

The Encourager



Supporting Home Instruction
Encompassing Lexington District

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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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.



I remember sitting with my baby on the floor with a bucket of brightly colored blocks and a shape-sorting lid. Rarely, the round block slipped into the round hole on the first try. Occasionally, she'd try a different hole – or pick up a different block to try in the same hole. Usually, she was determined to make the mismatched shape bend to her will. She'd try to fit that round block into the square hole. Again. And again. And again.

If I tried to help, she would whisk the shape from my grasp. Growing more and more frustrated, she would beat the block against the lid or growl in protest.

In a matter of seconds, I could have completed the task for her – or at least shown her how it was done. Her frustration could have been avoided.

As a parent, I know avoiding all frustration isn't healthy. I need to allow those learning opportunities for my child's mind to develop. Likewise, physical growth requires falling down and getting back up. Infants, babies, and children use trial and error to strengthen their muscles and their minds. Children whose parents do everything for them experience failure to thrive. Independence is vital to physical, emotional, and intellectual growth.

Immersed in the natural world, we try to apply these natural laws to our spiritual life. We equate independence to spiritual maturity. We try to do for ourselves. We strive to be a good Christian by doing all of the right things. We feel like we have to be independent to grow spiritually.

As is so often the case, natural and spiritual laws contradict each other. God never asked us to be independent in our spiritual walk. Quite the opposite.

Ephesians 2:8 tells us, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –”. Our salvation is a gift. There is nothing we have to do other than accept His gift. We don’t have to find the right shaped block to fit into the correct hole. We simply need to receive.

So, salvation is a gift, but after that we’re supposed to handle our own problems, right? Wrong. God gives us His Holy Spirit to guide us and to give us His power to face every situation. Galatians 5:22-23 describes the characteristics that should be present in a believer, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” When we strive for any of those traits, we miss the entire meaning of the verse. The “fruit of the Spirit” is something that is produced by God’s Holy Spirit. This is God working in us, not an independent act of our will. When we allow God’s Holy Spirit to work in us, we will manifest **His** love, **His** joy, **His** peace, **His** forbearance, **His** kindness, **His** goodness, **His** faithfulness, **His** gentleness, and **His** self-control. Not ours. **HIS**. None of this is our own doing. We are **His** workmanship: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” Ephesians 2:10.

Romans 8:11 says, “And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.” God’s Holy Spirit lives in those who believe in Jesus. The same Power that raised Jesus from the dead is in me! I have God’s resurrection Power at my disposal, but I’m trying to do things myself – trying to be independent. That’s ludicrous!

God is looking at me the same way I looked at my baby girl all those years ago. He's saying, "I'm right here. I know which hole that block goes in. Please, please, baby girl. Let Me do this for you. Let Me show you how this works."

When God gave me this picture of His love for me, I had to ask, "What spiritual block am I holding on to – keeping out of God's reach, demanding to work my own way, determined to bend to my will?"

God never meant for us to beat our heads against a wall, growl in protest, or flounder spiritually. He has given us full access to His resurrection Power. Why, oh why, aren't we using it?

Father, forgive me for demanding my independence, refusing to let You guide me. Forgive me for relying on my weak, puny self to accomplish Your will – rather than depending on You for my strength. Forgive me for not accessing Your Power daily.

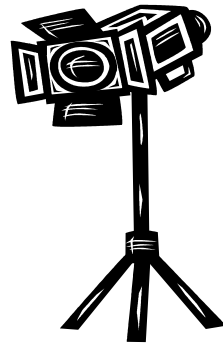
"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great Power for us who believe. That Power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way."
Ephesians 1:17-23



~Devotion by Janey Goude

“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!



Janey Goude met her husband, Darren, on a blind date in 1990. They married the next year. He tells their four children that they have an arranged marriage, because someone older and wiser saw God's plan for them. God has been directing their homeschool since their first child was three years old. Hannah, a senior this year, will be attending CSU to earn her nursing degree. Lauren, a sophomore, has a servant's heart that finds an outlet in volunteering - especially with children. Hannah and Lauren both participate in league bowling, earning awards and scholarships. Abigail is in sixth grade and enjoys gymnastics and spending time with friends. Jake is in fourth grade and loves all sports and anything outside. They have been SHIELD members since they moved to SC in 2003.

Q. What is your favorite SHIELD activity/event?

A. *I appreciate the variety of activities SHIELD members offer our group. Over the years we've been able to enjoy so many of them. Though we are quickly phasing out of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs, they have been the source of lifelong friends. Talent Night, Academic Presentation Days, and Field Day are events we continue to enjoy as a family.*

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

A. *I thought it would get easier, but I find this season the most challenging yet. Schooling students from elementary school to high school – meeting the needs of these diverse ages at the same time – is stretching me in new ways.*

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

A. *Happy Cow Creamery – the kids talked about that one for days!*

Q. What is your family's favorite activity?

A. *With a senior heading to college next year, I think we are all a bit more aware that our days are numbered. Whether we are window-shopping at the mall or bowling or playing a game of UNO on the living room floor, we just enjoy hanging out together.*

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. *I don't like to read. One of my goals in homeschooling has been to instill a love of reading in my children. So, my favorite books are those I read aloud with my children. "You Read to Me, I'll Read to You" is one of the first books each of our children read from independently. It's sitting by my chair now. They still love to read it aloud with each other. "A Wrinkle in Time" made an impact on us, a delightful C.S. Lewis-esque fantasy that presented opportunities for spiritual discussions as well as literary exploration.*

Q. What is your favorite food/recipe?

A. *I don't even know what it's called. A MOPs mom shared this recipe years ago, and it quickly became a family favorite because of its taste and low maintenance preparation/clean up. It takes me literally 5 minutes to throw in the crockpot! Layer 1 pound of frozen corn, 3-4 frozen chicken breasts, 1-2 packages taco seasoning, 16 ounces salsa, 2 (15-1/2 ounce) cans of black beans (don't drain, include juice). Cook on low 8 hours. Shred chicken (it will fall to pieces) and mix well. Serve as a stew or wrapped in a flour tortilla. Top with tomatoes, sour cream, and shredded cheese. Serves our family of 6 generous portions, with leftovers!*



Q. What is your dream vacation?

A. Anywhere with my family, preferably unplugged.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. Writing and photography.

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

A. Ephesians 3:16-21

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



Calendar of Events

February 2 (Mon)	Mid-Year Meeting , The Harvest-Rock Bldg., 7:00-9:00 pm
February 10 (Tues)	Box Tops Spring Deadline , 9pm
February 20 (Fri)	February Park Day , Chuck E Cheese, 11:00-2:00 pm
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 , Lexington Baptist Church, 7pm
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

Monday, February 2, 2015

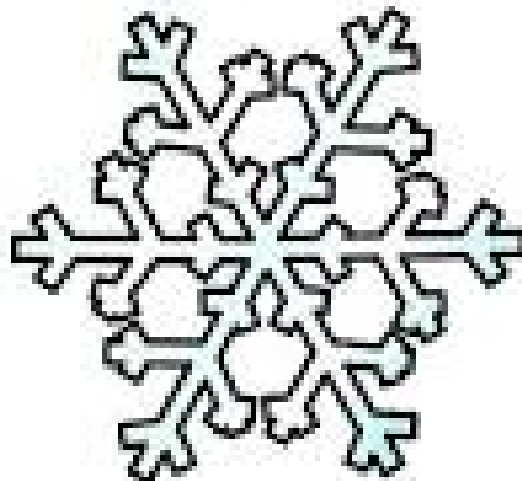
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Harvest Church in "The Rock" Youth Building
4865 Sunset Blvd., Lexington, SC 29072

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!

Light refreshments will be provided.



February Park Day

Come and join us!

We are planning an after-Valentine's Day party at Chuck E Cheese! **Please RSVP to Kari if you are able to attend.** Please bring a bag of candy to share with friends.

When: Friday, February 20, 11:00-2:00 pm

Where: Chuck E Cheese
1775 Burning Tree Drive, Columbia 29210

Who: All SHIELD Families!

Bring the kids out and get to know other SHIELD families!

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

Standardized Testing

April 22-24, 2015

Please see past emails for the three documents needed to sign up for Iowa Standardized Testing this April 22-24th. Instructions for filling out the BJU pages are included in the Frequently Asked Questions and Instructions document. Packets (BJU forms and SHIELD form) are due by February 27th.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Collins at 356-5858 or aikosmom@sc.rr.com.

SHIELD's Talent Night

Friday, February 27, 2015

New Life Community Church
10809 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063
7:00 pm

Have your children decided what they plan to perform at Talent Night?

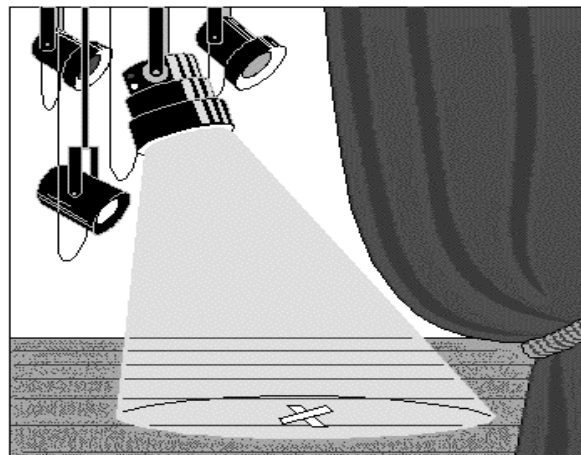
This year promises to be an exciting one! The New Life Church of Irmo/Ballentine will once again be the setting for one of the most anticipated nights of the year!

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 on Feb. 2nd 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**



SHIELD Senior News

It's time to order your cap and gown! I have listed three websites that offer your basic cap, gown and tassel package. Each site offers additional graduation supplies as well. There are other websites that offer packages, but I have listed the most economical packages below. If you have any questions, please email me. Tricia Heen - SHIELD Senior Coordinator, tricia_heen@yahoo.com.

trimandtassels.com

-cap, gown and tassel for \$17.95 + \$11.05 shipping

graduationmall.com

-cap, gown and tassel for \$17.95 (using 10% off code) + \$12.83 shipping

homeschooldiploma.com

-cap, gown and tassel for \$33.99 + \$8.04 shipping

Drama Club Presentation

Please Mark Your Calendars Now!

Friday, May 8th, 7 p.m.

Our SHIELD DRAMA CLUB will perform their Spring Play 2015 entitled, "Grandpa Redmond's Missionary Stories" on Friday, May 8th at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Lexington Baptist Church on Main Street.

The teachable themes involve the work of 4 different Missionaries from the 18th century to the 21st century. This would be a great night for families to learn together while supporting our Home School Actors and Actresses.

There is NO COST for this Performance!

Everyone is invited to the "Dessert and Fellowship Time" immediately afterwards.

Box Tops

Box Tops Deadline is Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 9pm

We have already made the deadline as late as possible in order for us to complete the additional preparation we must do to mail them in to Box Tops. Please plan ahead to get them in on time. No extensions can be given. If you can't make the deadline, just hold onto them until October.

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 at 9pm.**

Unfortunately, April is no longer able to help with Box Tops. We should have two drop points again next year, but for this Spring session of Box Tops there is only one drop off location. Please plan ahead to be able to meet the submission deadline.

Please note:

Due to a neighborhood child who has been known to steal mail, Janey cannot accept responsibility for Box Tops left at her house unattended. It is best to call first.

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
djgoude@icloud.com

******* There have been changes in how you will need to prepare your Box Tops *******

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 ZIPlac baggie. (NO staples, NO paper clips, NO fold over baggies)

3) You may have one ZIPlac baggie with less than 50 Box Tops. For example, if you have 303 Box Tops, you will have 6 bags with "#50" and 1 bag with "#3".

4) Write "#50" (or however many are in the bag), your name, and phone number on EACH ZIPlac baggie.

5) Put Bonus Box Tops in SEPARATE ZIPlac baggies. Follow steps 1-3, but also write "Bonus" on those ZIPlac baggies.

6) Put all ZIPlac baggies of 50 into 1 larger (quart or gallon size) ZIPlac baggie. (NOT an envelope, NOT a fold over baggie; NO staples, NO 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 ZIPlac baggie.

8) Place a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) in the larger ZIPlac baggie along with your Box Tops. We highly recommend using a forever stamp. If an SASE is not included, one will be provided. The cost will be deducted from your earnings.

9) Put the larger ZIPlac baggie in an envelope to mail. You may hand deliver the larger ZIPlac baggie by itself or in an envelope. If you mail them, make sure they will arrive in Tuesday's mail.

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

Janey Goude at 951-0943 or 312-4095 107 Woodbay Ct., Lexington
29072 djgoude@icloud.com

THRILL

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

Next Meeting:
Friday, February 20, 1-2 at the Rock

Girls, please bring snacks; Guys, please bring drinks.

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, ezpzpinkblack@gmail.com, www.pinkzebracome.com/pinkblack;

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