



To Serve and Protect: Sworn officers and staff of the Laurens County Sheriff's Office stand outside the Hillcrest Judicial/Services Center following their swearing in. Re-elected in 2012, Laurens County Sheriff Ricky Chastain took his oath of office Jan. 2, then administered the oath to the deputies and investigators sworn to uphold the laws of Laurens County, the State of South Carolina and the United States, fairly and impartially.
.- Photo by Vic MacDonald

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Learning Together

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Jennifer Satterwhite, Teacher of the Year

By Vic MacDonald
Horizons 2013 _____

“Mom did the dishes.” Can you visualize it? Kind of weak, huh?
“Mom scrubbed the dishes.” Ah, better, you can really see mom putting that elbow grease to that pan. Much stronger, huh?

Jennifer Satterwhite, The Chronicle’s Teacher of the Year for 2013, wants her fifth grade English Language Arts students to work on action words, strong verbs, so their writing can make their readers really “see” what’s going on. As part of the exercise, the students looked at a passage from “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” highlighting strong action verbs with colored pencils. Their learning about the subject was modeled and reinforced by a lesson on

the SmartBoard and a skit in which four students played roles (an announcer, a “strong verb” boxer, a “weak verb” boxer, and a groupie, with “strong verb” scoring a knockout).
“Razzle Dazzle Reading,” Satterwhite says of where she got the idea for a skit.

A 13-year veteran of Joanna-Woodson Elementary School, Jennifer Satterwhite teaches ELA and social studies to two classes of fifth graders. She has 24 students in each class.

She’s not really sure how she does it - she’s a math person.

“That was my concentration at Newberry College,” she said. She taught two years at Saluda High School, a year at Sanders Middle School in Laurens and then came to JWES. She came in to teach third grade when current prin-



Teacher of the Year: Jennifer Satterwhite, ELA and social studies teacher at Joanna-Woodson Elementary School, has been named The Chronicle’s Teacher of the Year for 2013. She stands at the SmartBoard in her classroom, in front of a fifth grade English Language Arts class at J-WES to engage them in a lesson about “strong” and “weak” action words
- Photo by Vic MacDonald

The Chronicle’s Teachers of the Year

- 1996 Howard Pierce, Clinton Elementary School
- 1997 Amy Poag, Clinton High School
- 1998 Elizabeth Crowder, Eastside Elementary School
- 1999 Cynthia Simmons, Thornwell
- 2000 Nancy Morgan, Eastside Elementary School
- 2001 Diane Evans, Clinton High School
- 2002 Valerie Jones, Thornwell
- 2003 Paula Pace, Bell Street Middle School
- 2004 Debbie Green, Eastside Elementary School
- 2005 Courtney Robertson, Laurens Academy
- 2006 Prondolyn Copeland, M.S. Bailey Elementary
- 2007 Hunt Coffey, Martha Dendy Sixth Grade Center
- 2008 Marjorie Tobias, Clinton Elementary School
- 2009 Susan Cauble, Joanna-Woodson Elementary
- 2010 Terri O’Shields, Bell Street Middle School
- 2011 Erica Coats, Bell Street Middle School
- 2012 Jenks Howe, Clinton Elementary School
- 2013 Jennifer Satterwhite, Joanna-Woodson Elementary

cipal Eddie Marshall arrived to teach fifth grade.

Now, Satterwhite and Marshall, as veteran teachers, have gotten their school on a fitness regime reinforced by the National Football League and enhanced by the nation’s dairy industry.

Satterwhite’s husband, Kevin, a dairy farmer in Newberry County, gave her the idea to bring Fuel Up To Play 60 to JWES. Now, fourth and fifth graders arrive at the school at 7:20 a.m. on Thursdays to exercise.

Satterwhite’s only problem - certainly not the “early hour,” she’s a dairy farmer’s wife, remember - is she wants the program to go schoolwide, even

more days in the week.

For her get-up-and-go attitude, her commitment to literacy and the teaching of U.S. history, and a willingness to fully embrace Common Core Standards, Satterwhite is The Chronicle’s Teacher of the Year for 2013.

She is obtaining her master’s in language and literacy through the University of South Carolina. That means Jennifer and Kevin’s sons Dylan, a second grader at JWES, and Austin, in five-year-old kindergarten at JWES, have a “study buddy”.

They live beside, and attend, Bush River Baptist Church.

“Jennifer does a phenomenal job,” Marshall

said. “The students know she cares about them. They’re willing to work for her. I was telling Dr. O’Shields (District 56 Superintendent Dr. David O’Shields) the other day, when you have a teacher that students really care about, when they do something wrong, they’re really saddened.
“They don’t want to disappoint that teacher.”

Satterwhite’s students even showed a little extra initiative. When the in-class interview for this article ran a little longer than their seat work, several started reading on their own. Their teacher called their names - teacher tip: verbally reward positive behavior.

“I want them to visualize,” thus the emphasis on action words in their writing and speaking, Satterwhite said. “I tell them they need to have a movie playing in their minds. It builds comprehension.”

Satterwhite uses testing data collected from MAP (measure of academy progress) testing given three times a year to third through fifth grade students, to map out her strategies for the class, and for remediation for students who are behind.

Like all elementary teachers, she is gearing up for the PASS test, the year-ending assessment

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Betsy McKinney

By Grace Aldridge
Horizons 2013

Betsy McKinney and her husband, Charles, live on her beautiful family farm in Clinton. Her family has lived in Clinton for generations, their time here spanning over 200 years.

Growing up on a farm directly influenced McKinney's love for learning, though perhaps not in a formal sense. As a child, McKinney says "my dad was really good and patient with explaining things to us and teaching us to learn to love the land."

Her family's long history in Clinton has also cultivated in McKinney an appreciation for both family history and the nation's history. "Something real dear to my heart is for Americans and young people particularly to know the sacrifices our forefathers made," she says.

McKinney is involved with the American Legion Auxiliary and with the UDC—the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Perhaps her passion for learning history was one of her motivations for joining the Laurens County School District 56 board of trustees.

What does McKinney bring to the school board? "I bring the ability to stand back and look at the bottom line. I think that's one thing age helps you with," she says. "For me, the bottom line is that everything we do, we do for the students."

The grandmother of four—one born just a few



First-hand look at instruction: Betsy McKinney, member of the School District 56 Board of Trustees, watches Clinton High welding instructor William Turner and students engage in their lesson. The welding lab is an example of District 56's commitment to and expansion of vocational education. - Photos by Grace Aldridge

weeks ago—explains that she had several motivations for joining the school board two years ago.

"I am concerned about the future of our nation," she says. McKinney has noticed the rising trend of technology use in the lives of young people and in schools.

Although technology is necessary to a certain extent, she thinks that young people need to learn to translate what they learn through technology, athletics and other extra-curriculars — activities that students devote so much time to — into other aspects of life. McKinney believes there is no one better to teach young people these values than teachers and coaches.

She also believes that individuals and the school district alike must learn to be financially responsible. Too many people haven't learned to live within their means, and, McKinney says, "as a school district we have an obligation to set an example and be responsible financially."

Ultimately, however, McKinney is motivated by scripture and one passage in particular. 2nd Chronicles 7:14 reads, "if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

McKinney hopes for the healing of our land, and believes that healing has to start with young people. One of the values she believes it is essential to instill in America's younger generations is hard work. What's frustrating, she says, is that "if you say people should work, the media puts a twist on that and makes it sound like you're just mean and cruel for wanting people to work, but kids in other countries work hard, they study hard." In some academic areas, McKinney explains that our country comes in seventeenth place on a global scale. In order to help our country become part of the global economy that we hear so



District's flag-ship school: Standing at the front entrance to Clinton High School, Betsy McKinney says senior projects at CHS is, in her opinion, "an excellent program" for District 56. McKinney is a Trustee of the school district.

much about on the news, McKinney explains, "we've got to wake up and be competitive. When you deal with the Chinese you're dealing with people who for centuries have unwound the silk off a cocoon...so we've got to wake up and work hard."

McKinney is animated about the many good things the schools are doing to benefit the students right now. The senior project at Clinton High School, for instance, is in McKinney's opinion an excellent program.

One of the benefits it of-

fers to seniors as young adults, most of whom will enter the working world in the next few years, is a strong work ethic. "This project is such a good thing because it makes kids realizes what it takes to accomplish something and to succeed," McKinney explains.

Each semester, high school seniors are required to choose an area to research and must develop a project to present to a panel of community members. Through these

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Dr. Claude Lilly

By Vic MacDonald
Horizons 2013

Presbyterian College’s administration, faculty and students are starting to learn about the college’s 17th president what trustees chairman William Shearer found out pretty quickly upon meeting Dr. Claude Lilly.

“Claude Lilly is very bright, articulate and well-prepared - a team player with a proven track record of fund raising. He is also a strategic thinker who is excited about and capable of taking PC to the next level of excellence,” Shearer is quoted in the Fall 2012 Presbyterian College Magazine. “In addition, he and his wife Fran are excited about living in Clinton.”

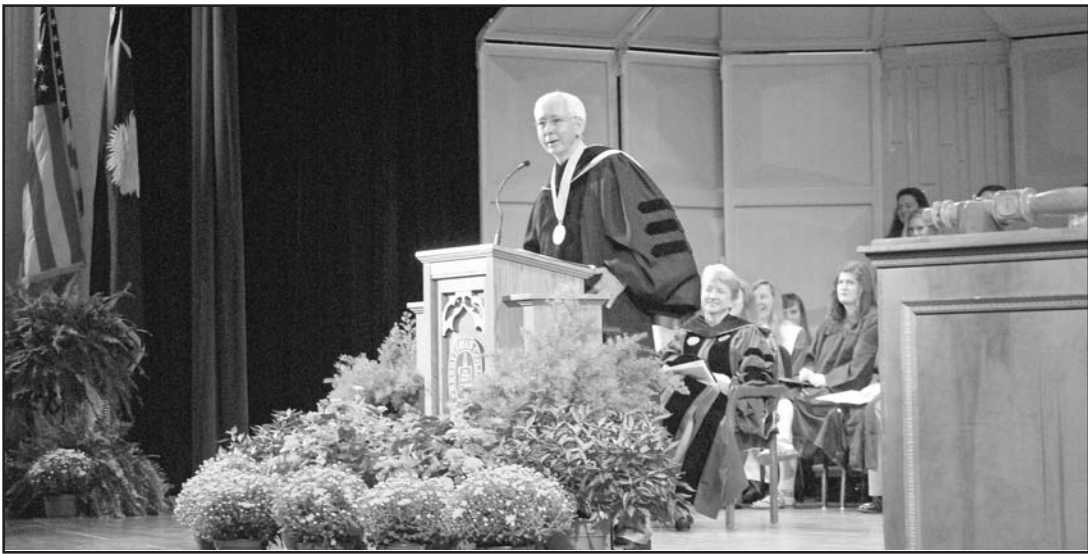
Pay special attention to that “strategic thinker” observation. Lilly has definite plans for Presbyterian College this year and the next, but he also is looking far beyond the Class of 2014.

“We’ve been around since 1850, and 2080 sounds like a long way off. But 2050 is just 37 years away. I definitely can recall where I was 37 years ago, and that seems like just a moment ago,” said Lilly, who was named PC’s 17th president in July; he comes to the Clinton college from Clemson University where he was the business school dean. “You definitely have to get to next year, but I want to know will my successor and my successor’s successor do well. That’s why I like talking to Dr. Joe Gettys (105-year-old semi-retired minister and college professor), he talks about what they did in the 1960s and ‘70s” to make Presbyterian College successful.

“In the last 20 years, college presidents have gone from implementing the strategic plan to having the vision and find the resources to implement the strategic plan. If you’re going to be competitive,” Lilly says, “you have to keep those resources coming in. Hire a great team, and let them do their jobs.”

Lilly has used the “great team” formula to build a successful business school in the economically vibrant downtown Greenville market, and he has been part of “great teams” at Clemson, the University of South California, UNC-Charlotte, Florida State and Texas Tech.

He has never taught in a small, liberal arts col-



Message to the PC community: Dr. Claude Lilly, 17th president of Presbyterian College, delivers the academic year opening message Sept. 4 in Belk Auditorium. The next formal Commencement, Lilly’s Inauguration ceremonies, will be April 19, 2 p.m. also in Belk.

- Photos by Vic MacDonald

lege. He has never been the dean or the president of a liberal arts college. He sees that as a plus.

“I have always had a passion for small, private colleges,” Lilly told the Presbyterian College Magazine. “I never went to one, and never taught at one, but I’ve always thought that the educational model was so appealing because it’s all student-focused.”

It’s a place where the president can get totally immersed. “Fran and I enjoy living in a home built in 1916,” Lilly said during an interview at his on-campus office. “You always wonder what have other people thought, what events they had there. There is a room there, as you face the home, a room to the right, that is like a den. There’s a fireplace in there, we love to sit and talk about the day. You can shut it off, and you don’t even feel like you’re in a big house.”

The Lilly’s four children and seven grandchildren are becoming PC enthusiasts. The grandkids have pictures taken with Scottie. A daughter-in-law has produced a one-of-a-kind, framed photo ensemble that Lilly says is a prized possession, displayed prominently in his office.

“The family has thoroughly enjoyed it,” Lilly said of getting to know Presbyterian College. “We can go to a basketball game, and know everybody. There is that time in a new place where everybody know everybody, and you don’t know anybody - that’s a hurdle to overcome. It happens quickly in Clinton.”

The coolest thing - the Lillys got to spend Christmas in the President’s Office. They had staff and alumni gatherings. They walked across Broad Street to the Christmas concert.

“A college campus is a living, breathing organ-

ism. Students graduate, then there are new students coming in. Professors go, professors arrive,” he said. “It continues to grow and live on. There is a sense of renewal. There are only a handful of corporations that have been around 100 years. There are many, many colleges and universities that have been around 100 years.”

In the next 12 months, Presbyterian College will work toward continued SACS accreditation in the spring, and there will be a pre-accreditation visit for the Pharmacy School.

“We’re definitely on track,” Lilly says of having the Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy, which this fall welcomed its third class, fully accredited. “I meet in February with the accreditation board. We want to be sure we have every i dotted and every t crossed.”

PC will face the critical task of “maintaining our brand, focusing on what we do well,” Lilly said. “We prepare our people.”

The PC president said he has been impressed with the number of students who want multiple majors, to prepare themselves with a skill set for as many careers as possible. “If you major in Spanish with a minor in business,” he said, “that’s a good thing. They want to go out with as tool set with a lot of options.”

In the short term, and with an eye toward the 2050s, Lilly said, “We will be focused on sports.”

Bringing respected coach Tommy Spangler back into the football program as an assistant coach was a good step, Lilly said, and PC has hired a volleyball coach and a part-time women’s golf coach.

“I want the players to be winners. I want it to be a good experience for the students,” Lilly said. “I have talked to a lot of parents about their children

coming here to play sports and, to a parent, they are concerned about academics, particularly for a first generation college student. We have to care about their education.”

During his time in the presidency, the Presbyterian College Family also can expect Lilly to lead by example when it comes to “citizen-service.”

He has served on corporate boards, and with organizations that include Habitat for Humanity, the Urban League, Men for Change supporting a women’s shelter in Charlotte, Metrolina Health Initiative, the Ruth and Billy Graham Children’s Health Center, Greenville’s Urban League, Artisphere and as chairman of the 2012 American Heart Association Ball.

In service to his church, Lilly serves a three-year appointment on the Board of Pensions for the PC (USA), and he has served on the Federal Reserve



Meeting and greeting: During a Laurens County Chamber of Commerce reception in the lobby of Edmunds Hall, Lilly talks to people who will be attending the Chamber’s annual meeting Jan. 17 which followed the reception.

Board.

Lilly is just as likely to be seen in the cafeteria circulating among students as he is to be seen in Templeton Arena for basketball games and in the lobby of Edmunds at a Chamber of Commerce reception, as he was Jan. 17 when the newest U.S. senator, Tim Scott of Charleston, came to campus as the keynote speaker for the Laurens County chamber’s annual dinner.

He circulated easily among 100 PC Atlanta alums and supporters, when the Blue Hose played football against Georgia Tech. He asks the alumni to define the PC “brand” and says, “Num-

ber one is the faculty; the alumni I talk to speak with awe about the faculty. We need to keep that message out in front.”

Lilly expects to spend untold hours talking to people about the resources needed to keep a small, liberal arts college doing what it does best for students - “broadening their horizons and helping them get a job.”

He also expects people to give to their church, give to their charities of choice and give to their families. Along with those three, Presbyterian College President Dr. Claude Lilly says, there is a fourth.

“People are always passionate about education.”

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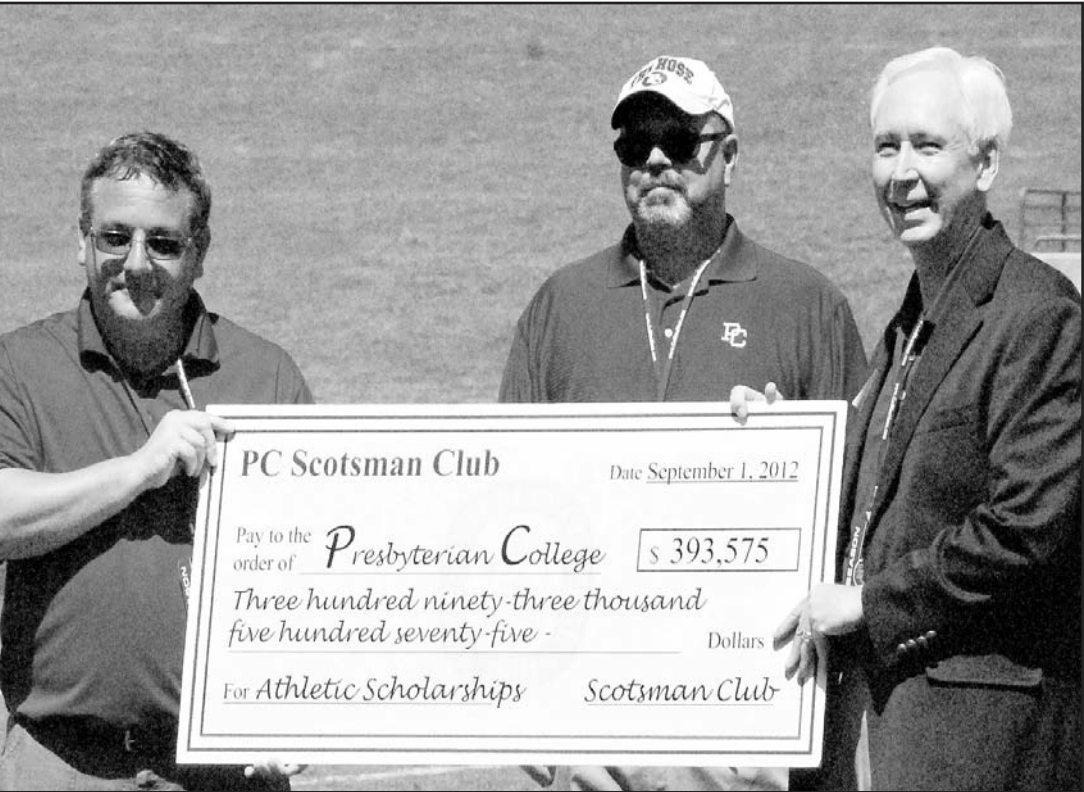
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More like this: Dr. Lilly, right, and PC Athletics Director Brian Reese, left, accept an over-sized check from The PC Scotsman Club to benefit the athletic scholarships fund at the college.

Norman Dover

By Grace Aldridge

Horizons 2013

Norman Dover has had many titles: PC alum, husband, father, principal, pastor, and Vice President for Educational Services at Thornwell, to name a few.

Not surprisingly, he is a busy man; most recently, he has been instrumental in starting a new 4-year-old kindergarten program at Thornwell's Child Development Center.

The program was proposed in March of this year, and by August, the Thornwell four-year-old kindergarten was up and running.

During these five or so months, there was a lot to get done. Dover admitted, "If I had really known what it was going to take to open a four-year-old kindergarten program—I'm glad I



A welcome addition: Norman Dover, vice-president for educational services at Thornwell Home for Children, gives the welcome address for the newest school in Clinton, a 4K program now housed at the facility's education building. "The big role Thornwell plays," Dover says, "is to be an advocate to a child, to have a voice for a child, and to develop that child's own voice."

- Photo by Vic MacDonald

didn't know—I'm not sure we would have started down that road. A lot to do in a short amount of time."

Licenses had to be obtained, inspections passed, funding secured, standards met, students

enrolled, teachers hired. But by opening day, the program was fully subscribed with 20 students and has been running smoothly ever since.

Dover was the principal of Thornwell Elementary School before it closed in 2007. He continued working with Thornwell in a new capacity as the Vice President for Educational Services.

His busy days include serving on the admissions and review committee, acting as an educational advisor as Thornwell brings new children on to campus. He also helps review students who are already at Thornwell and address any issues that might need to be discussed.

Additionally, Dover serves as a liaison to Laurens County School District 56 for the Thornwell children.

"A big part of what we do here, along with the family teachers," he says, "is to support our children in the advocacy role. We are there on behalf of our children to connect with the school." This job includes things such as attending IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings for children, but it also means helping the children excel in the classroom.

Although Dover's title might suggest that he is merely in an administrative role at Thornwell, he is extremely knowledgeable about and involved with the programs on Thornwell's campus, especially the different programs and their functions that go on at Thornwell's Learning Center.

The Thornwell after-school and summer programs have been especially successful, Dover explains. During the afterschool program, Thornwell children—and now Clinton Elementary students as well—come to the Learning Center where staff offer tutorial and remediation services in math and reading.

Thornwell's full library is a huge asset to the students involved in the after school program. "The philosophy of making children better readers is pretty simple: if you want to be a good reader, you have to spend time reading. And you've got to be reading the right books on the appropriate level," said Dover.

The crucial aspects of learning to be a better reader, as Dover explains them, are monitoring and accountability, two principles that apply to the goal of the program in general. Is the point of the after-school program simply to tutor students? Not exactly.

Encouraging mastery of

a subject after school is important, but the real goal is support. "During the time after school, we need to do everything we can to initially support what's going to happen during the school day. So if we can send a child to school in the morning ready and confident for the school day, then that day is going to go a whole lot better for that child than for a child who is unprepared and hasn't completed their homework," said Dover.

The Summer Program is a huge asset to the campus children as well. Dover explains that "on average, our children gain three months in reading and three months in math over the summer." Considering that children usually lose an average of one to four months in these subjects over the summer, Dover says, "the summer program is tremendous for the campus children."

Thornwell's commitment to nurturing and encouraging the growth of the campus children is as strong and as successful as ever. Dover feels that many people in the Clinton community have no idea what really goes on at Thornwell on a daily basis.

"People really have no clue what goes on here. It's amazing how often I get the comment, 'Do you think Thornwell will ever get going again?' People think that because the school shut down that was the whole point. But Thornwell is really in

growth mode. Thornwell is thriving right now."

Dover explains that Thornwell's success is largely due to its unique group approach to helping children grow. Although he has had a hand in many of the programs at Thornwell, he is quick to assure that the effort is "very much a team approach."

"Don't think for a second it's all me," he said. "It's not. We've got the family teachers in the cottages who are trained professionals to help these children, we have wonderful staff, excellent tutors. It takes a pile of people to make it all happen."

He believes that Thornwell's success is largely due, not only to the personal attention the kids receive, but to the environment maintained on campus.

"Everyone is very professional, we have lots of trained professionals, but it's not clinical. It's very relational—tender, loving, and caring. So everything is built on those relationships. That's why I think it works so well."

This relational environment is enabled by the lengths to which these professionals go to forge personal relationships with the kids. "You've got to know the children, know them well," says Dover, "their records, motivations—and do the best you can to guide those children to where they want to be."

What's the most rewarding aspect of working at Thornwell? For Dover, it is when he sees many people come together to help one child.

"We will often have a two hour staff meeting about one child—psychiatrist, therapist, nurse, family teachers, education consultant, vice president of child and family ministry, program director, in-tech specialist, consultants. All these people are there meeting about the needs of one child, asking 'how can we develop a plan to help that child?' We might meet half a morning on one child. That's one of my favorite things about Thornwell. Thornwell is just one of the most magnificent places to be to help children."



Long-time co-workers: Angie Dillon and Norman Dover have worked together since '95. She was the secretary of the elementary school when Dover was principal, and now she is the administrative assistant at the Learning Center. She also helps with the library, food services for four-year-old-kindergarten, and is a reading coordinator. "She gets more done in a day than just about anybody I know," says Dover.

-- Photo by Grace Aldridge



Dedicated to the kids: Second from right, Norman Dover is among the ribbon-cutters Sept. 5 as the new four-year-old Kindergarten program officially welcomes its first class of students. The program is a partnership among Thornwell Home for Children, Presbyterian College and South Carolina First Steps. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

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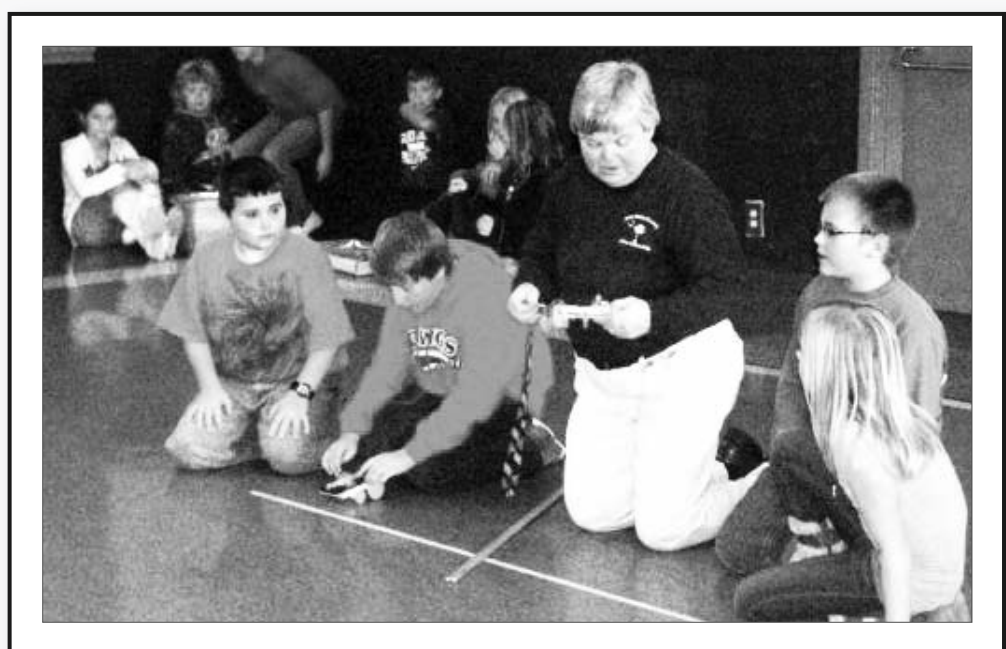
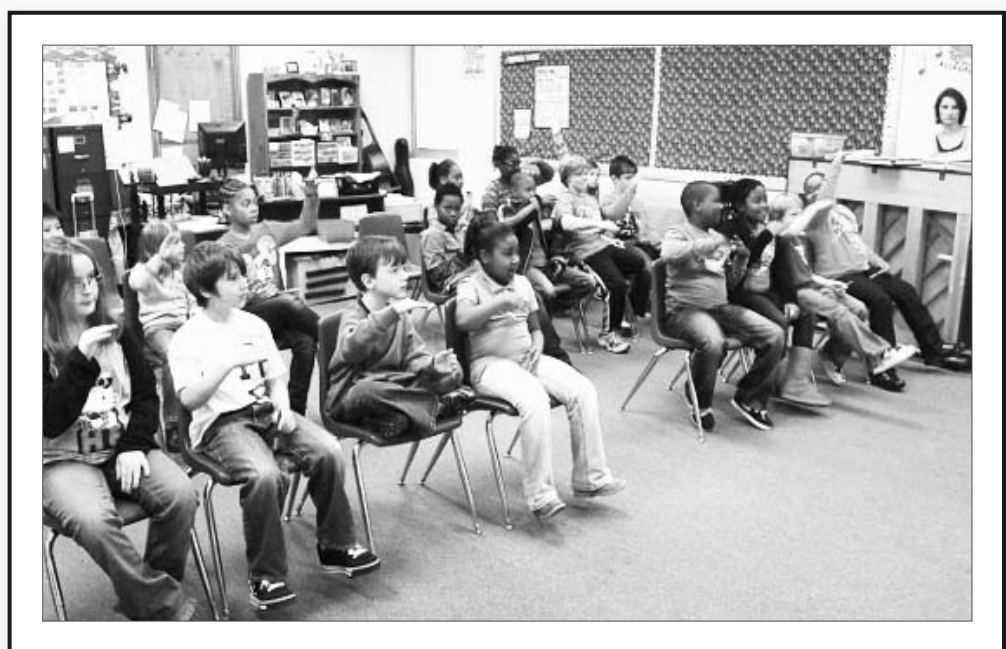
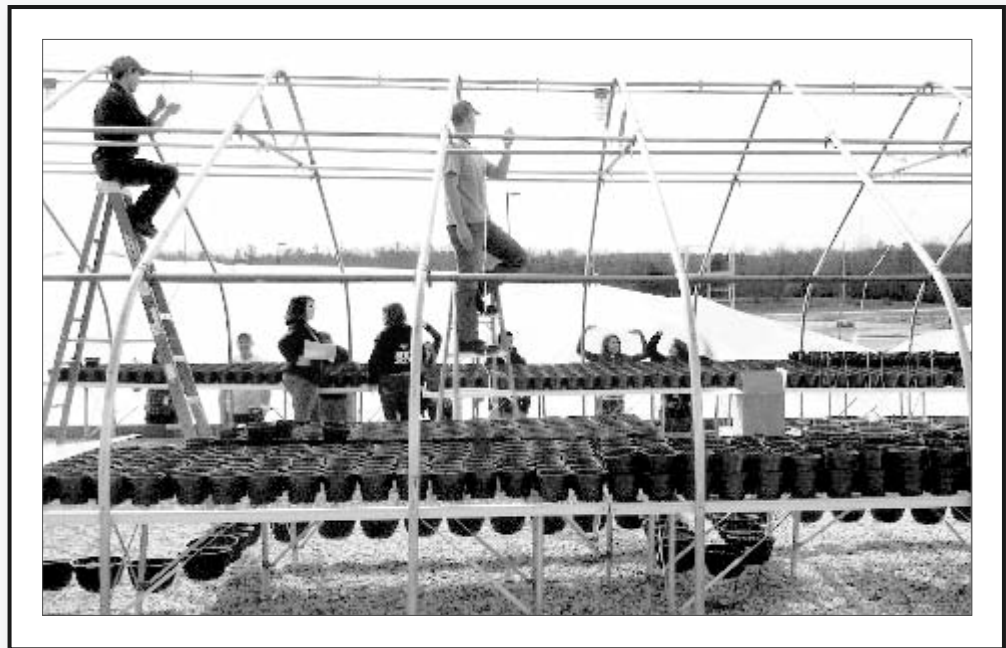
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Steven Crisp

By Larry Franklin
Horizons 2013

Community service and involvement drives Steven Crisp in both his personal and professional life – as well as a desire to help young men who have gotten into trouble.

Crisp is the executive director of AMIkids-Piedmont, located off Hwy. 72 on the Whitmire side of I-26. Piedmont houses 34 young men who have been charged and convicted of a crime. They are sent to Piedmont by a judge as part of an alternative placement program.

“Instead of jail, they come to us to be rehabilitated,” Crisp said. Each young man comes with a “guideline” determined by a Department of Juvenile Justice matrix which determines how long they will be at AMIkids – from three months up to a year.

Crisp said the young offenders have to earn their way out of the program, so there’s very little sitting around marking the days off a calendar.

Crisp has the young men involved in the community in a variety of ways. Every Wednesday they pack meals at Senior Options and then go to the Clinton YMCA to do whatever is needed.

The program guidelines require a 1:5 ratio off campus, so the top five students are accompanied by a staff member to each service location.

“Everything the kids do has to be earned,” Crisp said.

The young people also



Steven Crisp

work at the Hospice Thrift stores in Clinton and Laurens. They have partnered with Bailey Manor to work at a number of social events and other programs, they call Bingo at Agape Senior Living in Laurens and have participated in two Beautify Laurens County litter pickups. They have prepared S’mores at Christmas in the Park in Laurens and served lunch at the Clinton Rotary Club’s Christmas lunch for residents of the Laurens Memorial Home.

AMIkids-Piedmont, one of six residential AMIkids programs in South Carolina, has 26 employees. The 34 young men are housed in two dorms on

the property.

Crisp, 28, is from Greer, where he still lives with wife Claire and two-year-old daughter Laila. A second child is due in June.

As a junior in high school, Crisp was chosen to attend a leadership program at PC. PC students served as mentors. “I love how they treated us,” Crisp said. “I loved the small campus. Clinton is a lot like Greer.”

A PC, he was a cheerleader, a CHAMPS mentor and was the senior class representative on student government.

He and Claire got married two weeks after he received a degree in special education.



Hey, it’s The Big Guy: Steven Crisp, right, poses with one of his guys and Santa Claus as the AMIkids help serve lunch to Memorial Home residents in a Dec. 11 program sponsored by the Clinton Rotary Club and hosted by Bailey Manor Christian Retirement Community.
- Photo by Vic MacDonald

After doing an internship at AMIkids-Piedmont as a senior, Crisp was offered a full-time job following graduation. “I was scared at first, but I fell in love with it,” he said.

He began his career as a special education teacher/lead teacher overseeing the education component of the AMIkids program.

He transferred to AMIkids-Georgetown in 2010 as the executive director. In almost two years in Georgetown, Crisp experienced a lot of growth – both personal and professional.

“Georgetown was a strong program and this was my first time leading a camp,” he said.

The young family “came back home” in December, 2011 when Crisp was named to lead AMIkids-Piedmont. He found a lot of work to do, getting things back in line with AMIkids guidelines.

“This past year, we spent getting back to ba-

sics,” he said. “We weren’t in the community. That was one of my first initiatives. I want the kids to learn to give back. They are from other counties, but hopefully they will transfer back to their home counties.”

Only one of the kids is on parole. The remainder are on probation. When the young men are allowed to go back home is the decision of their probation/parole officer, in consultation with the staff at AMIkids.

“We tell them that the decision you made doesn’t define you,” Crisp said. “What you decide to do defines you.”

While they are at Piedmont, the students continue their disrupted education. Twelve have received their GED since July. “That’s huge for the kids,” Crisp said. “That opens a new chapter in their lives.”

Crisp’s long-range plans for AMIkids-Piedmont include implementing a

strategic plan.

“We have to rely on the state for a lot of our funds,” he said. “We want to increase our fund-raising.”

The first 5K run last August was a “great success” that he wants to build on this year. “The community really supported us,” he said. This year’s run may be pushed back to October “so we can get the PC kids involved.”

Crisp plans to keep pushing community awareness and involvement. “It’s important for the community to embrace the program,” he said.

To that end, monthly focus group meetings are held with people from the community. “They leave with a better understanding of what we do,” he said.

Crisp is involved in the community, too. He’s active in the Clinton Rotary Club, is on the board of the Young Professionals Organization, which is an arm of the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce and is also serving on the Community in Schools committee at Clinton High School.

AMIkids-Piedmont has a local volunteer board of up to 13 members. The board serves as legislative contacts and also assists with community development, governance and education policy making.

Piedmont is funded by the United Way of Laurens County and is also a member of the chamber of commerce.

When he’s not working, Crisp likes to stay at home and spend time with his wife and daughter.

“I like to camp and I like to volunteer in the community. I’m trying to start running,” he said. “But mostly, I like to stay at home.”



Community involvement: Steven Crisp is officially “pinned” by Clinton Rotary President Rita Stanley as he joins the Rotary club, part of Crisp’s commitment to increase the community involvement of AMIkids in Laurens County.
- Photo by Vic MacDonald



Helping out: AMIkids, Clinton, participants are helping out in many community activities including work at Senior Options, above, as the program’s director Steven Crisp attempts to increase the public profile, and generate more community support, of the program that seeks an alternative to incarceration for juvenile offenders. - Photo provided

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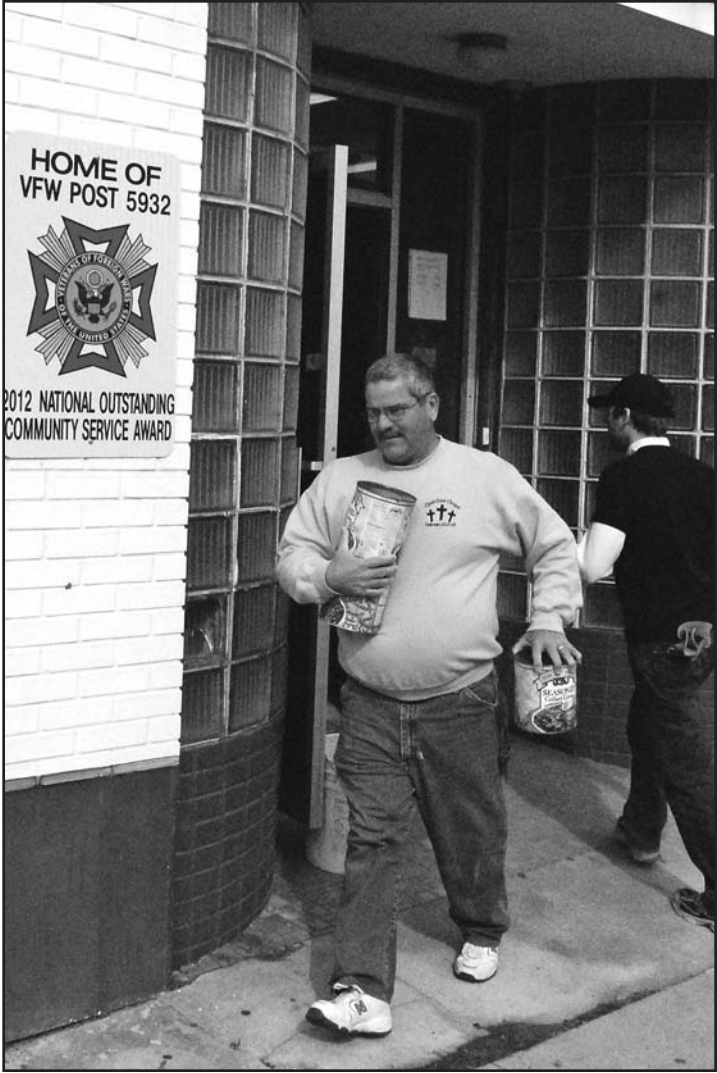
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than simply for a short period of time.

Brewington is the executive director of the whole facility, as well as the pastor of the Open Door Chapel. His main job, he says, “is to pastor the people who come here. To love them and try to bring correction to them in the right way, to encourage them. Not just while they’re here, but when they leave. It’s a lifelong commitment, just like being a Christian. I also have to hold everything together by keeping the staff and volunteers encouraged and by keeping the vision alive to the community.”

Brewington’s great energy for the ministry is clear. He understands the mission, believes in the mission, and is devoted to it. Since his direct involvement in the ministry, Open Door has grown exponentially.

The Open Door ministry has had great momentum in the last 15 years. In 1997, Open Door opened its first “dorm room” for homeless men. This first



Walking out with donations. Open Door participants, including director Charles Brewington, and VFW Post and Auxiliary members walk canned goods from the Post hut to Brewington's distinctive yellow pick-up truck following a Feb. 15 donation.
- Photo by Vic MacDonald

room filled so quickly that they immediately had to add three more rooms.

By 2000, Brewington and his wife Melinda were on board with the ministry. In 2003, they began the alcohol and drug program. In 2004, they began their chapel service for the men they housed—but people began coming off the streets and from the community, forcing them to knock down walls to make more room and order more chairs for the first few weeks it was open to accommodate everyone who was attending.

In 2006, Open Door started a halfway house for men who have graduated from the alcohol and drug program and need a place to transition back into the working world. In

2008, the properties for the women’s and children’s shelter were purchased and was up and running by 2009. In April of 2012, the soup kitchen opened.

One can’t help but be impressed that a program fully funded by private donations has shown this kind of growth. Amazingly, since the soup kitchen opened, Open Door’s yearly budget has increased from \$139,000-\$189,000 to over \$200,000—and this is without any federal or state help or grants, only private donations.

Individuals, churches, and businesses in the area are clearly supportive of the Open Door ministry. Brewington and the Open Door are giving back to the community by filling its needs and the community has noticed and responded by showing their gratitude.

Brewington explains that financial accountability is really important for an organization like Open Door. Some of its funding comes from United Way, for instance, and they review the programs they help to finance every quarter.

The executive board for Open Door, as well as the board of advisors, helps provide the necessary accountability. All of the board members are community members. Some are doctors, some are pastors, some are business people—but all have a vested interest in helping to meet the needs of Laurens County.

They contribute through their interest in serving the community as well as their good business sense and experience, helping Brewington run Open Door successfully and responsibly.

Many of the board members not only contribute business sense, but specifically Christian



Looking for a bargain? Brewington with assistance from his wife Melinda and a small staff oversees a thrift shop, soup kitchen, chapel and contract work operations for his ministry
- Photo by Grace Aldridge

business sense, an important aspect to a ministry like Open Door. Often, the board supports the ministry simply by praying for the needs Brewington presents them with.

The Laurens County community contributes their time, talents, and resources to ensuring the growth and success of the Open Door Christian Center and all of its many ministries.

The commitment of the board members, volunteers, and donors are overwhelming to Brewington. He wants the community to know that he is

thankful. “We couldn’t do what we do without this community,” he says emotionally. “When people in Laurens County hear about something we need, someone always steps up. There are people who really care, who want to be a part of what’s going on here.”

Brewington’s message to the community? “Thank you for doing what you do to help us do what we do. We love what we do, we love being able to help people. But we couldn’t do it without you.”



Who we are. A decal on Brewington’s pick-up advertises the chapel at Open Door Ministry with a Scripture verse.
- Photo by Vic MacDonald



A partnership. With staff volunteers Robert and Randy in the Open Door office, and Thomas, an intern, and Wesley Harrell, the Children’s Church pastor and Chairman of the Board, in the soup kitchen, Charles Brewington is quick to include fellow Open Door participants and the ministry’s community partners for its on-going programs. Brewington says his main job, “is to pastor the people who come here. To love them and try to bring correction to them in the right way,



to encourage them. Not just while they’re here, but when they leave. It’s a lifelong commitment, just like being a Christian. I also have to hold everything together by keeping the staff and volunteers encouraged and by keeping the vision alive to the community.”

- Photos by Grace Aldridge



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