



## *Is the Culture Better at Forming Your Children Than You Are?*

By Amy Parris

I'm sitting by the pool while the boys are at swim team practice on a Wednesday afternoon. The radio is playing over the speakers and the team is warming up behind me. I steal a few glances at my boys cheating their way through the exercises. Push-ups? Not exactly. Sit-ups? Not even close. They laugh with their friends who are doing the same. They are only half-way paying attention to the coach as he shouts commands.

Is the culture doing a better job forming my children than I am? Some days, like today, the culture wins and puts a chink in my armor and a hole

in my heart. It's hard, this battle between the culture and us. Their army is bigger and their appeal is great. And often, oh so very often, I feel in touch with Joshua and his little army. I feel tiny and weak and overwhelmed by the task ahead. And then I remember – Joshua and his little army won. In fact, they didn't just win...they obliterated Jericho and everyone in it.

The key to this battle was not their numbers or even their strength. They won because they did what the Lord told them to do. It didn't make much sense. Victory certainly didn't appear to be imminent. They did it anyway.

What we are doing makes as much sense in today's culture as marching around the city blowing horns. Having the girls get their Spring Dance dresses approved before they come to the dance? Unheard of! Making the kids call us before they watch a movie at a friend's house? So embarrassing! Not dating until you graduate from high school? Say what?!

Our five kids range in age from 2 to 15, so we fight the culture on many different levels. The younger

the child, the less the battle. Felicity's world revolves around us. Her outside influences are limited. She trusts us completely. However, being the youngest of five and spending a lot of time with older siblings has its challenges. She knows the words to as many songs on the radio as she does to nursery rhymes. She also knows how to Dab (it's a dance move – ask your kids to show you) and just recently noticed that Elsa (Ice Princess from *Frozen*) has "boobies" (thanks, kids). However, at the end of the day, she spends much more time with me than she does anyone else, and I can win those battles pretty easily by a talk to the older child doing the influencing (the Scripture about better for a stone to be tied around your neck than to lead a little one astray usually does the trick) and a little explanation to Felicity.

As they get older though, the battle becomes tougher. Their time at school and outside with friends almost equals their time with us. Technology calls to them like the sirens



Amy Parris with husband Nelson

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# High School Honors Banquet

Photos by Barbara Harshman

On Friday, May 27, our High School staff and students were honored at the annual High School Honors Banquet for their hard work throughout the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Chuck Hornsby began the program by asking the school staff to stand and be recognized, then asking the support staff to stand with them.

The following pictures and cap-

tions denote the many awards given by Principal, Dan Funsch, and Athletics Director and Coach, Dennis McBride, Jr., and Superintendent, Chuck Hornsby, along with Kathy Visintainer who coordinated many of the entries into various GICAA competitions. We congratulate all of our students on a job well done.



ACS's highest honor, the Christian Character Award, went to Stephen Milligan, Kathryn Garner and Rachel Visintainer

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## Modern Culture Cannot be Counted on to Teach Children Godly Ways

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to Odysseus. We have made some very conscious decisions in this area. When we built our home, we decided not to run the cable lines upstairs. We do not want them to have computers or televisions anywhere that we cannot witness what they are watching. We have one television and they all share one computer, both of which are downstairs in the family room, which is open to the kitchen, which is where I am the majority of the time. None of our children have a cell phone.

Let me assure you that we do not think this is the only way to fight the battle, and we certainly don't pass judgment on families who have made different choices. For us, unlimited internet access is not something we think our kids are ready for. We have not won any popularity contests with these decisions. We talk to them about how we've made the decision and have been afforded many opportunities to show them why.

Does this mean our kids are perfect? Nowhere close. Does this make us parents of the year? In no universe. Does it help us fight this battle? Ab-

solutely! Does it give us a little more time to have a stronger influence than YouTube? Most certainly. Will our children ever be allowed to have their own phones? Of course...as soon as we feel that they are ready.

We let our kids know that the decisions we make are our own, not the Community's. They can all regurgitate our mantra that, "We don't know what everyone else is doing; this is the Parris family rule." That goes for everything from the way they dress, to what they listen to, to the things they watch, to the way they treat people. But even with our best efforts, we fall short. Our kids are exposed to things that aren't pure. They sometimes show up in clothes that are not totally appropriate. They are human...and so are we. And we thank the Lord that we've been called to this Community life to support us to continue to fight the fight!

In the end, all parents are engaged in one of the most important battles we will ever fight. And we should fight to the death, even if we have to march around the city while blowing horns.



Perfect Attendance: Elliott Balducci, Sam Freed, Marshall Baxter, Francis Sullivan, Kathryn Garner, Celeste Thompson, Elaine Densmore, Philip Hatfield, Ben Freed, Stephen Milligan, William Visintainer, Rachel Visintainer, Ryan Neilsen



(Left) STAR Student Celeste Thompson with her STAR Teacher Deborah Klett. (Right) Julia Hazlewood receiving the Diligence Award.

Amy Parris is a second generation Alleluia-ite, a former teacher in the Alleluia High School and a Support Group Head's wife. She and her husband Nelson have been Full Covenant members of Alleluia Community since 2007. They are the parents of five children and attend Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Augusta, Georgia. Amy writes about her life as a mom at <http://raisingangels.blogspot.com>.

# Honors 2015-16



**1st Honors:** Celeste Thompson, Ania Hatfield, Rachel Visintainer, Colette Sullivan, Cathy Stenger, Celine Sterett, JP Masak, Johnny Hartney, Dominic Germann, Clarrisa Thompson, Marshall Baxter, Ben Freed, Ben Dresser, Sam Freed, Elliott Balducci, Philip Hatfield, Dane Doughty



**2nd Honors:** Conor Weddle, Mackenzie Parris, Kathryn Garner, Grace Visintainer, Francis Sullivan, Kevin Conkright, Paul Harmon, Drew Rae



**Academic Achievement Awards:**  
**Mathematics –** Tim Dolin  
**Fine Arts –** Ania Hatfield  
**Composition –** Rachel Visintainer  
**Humanities –** Kathryn Garner  
**Sciences and Spanish –** Celeste Thompson



**Graduation Speakers:**  
 Celeste Thompson, Paul Harmon



**Excellence in Fine Arts –**  
 Rachel Visintainer



**Excellence in Athletics –**  
 Julia Hazlewood, Kathryn Garner  
 Mac McBride



**Excellence in Academics –**  
 Celeste Thompson

**Highest Averages**  
 9th Marshall Baxter  
 10th Clarissa Thompson  
 11th Celine Sterett  
 12th Celeste Thompson

**Highest 4-year Cumulative:**  
 Celeste Thompson  
**2nd Highest 4-year Cumulative:**  
 Rachel Visintainer

## Sports Awards

**Teams & Coaches Recognition for Girls & Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer**

**GICAA Region & State Tournaments:**

JV-G-BB	Amy Parris, Dennis Killips	
V-G-BB	Mary Cummings	3rd Region;
JV-B-BB	Paul Balducci	
V-B-BB	Dennis McBride	1st Region; (Undefeated) 2nd State
JV-G-VB	Kara Hebert	
V-G-VB	Meghan Janik	1st Region
V-B-Soccer	Dennis McBride	1st Region; 1st State (2nd year in a row)

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# Sports Awards

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### Will-to-Win Awards:

**BS** – Paul Harmon; **GV** – Celeste Thompson; **GB** – Celine Sterett; **BB** – Stephen Milligan



### Most Valuable Player Awards:

**BB & BS** – Mac McBride; **GV & GB** – Kathryn Garner; **GB** - Julia Hazlewood; **BB** - Hayden Hebert



### Rookie of the Year:

**BS** – Johnny Hartney; **GV & GB** – Bethany Weddle; **BB** – Ben Freed



**Service to Angel Athletics Award:**  
Shayna Eyrich, Rachel Visintainer, William Visintainer

### Recognition of All State Awards:

**G-BB** – Kathryn Garner, Julia Hazlewood (All State & All Star)  
**G-VB** – Julia Hazlewood, Kathryn Garner\*, Celeste Thompson (All Stars) (\*All State)  
**B-BB** – Ben Dresser, Hayden Hebert, Mac McBride (All State); Elliott Balducci (Hon. Mention)  
**B-S** – Mac McBride, Hayden Hebert, Stephen Milligan

### Recognition of All Region Awards:

**G-JV Volleyball** – Michaela Milligan, Celine Sterett  
**G-V Volleyball** – Kathryn Garner, Julia Hazlewood, Celine Sterett, Michaela Milligan  
**B-V Basketball** - Ben Dresser, Elliott Balducci, Hayden Hebert\*, Mac McBride\* Jon Phillips (\*All Star)  
**B-V Soccer** – Mac McBride, Stephen Milligan, Paul Harmon



### Coach's Award:

**BS** – Chris Hall, Jr., **GV & GB** – Ania Hatfield; **BB** – Ben Dresser; **BS** – Jon Phillips



### Ron Platte Award (1000 pts.):

Hayden Hebert, Mac McBride, Ben Dresser, Stephen Milligan

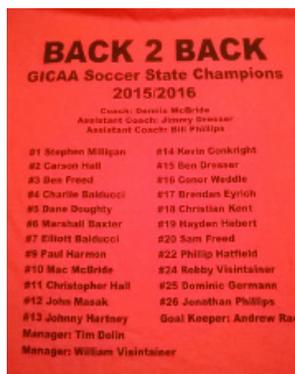


### Special Coach Recognition:

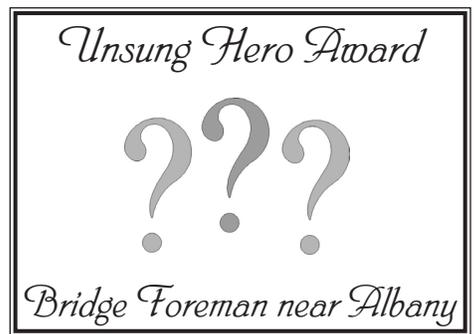
Dennis McBride – Independent Schools Coach of the Year



**U.S. Army Reserve Scholar Athlete Award:** Kathryn Garner, Chris Hall, Jr.



Red shirts were given to 2016 Soccer State Championship Team



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