



Κατανῶμεν *Let us consider...*



Esther Ruth Vandiver

February 1, 1949 – May 14, 2014

Esther Vandiver—co-founder of GCA—went home to be with her Creator this May. Esther was a loving mother, a talented teacher, a great friend, an amazing mentor, and an excellent reflection of what God's love looks like. From hearing about her outlandish dreams to figuring out a grammar diagram or a hard math problem, there was never a dull or meaningless moment. Whether listening to her new insight of Scripture or watching her listen (with interest) to me tell her about my day, it was an enjoyable trip the whole way.

All of us that knew her had a common thread that wove us to her—that thread was beauty. All true beauty is a representation of the Creator of ALL beauty. Esther was a canvas on which the Master Artist painted a masterpiece.

She loved to learn—Mrs. V saw the hand of God in everything: Math, Biology, Art, Music, Grammar—it didn't matter what she was learning about, she was excited, and that excitement was contagious. Esther demonstrated a childlike wonder about the world God created. Wonder of His creation was her high form of worshipping her Creator. And, she saw beauty in searching out these things.

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**It is the glory of God to conceal
things, but the glory of kings is
to search things out.
~Proverbs 25:2~**

The mission of Grace Classical Academy is to provide an education designed to help our children know the love, grace, truth and holiness of our glorious God and, from this understanding, strive for excellence in knowledge, wisdom and service.

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Κατανῶμεν Let us consider...

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"I do not choose
to so lightly
esteem my loving
Father's heart as
to grumble at His
will; rather, I
glory that He has
taken such pains
to let me see so
much beauty and
goodness and
has prepared me
to enjoy eternity
with Him!"

*Esther
Vandiver*

Mrs. V loved to grow—growing is painful or at least uncomfortable, but she was not afraid of the pain; she was excited about the lesson and how God could use it to grow her closer to Him. And, she saw beauty in the process.

She knew the currency that mattered most was time. She told me often that there is enough time in every day to do the perfect will of God. Since Jesus was fully present every moment of His life, then we also need to strive for a life in which we are fully present—not seeing people as distractions but as opportunities to share Christ's truth and love. And, the giving of her time for God's purposes was beautiful.

She loved those who others had given up on—love is patient and kind, love rejoices in the truth, love hopes all things. Esther believed in the power of God's love. She believed in Christ's power to change hearts and minds. She hoped the best for those who were struggling and sought to point them to God's power so they could taste of His love. She had felt Jesus' love and forgiveness, and she shared its beauty with everyone around her.

Esther was real. She was the first one to tell you her mistakes; she told us about her struggles; she asked for help; she was not religious, but she was seeking God's help, so she could be used by Him even in her fallenness. AND, SHE WAS USED BY HIM!

Now, we know that He has finished a masterpiece, and He made something beautiful out of her life! And, through her beauty, we are reminded once again that HE is beautiful!

I miss my friend deeply already, but I feel blessed that I was able to have known and learned from someone who so earnestly loved God and others (the two greatest commandments) and so completely rested in the sovereignty of our Creator that she reflected His glory on a daily basis.

Jedidiah Moss

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Editor: Luke Shawhan

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Meet Our 2014 Graduates



Yumeko Bradley started attending Grace Classical Academy in the 5th grade.

Yumeko plans to attend Missouri State University in the fall and would like to study kinesiology or radiology. She has an interest in pursuing a graduate degree in order to become a physician's assistant.

Yumeko has been most influenced by her parents and paternal grandmother. She enjoys a close relationship with her father and the discussions they have about God's truth. Yumi appreciates all the sacrifices her mom has made for her throughout her life. She recently had the opportunity to travel to Japan with her mom and meet her relatives. Yumeko was inspired by the experience and realized you can have a love for people even when you can't communicate in the same language.

Yumi has enjoyed her relationships with teachers and staff at GCA. She has enjoyed having her father, Mr. Bradley, as a teacher at Grace and appreciates his love for God, his job and his students. Yumeko also enjoyed Mr. Bowman as a teacher and his logical nature.

Some of Yumi's favorite memories from being a student at GCA were a field trip to the Cosmosphere, letters exchanged with friends over the years, and being a part of the George Mueller play. Best wishes, Yumeko, and thank you for being a part of GCA!

Leah Greenwood came to Grace Classical Academy in the 1st grade. Leah will be attending Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, Virginia, in the fall where she is interested in studying law or journalism. She is excited for the opportunity to spend a month in Europe this summer.

Leah has been most influenced in her life by her parents and the teachers and staff at GCA. She appreciates the innumerable lessons she has learned from all of them that are essential to her relationship with God and making it through life. She is especially thankful for the relationship she had with Mrs. Vandiver and how Mrs. V loved learning new things and enthusiastically sharing her experiences.

Leah has many fond memories of her years at GCA—one of the most fun being an overnight field trip that Mr. Bowman took students on to visit the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kansas. She has cherished the many fun moments with friends throughout the years.

Leah hopes to continue riding horses and has a dream to eventually study the classics at Oxford University in England. Leah, your GCA family wishes you well in all of your future endeavors!



Meet Our 2014 Graduates



Elizabeth Frazier started attending Grace Classical Academy in the 2nd grade. Elizabeth plans to continue studying violin performance following graduation and pursue music studies.

Elizabeth's life has been most influenced by her parents. She appreciates how they've always supported her and encouraged her to do her best. Most importantly, they have taught her Truth and the fear of the Lord.

Miss Cheryl Vandiver was Elizabeth's first teacher at GCA and was a huge comfort to her in 2nd grade and a wonderful friend over the years. Mrs. Vandiver had a huge impact on Elizabeth's life. Elizabeth appreciates how Mrs. V made math enjoyable for her and how she displayed her love for God in everything she taught.

One of Elizabeth's favorite memories from GCA was sitting in the library during Shakespeare class and discussing books and views. Another fun memory was a "snowball fight" in Mrs. Winkler's 7th grade class with paper.

Elizabeth, thank you for being a part of GCA and best wishes for a future that honors Christ!

Destin Harrison started attending GCA in 2001 during kindergarten. Destin is enrolled at Missouri State University for the fall and plans to study business and is excited to see what God has for his future.

Destin appreciates how his parents have raised him and influenced him in the way he should go and have provided for him. He has also been influenced by his extended family and friends and the joy they have brought to his life. Destin loves all of the wonderful memories he has shared with his classmates over the years.

Destin is thankful for Mr. and Mrs. Vandiver and how they impacted his life in the most important ways. He has appreciated the teachers at GCA who are as close as family to their students. Destin has also been influenced by his relationship with and admiration for Mr. Moss while at GCA.

Destin cherishes the memory of GCA coming together as the body of Christ to pray for and lay hands on Mrs. V this past year. Best wishes, Destin!



Meet Our 2014 Graduates

Mackenzie Steelman started attending Grace Classical Academy in the 4th grade.

Mackenzie hopes to begin attending College of the Ozarks this year. She also hopes to travel in the future and to have the opportunity to serve in orphanages.

Mackenzie has been most influenced in her life by her parents. She appreciates how her family has taught her to love, communicate and work with a servant's heart. Mackenzie is also amazed at how her friends have shown her the love of God. Without such wonderful family and friends, she would not be who she is today.

Mackenzie is thankful for how all of her teachers at GCA have blessed her in different ways. Mrs. Winkler has especially touched her life. 7th grade was a challenging year and Mackenzie remembers how Mrs. Winkler would take time out of her lunch break to tutor her and give her words of wisdom. Through those experiences, Mrs. Winkler became more than a teacher to her, she became a mentor and friend.

Mackenzie loves the countless good memories from being a part of GCA, especially the bagel breakfasts in Mrs. Winkler's class and the reaction all of her friends had when her family moved back from Oklahoma. Thank you for being a part of the GCA family, Mackenzie!



Davis Tolbert came to Grace Classical Academy in the 2nd grade. Davis will be attending Evangel University in the fall. He hopes to eventually transfer to the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla to pursue studies in the field of engineering.

Davis has been most influenced in life by his parents and grandparents. He has also enjoyed relationships with his teachers at GCA, especially his relationships with Mr. Bowman, Mr. Cymbaluk, and Mr. Larsen.

One of Davis' favorite memories from his years at GCA is the overnight field trip that the physics class took with Mr. Bowman to

the Cosmosphere. He also enjoyed the times playing soccer in the rain in PE class with Mr. C. All of the numerous slips and face shots were comical and there were no serious injuries!

Davis, your GCA family wishes you well!

Meet Our 2014 Graduates

Jonathan Vandiver started attending GCA the very first year the school was started by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Vandiver, and a few families. Jon will be attending College of the Ozarks and is excited to see what adventure God has for his life.

Jon appreciates the Godly influence his parents have had in his life and how they invested in his education through the years. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. V, have also been a huge influence in Jon's life through their wisdom and love for people. Dr. Brannan taught Jon how to think. Jon has also been influenced by his relationship with Mr. Larsen and how it was about much more than just Latin or learning another language. Mr. Flores also impacted Jon with his advice and fun. His relationships at GCA have been priceless.

One of Jonathan's favorite memories is the field trip to Hutchison, Kansas, to the CosmoSphere. The trip deepened friendships with classmates and parents.

Best wishes, Jonathan, for your future and all that God has in store for you!



Life Song by Esther Vandiver

There is a song whose melody
Is ever sounding in my ears;
And as I hear its tune once more,
I know I've known it well for years.
And yet I know it not so well
To know the next notes all by heart;
For right where I would put a run,
A brave staccato makes me start.
And where I think it's building up
To joyful and triumphant sound,
A minor streams in unaware,
And melancholy spreads around.
Yet just as unexpectedly,
When minor keys have had their run,
The tune picks up and dances round
And sounds as if it's having fun!
I know the tune within my heart...in part...
But one part I welcome like a friend: the end!

I cannot wait 'til it comes about:
The shout! The song!
The end of wrong!
The change in me!
The crystal sea!
The people. . .free!
O, let it be!

The Stone rejected,
At the time selected,
Gives the trumpet blast
And then it's home at last!

And then. . . .a song I do not know,
Buried very deep within
The God of all the universe
Will flow from Him,
And in my heart,
My brand new heart
Begin!!!!

Etiquette Banquet



Staff Birthdays

August

Aug 7- Caleb Marshall
Aug 9- Destin Harrison
Aug 10- Betty Herzog

September

Sept 12- Susan Tolbert
Sept 16- Dannette Gano



October

Oct 3- Kaydi Harp
Oct 3- Jody McNulty
Oct 14- Chris Beeson



2438 E Cherry Street
Springfield, MO 65802

Phone: 417.877.7910

Fax: 417.866.8409

www.graceclassical.org

E-mail: info@graceclassical.org

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August 2014

- 1 Tuition Due
- 4-8 Teacher Training
- 11 **Orientation,
7 PM**
- 13 **First Day
of School**
- 22 **Evening Prayer
for GCA, 7 PM**
- 29 Solid Color Day

September 2014

- 1 **No School:
Labor Day**
- 2 Tuition Due
- 3 Uniform
Order Day
- 26 Denim Day
- 26 **Family Fun Night,
6 PM**
- 30 **School Pictures**

October 2014

- 1 Tuition Due
- 1 **School Pictures**
- 10 **End of
1st Quarter**
- 13-17 **No School:
Fall Break**
- 13-15 Teacher Training
- 14-15 Optional P/T
Conferences
- 31 **Reformation Day**