoyed working part-time, co-teaching with a former student of my own, and I realized that I don't want to go back to full-time teaching. I will be an empty-nester come fall, and I will enjoy having the freedom to visit my college-bound son in Arizona, as well as take a few fun trips with my husband. My plan is to return to SA as a sub so I can still connect with this amazing group of people (including students) whom I've come to love.

**GRACIE GILDER:** I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to not only do my student teaching here at SA, but to have then been hired to work here as well. I have had the best mentors to look up to and learn from. Christina Greene has taught me so



much about education, and I have so much to thank her for. She is the best person for any young new teacher to learn from! This job has been such a blessing to me, and getting to work with Heather Ivey has been such a joy! 5th grade is such a fun age, and I will miss all the fun we have together! I am sad to say goodbye, but I know that the Lord will equip me with what I need to continue serving him in a different place. I am so grateful for this school and the work everyone is doing to help students develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. SA is such a great place, I am glad to have been able to be a part of this community, even if only for a short time.

**SARA VANDERMARTIN:** I have been very blessed by my time at Salem Academy. I joined two years ago right at the end of COVID as a first-year teacher. I had no idea what I was doing, but I had so much support and encouragement during that time, which made the hard times so much easier. I was challenged to grow and improve, and I grew so much more than I thought I would. It will be bitter-sweet to go, leaving everyone behind, but I am excited for what's next. I am moving to Fairbanks, Alaska, to be closer to family, and hopefully get to experience some new adventures as



well! Thank you to everyone who poured into me and prayed for me over the last couple years. I appreciate you all!

**KYLE HASLEBACHER:** I am very thankful for the past year and a half I've spent at SA. Transitioning from being a substitute

teacher, who was here every single day, to a full-time teacher was quite the experience. Getting to know all the students this year was by far the best part of my job. Between teaching and coaching basketball, some of them had to see me way more often than they would have liked, but it gave me the opportunity to really see the culture at SA. I have enjoyed my time teaching and look forward to what God has in store for these young men and women as they continue to the next step in their lives.

**DEANA HANNUM:** I have enjoyed being a part of Salem Academy for the last 18 years as a parent and then as an employee for the last 6 years. I love the kids and the staff members I have worked with in every building. I have such a heart for SA it was a very hard and bittersweet decision to move on. I will miss being a part of the SA community.



## “END OF ERA” FAREWELLS

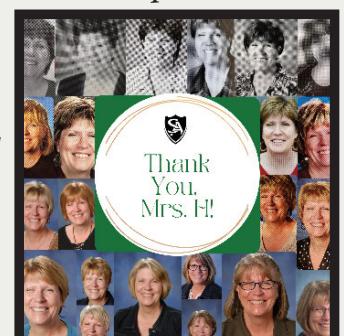


**CHARLIE EARHART:** I am thankful for the opportunity God has given me to serve in the childcare/preschool field for the past 31 years. I have been blessed by the many co-workers I've worked alongside. I have appreciated the variety in my job; working with kids ages 3-12 or behind the scenes

doing whatever needs to be done. I am thankful for my many years in Salem, but look forward to this new adventure. I am moving to Utah and will be reunited with my brother, sister, and brother-in-law. I have loved my time at SA.

**CHERYL CLOYD:** I have truly loved my 30 year career as a Preschool teacher especially these past 18 years at Salem Academy. I will miss being an important part of a young child's first school experience, their humorous comments, and their awesome unsolicited hugs! It has been such a blessing to work with Salem Academy's dedicated and hardworking preschool staff - they are simply the best. I leave with wonderful memories and am glad I only live a few minutes from the campus because I'm certain volunteering at SA will be a part of my retirement plans!

**DEBI HASLEBACHER:** My 25 years at Salem Academy have been wonderful. I have people I feel are family and made some amazing friends. I will miss everyone and will treasure my memories. God bless you all.



# DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



## Director Message

This past school year saw many blessings for SA. This school has so many incredibly thoughtful, talented, and generous families who truly love responding to the need of a helping hand. Our school community came through when we put out the word for much-needed items. The concession stand in the field house was in desperate need of a refrigerator. We didn't just get one...we received several from generous donors! The Foods Room received a brand-new stove, donated by Willamette Valley Appliance, which enabled the use of an entire kitchen space for culinary students. The Development Office will advertise additional campus needs as they arise in the SA Weekly for our current families, so be on the lookout for those announcements when the school year starts up again! Our 2022 year-end giving campaign brought in \$42,000 to our General Fund. This campaign is so important as it provides mid-school year funding for our greatest campus improvement needs. Thanks to all who were able to make a year-end donation!



## 2023 ANNUAL AUCTION



Like last year's auction, this year's event was another record-breaker! The beautifully decorated ballroom at the Convention Center brought a tropical mood to the evening. Exciting packages adorned the silent auction tables and shout out to Hula Halau "Ohana Holooko'a" for our special entertainment. The Dessert Dash brought participants to a quick jog in order to grab their table's desired dessert. Seeing more than 200 supporters, including volunteers, donors, and sponsors was a wonderful reminder of how many people love supporting SA through this event. Thanks to the incredible auction committee, student volunteers, 18 sponsors, and the many donors who gave time, donations, and fun auction packages to set us up for a successful evening. Special congratulations to Bill Johnson who won this year's E-bike raffle. The auction brought in just over \$210,000 - including \$43,500 in our scholarship paddle raise! Thank you all for your support and don't miss next year's auction!



# THANK YOU!



## GENERAL FUND MAJOR DONORS

Thank you to SA family-owned businesses and local companies that support our school!

- Academy Square
- Hiebert Family Charitable Fund



### 1945 SOCIETY MEMBERS

Established in 2016, this society includes donors who give \$1,945 or more annually to our General Fund. Newest members (highlighted below):

- Greg and Chris Barreto
- **Jon and Vicki Brown**
- Bob Cannon
- Andrew and Christine Clarke
- Michelle Cummings
- Matt and Tracey Davis
- Michael Regan and Donna Faith
- Cliff Friesen
- **Jeff and Joan Gladow**
- Heather Jones
- Scott Morrison
- Larry and Cathie Raaf
- Ken and Arlene Schreder
- **Brad and Tanya Swinford**

- Jerry and Margie Vande Burgt
- James and Heather Wilson
- **PACE of Henderson County**



### SUSTAINERS CLUB MEMBERS

These members give a regularly recurring gift to our General Fund. Newest members (highlighted below):

- Shirley Berlik
- Craig Charbonneau
- Dennis and Kathy Curtis
- Barbara Fadel
- Iris Friesen
- Glenn and Ellen Garfield
- Ron and Joan Goertzen
- **Randy James**
- Angela Jones
- Neal and Marcia Jones
- Thomas Kessler
- Carroll Klingbile

- Troy and Julie Lange
- **Ross Lewis**
- Dustin and Jennifer Melton
- Karl and Jessica Mielke
- Ryan and Lisa Morris
- Fred and Melissa Nordgren
- Chris and Angela Shearer
- Doug and Michele Smith
- Joan Sumpter
- Rev. Donald and Anita Tonack



Thank you to those who gave in memory of Bruce Damaske '62 and Trisha Duman.

Salem Academy relies on the support of our community to bridge the gap between tuition and actual cost of education. Consider how you can partner with us to continue providing an excellent, Christ-centered, biblical education. Visit us at [SalemAcademy.org/Giving](http://SalemAcademy.org/Giving) to learn more.

## AUCTION SPONSOR THANK YOU!

### TITLE SPONSOR

### ACADEMY SQUARE

### PARTNER SPONSORS

**NEAMAN**  
PLASTIC SURGERY | MEDI SPA

**ROBERSON**  
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

**Golden Valley**  
FARMS

**JENSEN**  
EXTERIORS

**Keudell / Morrison**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

**KYLE AND TRISHA**  
FRERES

**CORBAN**  
UNIVERSITY

**Trilliant.**  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**DUNCAN**  
RICH DUNCAN CONSTRUCTION INC



### TABLE SPONSORS

**OLYMPIC**  
REALTY

**Bushnell**  
UNIVERSITY

**INTERSTATE**  
ELECTRIC

**HEUBERGER**  
FARMS

**DALLAS**  
GLASS

**THE**  
VICTORY GROUP

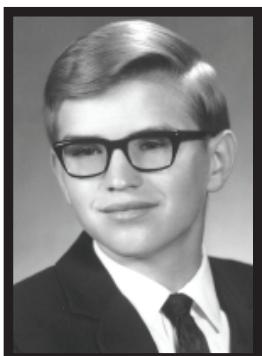
**PIONEER**  
TRUST BANK

**WILLAMETTE**  
VALLEY  
EXCAVATING

# ALUMNI NEWS

## SIDNEY NIEMEYER '68

I attended Salem Academy in 1963-1967 and, regrettably, left before graduating when my family moved to Yakima. I've always been grateful for the academic foundation SA gave me, but the more profound impact was learning to appreciate other Christian traditions through relationships with my classmates and teachers. I majored in physics at Calvin College, the college of my denomination, and then earned a Ph.D. in physics at the University of California, Berkeley. My research focused on the origin of the solar system through study of lunar rocks and meteorites, an unusual field for a physicist, but one where I learned to thrive in multi-disciplinary projects. Eventually, I landed my one and only career position as a scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). In my initial assignment at LLNL, I built a research program through hiring postdocs and collaborating with university professors and students. My research expanded to include geochemical studies on the evolution of the earth's crust and mantle, as well as applying geochemical tracing techniques to hydrological and environmental issues. After serving as the Nuclear Chemistry Division Leader for eight years, I entered the most profoundly life-altering year of my life. My personal life up to this time had been relatively uneventful, raising our three children and serving in various leadership positions in our local (non-denominational) church. Our biggest challenge was dealing with my wife's multiple sclerosis that began in her late 30s. After she bravely coped with progressive decline for eight years, she developed oral cancer. Two years later, she died.



entity for the international development of this field. Due to these and other related activities, I've been called the founding father of nuclear forensics. After serving nineteen years as a pastor, I retired in 2019. At that time, I gave myself the challenge of writing a thriller that features nuclear forensics. The book will be published in the next year, and for those who want to learn more, go to [sidneyniemeyer.com](http://sidneyniemeyer.com).



In a sense, writing is my third career, after my careers as physicist and pastor, but all three are secondary compared to my primary calling as a follower of Christ. By far, the most meaningful aspect of my life's journey has been learning to live with greater joy and freedom through a deeper experience of my Abba Father's love and delight in me as his beloved child.

## Shawnee (Hoke) '91 and Jeff Elliott '91



Shawnee and Jeff met at Salem Academy and would later marry and begin their family. After battling health issues, including autoimmune disease, Jeff was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer and has since been removed from the transplant list. Due to the nature of his cancer, it is inoperable, unresponsive to chemotherapy, and radiation would only make him sick. The doctors gave him several months to live since his May 3, 2023, diagnosis. Shawnee shared, "Jeff loves God and came to trust God as His Savior after reading the first Left Behind book. He has made a wonderful father who passionately loves his family, plays video games with his kids, and can cheer you up with his unique humor and personality even on the worst of days. His goal has always been to work very hard to provide for his family and give us a better life than he had growing up." While all those who know and love him continue to pray that he will win this war against cancer, the family has started a Go Fund Me page to help Jeff experience some "bucket list" adventures while he is still able to travel - they just recently returned from a trip to Europe thanks to generous donations! This summer, fellow 1991 alumni joined Shawnee & Jeff for a casual gathering in Salem to show their support. "Thank you so much to everyone who came tonight to encourage Jeff and I! The memories made will last a lifetime! We have learned that we need to cherish the moments we have because none of us knows how long we have left on this earth! God bless and keep each of you!" Learn more about how to support them at [gofund.me/a52f263](https://gofund.me/a52f263) or follow Shawnee Elliott on Facebook.



# SA MILESTONES



1) **Justin Johnson '21 & Natalie (Rios) '20 Johnson:** September 4.

2) **Megan & Justin Larsen '15:** December 10.

3) **Ariana (Raska) '09 & Donovan Paull:** October 2.

4) **Ashley & Jonah Netland '13:** June 4.

5) **Andrew Kline '16:** Daxton Andrew; January 28; 7 lbs. 8 oz. & 20 in. long.

6) **Deidre (Robbins) '10 and Erik Thede '10:** Peyton Monroe; June 5; 8 lbs. 14.5 oz. & 21 in. long.

7) **Ellie (Gould) Gamboa '12:** Hattie Jane; January 21; 7 lbs. & 19.5 in. long.

8) **Amy (Haslebacher) Williams '06:** Raylyn Annmarie; January 27; 8 lbs. 8 oz. & 19 in. long.

9) **Sam Cooper '14:** Hallie Pat; February 1; 7 lbs. 4 oz. & 21 in. long.

10) **Tiffany (Friesen) Galloway '04:** Kayson Jeffrey; March 25; 8 lbs. 5 oz. & 20.5 in. long.

11) **Don Leavitt '06:** Abigail Renee; April 5; 8 lbs. 1 oz. & 20.5 in. long.

12) **Jordan Schroeder '08:** Collin Reid; November 23, 2022; 7 lbs. 6 oz. & 19.5 in. long.

*Have a milestone to share with your classmates? Submit your photo and details by emailing Angela Jones: [ajones@salemacademy.org](mailto:ajones@salemacademy.org)*



# IN MEMORY



**Iris Huetta (Proudfit) Friesen '48** was born April 28, 1931, to Russell and Hazel Proudfit. In 1948, she graduated from Salem Academy, and the next year, on August 12, 1949, married Wilbur Friesen, the love of her life, who preceded her in death by two years. Iris was an amazing mother to four children and managed both a household and a career for nearly 50 years, working at Belcrest Memorial Park in Salem, OR, until she was in her 80s. Iris and Wilbur attended Kingwood Bible Church for more than 70 years, and being the great cook that she was, she provided many amazing dishes for events there. She could carry on a conversation with anyone, making them feel known and valued. Her love for the Lord came through in every conversation, and she served him faithfully. On Thursday, April 27, 2023, just one day before her 92nd birthday, she went gladly into the arms of Jesus. Iris went by many names—Ike, Mom, Sis, Grandma, Aunt Iris, to name a few. She is survived by 4 children: Greg Friesen, Gary (Pat) Friesen, Dolly (Mike) Harrell, Ken (Karen) Friesen; 10 grandchildren: Tiffany (Mike) Galloway, Jeremy (Kelsi) Friesen, Ben (Juli) Friesen, Nicholas (Lynn) Friesen, Kristi (Joe) Yang, Rocky (Sunshine) Miller, Brooke Kerns, Lindsay (Cory) Manchester, Kurtis (Joanne) Friesen, Stephanie (Kent) Herman; 22 great-grandchildren: Urijah, Kayson, Adley, Ellie, Lucy, Samuel, Clara, Bianca, Owen, Henry, Adam, Tajha, Skyler, Jaden, Iris, Lilly, Madilyn, Sonora, Ashlyn, Devany, Houston, Adalyn; 1 great-great-grandchild: Paisley; brother-in-law, Cliff Friesen; sister-in-law, Leona Hibbs; and several nieces and nephews. Iris was kind to everyone and dearly loved by all.



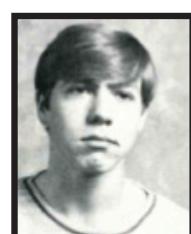
**John Norman Olson '53** was born to Silas & Anne Olson on June 19th, 1935 in Sioux City, IA. He died on August 13, 2022 while residing at the Genesis Adult Care Home in Gladstone. He was eight-seven years old. He is survived by one daughter, Kimberly & Harold Otterlei of Oregon City and one son, Kirk & Stacey Olson of McMinnville, by six grandchildren, Clairissa & Colby Stephens of Oregon City, Phoenix Otterlei of Oregon City, Anders & Julia Otterlei of Portland; Jared & Karen Olson of Fairfield, CA; Benjamin Olson of Cheyenne, WY, and Renae & Kyle Shoemaker of Eugene. Eight great-grandchildren Ethan, Evan, and Eden Olson; Soren Stephens; Alexander, River, Sage, and Leo Shoemaker survive John. His one nephew, David Olson and his three nieces Janice Reese, Elaine Blencowe and Linda Sage survive him. He is predeceased by his wife, Sandra Olson and his two

brothers, Douglas and Stanton Olson. Growing up in Sloan, IA. He learned to drive at age seven on a Model A. The family lived eight miles from the family farm. He would drive himself to the farm at age seven! His dad, a State Farm Agent, was legally blind. John would drive him to his appointments at age 12. Age 13, the family moved to Salem, Oregon. He initially worked on the family farm and at the canneries. John graduated from Salem Christian Academy in 1953. He also attended Willamette & Westmont Universities and then graduated from PSU in 1971 with bachelor degrees in business and psychology. He entered the US Army in July, 1958. Was stationed in Honolulu where along with doing normal service, he also played trombone in the Army's band and played third base for the Army's baseball team—he had a tough assignment! He got injured in the Army but not the way one would expect. During one of his baseball games, a player slid into him at third base and shattered his ankle in fifteen places. He was hospitalized for three months with his recovery. Through the years our family loved to tease him about this very difficult assignment he had in Hawaii! He married Gwendolyn Miller in 1961. A year later, Kimberly Kay was born and her brother, Kirk Kent the following year. The couple divorced seven years into their marriage. As a follower of Christ, this brought him to a point of soul-searching. He got involved at Bethlehem Church in Lake Oswego where his faith grew deeper. In 1972, he married an outstanding woman of God, Sandra Dickenson. The two of them were strong lay leaders at Bethlehem Church for many years, making a significant impact. Throughout his life, John mentored men, helping them develop their relationship with the Lord so that they could be godly husbands and loving fathers along with being leaders in their communities. He had a deep concern for racial reconciliation and would meet with others to help facilitate that concern. His careers included working for McKesson & Robbins and Glass Dahlstrom Printing and M&R Printing. Then, he formed his own LLC, Olson Communications, where he operated as a printing broker for forty years—coordinating printing jobs from start to finish. He enjoyed men's retreats at the Washington Family Ranch in the high desert. He was also very active with Good Samaritan Ministries in Beaverton. At one point, that took him to Senegal, Africa on a short-term mission trip. Promise Keepers was a great source of encouragement for him. And he was very involved in PBL which stands for Portland Business Luncheons, which sought to introduce people in the business community to the hope of Christ. Finally, he really liked going to the Abbey at Mt Angel. He found it to be a great place for reflection on his relationship with Christ. His hobbies were golf, watching the Oregon Ducks

and other sporting events with a variety of friends. John was a man who drew the respect of many people. He sought to live a balanced life. He will be missed by so many of us. He now resides in Heaven in the presence of our Heavenly Father. He no longer struggles with CHF or liver and kidney failure. He has a perfected body. How can we say that? We say that in faith in God and faith in his word—the Bible. Phil 3:20 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” In lieu of flowers, please give to either organization which John loved: Going Home2 and Good Samaritan Ministries.

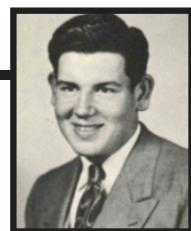


**Dorothy Kirby '67** was born November 7, 1948 in Grand Rapids Michigan to Ellis and Virginia Ball. She was part of the fifth generation living on the family homestead near Sandlake, Michigan. In 1955 the family moved to Silverton, Oregon. After attending school in Silverton, Dorothy graduated from Salem Academy in 1967. She then enrolled in George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon, graduating in 1976. While an undergraduate she met and married classmate, George Kirby. After working in The Chehalem House in Newberg, Oregon, the couple moved to Hood River, Oregon where they raised their family. Dorothy worked in the library and classrooms of several public schools in Hood River. She was also active in the Episcopal Church. She loved cats and she enjoyed baking, sewing, quilting and crocheting which she often gifted to others. She often gave crocheted sweaters to newborns. She died in The Dallas, Oregon on January 29, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband. She is survived by her sister Carol Hyatt of Silverton Oregon; her sister Diane Bradley of Claremont, California; brother, Steven Ball (SA graduate, 1965) of Caldwell, Idaho; her sister, Betty Howard (SA graduate, 1969) of Salem, Oregon; her son, Robert Kirby of The Dalles, Oregon and daughter, Lora Howard of Chester, New Hampshire. She is also survived by six grandchildren.



**James Edward Turnidge '73** was the youngest son of Gordon and Evelyn Turnidge. His biggest passion in life was wildlife photography and wandering the highways and byways in search of the perfect shot. He is survived by his mother, brothers Pat, Doug, Bruce, Scott and sister Eileen. He was 67 when he passed

March 10th to be with his Savior Jesus Christ in Paradise.



Robert "Bob" Leroy Trueax '53 was born in Dallas, Oregon, on March 27, 1935, the eldest of four and the only boy. He was raised outside of Dallas, and attended a one room grade school for eight years. After high school, he attended college in the Los Angeles area for two years. Next came four years in the U.S. Coast Guard, mostly in Alameda, California, as a dental technician. After the service, Bob became an x-ray technician, and pursued that field full time for six years, until he decided to become a tool and die maker, a field in which he continued until his retirement in 1999. While in the Coast Guard, Bob met and married Ruth Elsie Dillard, of Gridley, California, who was in nursing school at the time. She is now retired from that field. They lived in Oakland, California, until 1971, when they moved to Danville, California. In 1991, they relocated to Gridley, California. They have two daughters, Melanie Lynn Hunter and Kimberly Jonay Miller; four grandchildren, Timothy Dickinson, Tracey Dickinson, Jordan Miller, and Jocelyn Broschat; and four great-grandchildren, Taylor, Eliet, Waverly and Benjamin. Bob had a lifelong love of cars. As a child he would identify each car on the road. His first car was a 1935 Chevy, but his second one was a 1938 Buick and that started his love affair with Buicks. Over the years he owned many cars, but his all time favorite was his 1938 Buick Brewster Town Car. Bob's passion for cars led him to found the Redwood Region of the Contemporary Historical Vehicle Association (CHVA), which eventually became the largest CHVA region in the country. Along with the Redwood Region of CHVA, Bob was a member of three other CHVA regions as well as seven other car clubs. Bob's favorite car club activity by far was traveling on both local and long distance tours. Together Bob and Ruth led three CHVA national tours and participated

in twenty-four, in addition to joining countless local and weekend tours. On tours, Bob was known as "Iron Doc" due to his extensive knowledge of all things mechanical, which made him the go-to guy when cars needed roadside repairs. In 1996, looking for a way to serve his community, Bob joined the Gridley Lions Club. He served as Lion Tamer, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Vice President, and President of his club. On the district level, Bob served as zone chair and region chair, vice district governor and district governor. He also served on the youth outreach committee, the allstar football committee, and the health foundation. Bob's greatest passion in Lions, though, was the Lions Diabetes Camp at Lake McCumber, where he was fondly known as "Papa Bear". Bob served as camp administrator for about twenty years, and over that time he also managed to get his entire family involved with the camp in one way or another. In addition to his CHVA and Lions work, Bob was involved in a wealth of other activities. He was a man of strong Christian faith and served as both a deacon and an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He was on the board for the Silverado Concours and several other fund-raising car shows. While his daughters were growing up, he was a 4-H leader. He was also a member of Sons of the American Revolution and Mensa, and served as a local officer in both. Bob passed away on March 29, 2023, two days after his 88th birthday. In lieu of flowers, donations earmarked for Diabetes Camp can be made in Bob's memory to the Lions Health Foundation 2911 Monte Bello Drive Redding, CA 96001. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.neptune-society.com/location/chico-ca](http://www.neptune-society.com/location/chico-ca) for the Trueax family.

*\*All articles adapted from online submission or provided by families.*

## ALUMNI EVENTS

### CLASS OF 1977

#### ALUMNI GIRLS BRUNCH



#### ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME



Salem Academy Christian Schools

942 Lancaster Dr NE

Salem, OR 97301

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Salem, OR

Permit No. 95

WHERE WILL AN EDUCATION  
WITH SA TAKE YOU?



[SalemAcademy.org](http://SalemAcademy.org)