

ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
CELTIC NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2016



**INSIDE:** Back on “The Hill,” alumnus David Turk resurrects the Celtics volleyball program — winning games, fans and, most importantly, hearts





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The Celtic Newsletter is produced by the  
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Michael Hemphill  
Director of Marketing & the Annual Fund  
Debbie Stump  
Director of Major Gifts & Education Tax Credits

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL & HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Alumni, School Families and Friends of Roanoke Catholic,

I have an opportunity in this edition of our *Celtic Newsletter* to spotlight some wonderful “highlights” at Roanoke Catholic School. We have a tremendous volunteer base in our school community, but in all my years of service — from college and public school work to my partnership with Roanoke Catholic — I have never been so incredibly impressed with four parents who truly epitomize the servant’s heart and giving spirit of our faith. I must share with you how blessed we are to have: Regina Alouf, Ann Kovats, Kristine Safford and Kim Yeaton within our ranks.

These four moms — dubbed The Fabulous Four — have had their hands and hearts in nearly every major event designed to help improve the quality of our school climate and



*Home and School Association’s “Fab Four” (from left):  
Kim Yeaton, Ann Kovats, Regina Alouf, Kristine Safford*

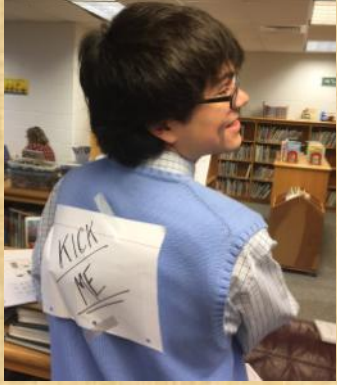
community. Without ever asking, they are here to support our students, faculty, staff and families with their time, treasures and talents.

Their commitment to RCS was exemplified, again, the morning of October 27 during the Junior Class Ring Ceremony. As many of us were enjoying the events of a truly memorable day for the Class of 2018, our host of supermoms were busily getting cake, decorations and other parts of our church social hall ready for dozens of students and parents. When they learned that our caterer was not coming due to a schedule conflict, the team raced into action. With just minutes left in our ring ceremony, these four moms headed to Sam’s Club and bought nearly every prepared item to feed our students and parents in attendance. This Herculean task went unnoticed by many because that is the way these folks operate — in silence and behind the scene in all they do. Please help me highlight their good efforts and celebrate them in all they do for our school community.

God's blessings upon all of you,

Patrick W. Patterson

# Homecoming Highlights



## Homecoming Week Oct. 3-8 featured "Mathletes," #32, Gala, victory

RCS upper school got a uniform break during Homecoming Week with a different theme each day: "Athletes & Mathletes," (top left: Ethan Hager); "Girls in Pearls & Guys in Ties," "Tacky Tourist" and "Favorite Cartoon or Movie Character" (from *Winnie the Pooh* and the cast from *The Office* to theology teacher Allison Welch [top right] dressing as Rey from *Star Wars*.)

At the Homecoming Pep Rally, which came exactly one week after junior A.J. Bennett suffered a season-ending football injury, his teammates made sure he wasn't forgotten by carrying in his No. 32 jersey. The Celtics went on to pound Fuqua (ranked No. 1 in the state at the time) 54-11 in the Homecoming game.

More than 100 RCS alumni, parents and friends attended our first-ever Homecoming Gala held inside a transformed Gillespie Family Gymnasium, thanks to the design talents of Mitchell Tyler, '01, and our Home and School Association. An online auction raised \$8,200 for the RCS Annual Fund.

Many thanks to all who attended and sponsored the Gala, and to all RCS families who contributed to our wonderful Homecoming Gala class auction baskets.



## 4 - IN THE CLASSROOM

# Roanoke Catholic hires new assistant principal

CHRISTOPHER JOHN MICHAEL HAS BEEN named Roanoke Catholic School's new assistant principal. He began work November 14, replacing Kathy Futrell, who retired in June.

"Chris Michael brings with him a wealth of knowledge and classroom expertise along with administrative acumen," says Patrick Patterson, principal and head of school. "His love for children and our faith is unmatched and he will be a welcomed addition to the RCS community."

Michael has worked in Catholic education and youth ministry since 1999 when he became director of youth ministry at St. William Catholic Church in Naples, Fla. In 2004 the West Virginia native returned home to become technology administrator and advancement director at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg. He also served as coordinator of middle and high school youth ministry at St. Joseph Church. In 2010 he became assistant principal of the school and in 2013 he was named interim principal of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School in Oak Hill, W.Va.

Upon fulfilling the interim

assignment in 2014 and not wishing to remain in southern West Virginia, Michael took a break from education to once again focus on parish ministry.



"I received a phone call from my former supervisor at St. William asking if I'd be willing to accept a position primarily focused on finance and technology integration in the parish," Michael said.

After some discernment and discussion with his

mentor, a retired Catholic school principal, Michael took the opportunity to focus on some new areas. "It gave me a chance to develop skills relative to a church or school environment and the integration of technology in areas of ministry."

A desire to return to a Catholic school environment and be closer to family inspired Michael in 2016 to seek the position at RCS.

"Just as the Holy Spirit breathes new life into each of us daily, educators give this gift of life to each of those young people trusted to our care," writes Michael. "What an awesome mission we are called to in our Catholic Schools! Jesus Christ is

truly the center of all that takes place in the school community, in my classroom, and in my students."

Michael received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Florida Gulf Coast University and a Master of Arts in Education (Catholic School Leadership Program) from Marymount University in Arlington. He also holds a Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies. Other parish ministry has included choir accompanist, catechist and Eucharistic minister.

"As an administrator in a Catholic School, I strive to ensure the needs of all learners are being addressed with dynamic teaching strategies, integration of technology in core subjects, and the inclusion of Church teachings in all subject areas," states Michael. "In his address to the Congregation for Catholic Education, Pope Francis writes, 'we cannot grow and we cannot educate without consistency: consistency and witness!' Today's young people have to be supported by and witnesses of authentic, faith-filled role models who not only demonstrate Gospel values, but positive character traits in a variety of interactions daily. This 'consistency and witness' must be shared by all stakeholders in the faith community."

## Chess Club, Bricks4Kidz now offered after school

FIRST-YEAR RCS PARENT TODD Brickman (*pictured right*) volunteered to launch a new after-school program in September that's been a check-mate for fun: Chess Club.

"Whether you've never played before or know what a castle or the French defense is, Chess Club is a great way to have fun and problem-solve," says Brickman.

Nearly 20 students from Kindergarten to 5th Grade meet on Mondays in the library to learn the skills — and sportsmanship — behind this centuries-old board game. In



addition, Brickman is working to prepare the students to participate in local chess tournaments.

A different kind of problem-solving now takes place Wednesday afternoons. In Bricks 4 Kidz, students experience hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fundamentals as they build models using Lego Bricks. From gears, torque



and friction, to robotics, space exploration and movie-making, Bricks4Kidz encourages critical thinking, creativity, teamwork and organizational skills.

## #withMalala inspires 6th graders

IN 2012, MALALA YOUSAFZAI BECAME A HOUSEHOLD NAME AROUND THE world when the Pakistani girl, just 15 at the time, was shot by a Taliban gunman because she dared to advocate for girls' and women's rights.

She survived and went on to write the bestselling, *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*, and was a co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.



James Purcell and Lauren Frackelton

This summer RCS 6th graders read her book and, to start the school year, created artwork as part of the #withMalala challenge — a global digital art project encouraging young people to speak out about why every girl should have a right to an education.

Artwork by RCS' James Purcell (pictured left with Lauren Frackelton) included a letter he wrote:

Dear Malala,

You are so kind and brave and now that I have read your book I will try to be more like you. You never give up hope in anything and that is what makes you amazing.

Over the summer my class and I had to do a book report on you. I was surprised how you defended your family, your education, and the education of all girls around the world. I believe you can change the world in many different ways.

## Fr. Matt assigns "soul work"

AT RCS' OPENING SCHOOL MASS, CHAPLAIN FR. MATT KIEHL GAVE three "soul work" assignments for the year:

1. Learn from Jesus
2. Love like Jesus
3. Live with Jesus



## RCS students join Arab League

FOR ONE WEEKEND each November, a team of RCS students acts as experts on Egyptian politics at the Appalachian Region Model Arab League at Hollins University.



From left: Ethan Hager, Megan McEvoy, Austin Boone, Patrick Glebus, Paul Kuehler

RCS is one of only three high schools — joined by six colleges including Virginia Tech, Radford University, Roanoke College and Hollins — to participate in the regional Model Arab League (MAL), which was established in 1983 as the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' flagship student leadership development program. MAL focuses on the 22 member states that comprise the League of Arab States, the world's oldest regional political organization dedicated to, among other things, the diplomatic and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Model Arab League helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs activists. The skill sets acquired and practiced in the course of the Models are designed to serve the participants well regardless of the career or profession they elect to pursue.

Students, teachers and staff are striving for straight A's on these assignments, based on their work so far this year.

In September, the school partnered with the Catholic Historical Society of the Roanoke Valley to host a spaghetti dinner and screening of *The Letters*, a 2014 movie about Mother Teresa, who received the Nobel Peace Prize and is considered one of the greatest humanitarians of modern times. The event was held in honor of Mother Teresa's canonization on Sept. 4.

In October (pictured left) RCS supported Roanoke Area Ministries' RAM House by collecting gently used shoes that in turn raised funds for this vital homeless shelter.

Later in October, RCS 5th, 6th and 7th grades made Halloween-themed flower arrangements as a Saint House project to decorate dining tables at Our Lady of the Valley Retirement Community.

And in November, RCS' Key Club (pictured above with president Riley Whalen) celebrated Happy Coats-giving by collecting coats for Roanoke's Rescue Mission.



## RCS celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month



ZUMBA DANCING, PRESENTATIONS BY LOCAL HISPANIC PROFESSIONALS, lunchtime *arroz con pollo*, and a Latino dance and culture show were some of the activities celebrated at RCS during National Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15-Oct. 15.

Thanks to RCS Segura Advocates Conchita Knipp and Kat Pascal for coordinating these festivities, and for these individuals for sharing their stories with our students:

*Clockwise from top left:*

- Wells Fargo's Anahi Alegria, a native of Mexico, and Nancy Year, of El Salvador, read and taught some Spanish to our PreK and

Kindergarten classes.

- Venezuela-born Pedro Szalay, artistic director of the Southwest Virginia Ballet, read *Ballet Cat: Dance! Dance! Underpants!* to our PreK and Kindergartners and taught basic ballet steps.
- Virginia Immigration Law Center attorney Jennifer Grace Dean, whose mother is from El Salvador, taught some Spanish while reading aloud *Maria Had a Little Llama*.
- Roanoke Police Det. Manuel Perez, a native of New York whose parents came from the Dominican Republic, handed out police badges and answered questions about being an officer.



## RCS Celtic Singers to compete in Williamsburg choir festival



IN ONLY ITS THIRD YEAR, THE ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELTIC SINGERS WILL compete for the first time in *Music in the Parks* choir festival in Williamsburg on March 31. The 25-member choir will spend April 1 enjoying Busch Gardens prior to the evening festival awards banquet. On Sunday, April 2, the choir will perform during the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Bede's Catholic Church in Williamsburg. All Tidewater alumni and friends are invited to attend the Mass.

## Meet Andrew



Make  
your  
gift  
today!

He just started Roanoke Catholic School this year as a 5th grader.

"We are so blessed and thankful that Andrew can go to RCS," says his mother, Telma. "I am a single parent with no family in this country. I value education more than anything ... it's the reason I'm in this country today."

But without our tuition assistance programs,

Andrew wouldn't be here. Says Telma: "As a mother, we want the best for our kids. Without this financial help, I couldn't afford it for sure."

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today to our Annual Fund. Or contact Debbie Stump, 540.982.3532 or [dstump@roanokecatholic.com](mailto:dstump@roanokecatholic.com) about contributing through the state Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits program.

Your generosity makes Roanoke Catholic accessible and affordable to families like Andrew's who aspire to our standards of academic excellence and Christian values.

Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission of "blending learning with faith and faith with daily life."

## New bus arrives in December

WHETHER YOU SPONSORED OR RAN THIS YEAR'S Shamrock Hill Run, bought a "seat on the bus," donated on Roanoke Valley Gives Day, or gave a gift as part of a challenge match, we thank you for bringing our \$100,000 new bus campaign to a successful conclusion.



In August we placed an order for the bus with Sonny Merryman and expect delivery in December (*photo here of bus being built*) in time for our winter sports season. This new bus means we will no longer need to rent charter buses to transport teams to sporting events and students on field trips, saving the school significant transportation dollars each year.

Stay tuned to the school's website, email and social media channels for details on the dedication of the new bus and thank you again for your generous support.

# GO CELTICS!



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## 8 - ON THE FIELD

### Roanoke Catholic hires former Virginia Tech wrestler as new head coach

RCS is pleased to announce the hiring of former Virginia Tech wrestler David Wesley as the new Celtics varsity wrestling head coach.

A native of Louisa, Wesley hails from a long line of wrestlers: his grandfather and two uncles wrestled at Virginia Tech while another uncle wrestled at Old Dominion University.

Wesley wrestled at St. Christopher's School in Richmond for high school and began his collegiate career at the University of Virginia before becoming a Hokie in 2013. He graduated Virginia Tech in May.

"Coaching is always something I've had a passion for," says Wesley. "I'm following in the footsteps of my grandpa who was coach at Norfolk Academy and my uncle who was coach at First Colonial High School. I'm really excited to come in and develop this program and help these guys improve not only on the mat but off the mat."



### Veteran hire heralds new era for Roanoke Catholic baseball

Mike Dailey, who has a 30-year career as player and coach at the high school, collegiate and professional levels, will take over RCS' baseball team in spring 2017. He lives in Radford with his wife and two children.

"Our baseball team, which was non-existent four years ago, reached the playoffs this year," says Athletic Director Matt Peck. "Under Mike's leadership, we look forward to continued success."



### Geometry teacher knows the right equation to lead Roanoke Catholic girls' soccer

Hired by Roanoke Catholic in 2015 to teach geometry, Franny Apel – a veteran coach and former College of William & Mary soccer star – is now head coach of the Celtics varsity girls' soccer program.

At William and Mary, Apel earned team captain and MVP titles in 2002, Colonial Athletic Association All-Conference 2nd Team from 2000 to 2002, and Academic All-American 3rd Team for 2002-03.

Apel has had continuous coaching experience since graduating from William and Mary. She served as assistant coach at Elkin High School in Elkin, N.C., and at R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem before being tapped head coach at R.J. Reynolds. Under her leadership from 2011 to 2015, she coached several players who are now playing at the collegiate level including Catawba College, Washington and Lee University, Wingate University, and Wofford College.



In 2015 Apel moved to Roanoke with her husband, Dr. Peter Apel, who joined Carilion Clinic's orthopedic surgery department. Soon after their move, Apel applied for a position at RCS teaching geometry.

"It wasn't until after Franny began teaching when I learned of her soccer experience," says Celtics athletic director Matt Peck. "Our varsity girls' soccer program is important to Roanoke Catholic, and we are beyond excited about the program's future in her hands."

Former RCS head coach Jon Reynolds will serve as Apel's assistant. A native of Idaho, Apel played on a Boise Capital Soccer Club team that was two-time Idaho state champion and three-time state runner-up. She was the 1998-99 Idaho Gatorade Player of the Year.

The Apels had their second child this summer. "This past year I have missed being on the field as a coach," says Apel. "I have high expectations and I look forward to meeting and developing our girls into a team to be reckoned with."





**RCS Football:** The Celtics achieved a 8-1 record this fall including signature wins over Auburn High School, Richmond Christian, and Fuqua. On the ground, RCS was led by senior running back No. 33 Jemel Tyree, who amassed more than 1,400 yards during the regular season (averaging over 15 yards per carry) and 34 touchdowns.

Pictured here are the team's seniors, from left: Jordan Alouf (trainer), Chris Brown, Challen Pineda, Jemel Tyree, Ian McInnis, Ethan Wright, Matthew Saville and Jack Kuehler.

**Celtics Cross-Country:** The future looks fast for RCS' cross-country program. Middle school boys and girls claimed top 5 finishes in several of the region's most prestigious meets. Both teams won the North Cross Raiders Home Meet, CHARCS Private School Invitational, and the girls (pictured right) captured the JV titles at both the Virginia State Catholic Championship Meet on Oct. 26 and Blue Ridge Conference Championship on Oct. 29.

Varsity girls' highlights this year included a fourth place finish in the Knights Crossing, led by 11th grader Samantha Connelly's third place overall out of 109 runners. Samantha was also named to the All Catholic State and All Conference teams. Varsity girls also won the North Cross Raiders Home Meet, beating North Cross and Faith Christian, and took second at Blue Ridge Conference Championship, led by Samantha's first place finish.



**Stay in the game! Now from anywhere you can follow RCS Celtics sports and school news and enjoy the latest photos, videos, live game updates, media stories and more!**



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# Coaching for life

**More minister than coach,  
alumnus David Turk returns to  
RCS to lead Celtics volleyball**

NO WAY WAS K.K. SHARKEY PLAYING VOLLEYBALL HER SENIOR YEAR.

A dispiriting 2015 season had left the junior athlete frustrated and determined to focus on basketball her last year as a Celtic.

Until one July day when she got a phone call from David Turk, Roanoke Catholic School's newly hired head volleyball coach. "I know last year was tough," Turk told her. "Just give it a try for a week and decide."

Fast forward three months and Sharkey finds herself setting for a Celtics squad with a winning record of 9-7 and, more surprising for her, getting looks from college recruiters.

"I think he's made everyone love the sport even more," Sharkey says. "Girls who have never played before are excited to come to practice every day and we're building a better program because of him."

\* \* \*

## **God, family, school, volleyball**

Karen Clark was the mother of another Roanoke Catholic athlete, freshman Maggie Clark, who was determined to skip this year's volleyball season.

Until Turk came calling for her, too.

"God, family, school, volleyball," recalls Karen. "Those were the four priorities he set forth, in that order, in that call and at the start of the season. And he really does stick with it. He practices what he preaches. He's a very faithful person."

Born and raised in Roanoke, Turk was baptized and confirmed at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, attended RCS for grades 1 to 12, graduating in 1970. Along the way he played football and basketball, "a sixth man type of player." Inspired by RCS teacher Billy Andrews, Turk went on to Washington & Lee University determined to become "either a priest or a teacher-coach."

The latter won out as he majored in sociology and returned to "The Hill" in 1974 to teach and coach football and basketball.

In spring 1975 he started the Celtics lacrosse program.

Around 1979 he became athletic director. As a thank-you for their support, Turk decided to open up the gym one day a week to RCS parents and supporters, dividing the space into a basketball court and volleyball court.

“Within a month everybody was playing volleyball,” he recalls, including himself. He and a group formed a team that competed for 20 years in a Roanoke City Parks and Recreation league.

But coaching the sport was still years away. In 1980 he left RCS to become football and lacrosse coach at Hampden Sydney College where he “learned tons of good stuff, and one of the things I learned was I’m a high school person, not a college person. I loved being in the classroom, talking with players and students on a personal level, talking about things not sports. That’s where my calling in life was.”

The opportunity to return to high school came soon when Lord Botetourt High School — one of his recruiting stops — offered him a job teaching and coaching either JV basketball or varsity volleyball. He chose volleyball and, in 1984, took his team to the first state AA championship tournament, losing in the semifinal round.

The following year landed him at Salem High School, “initially coaching nothing, hired purely as a social studies teacher.” But a year later the school’s volleyball coach resigned, and for the next 29 years — save one break to earn his Master’s degree — Turk led the Spartans, taking them to multiple state tournaments and winning the 1997-98 AA State Championship.

### Return to The Hill

Officially retired in 2013, Turk continued to coach local volleyball clinics, including a couple at Roanoke Catholic where he got to know RCS athletic director Matt Peck. Through St. Andrew’s Catholic Church and leading local Discovery Retreats, he met RCS principal Patrick Patterson, whose daughter, Libby, served with Turk as a Discovery leader.

But it wasn’t until the end of the 2015-16 school year when the school found itself needing a new volleyball coach. “Initially I said I would love to help out. My preference was to be a mentor and volunteer coach and help move things along. But worst case

scenario, I told them if you can’t find somebody I’ll step in and help.”

The “worst case scenario” turned out best for Roanoke

Catholic, when Turk agreed in mid-July to be head coach. “Roanoke Catholic was an incredible experience for me both athletically, academically, and as a person. For me to be able to give back was a wonderful opportunity.”

And a challenging one. Hired just two weeks before the start of the season, Turk found himself with only a few players willing to sign up after a dismal 2015-16 season, barely enough to field a varsity team. “And there would be no JV,” he was told. “And with no JV there would be no feeder system for the varsity.”

Undaunted, Turk got on the phone and began calling the girls and their parents, some of whom he’d taught 30 years ago during his first stint at Roanoke Catholic. By season’s start, Celtics volleyball boasted 23 players, enough for full varsity and JV teams. With Sharkey as the only senior, the Celtics nevertheless finished with a winning season of 9-7.

“I’m real pleased and real thrilled for the young ladies,” he says. “I don’t think any of them had any clue of what they were

able to accomplish. Many of them came into the year reluctant perhaps or questioning how things were going to go. I may be wrong but I think we exceeded their expectations.”

He credits his wife, Renee (whom he met during his teaching days at RCS when she came in as a long-term substitute) for her willingness to volunteer alongside him this season. “She is very much understanding of the emotional side of the ladies. I’m much

more into the X’s and O’s. Between the two of us we come together very well.”

Their daughter, Rachel, a star volleyball player at Lynchburg College, also helped during the summer before returning in August to her graduate school studies.

Most importantly, he credits his Catholic faith, his original inspiration to become a priest or teacher-coach.

“Behind all that is a vocation that everyone in life has to find for themselves and that ultimately is the guiding force behind it all,” he says. “That’s why I came out of retirement. I still care about those kids.”

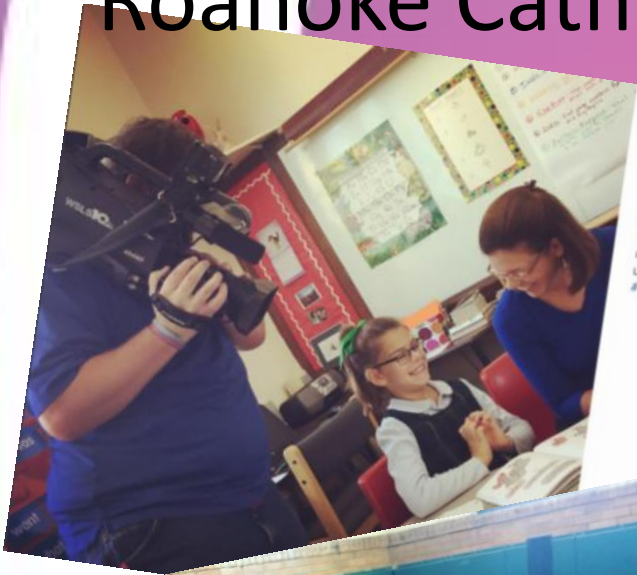


Turk with KK. Sharkey



# A week in the life of Roanoke Catholic on ...

# Insta



roanokecatholic  
Roanoke Catholic School

47 likes

roanokecatholic Great having @wststv10 & @jennasjems here interviewing RCS reading specialist Cyndy Unwin for an upcoming story. #catholicsschool #myroanoke #roanokeva



roanokecatholic  
Roanoke Catholic School

52 likes

roanokecatholic No comment about our country's present ... but the future of America is great as evidenced by today's election for lower school Student Government Association. After a week of campaigning, the candidates today gave speeches to a respectful audience of K-7th graders, who then voted in Emma Patterson, president; Jacob Foster, vice-president; Meg Hemphill, secretary; Lauren Frackelton, treasurer. Congratulations to all 16 candidates who demonstrated great courage and leadership in their desire to serve RCS.

Add a comment...



roanokecatholic

71 likes

roanokecatholic Love this photo from @a.n.pearman capturing the joy of RCS middle school volleyball team's first win of the season Wednesday. Go Celtics! #volleyballers #catholicsschool #myroanoke #roanokeva

edenamazing12 Yay

emilydsmom Way to go girls! Great teamwork!

Add a comment...



# gram

October 12-19, 2016  
@roanokecatholic



roanokecatholic  
Roanoke Catholic School

69 likes 6d

roanokecatholic We ended our National Hispanic Heritage Month celebration today with a Dance and Fashion Show, featuring dances from Colombia, Mexico and Honduras. Many thanks to our Hispanic families for sharing their talents and culture with us today, this month and throughout the year. So wonderful being part of a Catholic - as in universal - community!  
#catholicschool #myroanoke #roanokeva #nationalhispanicheritagemoth

flame\_oflove Impressive content!

roanokecatholic  
Roanoke Catholic School

40 likes 18h

roanokecatholic Mucho gracias Southwest Virginia Ballet's Pedro Szalay for teaching our 4th graders both dance and Spanish today!  
@southwestvirginiaballet #catholicschool #myroanoke #roanokeva #nationalhispanicheritagemoth



roanokecatholic  
Roanoke Catholic School

53 likes 13h

roanokecatholic RCS volleyball improved to 9-6 on the season with tonight's straight set victory over Holy Cross. Come out Thursday night for the team's Senior Night honoring @kk\_sharkeyy!  
#catholicschool #myroanoke #roanokeva #volleyballers #twitter

roanokecatholic  
Christian Heritage Academy

42 likes 3d

roanokecatholic RCS varsity girls, and middle school boys and girls, won the CHARCS Private School Invitational cross-country meet on Saturday. Varsity's Samantha Connelly won first place, and her team claimed 5 of the top 10 spots. Sister Carolyn Connelly paced the middle school girls' squad that took 6 of the top 10 spots. Boys' middle school also finished 5 in the top 10, led by Justin Barnard's first place finish.  
#catholicschool #myroanoke #roanokeva #twitter #crosscountryrunning



roanokecatholic  
Roanoke Catholic School

42 likes 6d

roanokecatholic Proud to support RAM House drive to collect new and gently used vital homeless shelter. We'll keep collecting through Nov. 14. Thanks to all who've supported this cause!  
#catholicschool #myroanoke #roanokeva



roanokecatholic Great job by @rl\_whalen on today's @wslstv10 @daytimeblue ridge story about transferring to RCS and our upcoming open house on 10/26. Check out our FB page for story or go to <http://wsls.com/2016/10/19/roanoke-catholic-school-open-house/>  
#catholicschool #myroanoke #roanokeva #mglenny15 Looking great @rl\_whalen

roanokecatholic

73 likes

roanokecatholic RCS celebrated Senior Night tonight with a 50-6 victory over Richmond Christian to go to 7-1 on the season. Go Celtics 🍀!  
#1stand10 #FFE #FridayNightLights #catholicschool #myroanoke #roanokeva #twitter

## 14 - ALUMNI UPDATES

**Gabby McClelland, '16,**

completed Cadet Basic Training in August at the U.S. Air Force Academy and was selected "Top Basic Cadet" of her "Flying Tigers" Cadet Squadron.



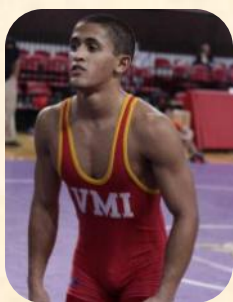
**Kirstyn Montgomery, '10,** has been working to make a reality of her photography business, Living Years Photography. "One thing I

wanted for my business is helping capture family memories of those fighting or survivors of cancer. This cause is important to me following my dad's death from cancer in 2013." She plans to donate money from sessions to local groups like Help Save The Next Girl and animal shelters such as Angels of Assisi.



**Suzanne Barnard Tyler, '01,** has graduated from Jefferson College

of Health Sciences with her Master of Science in Nursing Administration. She will use her degree in her role at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital as the Unit Director in Operating Room Services for the Ambulatory Surgical Unit, the Post Anesthesia Care Unit, and the Pediatric Post Anesthesia Care Unit.



## "Punching Padre"

The many uniforms of Armando Herrera-DosReis, '12



Armando Herrera-DosReis' life to date almost sounds like the start to a joke:

What does a wrestler, a boxer, an Army officer and a priest have in common?

Until you hear his answer: "The common thing is sacrifice. That's what attracted me most to those sports. And that's what being a priest is all about, sacrificing yourself for Christ and the church and offering sacrifice at the Mass. That's also what attracted me to the military as well, people sacrificing their lives for their country and for their families back home."

A lauded Celtics wrestler, Armando graduated Roanoke Catholic in 2012 and joined the wrestling team at Virginia Military Institute, but stepped away after his first year to focus on his studies.

But the urge to compete didn't leave him, so he took up amateur boxing, following Paul's words from 1 Corinthians: "So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified."

Dubbed "Punching Padre" by his classmates, Armando became so skilled in the ring that in 2015 he

won a national title at 132 pounds at the U.S. Intercollegiate Boxing Association men's national championship at the University of Michigan, which featured 150 boxers from 28 schools. His title helped VMI win the overall men's championship.

After graduating in May, he spent this summer serving as a Life Teen missionary at Camp Hidden Lake in Dahlonega, Ga., helping Catholic teens encounter and grow closer to Christ in an outdoor summer camp setting.

He was also commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and accepted into the chaplain corps. In August he began "exploring the call to the priesthood" by enrolling as a seminarian at Catholic University of America. His education is being co-sponsored by the Diocese of Richmond and the Archdiocese for the Military. After his six years of seminary, he will serve three years as a parish priest followed by at least five years of military service.

At least that's the path he thinks he's on. As he knows about sacrifice, his life is not his own.

"My life is the bishop's," Armando says. "I go where he tells me to go."

## Former Celtics hoops coach now on mission to Romania



To Leon Caldwell, basketball had always been just a game he loved ... and coached for nearly 40 years.

In 2010, his basketball journey led him to become head coach at

Roanoke Catholic where, at age 69, he might well have assumed he'd end his career.

"It was an awesome experience for me," he recalls. "Precious kids and awesome parents."

But his wife's sudden diagnosis with breast cancer in 2013 compelled him to resign and turn over the team to his associate, Josh Cunningham, so he could begin caring for her.

His wife soon recovered and was

proclaimed cancer-free, leaving Caldwell grateful, but also wondering what now to do. One evening he found himself out in his yard staring into the sky and praying aloud, "Father, are you finished with me? You know how much I love this game and how much I love You."

Not 10 days later, he says, he got a call from his pastor at Green Ridge Baptist Church, Mike Palmer, inviting him to join a new basketball ministry he was starting to reach young people in Craiova, Romania. Caldwell said yes to the call, journeyed to Romania for the first time in May 2014, and has been returning ever since.

"I know God can do anything, but I never thought that God would

use the game of basketball in such an awesome way," says Caldwell, now 75. Meeting in area high schools and colleges, Caldwell's team uses basketball as an opening to share the Christian faith with some 500 youth each trip.

Mike Palmer Ministries is planning another trip in March 2017. Caldwell invites anyone interested in joining the team to contact him at [hoopscoachc@comcast.net](mailto:hoopscoachc@comcast.net).



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Photo by Betty Clicker Photography  
(aka Kate Thompson Feucht, RCS '05)

# Celtic Strings

**Two RCS alumnae — reporter Desiré Moses, '06 (left), and luthier Jayne “Tuffy” Henderson, '03, reunite for a National Public Radio story, reprinted here with permission.**

***A Father-Daughter Luthier Duo Builds Souls Into Guitars***

October 4, 2016 | Heard on *All Things Considered*

By DESIRÉ MOSES

WAYNE HENDERSON IS A RENOWNED ACOUSTIC GUITARIST who has played at Carnegie Hall, been honored at the White House and toured internationally. He’s also an acclaimed instrument maker who has built guitars for the likes of Eric Clapton and his own close friend, the late Doc Watson. For the past five years, Henderson has shared his studio — and his trade — with an up-and-coming luthier: his daughter, Jayne.

Jayne didn't plan on becoming a luthier. She earned a degree in environmental law and was facing hefty student loan debt when she saw the going rate for her dad's guitars secondhand on eBay. She asked him to make her a guitar that she could sell to pay off her loans, but he had another idea.

“I told her, ‘You oughta make it yourself,’” Wayne says. “And I said, I'll show you exactly what to do and give you my best wood and you make one of my guitars and then you can put it on eBay and sell it.”

Jayne gave it a shot, and she ended up loving it. “It turns out it was so fun to have this tangible thing at the end of the day,” she says. “Like, here's my work, here's what I've

done. And that, I thought, was so neat. And I got to spend legitimate time with my dad.”

She enjoyed it so much that she asked her dad if she could make another — and then another. “Every time, I'd come home and tell my husband about it,” Jayne says, “and he would say, you know, ‘Your face. When you're telling me about this, you obviously love this so much, and why don't you just do that?’”

So she set aside environmental law, and now she drives the three hours from her home in Asheville, N.C., to spend a couple of weeks every month building instruments at her dad's workshop in rural southwestern Virginia. Wayne’s been making guitars and mandolins here in Grayson County, where he grew up, for 55 years — when he wasn't delivering mail for the postal service throughout the area's mountains and Christmas tree farms. It's something he says he wanted to do ever since he first played a guitar at the age of 5.

“I still get a big excitement out of stringing up a new instrument, even though I've done almost 700 of ‘em,” Wayne says. “It still seems like it's exciting as ever the very



first time you string up a guitar and hear what it sounds like.”

Among Wayne Henderson’s more famous fans is country music star Vince Gill. Two years ago, Wayne asked Gill to come play the annual festival that the luthier puts on in his hometown. As payment, he offered Gill a handmade guitar.

“I got it when I went to the festival and played and just fell in love with him and his family,” Gill says. “It felt like life used to when I was playing bluegrass.”

That back-porch feeling is part of what makes Henderson guitars special — that and their volume and tone, which comes partly from the wood Wayne uses.

“The soundboard and the bracing is most always made out of spruce,” Wayne says. “And the back and sides of the guitar, the most common thing is rosewood from South America or India. And mahogany from Central America. ‘Course that wood is all getting scarcer and harder to come by now.”

Since some of this wood is endangered, Wayne reuses wood when he can get his hands on it — he’s made guitars out of an heirloom dining table and out of the countertops from Truman Capote’s yacht. Jayne likes to use local woods when she can: walnut, maple and oak.



To listen to the full story — including Wayne and Jayne playing their hand-crafted instruments — go to [www.npr.org/music](http://www.npr.org/music) and search “Jayne Henderson.”

“I think you can use a lot of different materials if you just have an open mind,” she says. “And I use the traditional techniques that my dad has taught me.”

Her attitude impresses Gill. “The detail and the workmanship is beautiful like Wayne’s is, and that’s probably because he’s taught her and she’s gotten to watch such a great builder,” he says. “Her blueprint of what to do is pretty astounding. So that’s her

normal, ya dig? I love the fact that she experiments with different woods and tries different things. You know, that’s pretty neat about a young person when they try to find their own way and do things that maybe aren’t the norm.”

Jayne’s guitars are in demand. She’s already got a four-year waiting list for her instruments. Her dad’s is more than twice that long. The reason, she thinks, has something to do with what guitar expert, author and dealer George Gruhn once told her: that their guitars have a soul in them.

“It’s not just wood and glue and metal, you know,” Jayne says. “It’s this really special instrument that’s alive, and the player makes it come alive even more.”

The result is more than just a guitar. According to Jayne, “it comes into a living, breathing thing.” A thing that comes from sincere devotion — and a deep connection between a daughter and her dad.



Jayne Henderson (right) and her dad, Wayne Henderson, test out a guitar and a ukulele in Wayne’s shop in Rugby, Va.

## Jemel's dream

Jemel Tyree knew he had the moves on the field to play college football. And his character — proven



by caring for foster children at home and disabled men at Praises Mental Health Services — was just what a coach would want.

But it was in the classroom where he thought he might fumble away his future.

So in 2015 the Franklin County native and his mother sought out Roanoke Catholic to enhance his academic standing. They immediately fell in love with our school's environment and values.

The tuition assistance we could provide made it a win all around.

"We wouldn't be here without it," says his mother, Gamel McGhee. "The environment as a whole is great, and being around people who have the same goals has helped him tremendously."

Now a senior, Jemel is the Celtics' leading rusher, scoring 34 touchdowns this season. More importantly, Jemel is a leader in school.

"He always has a smile on his face," says theology teacher Ellen Vanden Eykel. "He is attentive and friendly and he's always willing to ask the question that no one else will ask ... and he's the better for it."

Please make a tax-deductible donation today to our Annual Fund. Or contact Debbie Stump, 540.982.3532 or [dstump@roanokecatholic.com](mailto:dstump@roanokecatholic.com), about contributing through the state Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits program.

Your generosity makes Roanoke Catholic accessible and affordable to families like Jemel's who aspire to our standards of academic excellence and Christian values. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission of "blending learning with faith and faith with daily life."

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# *Bienvenidos de Vuelta Celtics*

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INJURY LAW AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

# Annual Report

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Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Keyser  
Mr. Justin Keyser  
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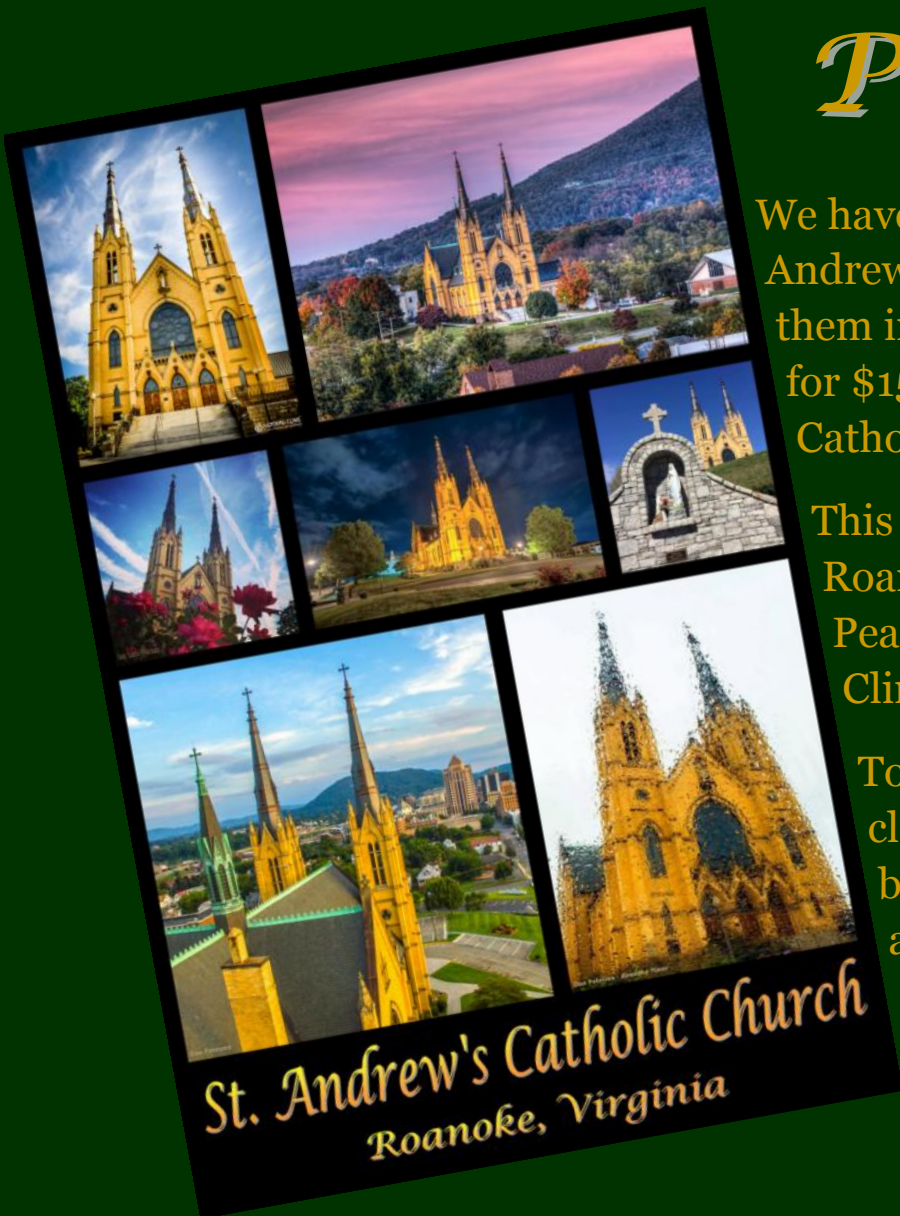
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