

The Encourager



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

In This Issue

Devotion by Mandy Dufries	p. 2-3
Coordinator Spotlight: Leslie Buzzell	p. 4-6
Calendar of Events	p. 7
Mid-Year Meeting	p. 8
January Park Day	p. 9
Donations for Formal	p. 9
Winter Formal	p. 10
Talent Night	p. 11
Yearbook News	p. 12
Where to Serve?	p. 13
Box Tops	p. 14
THRILL	p. 15
Members' Services	p. 16-17
Leadership/Coordinator Team Contact Info	p. 18



About Our 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.



There are hundreds of sayings and clichés involving the subject of time. "Timing is everything" is one of the most popular. However, I know from experience that my timing isn't "everything". A HUGE pet peeve of mine is being late. Unfortunately (well, fortunately), I've been late more times than I'd like to admit. In many instances, I've discovered later that there was a perfectly good reason why I was delayed like an accident being avoided. Had I left on time, my children and I may have been involved. There have been many times that I have had my own timetable and God has had another. I can look back and see God's hand guiding the circumstances perfectly in His timing, and that my timing would have ended in disaster. This is particularly true with our homeschooling journey.

Sometimes we are dealing with a difficult situation, and we need an answer from God yesterday. Waiting for an answer is extremely difficult! There are moments when it feels an outcome will never be reached. Satan (not a typo—he is unworthy of capitalization) rears his ugly head and tries to discourage me by telling me it's never going to happen. I hear him telling me I cannot compete with him and the pull he has in these areas. You know what? He's right. I can't compete, not on my own. I need God and His omnipotent, omniscient, unlimited, everything timing. God's knows all, sees all, beyond anything I can comprehend. I've got to leave the timing up to Him and I've got to have faith and trust in His timetable.

Time sure flies faster than we can keep up. This is especially true for me this year. I have flashbacks of a piggy-tailed, freckle-faced, energetic little girl. The reality is she is now a lovely, determined, talented young woman, who is about to graduate high school. Time seems to be painfully whirring passed me as I raise all of my children. I've learned the speed at which time passes really doesn't matter. It's what we do with the time that Our Father gives us that has eternal benefits. When we seek God first in everything we do, He seems to stretch that time for us. He helps us get the ultimate benefit out of time as it speeds by on this earth.

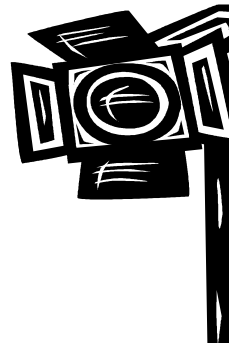
Don't let the enemy overwhelm you. Be encouraged, God's timing is EVERYTHING! Make the most of every moment He gives you. Keep pressing on toward the prize for yourself and for your family.

- Galatians 6:9 - And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
- Luke 18:27 - But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."
- Psalm 37:3-4 - Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 - For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
- Psalm 90:12 - So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
- Psalm 31:14-15 - But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hand;
- Psalm 27:14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

~Devotion by 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!



My name is **Leslie Buzzell** and we have been members of SHIELD for 13 years. I have a step-son and three daughters. My husband, Jon, and I have been homeschooling the girls since our oldest daughter started school and she is graduating this year. This year Jon’s father has joined our household. Over the years I have volunteered by coordinating girls’ clubs, proctoring the Iowa test, co-coordinating Achievement Night and the Mid-year Meeting, and this year I am on the Yearbook Advisory Panel. SHIELD has been a magnificent group of families to share this homeschooling journey with.

Q. What is your favorite SHIELD activity/event?

A. *I think Academic Presentation Day. We didn’t participate this year but have many times in the past. I think it is an excellent way for the kids to get used to speaking in public with the most loving and forgiving audience. Also, it can be helpful for us all to have a definite deadline to work towards as well.*

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

A. *With SHIELD, definitely Happy Cow Creamery a couple of years ago. We loved wandering around the farm and learning about running an organic dairy from start to finish. We also love the fresh taste of their milk and ice cream!*

Q. What is your family's favorite activity?

A. *We go to a lot of Clemson football games and other sports events. We also enjoy supporting each of the kids in their pursuits from soccer to photography to piano and dance. We also like to play cards and board games.*

Q. What is your dream vacation?

A. *I would like to spend several months driving around the US visiting National Parks and off-the-beaten-path places I don't even know of. I would like to see Niagara Falls, the Gettysburg battlefield, the Everglades, New Orleans, the redwood forests in California, the Mojave Desert...If I get two dream vacations the other would be to wander around Europe for several months visiting cathedrals and castles and museums and enjoying all the different cuisines.*

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. *Not that I have a ton of free time but I love to read: biographies and mysteries and John Grisham for fun. I also love to ride my bike. Before kids I rode a lot of hours and miles. Now I just enjoy the occasional summer morning ride. I like the quiet and the slower pace to enjoy the beauty of the world God gave us.*

Q. What is your favorite food/recipe?

A. *Anything sweet and baked! I love baking cookies and cakes, especially if they have chocolate. If I had to pick one recipe it would be chocolate chip cookies – I love the dough, I love the chips, and I love the cookies fresh out of the oven.*

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

A. *Maintaining balance. My husband and I both have to make an effort to find time to stay in shape, participate with a Bible study group, learn new things that interest us, and especially have date nights.*

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. *No way I could choose just one! Here are my top 5 (today): 1. The Bible – usually assuring or comforting and sometimes confusing. 2. Little Britches and the rest of Ralph Moody’s autobiographical series – inspiring and fun for the whole family. 3. A Tale of Two Cities – I love Dickens’ use of language and writing style. 4. The Ditchdigger’s Daughters by Yvonne Thornton – inspiring autobiography about parental love and determination. 5. The Count of Monte Cristo – the size of the book is intimidating but I couldn’t put it down.*

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

A. *“Do everything without complaining or arguing.”
Philippians 2:14*



Calendar of Events

January 13 (Tues)	January Park Day , McDonalds, 12:30-2:30 pm
January 30 (Fri)	Winter Formal , Lexington Town Municipal Building
Date TBD	Mid-Year Meeting , 7:00-9:00 pm
February 10	Box Tops Spring Deadline
February 27 (Fri)	Talent Night , New Life Community Church, 7:00 pm
April 22-24 (Wed-Fri))	IOWA Standardized Testing
May 8 (Fri)	Drama Club Presentation
May 22 (Fri)	Achievement Night , Riverbend Church, Lexington

See below for details on many of these events.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.
Colossians 3:23



SHIELD's Annual Mid-Year Meeting

Date: TBD – we're still working out a few details to get a date confirmed that works for everyone. We will let you all know asap. Most likely, it will be the first week of February so that it doesn't conflict with the Winter Formal plans.

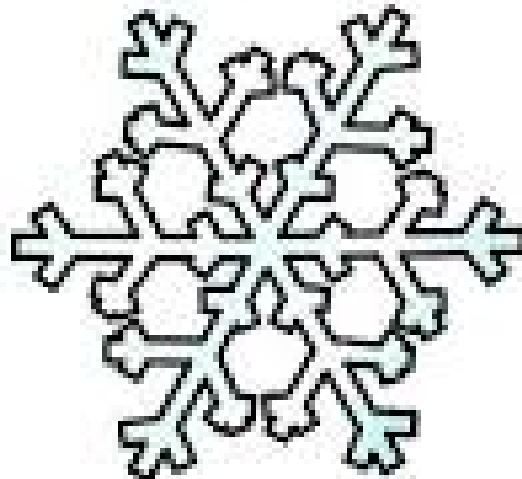
We are excited to welcome a panel of two homeschool couples: Ray & Tina Hewitt and Chuck & Angela Norman! We know there is so much we can all learn from their homeschooling experience.

You will not want to miss this opportunity!

Consider planning for a babysitter so that **BOTH** parents will be able to attend this meeting! Both Moms and Dads are sure to benefit from this opportunity!

Light refreshments will be provided.

Since this meeting will be a question/answer format, you are encouraged to submit questions now so that our panel members have time to review the questions ahead of time. Please submit your questions to Shelley Cannon at sheldanc35@gmail.com as soon as possible, thank you!



January Park Day

Come and join us!

When: Tuesday, January 13th, 12:30-2:30 pm

Where: McDonalds in Lexington

Who: All SHIELD Families!

Bring the kids out to play and get to know other SHIELD families.

Contact Kari Zwisle at 803-556-9393 or kzwisle@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

We could still use help with Winter Formal!

Anyone in SHIELD can help, not just parents of formal-age students.

We need help with **donations**, **food pick-up**, **shopping**, **kitchen help the night of**, **chaperoning**, **running coat check**, and **decorating**. If you are interested in helping, please call or email Josie.

Thank you for your help!

Josie Seacrist Yearbook Coordinator
pjseacrist@yahoo.com 803-529-9503 cell



SHIELD homeschool group *Winter formal 2015*

Who:

9th through 12th grade

When:

January, 30th 2015
6:30 to 10:30 PM

Where:

Lexington Municipal Center
111 Maiden Lane, Lexington SC 29072

Cost:

\$25 - before January 16th
\$35 - beginning January 17th
REGISTRATION DEADLINE - January 27th

Visit shieldonline.org/formal
for registration and more details including
dress, behavior and dance codes.

SHIELD's Talent Night

Friday, February 27, 2015

New Life Community Church
10809 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063

7:00 pm

It's that time of year again!

Time to polish up your instrument, warm up your voice, dust off those dancing shoes, stretch your drama muscles, practice those karate moves or anything else that must be done to prepare for SHIELD's annual Talent Night.

This year promises to be an exciting one! The New Life Church of Irmo/Ballentine will once again be the setting for one of the most anticipated nights of the year!

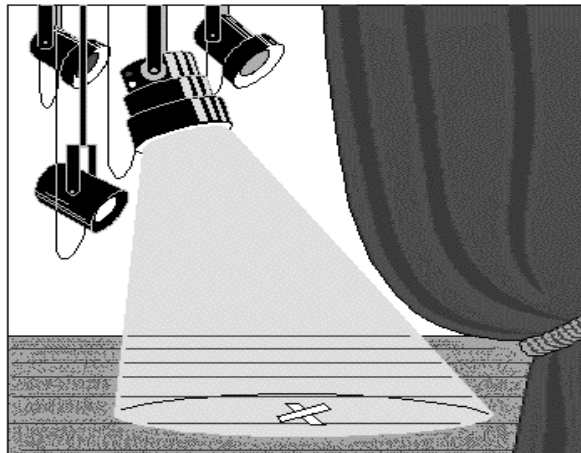
Get ready to shine to the glory of God, kids!

To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Tina Hewitt at tinarhewitt@gmail.com.

Deadline to sign up is Friday, February 20.

Talent Night Coordinators:

Tina Hewitt, tinarhewitt@gmail.com
Carolyn Jackson, imacarolyn@gmail.com



YEARBOOK NEWS

2015 Yearbooks are currently **\$25**.
After the Mid-Year Meeting the price goes up to **\$30**.

Order yours NOW:

Send a check payable to SHIELD to:

**Leslie Buzzell
269 Vista Springs Road
Lexington, SC 29072**



How can YOU serve our SHIELD family?

Looking for a way to get involved with SHIELD in a meaningful way? Thankfully, we have opportunities for you to do just that! We have several important roles that need volunteers ASAP. Please prayerfully consider how you can be a blessing to our SHIELD family and contact one of the Coordinators listed below!

Box Tops Coordinator: If you enjoy the benefits of Box Tops, please consider serving as a Box Tops Coordinator. Thankfully, Janey Goude is still serving, but she can't do it alone so we need another Coordinator to help share the responsibilities. For more information, please contact Janey at djgoude@icloud.com.

Yearbook Advisory Panel: Like most SHIELD families, we all just LOVE having a yearbook! Would you be disappointed if we couldn't have the yearbook because we don't have enough **parent volunteers**? Our yearbook connects our families together in such a meaningful way. **Any parent can get involved, not just those with children on the yearbook staff!** For more information, please contact SHIELD's Yearbook Coordinator Josie Seacrist at pjseacrist@yahoo.com.

Field Trip Team: Would you be willing to plan a field trip or two for SHIELD? It's very easy to do! Why not consider joining the Field Trip Team? For more information, please contact SHIELD's Field Trip Coordinator Rebecca Becker at jandbbecker@aol.com.

Middle School Club Leader: We had several families that were interested in joining the Middle School Club, a club where both boys and girls would enjoy activities together...service projects, ultimate Frisbee, bowling, scavengers hunts, movies, campfires, etc., **but we just need someone willing to coordinate it!** This club will be organized as other student clubs with parents taking turns hosting activities for the students, This could be such a fun group! Would you consider being the parent volunteer and get this group started? For more information, please contact SHIELD's Club Coordinator Melissa Bryan at smabryan@aol.com.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Box Tops

Box Tops Deadline is **Tuesday, February 10, 2015**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!! Because we have so many Box Tops submitted and changing hands with counters, we now have to be strict about people following guidelines in order to keep all of your Box Tops safe. Your Box Tops will NOT be included in the final submission if they are not prepared according to the guidelines below. If time permits, you will be given the opportunity to take your Box Tops back, fix them according to guidelines, and return them before the **deadline of February 10th**.

Guidelines for Preparing Box Tops:

- 1) Cut off as much excess as possible and peel backs off so Box Top is the thickness of a piece of copy paper. Excess paper (around Box Top or on backing) will result in additional shipping being charged.
- 2) Put 50 Box Tops in each ziploc baggie (NO staples, NO paper lips, NO fold over baggies).
- 3) You may have a baggie with less than 50 Box Tops, but none with more than 50.
- 4) Write "#50" (or however many are in the bag), your name, and phone number on EACH baggie.
- 5) You may put your Bonus Box Tops in separate baggies. (It's also fine if they are mixed in with regular Box Tops, just no more than a total of 50 per baggie.) If you do separate them, follow steps 1-3, but also write "Bonus" on those envelopes.
- 6) Put all baggies of 50 into 1 larger (quart or gallon size) ziploc baggie - NOT an envelope, and NOT a fold over baggie. Do NOT use staples or paper clips.
- 7) Write "#xxx" (the grand total of Box Tops that are in all the individual baggies), your name, and phone number on the larger baggie.
- 8) Put that larger ziploc baggie in an envelope to mail. You may hand deliver the larger ziploc baggie by itself or in an envelope.

You may drop them off at Janey's house. If you have any questions, please contact:

Janey Goude at 951-0943 107 Woodbay Ct., Lexington 29072
janeygoude@ss.rr.com

THRILL

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

Please Note: The January meeting has been cancelled due to several schedule conflicts. We will have our regular scheduled meeting in February.

THRILL students, check your emails for information on upcoming service projects to LICS and Deepwood Estates.

Remember, keep logging your volunteer hours.



For more information or if you have any questions, you can contact:
Michelle Steyne, mlsteyne@aol.com, 796-9090
Karen Collins, kscollins2@icloud.com, 445-6043

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.

Babysitters:

Mackenzie Dufries 803-996-1379, Red Cross certificate

Hannah Goude, Red Cross Certification in babysitting and CPR (803) 951-0943 or 312-4095. djgoude@icloud.com

Lauren Goude, Red Cross Certification in babysitting and CPR (803) 951-0943 or 312-4095. djgoude@icloud.com

Other:

Jessica Bowen, Smooth Creationz, 515 Pine Street, Pelion SC 29123, [803-894-6946](tel:803-894-6946), Graphics, direct to garment printing, embroidery, vinyl, banners, etc.

Mandy Dufries, BC Spa Consultant, (803)996-1379 or (803)917-8012, mdufriesbcspa@gmail.com

Rebecca Becker, Director: Classical Conversations of Lexington, ccoflexingtonsc@gmail.com, 528-6492

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

Allison Martin – Independent Designer, Origami Owl Custom Jewelry, (803) 600-0575, jewelrywithcharm@gmail.com, www.jewelrywithcharm@origamiowl.com;

Allison Martin, Consultant, Pink Zebra (Home Fragrances), (803) 600-0575, ezpzpinknblack@gmail.com, www.pinkzebracome.com/pinknblack;

Members' Services

Continued:

Jenn Lott, Orton-Gillingham Tutor, 843-701-6266, jlott584@gmail.com

Irene and Ed Albritton (aiah5951@hotmail.com; edseditions@sc.rr.com) own Ed's Editions LLC Quality Used and Collectible Books, 406 Meeting Street, West Columbia 29169. We offer a 20% discount for homeschool families. Open Tuesday - Saturdays 11am - 5:30pm. [803-791-8002](tel:803-791-8002).

Valerie Harris teaches beginning folk harp in her home. Lap harps with a cardboard soundbox are available for \$140, and lessons are \$20/hour for individuals. Moms take the class free with their children. Please contact 553-2630 or valeriemharris@yahoo.com.

Starla Stidham, Pink Diamond Photo Booth, use us for your next birthday party, wedding, or event. We'll offer 10% off to SHIELD members. 803-463-6090 or info@thepinkdiamond.net.

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

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

SHIELD Leadership & Coordinator Panel 2014-2015

Strategy Team Leader	Shelley Cannon	Sheldanc35@gmail.com	360-7978
Financial/Membership Team Leader	Mandy Dufries	sixdufries@gmail.com	996-1379
Communications Team Leader	Karen Collins	kscollins2@icloud.com	445-6043
Academic Presentation Coordinator	Carolyn Jackson	imacarolyn@gmail.com	665-5159
Achievement Night Panel	AN Coordinators Leadership Team	Sheldanc35@gmail.com	360-7978
	1-11 th Certificates Tracy Taylor	tracyltaylor24@gmail.com	834-0316
	K5 Graduation		
	Senior Coordinator Tricia Heen	tricia_heen@yahoo.com	348-6575
Box Tops Coordinators	April Roebuck	roebuckapril@gmail.com	206-0092
	Janey Goude	djgoude@icloud.com	951-0943
Field Trip Team Coordinators	Rebecca Becker	jandbbecker@aol.com	785-2237
	Colleen Eubanks	colleen@palmettoehs.com	260-3202
Library Coordinator	Jenny Stallings	Jen9874@msn.com	530-8681
Literacy Family Night Coordinators	Jennifer Cogle	coglefour@gmail.com	261-9593
	Holly Winters	hwinters@sc.rr.com	237-8455
Mid-Year Meeting Coors.	Darby Reeves	preeves1@sc.rr.com	951-8489
	Leslie Buzzell	jlbuzzell@gmail.com	359-1934
Park Day Coordinator	Kari Zwisle	kzwise@yahoo.com	556-9393
Standardized Testing Coordinator	Elizabeth Collins	aikosmom@sc.rr.com	356-5858
Student Club Coordinator	Melissa Bryan	smabryan@aol.com	292-7122
Talent Showcase Coordinators	Tina Hewitt	tinahewitt@gmail.com	446-4635
	Carolyn Jackson	imacarolyn@gmail.com	665-5159
THRILL Coordinators	Michelle Steyne	mlsteyne@aol.com	466-4951
	Karen Collins	kscollins2@icloud.com	445-6043
Yearbook Advisory Panel	Josie Seacrist (Coordinator)	pjseacrist@yahoo.com	957-8707
	Jessica Sims	jess.sims@gmail.com	996-0609
	Leslie Buzzell	jlbuzzell@gmail.com	359-1934
	Jennifer Cogle	coglefour@gmail.com	261-9593
Website Coordinators	Jason & Jesseca Bennett	angelmommy2nd@sc.rr.com	429-2645