FALL 2017

of good REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

★ PCS FALL FESTIVAL ★

First PCS Fall Festival Combines with the 52nd Annual Alumni White Elephant Sale

"It was a lot bigger deal than I expected!"

This was the comment from one of our school parents who attended our first annual PCS Fall Festival on Saturday, October 14.

The Fall Festival was actually the addition of increased activities surrounding the PCS Alumni Association's annual White Elephant Sale, which has been a PCS tradition for 52 years. The main White Elephant Sale yard sale booths and auctions were inside our gym. Outside of the gym, our back parking lot had been blocked off and surrounded by bouncy houses, a straw maze, food trucks and booths, face-painting, children's games, pumpkin painting, and a dunk-tank. At the center of it all was a large tent with a stage which hosted two live bands, one playing classic rock and the other Bluegrass music.

Inside the school building, the Alumni sold lunch in the cafeteria and incredible baked goods in a bake-shop. Down the hall was a room dedicated to a toy sale, which was well visited by many children.

Out front in the cafeteria parking lot the Parent-Teacher Fellowship hosted thirty booths by professional artisans and non-profit organizations that sold hand-made crafts. Nearby, a policeman and three firemen stood ready to let children experience their vehicles and receive gifts.

See, *PCS First Fall Festival*, Page 11

Sale of Portland property continues ministry in a much-loved community.

By RUTH SCHENK

No one buys a historic school. Unless it was your school. The place teachers loved you. The place you met lifelong friends. Maybe the only way someone would buy a school is if they're deep-down grateful for what happened in that community they still call home.

For years, the staff and board of Portland Christian School prayed for the right buyer for the building on Portland Ave. that has been home since 1924. They entertained offers. None fit until one offer came to the board from close to home.

The sale of the building on Portland Avenue to "Portland kids" Josie and Peter Crowe and Jeanetta Sharna is a surprise that makes everyone smile. Their dream is to provide hope and education for a new generation of kids through a daycare, after school tutors, a charter school and a safe place to play and learn.

The Crowes mulled over buying the building for a long time and starting the ministry. They moved back to Portland in 2014 and have seen needs up close.

"One day, I had to chase down a kid who stole from a vending machine near my work," Josie said. "I found the child in the Beecher Terrace Housing Project. I couldn't believe how many 11-year-olds have no supervision. They need something to do and someone to mentor and help them." PCS Executive Director Jodell Seay, also a "Portland kid," is thrilled. "We celebrate this sale," she said. "We were excited from the first moment we heard Josie's heart on this. The Lord made it clear that there is a great work to be accomplished in the community. We know those halls need to be filled with children, echoing with people loving on youth in the community, a calendar of activities that are a blessing to families and kids in the area. We believe we can continue to partner with this."

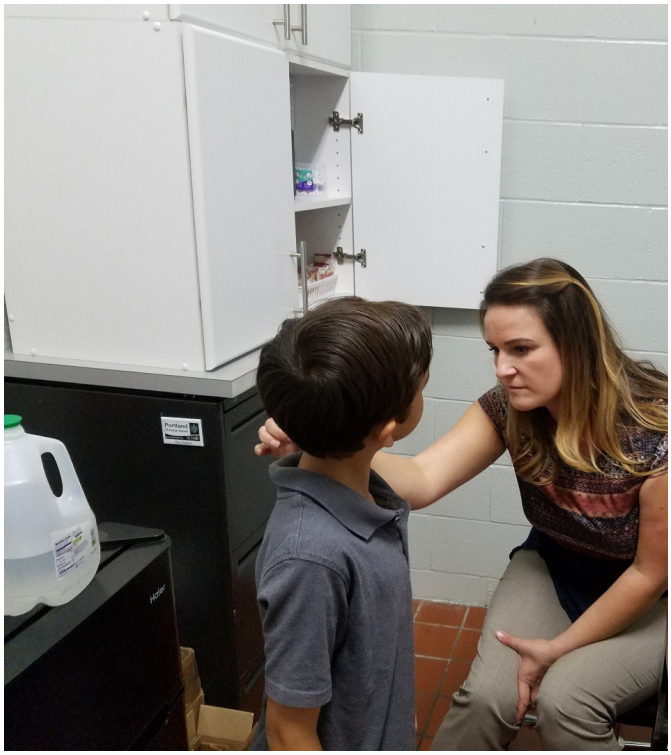
See, *Sale of Portland property*, Page 11

The Nurse is Now In!

By DAN WILSON

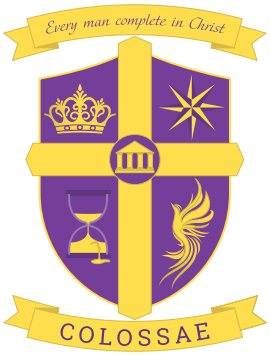
Until this year, when a student at PCS felt ill, they had to go to the school office and sit in a chair until a designated staff person could figure out how best to help them. Having an actual nurse of staff had been on the school's wish-list for years, but there was never a way to fit another salary into the budget. Then came Kosair Charities to the (surprise) rescue! This past April they gifted PCS with the first of four installments of $250,000 each! Suddenly, the dream of having a school nurse for our 450+ students could become a reality. The board of directors gladly approved using a portion of the Kosair gift to fund this critical position. Enter Erin Abell Barnett, 1997 graduate of PCS and a Registered Nurse with fifteen years of experience. She is a second generation graduate of PCS, and mother of three current PCS elementary students, Colt who is in 2 nd grade, and Levi & Colbie who are both in Kindergarten. Space was made in a work-room off the cafeteria and the PCS nurse is now in!

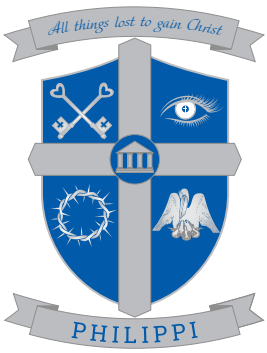
See, *The Nurse is Now In*, Page 9



Thoughts from Dr. Jason Mackey on Junior High and High School

We are experiencing many changes this year at Portland Christian School in the 7th-12th grades, and we are so excited! In addition to a face-lift in the gymnasium and fantastic graphics hung in the hallways, the biggest change has been the extension of our school day from 3:00pm to 3:15pm. This has allowed us to do two important things. First, our enrollment continues to climb--the seventh grade class is the largest class in the history of PCS and next year's senior class promises to be the largest graduating class in PCS history! A staggered dismissal helps to alleviate some of that congestion. Secondly, these extra fifteen minutes that have been added to the instructional time each day have given us an opportunity to take an hour on Friday afternoon to use for various activities. Called Focus Friday, seventh period on Fridays have been reclaimed to build community, school spirit, and focus on individual student growth. We have also implemented a House System for ninth through twelfth grades with each house named after early churches and based on the biblical ideas of heart, mind, soul, and strength. Our hope is that this will provide additional opportunities for student leadership and identity. Even with so many changes, much remains the same--a commitment to educate the whole child, a commitment to provide an opportunity for a decidedly Christian education to a wide range of students with varying academic abilities, and a commitment to partner with home and church to thoroughly equip students for their future. Thank you for help as we endeavor to do this to the glory of God.





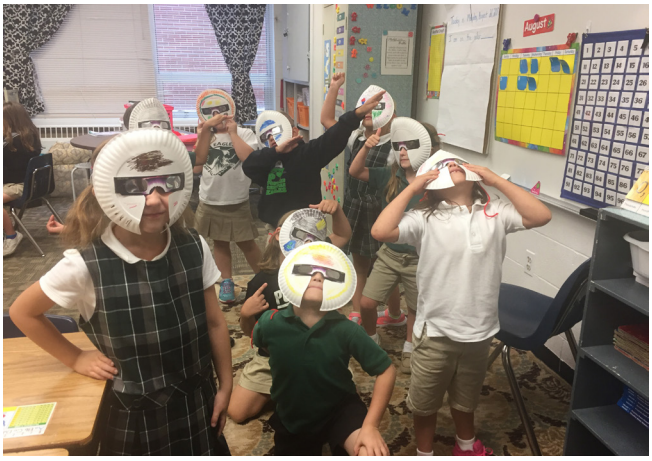
It's Elementary…!

"Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." Psalm 8:2

Driven by this year's theme "To Love as Christ Loves", and guided by the leadership of the best teachers on the planet, the elementary school program @Portland Christian School is off to a joyful and inspired start to the new school year.

"Eclipsed"!

Elementary students enjoyed the opportunity to view the eclipse in a variety of ways. In the classroom, teachers expertly used the occasion to foster hands-on learning using technology and the acting skills of their students. For instance, Mrs. Reger's class worked in groups to take turns demonstrating the sun's pathway towards meeting the earth and the moon; Mrs. Bragg's class improved the design of their safety glasses to enhance their outdoor viewing experience. Teachers also used their Starboard™ and Apple™ technology to track this once in a lifetime occurrence. Each teacher skillfully tied the sovereignty of God and the wonder of His creation into every lesson.



Running Our Race!

The 2017 Elementary Cross-Country season came to a successful end on October 7th. The team, which included 14 students in 4th thru 6th grade, experienced the joy of long distance running for the first time. In addition to their dedicated training to run their best individual race, this amazing group of young runners can be counted on to encourage and support each other in the spirit of 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Marshall McCartney and Ava Gish were recognized as the Cross Country Athletes of the 2017 season. Ava was also recognized as the female Cross Country Athlete with the highest GPA (4.0), and Jackson Istre was recognized at the male Cross Country Athlete with the highest GPA (4.33) The Cross-Country team was led by Dr. Gray. She was assisted by PCS parent, Mr. Brent Gish, and supported by PCS cross country parents and PCS Assistant Athletic Director, Mrs. Marie Settle.

Ready, Set, Spike!

Interest in Elementary Girls Volleyball combined with an increase in enrollment catapulted the Elementary Volleyball program into two teams. Under the leadership of Head Coaches Mrs. Jackie Bragg (1st Grade Teacher) and Mr. Bob Matthews (PCS Parent), the teams are enjoying of season of friendship, athleticism as they serve as godly ambassadors of their school in the classroom and on the volleyball court. Emma McDonald and Jenna Roque were recognized as the volleyball athletes earning the highest GPAs.

Joyful Noise!

On Monday, September 11th, The Ugandan Children's Choir, sponsored by Parental Care Ministries, blessed our combined Elementary Chapel service and Grandparents Week kick-off with songs and dances that invited worship, reflected God's love and allowed students to briefly experience the rich language and culture of the nation of Uganda. Choir members discussed their life and faith as they visited classrooms and chatted with students and teachers during lunch. Students and teachers alike were struck by the pure joy with which the students celebrated their love of Christ.

Hump Day Hymns!

4th Graders in Ms. Catherine Haley's class are learning the history and heart of the hymns of the Christian faith. Every Wednesday morning, Ms. Haley invites a guest to share their favorite hymn with her class. Following a brief history of the week's hymn, students join their guest to sing a few stanzas of the selected hymn. PCS is grateful for Ms. Haley's mid-week celebration and embrace of the songs that have inspired and anchored generations of Christians.

An Allergic Shepherd!

Mark your calendar! Students in Kindergarten thru 3rd grade are busy preparing for their December 14th Christmas production. Under the direction of Mrs. Amy Lawyer-Brown, students will present, "Aaron the Allergic Shepherd", the story of a zany shepherd on the job in Bethlehem…there's just one problem...he's allergic to sheep! Join us as this allergic shepherd witnesses the greatest miracle of all times!

Pray for Us

You are invited to join the prayers of our students and faculty for our school and each other. We pray that God will continually remind us of the deposit of faith and praise that He has provided to each of us; that we will be exceptional stewards of this good deposit; that we will consistently "fan into flame" the bright light within ourselves and others (2 Timothy 1: 6-14).

The Trip that Changed Me

What PCS Students Learned from the Children of Poland

"This trip has changed me."
"Loving the kids was so easy."
"This trip has made me bold with my love for others."

This past July a team of 17 students and adults from Portland Christian School travelled to Poland to work with a Christian ministry called PROeM. At PROeM's English camp, PCS students taught English using lessons, games, and conversation. On the weekend they toured the WWII death camp at Auschwitz, an 800 year old salt mine, and experienced Polish culture in the city of Krakow.

Beyond the work done and sights seen, as a group the team learned valuable lessons about themselves and came home with a greater understanding of the God they went to serve. In their own words:

"I learned God can use you at the most random moments."
"God has taught me that if you pray about something, God will answer it."
"God has shown me that even if you cannot say a word to someone you can still make a connection with them."

"I learned to have confidence in myself when it comes to being an example to kids. I can overcome my fears through trusting God to use me as a role model. This especially helped me with my fear of one day raising my own kids."

Little School News

The Lord continues to bless our Little School in many ways. He has blessed us with returning families and has sent 22 brand new families to us. The teachers are busy creating atmospheres not only to enhance the love of learning basic, developmental skills, but they are also planting seeds of Biblical truth throughout the curriculum each day. As I walk the halls of Little School and enter classrooms, I hear memory verses being recited from the 2 year olds to the four year olds. I am always amazed, and in awe of just how truly blessed we are. How very thankful and humbled I am that the Lord has entrusted us to guide the hearts of these little ones in His truth!

Portland Christian School's
Passing God's Truth to the Next Generation

Legacy 2024

Help a Child Receive a Christian Education Today…
…Leave a Legacy for Eternity

INTRODUCING

PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S

LEGACY 2024

Our passion at Portland Christian School is to minister to the whole child so that they ultimately become more like Jesus. Since the day PCS opened ninety-four years ago, many children who could not otherwise afford it have been able to receive this Christ-centered education because of the generosity of others. On the following page is the story of four generations of one family impacted by the generosity shown to one school boy.

In 2024 Portland Christian School will celebrate our one-hundredth year – a legacy of God's providence. As we look forward to this milestone, we are seeking new partners who will help to continue this legacy for future generations. We invite you to join those who are already carrying on this legacy by making a monthly donation to PCS through our Legacy 2024 campaign. Your monthly gifts, large or small, will help us continue to pass God's Truth to the next generation.

From a PCHS Alumna comes this testimony:

"As an alumna of Portland Christian School I know the blessings I have reaped from the gifts of others over the years when I was a student there. Not a day passes by that I don't remember a memory verse or teaching from PCS that affects my life, as well of those of my family and friends. So, you see, the blessings are not just for the students but for those whom their lives will touch in the future.

"It is an ongoing gift which my husband and I are so glad we can share by helping pay the tuition for one of the students currently at PCS. We hope he and others will pay this gift forward after he graduates. The academic teaching is superb, but the most important education one receives at PCS is about spiritual truths, because every subject is taught from a Bible-based perspective.

"This is due to the fine, dedicated staff who sacrifice much higher salaries from other schools so they can teach at PCS because they see the importance of teaching and influencing young lives from God's Word, not the world's perspective. We hope their salaries can be raised also as they share their lives and Bible knowledge with our students in and out of the classroom."

You are only a few clicks away from becoming part of the legacy!

1. Go to ***portlandchristian.org***
2. Select ***Support PCS*** in the menu bar at the top
3. Click on ***Give Now***
4. Click on ***Set-Up Recurring Gifts with Credit Card or Bank Transfers***
5. Select ***First Time***?
6. ***Set up*** your account
7. ***Pray*** regularly for PCS and our students!

Four Generations of Blansett Family History tied to PCS

By RUTH SCHENK

It's easy for Brother Joe Blansett, 97, to see how Portland Christian School impacted his life and the next three generations of his family. As PCS celebrates its 94th school year, Joe has lived 87 years of that history.

Joe and Martha McKibbin Blansett

It was a different day when Joe first attended PCS in 1930 as a fourth-grader. Only the wealthy owned cars then. Joe rode the streetcar to PCS on days he wasn't playing baseball. We he was playing baseball he rode his bicycle because streetcar tokens expired at 4 p.m. It was the beginning of the Great Depression, and times were tough.

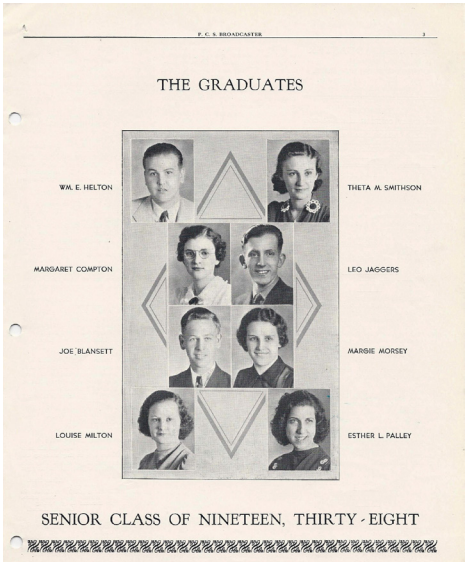
Portland Christian School was family-sized and cozy then. They made room for children who could not afford tuition.

"We had three classes in one room," Joe said. "It was just a room, a chalkboard and a desk. I enjoyed the kids and the teachers—all of it. I especially liked the lessons from the Bible and the singing."

Sports teams were different too. Players on the baseball team brought whatever equipment they owned. There were no umpires or uniforms. No Nikes or Adidas cleats.

Extracurricular activities included going to the old Marine Hospital in Portland to sing and pray with patients.

Joe said attending PCS was all part of God's bigger plan. It was where his faith grew and where he met Martha—the love of his life.



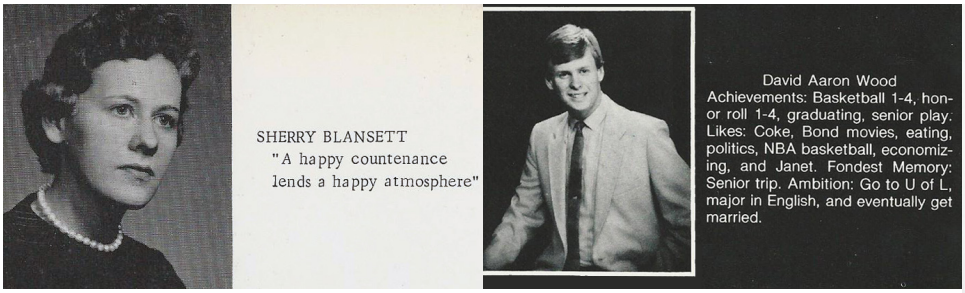
Joe Blansett Class of 1938

"She came from a dysfunctional family who had no interest in the Lord," Joe said. "Her father was an alcoholic. I believe the Lord was working in her life to bring her to Portland. When she came in the seventh grade, she knew nothing about the Bible or the Lord. She was put in a class with girls who had been in Sunday school all their lives. They took her in and she was led to the Lord. We were forever grateful for that."

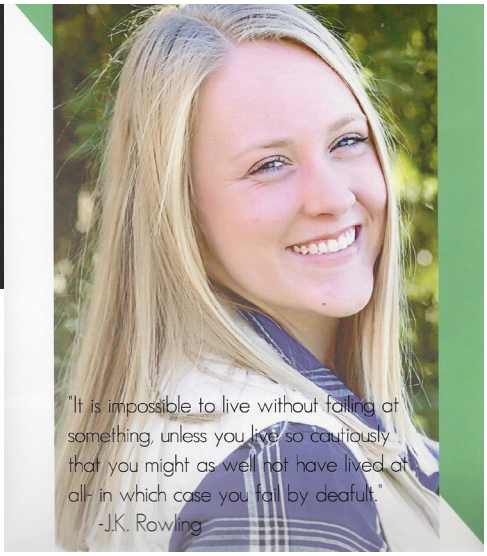
After graduating with eight classmates in 1938, Joe studied business at Spencerian College and got a job at American Creosote Company, making ties for the railroad.

In 1940 he married Martha. Less than two years later he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served through World War II.

During the next 64 years of their marriage, Joe served as an elder and led singing at Buechel Church of Christ, 5th and M Church of Christ, and Southeast Church of Christ, where Martha hosted legendary Sunday dinners. Their door was always open.



Sherry Blansett Wood Grandson David Wood Class of 1985



Great Granddaughter Carolyn Wood
Class of 2016

PCS became a family tradition for the Blansetts.

In May 2016, Joe's great granddaughter, Caroline Wood, became the first fourth generation PCS graduate from one family. She followed in the footsteps of her father, David Wood, her grandmother, Sherry Blansett Wood, and her great grandfather, Joe.

"We wanted our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to go to PCS so they would know the Word, be taught by Christian teachers and be prepared to live the Christian life," Joe said. "I pray that legacy will live on." Joe has been a life-long prayer warrior for the ministry of PCS.

Executive Director Jodell Seay said Joe was always encouraging—even through a challenging time as classes moved to Westport Road. When they were remodeling the building, Joe showed up with a lawn chair and paintbrush. Though he cannot see, Joe painted wall bricks by Braille.

Joe Blansett's story is one many that demonstrate the beautiful legacy that God has created through Portland Christian School.

See story on page 7 for how your family can continue this legacy for PCS.

The Nurse is Now In!

Continued from Page 2

Erin's desire to become a nurse began while she was a student at PCS. She tells of an assignment in Mrs. Miller's 9th grade English class in which each student had to list a career field in which they were interested. "I chose Nursing," she recalls. But it was during a mission trip during the summer after Erin's 10th grade year that really established her career path. "I went on a medical mission trip to Honduras led by Ms. Schreiner and really loved helping the people there. After that, I knew Nursing was what I was meant to do."

When asked what she liked about her job here, Erin said, "I've always enjoyed working with kids and here I am able to do that. I also like that I'm able to create a new position from the ground up, plus I love being able to be with my kids during their school day and to be involved at their school."

But the job has been nothing like she imagined. "I've been super busy seeing kids all day long…so clearly there was a huge need for this position. Plus, I think the students are excited that there's an actual nurse here, so they want to come see what the Health Room is all about. I look forward to really digging in with some training and health promotion/education type things for students and staff."

In reality EVERYONE at PCS is excited that we have an actual nurse, and one that's great with kids. We are so thankful to God for using Kosair to help us bring Erin back to serve in this position at the place where her dream started!

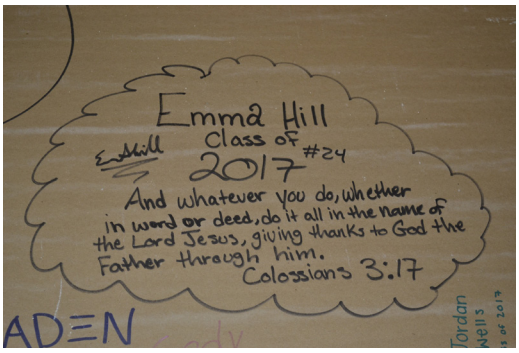
God's Amazing Provision for a New Classroom Wing

> Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
> make known among the nations what he has done.
> Sing to him, sing praise to him;
> tell of all his wonderful acts.
> Glory in his holy name;
> let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
> Look to the LORD and his strength;
> seek his face always.
> Remember the wonders he has done. Psalm 105:1-5a

As we moved into our new campus on Westport Road in 2012, we knew that we would need to add more instructional space fairly soon if our numbers increased at all.

Our enrollment did increase, and in July 2015 the PCS Board of Directors **STEPPED OUT IN FAITH** again and made the decision to begin the process of building four new classrooms, even though at the time we did not know how we were going to pay for them. We did not have time to run a capital campaign and we could not take on any more debt, so this was a step of faith.

But as He has done so many times, **GOD AMAZED US** with His provision. He raised up God's people to give, including some extraordinary gifts that we did not expect. The smallest gift was $2 and the largest was $200,000! All of these gifts given in Jesus' name are of equal blessing. Then in April of this year we received the final gift that paid off the cost of building those classrooms in full even before they were officially completed. We say thank you to our Heavenly Father for His abundant provision and we praise His Name!



THANK YOU to all who gave gifts along the way in any amount. Each of you has invested in the future generations of students who will be instructed in these new classrooms.

Celebration Dinner 2017 at The Olmsted

Ruth Graham gave a strong appeal for all to support God's work at Portland Christian School. She encouraged us to not look down on the small things, whether the size of the school or the size of their gift, using the example of the widow's offering from Luke 21. Over 300 guests were treated to a wonderful evening of fellowship, food, music, a PCS video and Ruth's inspirational message. This year the PCS Parent-Teacher Fellowship hosted a successful silent auction that earned them funds for their activities and provided a fun atmosphere of fellowship before dinner began. Many thanks to all who attended and to those who generously gave towards the ministry of PCS! We are also grateful to our generous sponsors and ask that you consider giving them your business.

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fellowship church

PCS First Fall Festival

Continued from Page 1

The campus began to fill up by the opening of the event at 9:00 a.m. and by noon, all available parking spaces had been filled and vehicles were being parked on the front hillsides. During the day over 500 vehicles entered our campus!

While the event was a chance for our alumni association, PTF, and 10th, 11th and 12th grades to raise funds for their activities this school year, the primary goal was to provide an event that would bring the PCS Family together for fellowship and fun.

Judging by the smiling faces and the large crowd that stuck around for several hours, it appears that goal was met. Benjamin Miller, Class of 1999, may have summed up the day with his online post, "Had a blast at the Portland Christian School Fall Festival."

Thank God for His goodness in giving great weather and a beautiful campus to host such an event.

Portland property

Continued from Page 2

Seay said the Portland community has a rich heritage.
"Portland functions as a village," she said. Everybody pitches in for the kids. Businesses such as Shaheens Department Store worked with me when I had children without coats or clothes. The community will love this."
The ministry will be called Meredith House after late PCS basketball coach Joe Meredith. "Joe let anybody play basketball," Josie said. "He loved every kid. His big heart for kids is a huge part of what we'll be doing here."
Joe's wife Sherry works at PCS. "It took a few days to sink in," she said. "Joe graduated from Shawnee High School, then served as the coach at PCS. I've always known Joe was special. I've learned that Joe just being Joe had a big impact. Everyone at the school was so good to us when Joe was sick. They held fundraisers, provided gift cards and donated frequent flyer miles so we could get to M.D. Anderson in Texas for treatment. This is a great honor."
Josie said the school is move-in ready except for some painting. Meredith House will open early in 2018 with an early childhood development program, AAU athletics, after-school programs, Math and Science initiatives, K-5 programing and educational support as well as a food program that will give kids three healthy meals a day.

PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
8509 WESTPORT ROAD
LOUISVILLE, KY 40242

# of good REPORT

JOIN US FOR OUR THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Join us for the annual Thanksgiving Service held each year at PCS. The service will be held on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19** starting at **6:00 PM**.

There will be congregational singing, a performance by the PCS High School Choir, and a Thanksgiving message brought by Brother Bud Ridgeway, Minister at Beuchel Church of Christ. The Thanksgiving offering to benefit PCS will be taken as usual.