



BY: Millane Berry



RCCA has been striving to do a lot more for the community this year, thanks to the contributions of Dr. Jones, Mrs. Blankenship, and the other teachers at all campuses. Our school wants to have a hand in Chillicothe's growth. Multiple projects have already taken place, and there are more to come in the future. One of the graduation requirements is sixty hours of community service during high school; maybe you're wondering why that's so important. Why do we need to do community service anyways?

Dr. Valerie Jones answers this question during an interview conducted by Millane Berry. "I think community service is something that the Lord has called us to do," she explains. "You know, if you look at stories in the Bible... it's always about people helping people, right? [The Lord] wants us to be the salt in light of the earth."

No matter what story you look at, the people God uses for His will are always trying to help others. Whether it's many people, like when Moses was trying to free the Israelites, or maybe only one person, like when Ruth took care of her mother-in-law, there's always someone they are affecting for the good of God's plan.

This is also a part of our vision for RCCA. Dr. Jones proceeds to say, "Our vision is to create a school that is Christ centered and everything we do is done with excellence, and that we're preparing students to become leaders, ministers, and lay people, and we are making them ready with armor of God." We want RCCA to be somewhere people can trust and turn to, somewhere people can look at and say, "That is a good school."

As you have probably already seen this year, we are already making an effort to be that school. In fall, the students spent a day downtown, gardening up and down Paint Street at the courthouse. Getting downtown ready for winter helped a lot of people save time and money this year and helped to keep our small town nice for everyone. It was a good opportunity to do community service in a wonderful way, to give others support when they need it, and to spread the Word.

Dr. Jones continues, "As far as the community goes, what I'm hoping is that we're able to spread the gospel... I definitely think that that's our mission, is to spread the gospel." Not many of us, especially since we are kids, think about telling people about God just when you're going through your everyday life. Have you ever been walking down the street or waiting in line at a check out, and you see someone beside you, and you thought, "If I don't tell them about Jesus right now, then they may never hear about Him." If we can't even tell people about God while being the salt of the Earth, then how are we ever going to be able to come up to a stranger and ask them, "Do you know Jesus?"





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There are a lot of reasons you should do community service, and this article could list hundreds of things your community or someone else could gain from it. You may be wondering, though: “What do I get out of it?” That might sound selfish, but it truly is something you need to know, otherwise you could become bored with service. It isn’t a wrong thought either; how can you fill someone else’s cup if yours is empty?

Well, filling your cup is something we aim to do during our mission trip in April. Dr. Jones expresses her hopes for what we will get from it during her interview. “I hope that it increases their faith, I hope it-- again with that community service aspect that we're going to be doing-- that they see that this world is a big place and we're just a small part of it, but we can have an impact, right? And I hope as a group... we become closer, you know? We get to know each other more, those relationships [and] those bonds are stronger.” You can have all that if you look at everything you do for God’s people through Heaven’s eyes.

Have I convinced you to join some service projects yet? Well, if you’re ready to start but you’re not sure where, you can help set up the projects that you want to work on. Telling our school what you would like to do for our community is a great place to begin. Letting people like Dr. Jones or Mr. Lloyd know what problems you see, and telling them how you think you can help is important. There are some things that not everyone would notice, so sharing things that concern you might be the only way people hear about it.

But then again, maybe all you need is a little encouragement, which Dr. Jones was happy to give. “Yeah, it is hard work. Some of it is, like what we did in the fall, physically taxing. But I think the reward and the blessing that people get from it, and then also how you feel after you get done-- obviously, it shouldn't be all about you-- you do get a blessing from it. Other people get a blessing from it. And so, it's a good thing, it's a good feeling to know that you've had an impact.”



It is rewarding in many different ways, and it can be a great way to bring blessings to others; that is why community service is important.

Okay, so you probably understand how valuable helping the community is by now, but you may still be intimidated by all the hard physical work you have to do. When you think of “community service,” you probably think of things like picking up trash in the park or helping an after-disaster clean up, but it’s more than just that. It can be anything from giving to a food drive to repairing a destroyed household.

Mrs. Blankenship has been working on many of these sorts of projects lately, such as the food and blanket drives, and making cards for people who don't have families. Organizations like Good Samaritan and Children’s Cup are made for projects just like that. You could do lots of things to help people in need; the first step is to open your eyes and see the problems in the world that God has given us everything we need to fix.



WRITTEN BY: Cailynn Bash

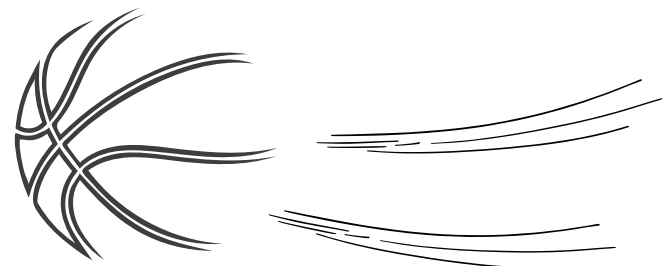
The RCCA High School basketball program is one to be reckoned with. The men's and women's high school basketball teams have not been around for very long, but both are growing and improving with each passing season.

The women's basketball team is almost done with the season with a record of 10 wins and 5 losses and is led by Jaylin Jude and Ryan Bash. The men's basketball team has a record of 8 wins and 8 losses and is led by Matt Jude, Danny Sagraves, and Andrew Maple. Both teams are full of hard-working, perseverant, dedicated, and talented players.

While winning is important to the coaches and players, the top priority of both teams is to show the love of Christ to every person, whether they're on the opposing team or just a spectator. Schools that both the men's and women's teams have played have only good things to say about the sportsmanship and Christ-like behavior of both teams. There have even been grandparents of players who have reached out to our athletic director and praised our sportsmanship and good character.



Whether our teams are winning or losing, they make sure to be the first to help opposing players off the floor and are kind to the players, whether the kindness is reciprocated or not. The RCCA basketball program is one built with God as its foundation, and the players and coaches have only strengthened that foundation as the years have gone on. As a player on the women's basketball team, I can confidently make that assertion, because I have coaches who pray with us before every game, do a devotion with us every week, and are incredible examples of what having a Christ-like character looks like.





WRITTEN BY: Caleb Dorrance



RCCA's Student Council is now in full force! The year started with general elections resulting in a new group of student leaders on the high school campus. 23-24 Student Council members include Carson Ramey (President), Isabel Minton (Vice President), Lillian Pepin (Treasurer), Millane Berry (Secretary), Cailynn Bash, Maleah Speakman, Bella Ramey, Reese Dixon, Madi Hay, and Caleb Dorrance. Members are working hard to raise funds for social events by selling iced coffees on campus, candy grams at Christmas, and other various opportunities. Their ultimate goal is to run a 5k that would serve as the major fund raiser for prom.

Although Student Council is responsible for planning events like prom, this year they are focusing on servant leadership. Members have been seen volunteering across the community. Members volunteered at the Veterans' Day assembly by setting up, serving lunch, and cleaning up. Several members also volunteered to help decorate a float with students from the Pioneer Center and walking with them in the Halloween parade. Going into the second semester, Student Council members are partaking in more volunteer opportunities. They are especially looking forward to work with the Pioneer Center during DD month and the March for Awareness in downtown Chillicothe.

Being a part of Student Council is a wonderful opportunity for members to grow and develop leadership skills. It also provides members with the opportunity to witness to others through acts of service. The impact that they are making in the community and with the students at the Pioneer Center is something to be proud of.



PIECE BY: Millane Berry



## Prayer Requests

Please remember that if you have prayer requests, you can go to locker number sixteen, write them down, and leave them inside. If you have a prayer request but are uncomfortable using the prayer locker, please see any staff member that you are comfortable talking to. They will be more than happy to pray over your request.





WRITTEN BY: Austin Hisey

James 1:2-4: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

In the summer of 2019, I was given a unique challenge; my application for student loans had been denied. This meant I could not continue taking the classes I needed to pursue my teaching degree. On top of that, no longer being a college student meant that I could not work at OUC. In one fell swoop, I lost my ability to pursue my future career and my only means of income.

Being a father of two boys, this was obviously scary. I had some options, but nothing came to fruition for several months. My wife and I turned to the only thing we had to get us through such a situation: prayer. It was not even two days later that I got a call asking if I was interested in being a long-term sub for 6th grade math. I knew nothing about 6th grade math and had zero experience as a sub, but I felt like this was an answer to my prayers, so I accepted. What was originally a 12-week position turned into 2 years as a full-time substitute. After the 2020-2021 school year, I felt I needed to make a move towards getting my license and being a full-time teacher. I left substitute teaching and took a job at Menards. My goal was to work and save up the money needed to complete my teaching degree. I worked from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5 days a week for 2 ½ years. However, eventually I began to become complacent. The job was easy, and the pay was decent, but I knew I was no longer pursuing what I wanted, or the path God was calling me to. I knew a change had to be made, so I decided to pray again.

After being out of the school system for over two years and not taking classes for over four, I thought there was no way I was going to be a teacher. With three kids and no money, I doubted that even God could make a way, but I prayed anyway. My faith had been tested, and I thought I had gone too far away from what I felt I was called to do, but still I prayed. Then one day I got a text from one of my best friends, Josh Cooper. He asked if I was interested in a teaching position. I answered, of course, but I do not have my license. He told me that I could work with him at RCCA while I finished my license and that I should at least come to an interview and see how it goes. I agreed, went to the interview, and prayed. The next day I got the call. Six months later here I am, working towards finishing my license and working at a great school.

No matter the tests or trials you face in life, know that you do not face them alone. Take them to God in prayer and He will help you through all your struggles. It may not be in the way you envisioned, but if it is His will, it will come to be if you trust and believe in Him.

-Brody Colegrove

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## Mini Bible Lesson

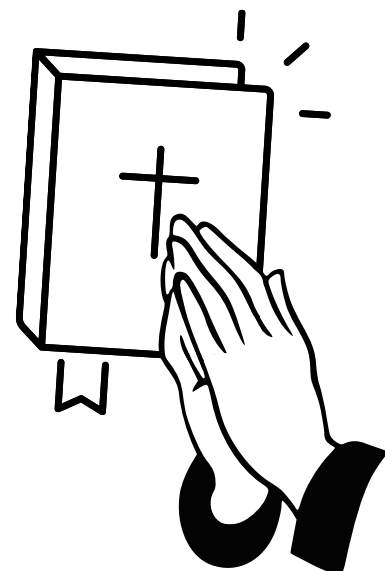
WRITTEN BY: Austin Hisey

*Psalm 42:5-6*

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: For I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.

O my God, my soul is cast down within me: Therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.

In these verses we see that David, the author, is experiencing a dark time in his walk with the Lord. Even though David was struggling, he knew that God was the only place he could turn to. As Christians, God should be our first place of refuge, just like he was David's.





**WRITTEN BY: Emily Heeringa**

This interview was conducted on 11/21/23 by RCCA Newspaper Club member Emily Heeringa. This interview took place at Zion Baptist Church, the RCCA high school campus. Emily asked Senior, Carson Ramey, a few questions about his experience attending RCCA and his Christian favorites.

**Emily:** How long have you been attending RCCA?

**Carson:** I've attended RCCA since 3rd grade.

**E:** Who has been your favorite teacher while attending RCCA?

**C:** My favorite teacher has been Mr. Ray, the Bob Ross of math

**E:** What has been your favorite thing about attending here?

**C:** My favorite part of going to RCCA is the close relationships students get to form with the teachers and staff.

**E:** What is your favorite Bible verse?

**C:** My favorite Bible verse is 1 John 4:4.

**E:** What is your favorite worship song?

**C:** My favorite song is Though You Slay Me, by Shane & Shane.

**E:** What church do you attend?

**C:** I attend Lighthouse Baptist Church.

**E:** Vielen Dank. (Thank you.)

**C:** Gern geschehen. (You're welcome.)

WRITTEN BY: Sadie Campbell

Students need to know what's going on at school. Sometimes, it's hard to keep track! Here's some dates and announcements you may want to know:

STUDENT COUNCIL ICED COFFEE SALES WILL TAKE PLACE **EVERY FRIDAY.**

JEANS FOR A DOLLAR **EVERY FRIDAY.**

JEANS FOR A DOLLAR, SWEATPANTS FOR TWO **EVERY MONDAY.**

**FEBRUARY 16TH**- EARLY RELEASE AT 12:10

**FEBRUARY 19TH**- NO SCHOOL DUE TO PRESIDENTS DAY

**MARCH 15TH**- NO SCHOOL DUE TO THE END OF THE 3RD 9 WEEKS

**MARCH 27TH**- EARLY RELEASE AT 11:10 DUE TO EASTER BREAK

**MARCH 28TH**-APRIL 1ST- EASTER BREAK



Join us at the Postmark on February 9th, 2024 from 7-10pm for the RCCA Valentine's Day Dance! Tickets are \$10 for singles and \$15 for Couples.