

THE FLETCHER SPIRIT

July 2001

What Is A Gift?

Editors Corner

Greetings once again to each of you. Many good things are happening here at Fletcher Academy, and we want to share as many of them as possible with you so you can stay abreast of all the things that you may have a special interest in. So as you read through the newsletter, if you see a project you would like to be involved in, please let us know!

In the Editors Corner last time, I touched briefly on the topic of not being able to 'go', but helping to send someone who could. As I was thinking back over that subject, someone came to mind that I would like to share a bit about and some of the things she has done; one in particular that has special significance for me.

When I first came to this area I was searching for a church home and I was not an Adventist at the time. I lived in the neighborhood of the Arden SDA church, and one day as I was passing, I saw on the sign out front that they were having a seminar relating to end-times prophecy. That sounded interesting, so I decided to attend. I did not begin attending the church at that time, but did later due to another seminar there. To make a long story short, I began to go regularly and soon joined the church.

The point I want to make is; had it not been for the marquee (sign) out front, I would not have been aware of either seminar (Dwight Nelson or Doug Batchelor). Not too long ago, I met the lovely lady who gave that sign to the church. She resides here at Fletcher Park Inn, and her name is Mrs. Esther Kootsey. She told me that even though she is mostly confined to her apartment, she still loves to give in ways that will touch many people. Thank you, Miss Esther for giving such a 'visible' gift. Who knows how many other people have come to visit the church because of that sign? And who knows how many people we might see in Heaven who will say *Thank You* for a gift we don't even remember. Giving itself is a gift.

All gifts are not monetary, however; there are many upon which we cannot put a price. How much does it cost to smile? How much can you charge for a hug? Does a kind word have a price tag or could you calculate the worth of sharing the Gospel with someone? I think not. We all have our own concept of what constitutes a gift, and may have been the recipient of one that was priceless to us. And what should we do with such a gift? There is not one of those gifts named above that cannot be shared; and

in so doing, increases the value, *not price*, of any one of them. The next time you receive something that you consider a truly priceless gift, try sharing it with someone else while it is still 'fresh', and see if it does not double in value with the sharing. Challenge the person with whom you share it to do the same, and watch the value skyrocket!

If you think that you have no gift to give, look at all the things that interest you and see if there is some aspect of one of them that you could share with someone else. You just might be surprised at how 'gifted' you are! But more importantly, *pray* that God will show you how to use that gift to bless others as He has used it to bless you. And take the time to do the things that most of us can do; share the hugs, the smiles, the encouraging words. Jesus said, "*If you have done it unto the least of these, my brothers, you have done it unto me.*" And wouldn't we love to know that one day, we will hear Him say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into my rest.*"? So 'give the gifts that keep on giving', and believe that with each gift, Jesus is sharing His love and His smiles with us.

God Bless All.

FA ALUMNI ALERT!!!

June to October sounds like a long time, but it will be here before you know it! Already many are making plans for the next reunion to be held the first weekend of October; that is Oct. 5, 6 & 7. Now is the time to let persons who are in charge know what you are thinking and what you would like to see addressed at the reunion. If you wish to do that, you may contact Genella Hunt at, (828)692-9228, or email her at, Hunt57@juno.com.

Nursing Alumni Information

Your alumni officers are planning an enjoyable weekend, Aug. 3, 4 & 5th. Please support us with your presence and if you are unable to come, please let us know how you are and send photos for our scrapbook. Rooms are available at Fletcher Academy and Fletcher Park Inn.

Schedule of Events:

6:00pm Registration/Reception
Friday Evening Vespers 7:30pm
Fletcher Academy Chapel

Sabbath School 9:15 am
Fletcher SDA Church

Church Service 10:45 am
Fletcher SDA Church

Buffet Breakfast & Bus. Meeting
8:00 am Park Ridge Hospital
Cafeteria

Honor Classes this year will be:

60 yr - 1941	30 yr - 1971
50 yr - 1951	25 yr - 1976
40 yr - 1961	20 yr - 1981
35 yr - 1966	

The Lelia Patterson Activities Center is under construction at this time, and we have voted to sponsor the educational instruction room and the spa area. Please contribute as you are able for this much-needed project. We need your support and prayers. May God Bless you as you travel. Sincerely,
Ellen M. Wetmore '66, President
Don Lowe '62, Vice President

Particular Attention:

All FA Alumni who have no objection to having your name and any personal information added to the Fletcher Academy Website, please contact Chuck (Terry) Matson (813)986-2476, or Albert Maxwell, (770)981-8989, ASAP. This applies to **all** classes, and particularly the honor classes for this year. This information is *vital* needed to update the site. It can only be done with your permission, so please call them!

Tour Fletcher Park Inn

- Independent Retirement Living at its Finest
- Tours Run Every Wednesday from 3-5 pm or by appointment
- Available: One Studio ~ One 1 Bedroom Apt.

Call 684-2882 for more information

The Fletcher Spirit

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Africa Student Mission Trip



Chaplain Travis with Friends

Once again I would like to focus on one of the student mission trips; this one to a Masai tribal area about five hours from Kenya in Africa. From the students' journals, it was a grueling trip, often plagued with sickness and other hardships. However there were times of relief and some fun as they enjoyed safaris, etc. I will paint the pictures of their experiences from their own journals in their own words. ¶

Rachel Krupp - 2/26/01... We left Charlotte-Douglas Airport last evening at 5:35 pm, and it feels as if I have spent three days awake...We have an 8 1/2 hour flight to Kenya, and then we have a four or five hour truck ride to our site....*2/28/01* Today was really cool...It was our first official day of work. I worked in the clinic assisting Dr. Kathy Clem....I saw tons of stuff I have never seen....We saw typhoid, malaria, many types of fever, dehydration, malnutrition and tons of other stuff....We brought tons of stuff for the clinic and we saw about 75 patients....After supper and worship, Josh took us on a night ride to look at animals....*3/2/01* - This morning I did work at the clinic; it is actually kind of depressing to work here because people just can't get better and I know that they will die soon.

3/3/01~ We went on a safari, and it was so awesome! We saw a cheetah catch a gazelle!...We saw deer, elephants, zebras, lions, wildebeasts, giraffes and a few other things. I have to go now.....

3/5/01 - Comparing Africa to home;

Africa

Barely running water
typhoid infected water
very friendly people
wonderful food
free time / work
new friends
mal, aids, typhoid, bucellosis
hot arid weather
mosquitos and flies

Home

running water
good water
unfriendly people
(nasty) cafe food
school
friends
curable diseases
cool weather
bug free air

3/6/01- What do I have to offer Kenya? I guess there are obvious things, like time and money. There are also a couple of other things. I can use my knowledge of the Bible to witness, and I can use my organizational skills to help at the medical clinic. I can be friendly to all I meet and help everyone feel at ease and included. I can pray for everything I do so that it all points to the Glory of God. Rachel K.

Laura Pearman - 3/6/01... Today I went to the worksite. Sarah and Ellie stayed behind again, but at lunchtime Ellie came with the lunch crew to the site because she felt better. I still felt a little sick, but I was better. Everyone is slowly getting sick, too. Poor Kenny; I think he was sickest of all; he didn't come today because the doctors wouldn't let him, even though he wanted to, Ellie and I made some windows and shoveled gravel all afternoon....It started to rain and got harder and harder and the road from the site to the compound was a river. (Literally!) It even had a current....*3/7/01* Diana thinks miracles are happening because for the past couple of days the rain waits just until we leave the site to start, just so we can make progress on the school. Today, we made 75 windows, more than we've ever done before. We are now done with all 200 we need....At lunchtime, the doctors had to send a dehydrated baby with pneumonia to a hospital....*3/8/01* Today, I worked on the church; we were pouring the cement. We're almost finished with the school. We ate lunch inside it because there were less flies than in the tent....It was bad, because there were kids watching us eat; we all felt bad, but we couldn't give them any...not enough for all.

(cont'd pages 4-5)

Africa Mission Trip 2001

Laura Pearman (cont'd) - 3/10/01... Today we had church service; eight people were baptized. The kids sang some songs for us; it was really cool. This trip has been so fun; I don't want to go home, I love it over here; but I'm so worn out I'm ready to go...

What can I offer the Kenyan people? - My knowledge about God - Teach a better way of living - Teach them to be clean - Teach them that Americans are good people and we care for them. - My work to give them buildings to live in. The Bible texts that most remind me of the Masai people are; Matthew 5:3,5,6: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled". - Laura P.

*Jonathan Arroyo - 2/27/01....*Kenya, at last! We loaded up and left the city in army style trucks. As we got outside the city, the scenery got much better and the Kenyans who were farmers, rather than city dwellers, were happily waving as we went by....Of course I returned their salutations. As we passed through the Great Rift Valley, we saw giraffe, baboons, zebras and ostriches. 2/28/01.....This morning I woke up to a beautiful sunrise and helped with breakfast....After eating, we got ready and drove to the work site where I assisted with building a stone and concrete structure....I talked quite a bit to the natives who were construction workers on the site; their names were Jumpa, Sarumpa and Daniel. They asked a lot about America...They want to visit here....Their language is Swahili, and they are very distinctive in the fact that they always wear a red blanket draped around them. I learned that over 50 years ago they would wear a real animal skin dipped in blood instead....They usually have several wives to a family with 30 or 40 children. They have lots of cattle which would make them rich, but

they do not sell them. Money does not matter to them; just cattle. They are very proud, reject westernization and have tribal fights with a different group of natives....We spent most of one day loading sand, and when we got back we had lunch and started unloading. The lunch I had eaten slowed me down and I began feeling sick and dehydration began taking its toll on me. I realized my limits and paid heed to them so that I wouldn't pass out as Crysta Lee had done today....3/5/01- This morning we woke up to more rain. I worked at the clinic all day helping Frank, an emergency medical doctor from Loma Linda, and washing babies.

3/6/01 - Since malaria and other sicknesses are not common in America, the medical doctors from Loma Linda are amazed to realize that here they are seeing sicknesses they have only heard or read about. Just as amazing was hearing Dr. Clem, who is Chief of Medicine Staff at Duke, explain to everyone how many of these people have AIDS...My prayers are with these people; they need Jesus. If Israel could be brought to Him in their stubborn and sinful ways, why not the Masai? *Jonathan A.*



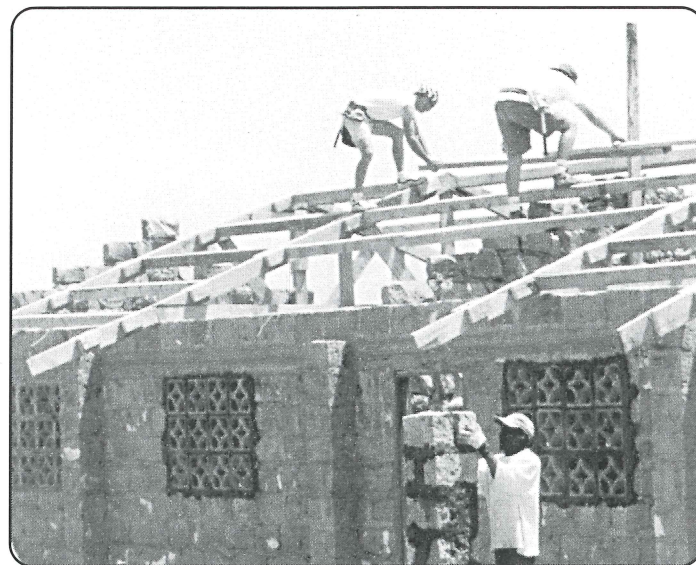
Diana and Friends ~ Shaping Rocks for Building

Africa Mission Trip 2001

Charel Clark - 02/26/01...The last 2 days have been so incredible that they can't be accurately described in words! Yesterday we started the trip off right by having a huge prayer circle. Since then, it seems as if God has come through for us with every petty little problem that has come up. I'm not saying that the Masai Mission is going to go perfectly, but at least we have God's Power on our side.

2/28/01....Today I worked in the clinic with Dr. Klem, and our nurse, Mary. Among the staff who live here, 3 student helpers, 1 doctor and 1 nurse, we treated approximately 80 Masai village people. We are expecting about twice that many tomorrow. The reason for this is that once people find out that we are giving medicine without charge, they will be more apt to seek treatment.

I came close to breaking down and crying today; a man who looked to be about 25 years old came in complaining that he had trouble breathing and had lower abdominal pain. I didn't think his condition was serious, but Dr. Clem said he had a heart murmur. This means that his life span will be short and we couldn't do anything for him because we are not in the U.S.; but what got me through was as I sat there and thought about the hundreds of situations in Africa that are so similar to this one, I realized just how fortunate we are to live in the U.S. I find it easy to gripe and complain about insignificant problems, so this is going to be a life-changing experience for me. And if God does not allow that man to live longer, maybe I'll have the pleasure of meeting



The (almost) Finished Product

him in Heaven one day.

What can I do that will benefit Kenya? - 3/06/01...
I think that there are many things I can offer Kenya. I have helped in every way I know how at the clinic, but I'm sure I can do more. By teaching the Masai about God through my actions, I can demonstrate what Christianity is about. It will take a tremendous amount of work to really make a difference, but if I can use my talents to make life in Africa easier, I am willing.

Also, we were asked what our response would be, should someone make the statement, "*Life is much better in the U.S. than in Kenya.*" I would tell that person that I disagree for several reasons. I've been here for almost 2 weeks, and we've come across health problems, cultural differences, a large gap in the wealth and technology between here and the U.S. But to be honest, I don't think it is entirely a bad thing. Yes, I enjoy the use of all our new technology and so forth, but too many times we forget to appreciate the simple gifts that nature has to offer because we are so wrapped up in our lives. In Africa, (Masai country), we are totally submersed into this and forced to change our perspective on what a gift we have in nature. It has really been an exciting experience, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I will never forget the friends I have made with the people, and also with the student missionaries.

-Charel Clark.



Making New Friends

Work in Progress

LPAC



Structural Beams Going Into Place

The site for the Lelia Patterson Activity Center is seeing major changes on an almost daily basis at this time. Soon it will be time for the above ground construction to begin. We have experienced several rainy days this month, but the delays have not been as great as they could have been.

Looking at the plans for the building, walking around the site, you think you have an idea of the size of the structure, but when you see about 2 acres of concrete going down, it makes you realize just how big it really is. And that is not inclusive of the huge, collegiate size swimming pool, therapy bath and jacuzzi, the operations room and a few other areas. I was at the site the morning of June 20, 2001, and

the steel girders for the building structure were just arriving. Several trucks were needed to bring them. I watched as the steel was being lifted from the trucks and saw the first piece being placed near the area where it will be erected. The beams will be put in place this week and next, and then there will be a major visual difference in the site. As stated elsewhere, we covet your prayers and support until completion of this much needed facility. As it grows daily, one stage at a time, the need for adequate funding for each stage continues to grow as well. We hope you will remember us and what we hope to accomplish with this center.

Many thanks in His Name.



First load of steel beams arriving at site



Lift taking first girder to site



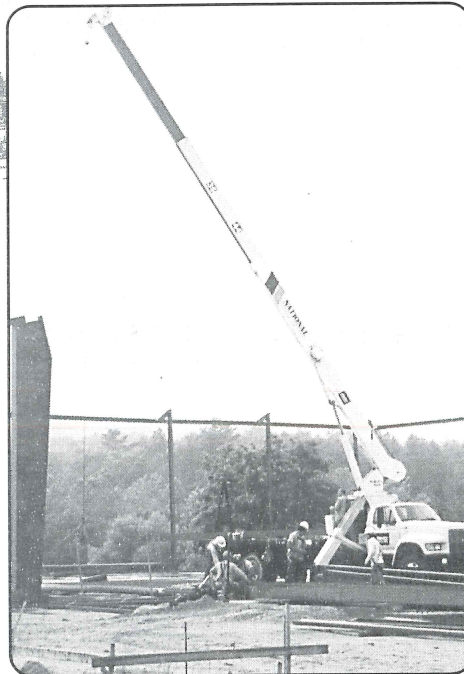
Lift unloading remaining steel



Sorting Beams



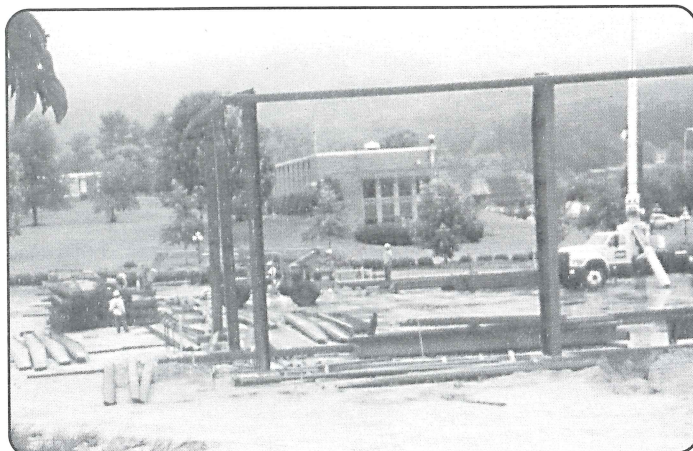
Impressive as it all looked, the workers made it look so easy as to seem mundane. Now, it is not hard to understand why people are so fascinated by a construction site; you pass by one day and it looks a certain way, then by next day same time, it might look totally different. So it is here. As I watched the fork



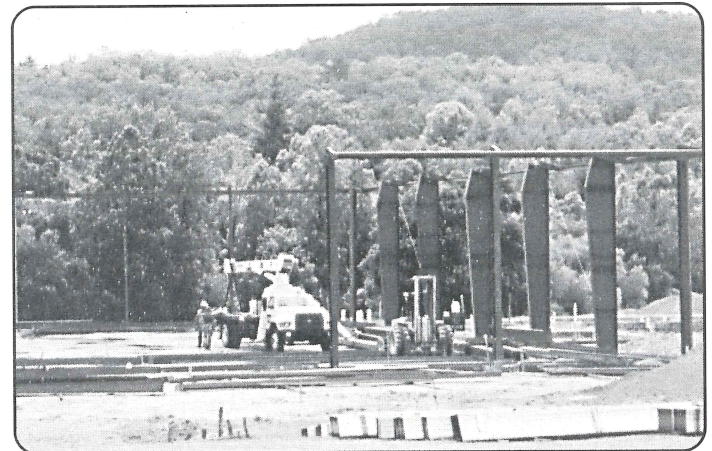
Crane erecting steel beams

lift taking off the huge steel girders on such a small platform, I was amazed at the dexterity needed and utilized for such a balancing act.

We invite you to stop by and see what is going on at the site and see just how much has been accomplished already. I am sorry to say that no visitors are allowed on the actual site, for safety reasons obviously, but there is a safe viewing area beside the Fletcher Church overlooking the site. So you are welcome to come see us there, and consider how you would like to help us go forward with this venture and hurry it on to it's completion date.



Lift getting beams placed for crane



Getting the job done

Fletcher Academy Graduation 2001



Fletcher Academy Graduation Class 2001

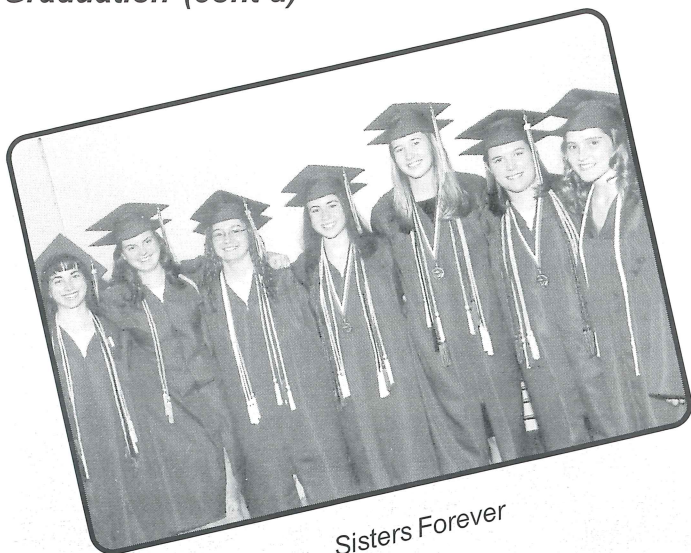
As always, graduation is an exciting time for those who have spent the past 12 years working towards this day. It would be an understatement to say that this is one of the most important times in a person's life, because as a rule, this is the first milestone of consequence in a young person's experience; the first major step up the ladder to either success or failure. It is a time of decision as to what course to pursue as a career choice. Not all are ready to make that decision, but for many, it has been settled in their own mind and they are ready to take the necessary steps to prepare for it. We would like to wish each graduate Godspeed in their chosen fields, and with that, the hope that before further decisions are made, they will consult with the One who can, and will if asked, set their paths straight and true.

As always, the Graduation ceremony itself was impressive with all the "Pomp and Circumstance" that accompanies it. It never fails to stir in the ones watching memories of that special day of their own when they walked down the aisle to the same stirring notes to receive that much awaited document that says they have passed the threshold from youth to adult. How well I remember.

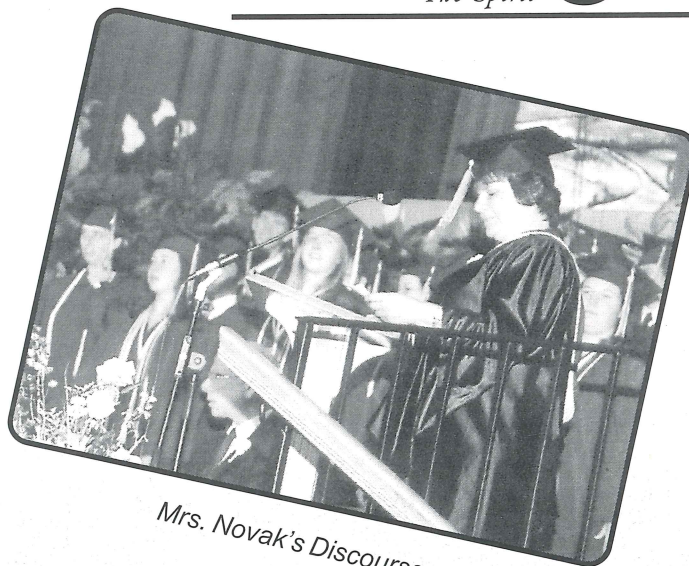
I have asked a parent of one of the graduating Seniors, Shelli Stevenson, to tell me in her own words how she felt as her daughter 'Passed the Baton' on to the next class; the Class of '02.

April Stevenson, mother of Shelli ~ Pastor Travis Patterson of Fletcher Academy was one of the speakers, and he did not focus on the usual subject of growing up and maturation, but about staying childlike. He used experiences from the lives of some of the students, which personalized the graduation for all of them. It was interesting to see how these personal experiences could teach them how to see things from God's perspective instead of always seeing them from their own. The sermon helped them to gain insight into how they can be an even greater success in their lives if they truly seek God's Will in every situation. §

Too often when we focus only on 'growing up', we lose the precious element of simplicity and humility, both attributes of the Character of Christ. We need to pray for this new crop of alumni, that their hearts will stay focused on Jesus and His Will for success.



Sisters Forever



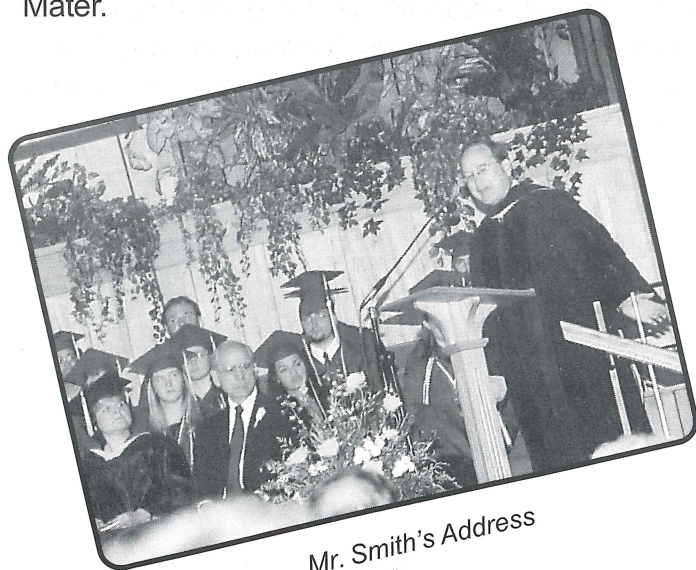
Mrs. Novak's Discourse

Saying good-bye to friends is never easy; some of them we may not see again for many years, if ever. But if my memory serves me correctly, I remember my High School Graduation as being one of the saddest leave-takings of my early years. Possibly because it was the first one of any import in my life. It was as though I were losing all my lifelong friends at once. Some of us have passed from this planet, many have lost touch, but when I look at an old yearbook, I still feel the same loyalty to my Alma Mater.

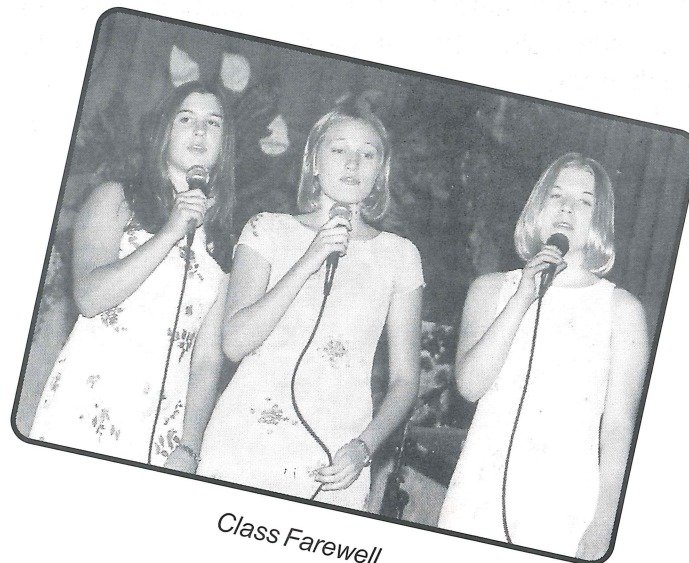


Entrance March

I am certain that there are many who graduated from Fletcher who may feel the same way. But in today's world of computers and email, phones and the U.S. Postal System, there is little cause to lose touch with these friends forever. Friendships are valuable; they are gifts. We should treasure them and treat them as such. May each graduate from the class of 2001 stay in touch and keep the class spirit ever young.



Mr. Smith's Address



Class Farewell

ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT 2001

Greetings Alumni and Friends of Fletcher! My name is Russell Worthen and I am a student at Fletcher Academy, class of 2003. Because our class is one of the smallest, it has been very difficult for us to raise funds for our class projects. After much thought, I reached the conclusion that I enjoy golf and live in a community filled with people who also enjoy the game, and are also supporters of our school. Based on this, our class decided to venture into the world of golf as a possible way to raise needed funds. The idea was taken to Ad Council, and now it is our pleasure to announce to you the event of our first ever golf tournament at Fletcher Academy! We cordially invite you, your friends and neighbors to join us in this effort on behalf of the Class of 2003.

The tournament will be held at Apple Valley Golf Club on Friday, October 5, 2001. As you know, this is the Friday of Alumni Weekend. Registration begins at 12:30 pm, and a shotgun start will begin the tournament

at 1:00 pm The tournament will be Captains' Choice, and the cost will be \$50 per person with 4 people to a team. **Reservations and Sponsorships are due no later than August 24, 2001.** Many tax-deductible sponsorships are available to any person or business that would like to participate. We would love for all parties interested to come and join us in this day of fun and competition. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, teams closest the pin, and longest drive. The class of 2003 would like to thank you in advance for your participation in this tournament and for the support it will generate for our class.

The reason for the **early announcement** is to allow everyone time to make their plans early and avoid the risk of having to make last-minute decisions that might result in being too late for reservations.

Ask your family, call your friends, place an article in your church bulletin or anything that will make people aware of this event here in the beautiful setting of the North Carolina Mountains.

More information about reservations and arrangements for the event are available by calling or writing;

Russell Worthen Re: Golf Tournament

Fletcher Academy, Inc.

PO Box 5440

Fletcher, NC 28732

email: nathanbruce@juno.com

TEAM REGISTRATION:

	Phone #	Shirt Size
Captain _____	_____	S M L XL XXL
Player 2 _____	_____	S M L XL XXL
Player 3 _____	_____	S M L XL XXL
Player 4 _____	_____	S M L XL XXL

Sponsorship Information:

Name: _____

Phone: () _____

Business: _____

Sponsorship Level: _____

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S TO PROJECT SUPPORTERS!

Africa Mission Trip

As I was reading the journals of some of the students who were fortunate enough to have gone on the trip to Africa, it was encouraging to read about how it had been a life changing experience for many of them. And had it not been for the generosity of the persons who helped them to go, this could not have happened. So on behalf of the students themselves, and the staff members who accompanied them, Thank you so very much for your kindness and interest in Fletcher Academy and it's mission activities. Perhaps one day in Heaven, one (or maybe many!) of these people from some far away place will come up to you and say, "Thank you for helping bring the message that pointed me to the way that brought me here." God Bless each and every one of you.

Tent Meeting Supporters

So many people from so many places; so much support from all who were involved. There are, as always, many whose names may never be known by the hundreds who came to the meetings and were blessed by them, but much labor, whether manually or in prayer was exerted on behalf of its success. I would like to say a personal thank you to Brenda Jenks, her husband and crew from the FA Cafeteria for their herculean effort to get the boys dorm rooms ready for the visitors who stayed there. It was greatly appreciated, as was the many extra hours spent preparing meals in the cafeteria. Thanks, Brenda! And the same applies to **all** who worked so tirelessly to make it the success it was. You know who you are, as does God, and His rewards are far greater than those reaped by public recognition. May each one continue to receive blessings from their involvement in the support of this mission. I could, given time and space, tell so many miraculous stories that happened among us during the days of the meetings and before; stories that only God could have orchestrated. I hope if you know of such a story you will share it with us.

The Lelia Patterson Center

So many of you continue to support this project; and although we still have a ways to go, we want to say thank you for each gift, large or small; because every mountain begins with one small stone or one grain of sand. Thank you so very much, and we continue to covet your prayers and support until its completion. And who knows how many people will be touched by the generosity of those who made this project possible? Thanks again, supporters.

MEMORIAL

In Memory Of

Regina Townsend Sterling

June 22, 1947 ~ May 31, 2001

Lolita Townsend Puterbaugh

wishes to inform the class of

1965

of the passing of their classmate

Regina.

The service was officiated by

Pastor Paul Hoover

Calhoun SDA Church

Limestone, TN

We would like to hear from any of you who, when you know of alumni who have passed away, will share with us so we can share the information with everyone in each issue. I would like to keep all of you as informed about everything as possible. So please, feel free to call or write with anything that you feel is important enough to share with everyone.

Fletcher Academy, Inc.

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Gerald Nash, Corporation President

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6-00

July-2001

The Fletcher Spirit

- **Graduation**
- **Africa Mission Trip**
- **Activity Center Update**

