Dear Parents, Alumni and Friends of LCS,

One.

Upon first glance at the theme of the 2015-16 LCS yearbook, the reader might surmise that the focus is on being #1, on individual achievement, on the goal of getting to the top. However, a look inside reveals expressions of One mission, One calling, One mind, One Savior, One purpose and One story. These themes reflect the strong sense of community that characterizes LCS.

There is great synergy in a community that is unified by commitment to common goals and values rooted in biblical Truth. Unity of mission, vision and purpose is critical as we strive to educate students in the light of God's Word in these challenging times. It is not a day for going it alone. We are grateful for the continuing commitment of our students, parents, alumni and friends that enables LCS to thrive.

We are pleased to present this Annual Report for the 2015-16 school year. The purpose of this publication is to provide a snapshot of the progress of the school, increase financial transparency and to express appreciation for the generous financial support that is so important in providing high-quality Christian schooling for our families. We take our stewardship responsibilities seriously and strive to deliver not only a high return on investment but, more importantly, we want to achieve the highest possible return on mission in the lives of our students.
As LCS entered our sixth decade, school leadership launched a strategic planning effort. We contracted with consultant Dr. Alan Pue of The Barnabas Group to facilitate this process. A task force of thirty parents, board members, teachers, staff and administrators engaged in a six-month process of assessment and goal setting, culminating in the publishing of Always Better: Strategic Initiatives for LCS in the spring of 2016. Informational meetings were held for parents and the plan posted on the website.

**Always Better** outlines four areas of priority for the next few years. Initiatives include Spiritual Formation, Instructional Innovation, Facilities and Financial Sustainability. Goals have been developed in each area. Specific action steps and leadership teams for each initiative began to be assembled in the summer of 2016.

The school staff invested heavily in the preparation for our five-year accreditation renewal visit scheduled for the fall of 2016. The process of self study and curriculum review was complemented by the strategic planning process as well as by multiple parent and student surveys. All of these activities contributed to our goal of continual school improvement.

The 2014-15 Annual Report reflected a deficit in the school’s operations budget. The 2015-16 tuition increase, combined with a slight growth in enrollment, alleviated that issue. The school staff continued to closely examine expenditures to ensure delivery of the highest-quality education at the most accessible cost.

The first annual Victories and Voyages Gala was produced by the Shield Maidens in February and raised more than $170,000 for financial aid. LCS received a $90,000 grant from the Christian Education Charitable Trust in Chattanooga, Tennessee to foster instructional and program innovation in the secondary school through the RISE Institute. This represents the largest grant ever received by LCS for the enhancement of the instructional program. We rejoice in these blessings that enable LCS to touch so many young lives.

In April, the LCS community grieved the homegoing of our beloved kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Karen Latimer. Karen was an outstanding member of the LCS faculty for nine years. Her high expectations, blended with her tender care for her students, enabled children to form a firm foundation for the years to come. Her wise counsel was reassuring to parents just beginning the schooling journey. The school community grieved our loss and rejoiced in the hope and assurance that she is with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

We were made for community. Genesis 1:26 gives us a glimpse into the divine Trinity with the words, “Then God said, let us make man in our image ...” The Trinitarian Godhead functioned in community at creation and we have been made in His image. When we function in a community of interdependence we reflect the Creator and thus glorify Him. We are grateful for the many members of the LCS community who continue to contribute to the oneness that is LCS.

Sola deo Gloria.

**Mike Sligh**, Ed. D.
Headmaster

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The mission of Lakeland Christian School is to **EDUCATE STUDENTS** in the light of **GOD’S WORD** to equip them for a **LIFETIME OF LEARNING**, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND WORSHIP.
What’s inside:
LCS at a Glance 5  Highlights by the Numbers 6  LCS Enrollment 10
LCS Financials 11  LCS Giving 12  Ministry Partners 14  Commemorative Gifts 17  The Future 18

Lakeland Christian School is pleased to present this report on its wide-ranging and vibrant activity for the 2015-16 school year. You will find a sampling of campus-wide highlights, enrollment figures, a statement of operations and the impact of stewardship giving on the school.

Through this Annual Report, you’ll see how God continues to abundantly bless LCS with substantial student and faculty accomplishments, an increasing enrollment, sound fiscal management and generous stewardship support.

These critical indicators reflect an institution that takes the “always better” theme to heart ... all for the sake of children and young people.

We hope you’ll be encouraged and God will be honored by the information presented on the following pages.
A SCHOOL ALWAYS ON THE MOVE

Lakeland Christian is one of the nation’s premier private Christian schools, providing challenging academics, championship athletics and award-winning fine arts. The school’s primary distinction, though, is the Biblical worldview that permeates every facet of school life.

The following information describes the dynamic LCS of today, a school committed to higher levels of excellence with each passing year.

THE SCHOOL
- Polk County’s oldest and largest K4-12 private school – established in 1954
- Non-denominational
- Biblical worldview
- Extensive co-curricular program
- School families represent more than 170 different local churches
- Accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) and the Florida Kindergarten Council (FKC)
- Member of the following associations: Florida Association of Academic Non-Public Schools (FAANS), Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), Florida Vocal Association (FVA), Florida School Music Association (FSMA)

ACADEMICS
- Engaging and challenging curriculum
- 90% of graduates pursue college
- Test scores exceed local, state and national averages
- 38 AP and Honors courses offered

FACULTY
- Teachers maintain professional certification in their fields
- Student-to-faculty ratio is 15:1
- 37% of faculty hold master’s degrees
- 38% of teachers have taught at LCS for 10 years or more

ATHLETICS
- 36 teams in 13 sports, grades 6-12
- 22 State titles, 20 State Runners-up
- Outstanding on-campus stadium and gym
- 66% of students in grades 6-12 participate in athletics

ARTS
- Award-winning band and choir programs
- Musical production and play each year
- 448 students participate in the Fine Arts program
- Private piano lessons available
Seniors graduated from Lakeland Christian on Monday, June 6.

Scholarship dollars Qualified for the Bright Futures Scholarships for use in state colleges and universities.

Junior Julia Canady has been selected to present her research at the International Science & Engineering Fair. For the second year in a row, Julia earned the Fourth Place Grand Award in the Plant Science category for her research creating a new biological herbicide to protect against Round-Up resistant weeds.

The grade Neil Dave was in when he won the Polk County Spelling Bee and represented LCS at the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Silver Garland award winner Vaviel Verner tallied. She won in the music category.

Community Service Hours that Silver Garland award winner Vaviel Verner tallied. She won in the music category.
Faculty members attended the Learning & the Brain conference in Boston. The theme was “The Science of Character: Using Brain Science to Raise Student Self-Regulation, Resilience and Respect.”

Elementary Academic Teams throughout Polk County started the season with hopes of making the final round. The LCS 5th grade team **won first place** in the county in its first year of competition.

RISE STUDENTS PRESENTED PROJECTS AT THE FLORIDA STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR.

The LCS RISE Mock Trial Team won the Circuit 10 Mock Trial competition against the George Jenkins Law Academy. The seven team members went on to compete in the Florida State High School Mock Trial Finals and finished 10th in the state.

**19 years - Wayne Shimko** served as Secondary Principal before transitioning back into the classroom.

As in “Project Zero.” English teacher **Gaye Lene Hasha** was awarded the first of five LCS Teacher-Designer grants to implement Harvard’s Project Zero critical thinking strategies in her middle school English classroom.

**40 years - Lorraine Latham** has been serving in the Fine Arts Department.
5 DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS during the 15-16 school year.

Kristen Beacham became the first LCS athlete to be featured in Sports Illustrated. The senior softball player appeared in the “Faces in the Crowd” column of the May 23, 2016, issue.

10 SENIORS signed letters of intent to play college sports.

287 TOTAL POINTS Earned by Viking athletes during the year to give LCS The Ledger’s annual All-Sports Award for the Small Schools Division.

The number of consecutive State Final Four appearances by the Girls’ Varsity Soccer Team.

9 RUNS scored by the Lady Vikings softball team in their State Championship win over University Christian. It was their second consecutive state title.
Students in grades 3-12 made up the cast of the fall musical, *Mary Poppins*.

Senior art students had their work on display as part of the 15th Annual Congressional Art Show at the Polk Museum of Art. Fareed Khamitov’s piece – *The Man Who Sold the World* – was purchased by the Polk Museum to be part of their permanent collection.

Secondary musicians were selected to perform with All State Bands and Choirs at the Florida Music Educators’ Association Professional Development Conference in January.
## Enrollment Reflects Growing Community

Lakeland Christian School was blessed with an increased enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. Although LCS constantly monitors numbers, the school realizes that more students means the opportunity to impact more young lives. As more families join the LCS community, more children and young people are reached for the sake of the Gospel.

### Enrollment Figures 2015-16

**Total: 1063**

- Elementary: 425
- Middle School: 255
- High School: 369
- Discovery: 14

### Enrollment Details by Year

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<td>2015-16</td>
<td>1063</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>14</td>
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</table>
SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHARACTERIZES LCS

LCS strives to be a careful, conscientious steward of the resources necessary to manage the school operation. Lakeland Christian is pleased to once again present a solid statement of operations for the 2015-16 school year. The school’s financial priorities are to provide opportunities to become “always better,” while maintaining sound principles of management.

**REVENUE**
- Tuition and Fees $ 9,698,170
- Contributions $ 271,579
- Athletics/Food Service $ 1,564,317
- Other $ 84,557
- **Total Revenue** $ 11,618,623

**EXPENSES**
- Salaries and Benefits $ 7,342,377
- Instruction $ 902,141
- Financial Aid $ 479,482
- General Operating Expenses $ 563,239
- Plant Operations and Repairs $ 745,383
- Technology $ 150,965
- Capital Expenditures $ 435,000
- Athletics/Food Service $ 786,627
- Other $ 8,707
- **Total Expenses** $ 11,413,921
- **Surplus from Operations** $ 204,702

A complete copy of the auditors’ report and corresponding financials are available for review in the school office.
COLLEGES THAT THE 2016 SENIORS PLANNED TO ATTEND

Anderson University, Auburn University, Belmont University, Berklee College of Music, Coffeyville Community College, College of Charleston, Daytona State College, Flagler College, Florida College, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida International University, Florida Polytechnic University, Florida Southern College, Florida SouthWestern State College, Florida State College, Florida State University, Focus 4 Beauty Career Institute, Fordham University, Geneva College, Hillsborough Community College, Liberty University, Louisiana State University, Mississippi College, New College of Florida, Polk State College, Samford University, Santa Fe College, Simmons College, Southeastern University, Stetson University, Tallahassee Community College, Temple University, Toccoa Falls College, Troy University, United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Marine Corps, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Miami, University of North Florida, University of South Carolina, University of South Florida

FAITHFUL STEWARDS BLESS LCS WITH GENEROUS GIVING

Operating an excellent Christian school like LCS is expensive. And as Lakeland Christian seeks to be “always better,” that progress requires an investment. The needs of an outstanding school will always exceed revenue from tuition and fees – especially when the school makes a concerted effort to maintain modest tuition increases. So, LCS counts on the giving of ministry partners, those who provide faithful support to the school year after year. The following information reflects their heartfelt generosity:

**Given/Pledged by Constituency:**
- School Parents: 146 gifts • $91,266
- Grandparents: 101 gifts • $93,938
- Alumni: 25 gifts • $39,826
- Alumni Parents: 97 gifts • $44,320
- Employees: 1,120 gifts • $41,884
- Other: 338 gifts • $395,419

**Given/Pledged by Funds**
- Deliver the Dream Campaign: $30,420 • 48 gifts
- Financial Aid: $128,471 • 127 gifts
- Families in Crisis: $23,120 • 59 gifts
- Viking Fund: $252,131 • 1,234 gifts
- Other: $272,511 • 359 gifts

**2015-16**
- **Total Number of Gifts**
  - 1,827
- **Total Giving**
  - $706,653
The Viking Fund is the annual giving initiative of Lakeland Christian School, where LCS families and friends provide financial gifts to help provide important school opportunities. Viking Fund contributions help LCS continue to provide a vibrant experience for children and young people. During the 2015-16 school year, Viking Fund gifts provided support to the following school initiatives:

- Campus enhancement – covered walkways & cafeteria courtyard pavilion
- RISE Institute Upgrades – high-end editing equipment
- Instructional Support – Passport Voyager & Reading Plus
- Financial Aid Support

The total given through the 2015-16 Viking Fund was $252,131

LCS hosted its first-ever Gala, in February 2016. The Voyages & Victories Gala will become the primary school-wide special event and will shine a spotlight on the need for financial aid support each year. Proceeds from this Maiden Voyage, and all future galas, will provide needed tuition assistance to families with a demonstrated need. This event – under the stars on the shore of Lake Morton – included musical entertainment, moving testimonies and a lively auction. The real winners were the children and young people who will be at LCS through the generosity of sponsors and attendees.

More than $171,000 was raised through this event.

HOW TO Give to LCS

Good financial planning honors God. It may also help you avoid unnecessary taxes and make a larger gift.

CASH GIFTS AND PLEDGES may be made as a single gift or a pledge. Online giving is available.

APPRECIATED ASSETS (appreciated stock or real estate you have owned for more than one year) will generate a tax deduction based upon fair market value.

TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY giving will enjoy certain tax advantages.

GIFTS IN KIND possibilities are limitless. LCS uses and needs many goods and services.

MATCHING GIFTS for current or retired employees are offered by many corporations.

PLANNED GIFTS allow you to maximize your giving and/or minimize the impact on your estate.

For more information, contact: Steve Wilson, CCNL Director of Advancement 863-688-2771 | swilson@lcsonline.org

The LCS Shield Maidens are moms who meet as an advisory council on the advancement of Lakeland Christian School. During the 2015-16 school year, this new group helped plan the Viking Fund student pep rally, the “Tied to the Viking Nation” shirts, the Fall Festival, parties for both elementary and secondary Viking Fund winners, and the colored-water balloon fun. The group also hosted the first-ever Voyages and Victories Gala on February 18, 2016.

These moms want to make the LCS experience one that is above and beyond for the entire student body at Lakeland Christian School. The Shield Maidens meet once or twice each month and are led by Mrs. Kristen Hitchcock, Associate Director of Advancement.

“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked ones.” – Ephesians 6:16
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Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Smith
Ms. Linda Trumble
Mr. Mike Turner
Ms. Marsie White
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. White
Mr. and Mrs. Jerre W. Wilson

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Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Knowlton

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The Honorable and Mrs. Charles Canady

Given by:
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Haggerty

In honor of:
Porter, Sarah and Taylor Stiles

Given by:
Mrs. Nancy Miller
The Future...

... isn’t what it used to be. Or so says that great American philosopher, Yogi Berra. And Yogi’s right! Through God’s grace, the future of our Lakeland Christian School continues to improve year after year.

“Always Better” isn’t simply a nifty marketing slogan. It’s the essential culture being cultivated at Lakeland Christian by the Board, the Administration, the faculty and staff ... indeed, by the entire LCS community.

We want to be consistently and intentionally better in every aspect. Always. As we strive to deliver an outstanding Christian education, our “always better” outlook quite naturally receives its inspiration from God’s Word. “We urge you ... to excel more and more.” (I Thess. 4:10)

Ten years ago, I began describing Lakeland Christian as a “school on the move.” At that time the school was blessed by a campus transformation that was accompanied by a commitment to even higher levels of excellence in the classroom. I am pleased to report that this momentum continues to unprecedented levels.

Most of the progress in the coming year will be a reflection of the school’s Strategic Initiatives presented in early 2016. LCS will cultivate an authentic faith community, grow a culture of instructional innovation, provide new facilities to support the school’s robust programs and focus on maintaining long-term financial stability.

Important work has already been accomplished toward each of these initiatives as Dr. Sligh and his senior staff members continue pursuing these critical school components.

Thank you for being an important part of the LCS community. I’m grateful for all those who partner with us in this significant endeavor to sharpen the minds and shepherd the hearts of children and young people.

Cordially yours,

Kevin C. Knowlton
Senior Shareholder, Peterson & Myers, P.A.
Chairman, LCS Board of Directors
ALWAYS Better
“... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Philippians 4:8