

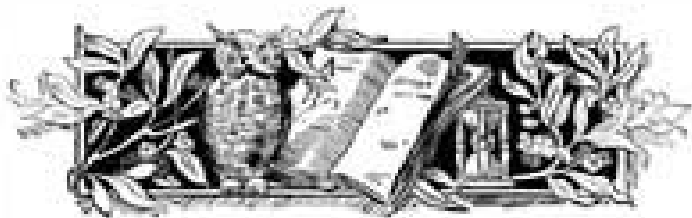


Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

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## As Free as a Bird

Birds are fascinating creations from God. I have several bird feeders in my yard and I enjoy watching the birds. It's a beautiful pastime watching them gracefully flying free in the beautiful sky God created for them to enjoy. They are carefree and partaking in God's splendor. Bird watching is a nice little escape from the busy day for me.

I don't know about you, but this is the time of year that I need a break. The busy school year has taken its toll on me. My restless children have spring fever and every school day seems to be a struggle. One by one we are anxiously counting down the days to the end of the year.

The other day I found myself daydreaming. I was remembering our trip to the Outer Banks last year. I reminisced about the day I was privileged to watch a flock of gulls on the beach. They would soar gracefully over the ocean and then land on the shore. Gobbling up their meal of sea creatures along the way, they would inch as closely to the water as they could without getting wet. The wind and waves in the Outer Banks are pretty strong. The waves would come crashing to the shore and the gulls would run away from the water as fast as their little legs would carry them. This reminded me of our daily struggles. Then I remembered how they huddled in the sand communicating with each other. They didn't seem to rely on anything, but the food God provided with every wave, their God-given instinct, and each other. This reminded me of how God calls us to seek Him and the precious people He places in our lives, like our SHIELD family.



I remembered as I leaned my head back in my lounge chair and closed my eyes, I listened to my family and other families playing around me. I could hear the waves rolling. I could feel the warmth of the sun and the coolness of the sea breeze. I thought about how my vacation was a gift of freedom from God, a break from the busyness of life, homeschooling, work, household duties, and worries. I imagined what it would be like to be a bird flying free in the gorgeous sky. I didn't want my vacation to end. I wanted the peace and stillness of that moment to last forever—to be as free as a bird.

Then I realized something—if life was a vacation every day it wouldn't be unique or special. I began thinking of my more chaotic days recently. They brought headaches and stress, but they also brought accomplishment, triumphs, and some days even laughter.

Every day is a gift from God—no matter the circumstance. It might not always be tranquil, carefree, or slow-paced, but even routine, everyday, busy, family life brings immeasurable blessings. There is also peace and rest at the end of the day if we choose to experience it. I don't have to travel far or seek out a beach escape to encounter peace and tranquility. Now don't get me wrong—there are times when God requires us to get apart from all of the distractions of the world just as Jesus did, but He also wants us to know and rely on His serenity every day of our lives not just on occasion.



True peace is not found in a vacation or any other escape. It is found in God alone. God's peace is worth more than all of the vacations of a lifetime, and it is FREE and available 24/7 to those who call on Him.

My soul finds rest in the Lord. He is my refuge and stronghold. He is waiting for me to run to Him, fly into his open and loving arms, perch in His lap, lean back, close my eyes, and listen to the calming waves of His voice and feel the breeze of His Spirit and presence.

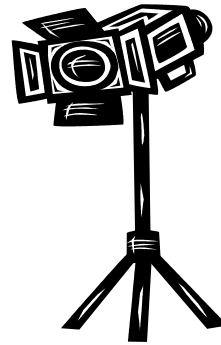
- **Isaiah 12:2** *“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”*
- **Romans 5:1** *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- **John 14:27** *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*
- **Romans 14:17-19** *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*
- **Matthew 11:28-30** *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*
- **2 Corinthians 3:17** *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*
- **Philippians 4:6-7** *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
- **John 16:33** *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*
- **John 8:36** *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*



Mandy Dufries

## “Coordinator Spotlight”

While all of our coordinators and volunteers give all glory to God while they serve SHIELD, and would probably prefer to stay out of the spotlight, we thought you would enjoy getting to know them a little more!



**Jenny Stallings** serves SHIELD as the Lending Library and Used Curriculum Coordinator. Jenny and her husband Phil have 6 children: Caitlin is 16 and is a Junior, Phillip is 12 and in 6th grade, Ryan is 10 in 5th grade, Aubrey is 8 in 2nd grade, Ben is 6 in Kindergarten, and Daniel is 6 months old.

**Q. How long have you been in SHIELD?**

**A.** *I joined SHIELD in 2000 when our first child was 4 yrs old and I was considering homeschooling.*

**Q. What is a favorite field trip your family has gone on?**

**A.** *We enjoy park days, science classes at Saluda Shoals, and history programs at the Lexington County Museum.*

**Q. What is your family's favorite activity?**

**A.** *Our boys love playing sports and Phil, my husband, has coached them for several years. You'll usually find the boys with a ball in their hands! Currently they are playing basketball. Because the days can be so busy, one of our favorite activities is going out to eat. It gives us a chance to sit together and talk. Also, we all enjoy trips to the beach!*

**Q. What do you find the most challenging about homeschooling?**

**A.** *It is difficult to do school at home. I look at the laundry and the dishes and think, "Ahh, this place needs to be cleaned up!" but at the same time we need to do our school work. Balancing the two has been a challenge for me. Another challenge has been schooling 5 kids in 5 different grades. We try and mainstream science and history but the other subjects like math, spelling, grammar, and literature they do separately. It takes a lot of time. We've experimented with different schedules to see which way works best for us.*

**Q. What is your favorite book?**

**A.** *I always have a pile of books beside my bed. Currently, It is made up of Out of the Salt Shaker and Into the World by Pippert, Power of Prayer by Bounds and Jane Austen' Collection. I really enjoyed Cheaper By The Dozen by Gilbreth and YWAM's biography about George Mueller.*

**Q. What are your hobbies?**

**A.** *I like reading, trying new recipes, and treasure hunting in Goodwill.*

**Q. What is your favorite verse or passage of scripture?**

**A.** *Micah 6:8*

*"Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
or with ten thousand rivers of oil?  
Shall I trade my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has shown you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.*

## Calendar of Events

<b>April 10 (Wed)</b>	<b>Field Trip:</b> Sesquicentennial State Park Insectigations Class, 10am-11:30am
<b>April 12 (Fri)</b>	<b>Field Trip:</b> Ripley's Aquarium Sleepover
<b>April 24-26 (Wed-Fri)</b>	<b>Iowa Standardized Testing</b>
<b>May 3 (Fri)</b>	<b>Field Trip:</b> Battle of Columbia, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
<b>May 10 (Fri)</b>	<b>Drama Club Presentation,</b> Palmetto Church of Christ, Irmo, 7:00 pm
<b>May 17 (Fri)</b>	<b>Achievement Night,</b> Riverbend Church, Lexington

See below for details on many of these events

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*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

*Colossians 3:23*



**Field trip:**  
**Sesquicentennial State Park**  
**Program Title: Insectigations**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2013  
**Time:** 10am-11:30am + free time after class  
**Grade Level:** K-3rd  
**Location:** Sesquicentennial State Park  
**Cost:** \$2.00 per participating student  
(payable the day of the trip)

**Contact:** Amanda Smith, 518-7720  
[smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com](mailto:smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com)

This is a ranger-led program to investigate creepy critters! There are many activities to do on your own after the program including lunch, playground, nature hike to waterfall, biking trails, scavenger hunt, as well as any other outdoor activity you would like to do (i.e. game, lesson, etc.)

Please contact Amanda Smith to reserve your spot(s). If you have already let me know that you wish to attend, please send an email to make sure I have you on the list.

email: [smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com](mailto:smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com) (please put "field trip" in the subject line to ensure it doesn't get lost in my spam folder!)



**Field trip:**  
**Ripley's Aquarium Sleepover**  
Myrtle Beach, SC

**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2013  
**Time:** Check in at 7:45 pm, check out at 7:30 am  
**Cost:** \$55/person (all ages are same price)  
**Ages:** 4 and up  
**Contact:** April Wallace, [aprilw1982@yahoo.com](mailto:aprilw1982@yahoo.com)

I am so excited to share this opportunity with fellow homeschoolers! We will need at least 15 people to go (including adults) and as many as 100 can attend. The payments are NON-Refundable. I have paid the original deposit to hold the date and will not be refunded in the event of a cancellation. If you see that you won't be able to attend you can get someone else to fill in for you.

Payments can be made to April Wallace via check or cash. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me @ 803-727-0887. If you would like to mail your deposit, email me and I will send over my address.

**Count sharks instead of sheep** while drifting off to sleep in our Dangerous Reef Tunnel in this exciting overnight adventure! Unlock the mysteries of the aquarium at night through learning activities designed to meet the needs any age group from 3 to 103!

**Sample Sleepover Schedule**

- An aquarium scavenger hunt
- A craft activity
- An educational presentation
- A late night snack (chips and drink) and a continental breakfast (cereal, mini muffins, juice)
- A self-guided aquarium tour
- 
- **What to bring:**
- A white t-shirt to "Fish print" on
- A sleeping bag
- A pillow and if desired, a pad or air mattress.

**Field trip:****Battle of Columbia Living History and Education Day**

**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2013  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
**Cost:** Students \$3 each, parents are free  
Plan to bring a packed lunch.  
**Contact:** Leslie Ballard, [wahoolb@bellsouth.net](mailto:wahoolb@bellsouth.net)

There are 15 educational stations that run 15 to 20 mins. each. Here is a list of the educational stations:

- \*Naval Submarine-HL Hunley-the full size replica will be on site for the class
- \*Infantry Campsite- learn how the troops lived
- \*Infantry Drill- re-enactors explaining weapons and accoutrements
- \*Cavalry-re-enactors demonstrating maneuvers
- \*Artillery-re-enactors discussing artillery pieces and showing shells used during the war
- \*Blacksmith and Forging Operations
- \*19th Century Military Engineering
- \*Medical and Surgical presentation
- \*SC Confederate Relic Room and Artifacts
- \*1860's Carpentry
- \*1860's Cooking
- \*Ladies Fashions
- \*Post Office
- \*First person impression of Generals Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Jeb Stuart
- \*Entertaining drama about a soldier returning home from war

**The deadline to register has passed.** For those of you who signed up, I will be emailing you the teachers guide and letting you know when I need the payments for the trip.

See <http://www.wadehamptoncamp.org/bfc-index.html> to learn more about the Battle of Columbia Living History and Educational Day.

## Drama Club Play

"Friendship: The Silver-Lining of War"

Friday, May 10th, at 7:00 pm at  
Palmetto Church of Christ in Irmo.  
(7000 Nursery Rd, Columbia, SC 29212)

The yearbook staff and the drama club are excited to join together to present this play!

The yearbook students will be performing music and selling snacks while the drama students will be acting.

The play is educational as well as entertaining. If you are studying American History this year, it will be a great field trip for your family. Tickets will be \$2 per individual or \$5 per family and can be purchased at the door.

Any questions, or if you would like to help with the production of the play, please contact Leah at [leah.tilghman@gmail.com](mailto:leah.tilghman@gmail.com).



# SHIELD's Achievement Night 2013

Friday, May 17th, 2013  
 Riverbend Community Church  
 1015 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072

6:00 pm-Yearbook distribution and signing  
 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm –Achievement Night  
 Cake and beverages following

If you have a Kindergartener or Senior and have not received additional information about Achievement Night, please contact Tracy Taylor ([ttaylor24@sc.rr.com](mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com) / 834-0316).

In addition to K Graduation and Senior Recognition, SHIELD offers certificates for every student finishing 1st -11th grade:

You must rsvp for this by Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Send student/s name and grade completing to Tracy Taylor at [ttaylor24@sc.rr.com](mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com).

### Extra Help Needed:

In the past we have offered tables to display student's work from the year. In order to do this again this year, we need someone to coordinate it (take rsvp's, set up, break down tables).

We also are in need of one or two people to assist with cutting and serving cake.

If you are interested in helping in either of these areas, please contact Tracy Taylor [ttaylor24@sc.rr.com](mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com) / 834-0316.

**We hope to see you all there to celebrate another year!**

Achievement Night Panel	Tracy Taylor Beth Martin Karen Collins	<a href="mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com">ttaylor24@sc.rr.com</a> <a href="mailto:bethsmartin@hotmail.com">bethsmartin@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com">kscollins2@icloud.com</a>	834-0316 957-6005 445-6043
(Decorating/Food)	Janet Prince	<a href="mailto:jhprince@aol.com">jhprince@aol.com</a>	796-8777
(1-11 <sup>th</sup> Certificates)			
(K5 Graduation)	Holly Winters	<a href="mailto:hwinters@sc.rr.com">hwinters@sc.rr.com</a>	957-8810
(Senior Graduation)	Linda Barnhill	<a href="mailto:elbeemee@gmail.com">elbeemee@gmail.com</a>	772-3184

## Yearbook News

We still have a few 2013 books left to sell. To purchase, mail a check for \$30 made payable to SHIELD to Josie Seacrist, 1149 Counts Ferry Rd, Lexington, 29072.

### Looking forward to next year:

If you, adults or students, are interested in helping with the yearbook for the upcoming year, 2013-2014, please contact Leah at [Leah.Tilghman@gmail.com](mailto:Leah.Tilghman@gmail.com).

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## THRILL

Teen Homeschoolers Radically Impacting Lexington County Lives  
Those who serve, lead; and those who lead, serve.

Our THRILL calendar ends March 31<sup>st</sup> so that volunteer hours can be completed and submitted in time to have certificates and awards for Achievement Night in May. Please finalize hours through March 31 and submit to Elizabeth Collins **by April 5<sup>th</sup>**.

The end-of-year THRILL party will be held on Friday, April 19, 6:00 - 10:00 pm, at the Andrew's home. More details will be sent out to THRILL students soon.

**Update on Pet Pawty serving opportunity:** Due to low response for this opportunity, THRILL will not be participating in this activity.

## Members' Services

Do you or someone in your family have a service to offer other homeschoolers? If so, please send the information to Karen Collins at [kscollins2@icloud.com](mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com).

### Babysitters:

Hannah Goude, Red Cross Certification in babysitting and CPR  
(803) 951-0943 or 312-4095. [janeygoude@sc.rr.com](mailto:janeygoude@sc.rr.com)

Lauren Goude, Red Cross Certification in babysitting and CPR  
(803) 951-0943 or 312-4095. [janeygoude@sc.rr.com](mailto:janeygoude@sc.rr.com)

### Other:

Jessica Smith, [jessica](http://jessica.smith.nutrition@gmail.com), 803-260-2473 Independent Distributor of Herbalife. Call for a free Health Evaluation and Body Scan. [smith.nutrition@gmail.com](mailto:smith.nutrition@gmail.com) (803) 996-3631

Sherri Almeida, Owner of Palmetto Children's Music, LLC (Locations in Columbia and Lexington)  
We offer music classes for children birth to age five and the adults who love them. (803) 546-7930  
[www.PalmettoChildrensMusic.com](http://www.PalmettoChildrensMusic.com)

Shelley Cannon - Bee Trail Farm, LLC – we sell local bees and honey! 803.360.7978 [Beetrailfarm@gmail.com](mailto:Beetrailfarm@gmail.com)

John B. Lane, C.P.A., Tax services, Financial accounting, Payroll services, Business consulting, [www.johnblane.com](http://www.johnblane.com), [877-408-0200](tel:877-408-0200). Office is in Elgin, but John can meet clients throughout the Lexington/Columbia area.

Kayla Tilghman, Melodic Memories, advanced student violinist with other strings accompaniment. For weddings and other special events. For more information please email [melodicmemories2@gmail.com](mailto:melodicmemories2@gmail.com) or contact Leah Tilghman at 920-8475.

Brandy Watts, Phebe Sky - children's clothing Etsy shop, [www.etsy.com/shop/PhebeSky?ref=si\\_shop](http://www.etsy.com/shop/PhebeSky?ref=si_shop)

Jake Bingler, The Improvement Company, home remodeling and repairs, (803) 553-5302, [wbingler@sc.rr.com](mailto:wbingler@sc.rr.com)

Mandy Dufries, BC Spa Consultant, (803)996-1379 or (803)917-8012, [mdufriesbcspa@gmail.com](mailto:mdufriesbcspa@gmail.com), [www.beautipage.com/mandydufries](http://www.beautipage.com/mandydufries)

Rebecca Becker, Thirty-One Gifts Consultant, [www.mythirtyone.com/rbecker](http://www.mythirtyone.com/rbecker), [jandbbecker@aol.com](mailto:jandbbecker@aol.com), 785-2237

Tommy Barnhill, Barnhill Automotive-Honda Car Service and Repair, 772-5144

Todd & Katherine Shealy, SheBees Honey Farm, (803) 532-8444.

Sally Lucas, Coldwell Banker Realtor 803-760-0289, [sally@sallylucashomes.com](mailto:sally@sallylucashomes.com)

Michael Lucas, Mortgage Broker with Coldwell Banker Mortgage, 803-315-8880, [michael.lucas@mortgagefamily.com](mailto:michael.lucas@mortgagefamily.com)

Laura Scaggs and Sherrie Morrison (Laura's mom): Bluegreen Resort rentals ([www.bluegreenonline.com](http://www.bluegreenonline.com))  
Fantastic opportunities for year-round "field trip vacations"! Contact Laura at 477-1667 or email [glebs4@windstream.net](mailto:glebs4@windstream.net) or Sherrie at [msmo5@hotmail.com](mailto:msmo5@hotmail.com)

## SHIELD Leadership & Coordinator

### Panel

Strategy Team Leader	Tracy Taylor	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com	834-0316
Financial/Membership Team Leader	Beth Martin	bethsmartin@hotmail.com	957-6005
Communications Team Leader	Karen Collins	<a href="mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com">kscollins2@icloud.com</a>	445-6043
Website Coordinator	Jesseca Bennett	angelmommy2nd@sc.rr.com	
Student Club	Mandy Dufries	sixdufries@gmail.com	996-1379
Library/Book Sale Coordinator	Jenny Stallings	Jen9874@msn.com	808-5365
Field Day Coordinator	Ellen Nagelvoort	adamandellen@windstream.net	960-8312
Field Trip Panel	Rebecca Becker	jandbbecker@aol.com	785-2237
	April Wallace	aprilw1982@yahoo.com	727-0887
	Heather Schaub (Park Days also)	theschaubs@juno.com	233-4059
	Amanda Smith	smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com	808-0725
	Kathryn Graham	billinsky@sc.rr.com	528-4712
	Leslie Ballard	wahoolb@bellsouth.net	796-4190
Academic Presentation Day Coordinators	Jennifer Cogle	coglefour@gmail.com	261-9593
	Carolyn Jackson	imacarolyn@gmail.com	665-5159
THRILL Advisory Panel	Michelle Steyne	mlsteyne@aol.com	796-9090
	Elizabeth Collins	aikosmom@sc.rr.com	356-5858
	Karen Collins	kscollins2@icloud.com	445-6043
Yearbook Advisory Panel	Leah Tilghman (Yearbook Coordinator)	leah.tilghman@gmail.com	920-8475
	Teresa Andrews (Layout Advisor)	teresaandrews38@yahoo.com	520-7222
	Josie Seacrist (Business Advisor)	pjseacrist@yahoo.com	957-8707
	Wilenda Turner (Photography Advisor)	wilendasemail@gmail.com	608-8005
Standardized Testing Coordinator	Elizabeth Collins	aikosmom@sc.rr.com	356-5858
Talent Showcase Coordinator(s)	Danita Palazzolo	ddzolo@sc.rr.com	520-6695
Mid-year Meeting Coors.	Darby Reeves	preeves1@sc.rr.com	951-8489
	Leslie Buzzell	jlbuzzell@gmail.com	359-1934
Achievement Night Panel	AN Coordinator Leadership Team	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com	834-0316
	Decorating/Food Janet Prince	jhprince@aol.com	796-8777
	1-11 <sup>th</sup> Certificates		
	K5 Graduation Holly Winters	hwinters@sc.rr.com	
	Senior Coordinator Linda Barnhill	elbeemee@gmail.com	772-3184

### About Our Newsletter...

**Newsletter submissions must be received by April 25 for inclusion in the May newsletter.**

The SHIELD Encourager Newsletter is published monthly and e-mailed to our members at the beginning of every month (except June & July). If you have an item you would like to submit, contact Karen Collins at [kscollins2@icloud.com](mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com).