#Connie Maxwell

For Alumni, Friends, and Family of Connie Maxwell Children's Home

Spring 2018 | www.ConnieMaxwell.com

Inside this issue: **Ruth Graham 'New Beginnings' & Dreams of Children Tour**



™Connie Maxwell

Spring 2018

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New Trustees Join Comparison of our new Connie Mawell trustees gathered for a photo after the Feb. 1 board meeting. From left to right: Gary Long, Sue Sheriff, Dr. Clark McCrary III, Kay Dangerfield, Richard Rivers, Ernest Mackins, and Jean Young. Not pictured is Rev. Richard McWhite.

Contents

On the cover: President William D. Nicholson II (center), takes a moment to pose with children from our Brookland campus during the Dreams of Children Tour in Charleston.



Ruth Graham shares her story of redemption during 'New Beginnings' service.



Dreams of Children Tour Connie Maxwell takes the message of hope, love, and dreams of children across the state.

Will you come to me in my dreams? Eight words that gave new direction to our 10th president.



Finding the hero inside: The tale of an unlikely basketball star.



Alumni Weekend June 8-10!

Alumni Weekend Schedule

Friday, June 8th

8:30 a.m. - 12 noon 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Golf Tournament at Star Fort Fishing Tournament at OASIS Pond Registration - Ann Rainsford Conference Room in the Sam Smith Activities Building Commemorative Coins for sale in the Sam Smith Activities Building near lobby Horseback Riding - New Arena at OASIS Early Bird Get Together - Alumni Cabins at OASIS

Saturday, June 9th

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. 12:00 noon 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Registration - Ann Rainsford Conference Room in the Sam Smith Activities Building **Business Meeting - Church Sanctuary** (Nursery provided) Commemorative Coins for sale in the Sam Smith Activities Building-Historic room open Alumni Photo - Steps of the Sam Smith **Activities Building** Lunch in the Sam Smith Activities Building Cottages Open for Visits. Please Plan Visits During this Time Only. President William D. Nicholson II in Ann **Rainsford Conference Room** Commemorative Coins for sale in the Sam Smith Activities Building-Historic room open Horseshoes, Playground, Swimming, Basketball and Tennis Courts Open. Historic Photos in Registration Room. Evening Meal in the Activities Building Saturday Evening Program - Church Sanctuary (Nursery provided) **Basketball and Tennis Courts Open**

Sunday, June 10th

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon 12 noon Registration - Ann Rainsford Conference Room in the Sam Smith Activities Building Nursery Open Choir Practice - Alumni are Invited Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall Morning Worship Lunch in the Sam Smith Activities Building

Visit our event section online at **www.ConnieMaxwell.com** for the latest Alumni Weekend schedule and information!



Dear Alumni of Connie Maxwell,

My heart warms at the very thought of the celebration we will share during our Reunion this June! I hope I have the opportunity to hug, to laugh, and share memories with every single one of you! What a joy it will be to collectively celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our childhood home. Registration for our reunion is posted online, and the Alumni Board along with the amazing staff of Connie Maxwell are busily preparing for your arrival. Please register ahead of time so that accurate counts for meal preparation are available.

As you prepare to come home please consider purchasing at least one of the beautiful commemorative coins created to Honor Connie Maxwell's 125th Anniversary. If you haven't seen them, let me tell you now how beautiful they are, and how satisfying it is to hold one in your hand. All proceeds of the sale of these coins will go towards the Honor Roll Fund which pays the bills for our huge, totally delightful get together. The sale of the remainder of the coins will net us \$3000.00 to help defray the cost of the reunion. So please, buy a \$15.00 coin. You can keep it as a personal treasure or share it with someone else who would like to know more about our beloved children's home.

Get Registered dear Connie Maxwell sisters and brothers and come celebrate June 8–10.

My sincere love to you all,

Evelyn 1960-70

Evelyn Cauley Alumni Association President

"Will you come to me in my dreams?"

Eight words that gave new direction to our 10th president.

by Julia Bell



While on a beach vacation in July 2016, William D. "Danny" Nicholson II and his wife Debra stopped for dinner one evening at their favorite seafood restaurant. They could not have known how a chance encounter with a lively

young child would chart a new course for their lives. The child's identity remains a mystery, but his

impact is eternal.

"I suppose that's the way God wanted it. I never asked the little boy's name but, in the end, I knew who he represented. It was clear in my soul and spirit," says Nicholson.

Danny Nicholson's story starts in a rural hospital in February 1962. Born premature and to unwed parents, he spent several weeks in that hospital before being adopted by Billy and Mary Nicholson, a county school district maintenance

worker and school teacher. The couple gave Danny a home filled with unconditional love, and a childhood so idyllic it included a basketball hoop and a back porch, where his mother would stand to call him in for dinner.

Danny graduated from Charleston Southern University, went on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina, and pursued a lengthy career in higher education. He was involved in fund raising and college development for the Medical University of South Carolina, Carson-Newman University, Coastal Carolina

I never asked the little boy's name but, in the end, I knew who he represented It was clear in my

soul and spirit.

University, and, most recently, Winthrop University. Danny and Debra, a first grade teacher, have two adult sons. And, on that summer evening two years ago, they were looking forward to the next season of their lives together.

The restaurant was crowded that evening. As they waited for a table, a small African American boy - maybe five or six years old - scampered around and between the couple while they tried to talk. As Danny tells it, the boy's eyes were 'big as buttermilk biscuits,' and his contagious smile immediately stole their hearts. He bounced back and forth, asking them to play with his toys, and inviting them back

to his house after dinner.

"We laughed, and he continued to run around us with reckless enthusiasm. I noticed a Caucasian couple was watching him intently, and so I walked over to talk with them," Nicholson says.



He complimented the bright child, and the woman revealed that they were the boy's foster parents. The news struck a chord with Danny, who says he thanked them for loving the boy and for being willing to give him a home. The brief conversation ended, but Danny and Debra continued to talk about how special the boy was.

"It all seemed to be happening in slow motion. We were both trying to understand why this little boy had captured our attention, and stolen our hearts. We talked about the many blessings God had given us, about our love for children, and our desire to do something with the rest of our lives to show our thankfulness to God. Little did we know, our answer was resting in that small little boy who had stolen our hearts with his wild enthusiasm and innocence," he says.

At the end of their meal, the little boy and his foster family stopped by Danny and Debra's table to say goodbye. The child asked once more if the couple could come to his house to spend the night, and then jumped into Debra's lap.

"He looked into her eyes and said eight words that changed our lives - 'will you come to me in my dreams?' Everything seemed to stop around us, and we felt wrapped in a love that we had never known before. As the little boy walked away, I told Debra that I didn't know what had just happened, but I knew that our lives would never be the same," Nicholson recalls.

Over the next few months, the couple seemed to have constant reminders of their dinner encounter. They saw television commercials about dreams, and read news articles about adoption. Then one day, Danny noticed a job posting for the position of president at Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Greenwood. He had served as a trustee there years before, and was familiar with the scope and importance of the ministry.

Connie Maxwell was established in 1892 as a ministry affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and is dedicated to caring for and supporting hurting children and families. In the years since, more than 17,000 children have been touched through its services, which include residential care, crisis care, family care, and foster care. Connie Maxwell has five campuses across the state.

Roughly one year after his life-changing summer encounter, Danny was named as the

10th president of Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Now, his days are fully devoted to helping children find a home, believing that each one is a 'child of God,' who deserves to be loved, protected, and encouraged. "Whatever the circumstance, it is the brokenness of our lives that

displaces an innocent child and leaves him/her to find their way in this world. I realized at an early age that I had been rescued, and always wanted to find a way to say thanks to my adopted parents. Now, I have the opportunity to say thanks in the most meaningful way – to God and my parents. I get the privilege to help other children find a home the way I did. There is an authentic empathy that I share because I am one of them. It makes my heart happy to help rescue children and families, and to give them the love that

the same.

He looked into her eyes and said eight words that changed our lives – 'will vou come to me in my dreams?' Everything seemed to stop around us, and we felt wrapped in a love that we had never known before. As the little boy walked away, I told Debra that I didn't know what had just happened, but I knew that our lives would never be



they so richly deserve," Nicholson says.

His experiences, both personal and professional, have helped to prepare him for his work today. Connie Maxwell is supported by individuals and churches across the state, and has a broad volunteer base. Nicholson regularly speaks to civic and religious groups about the work going on there.

"Vulnerable children are everybody's business. Most everyone - with or without a religion - knows what it means to help a child," he says. "We should help those in need, especially children, if only as pay back for all that we have received. From the faith perspective, God made it clear when He said, 'Let the little children come unto me for theirs is the kingdom of God,' and 'As you have done it to the least of these, so you have done it unto me.""

When he speaks to groups, Danny acknowledges that no parent is perfect, but often asks where those people would be

today without the impact of parents in their lives. Regardless of the quality of that relationship, he says each person still received some type of help and support when they were young. And so, he argues, the responsibility is there to look beyond yourself, and make room in your heart for the less fortunate, and especially for children in need.

"God was calling Debra and me, through that little boy, to finish our story. He was calling us to do something bigger than ourselves. God reminded me that He was there when I was born all alone. He was there to make sure a maintenance worker and a school teacher picked me up, and gave me a home. Now, He wants me to give other children the precious gift that He has given to me," says Nicholson.

In the news...

Becky Butler Receives 2018 Distinguished Service Award

Becky Butler, a longtime employee of Connie Maxwell Children's Home, was presented with the Palmetto Association for Children and Families Distinguished Service Award during their 2018 Annual Conference February 28, in Myrtle Beach.

"Becky is truly a woman of inspiration—from her early days advocating for the rights and best interests of children, through her nearly four decades of service to children and families in South Carolina," Connie Maxwell's Vice President for Programs, Tim Duncan, said in a letter to the nominating committee.

Butler began her career at Connie Maxwell as the Director of the Pee Dee Shelter in Florence, SC, eventually being named Campus Administrator. She has been employed at Connie Maxwell for nearly 40 years, and currently serves as the Director of Training for all five-campus locations.

Duncan described how throughout her various roles, Butler has remained on the cutting-edge of research and best practices, while always remaining focused on her clients' physical and spiritual needs.

"Throughout Becky's career she has been a foundation of caring and nurturing for hundreds of children in need," said Duncan. "She has focused her skills on preparing the next generation of caregivers to serve each person where they are in their walk through life, and as one individual."

Butler talked about how she 'wept with shock' after learning the news that she would receive this award—especially knowing some of the past award recipients included former Connie Maxwell President Dr. Ben Davis and long-time former employee Jack Cauley.

"I know many of the past recipients and could not imagine my

being counted as one of 'those' giants of child welfare," Butler said. "I am very humbled.'

Connie Maxwell President William D. Nicholson II, added, "I congratulate Becky on this well-deserved honor. Her example of service, love and compassion has been beautifully illustrated in the way she has sacrificially served children and families in our ministry for so many years."



President William D. NIcholson II and Becky Butler pose during the award ceremony held in Myrtle Beach Feb. 28, 2018.



James A. Wright Jr., pictured with his wife Gloria, was honored by trustees during the Nov. 9, 2017 board meeting.

James A. Wright Jr. honored at November trustee meeting

James A. Wright Jr. was honored by the Connie Maxwell's board of trustees during their Nov. 9, 2017 meeting.

Wright, who was chief financial officer for the South Carolina Baptist Convention for more than 31 years and later served as vice president for finance and operations at Anderson University, was named interim president at Connie Maxwell Nov. 3, 2016 and assumed duties Nov. 7.

"His gifts of administration and finance, as well as his love for this ministry have been superb," said Richard Lackey, chairman of Connie Maxwell's board of trustees.

Wright reflected on how he initially struggled with the decision to come out of retirement and take on the interim position at Connie Maxwell, but then realized how God had been preparing him for it all along.

"Through my time at the Convention and the opportunities I had to visit so many times as a convention representative, as well as my time at Anderson University, through the people I knew and my love for Connie Maxwell, I knew that God had uniquely prepared me for this role," Wright said.

Wright was also a part of the presidential search committee that named William D. Nicholson II the 10th President of Connie Maxwell in July 2017.

B.M. Cave, Connie Maxwell trustee and chairman of the presidential search committee said, "I've known James for a long time and have always thought a lot of him. He was a big asset to the search committee as we looked for a new president, and we are very grateful for his service."

Wright was overcome with emotion as he was presented with a portrait during the meeting that will hang in the Bailey Administration Building.

"In great appreciation for all you've done during this transition of leadership, and for your compassion and your long years of service to Christ, we want to tell you how much we appreciate you," said William D. Nicholson II, president of Connie Maxwell.

"It was such an amazing fit for me to come in and be able to do this work. I look along these walls and see Heyward, Joe, Jimmy, and Ben-people that I've served with and look up to," Wright said. "To be a part of this is really overwhelming, and this experience will not be forgotten."

Duke Endowment Grant Recognizes Connie Maxwell's Successful Legacy

by Julia Bell

Connie Maxwell Children's Home has established a strong grant will expand her ministry scope over the next three years. "We have two new staff members responsible for training new and reputation for excellent residential care of children, rehabilitation of broken families, and ongoing efforts in life skill education. The existing foster parents in the ARC Reflections model, recruiting Duke Endowment's most recent award to Connie Maxwell comes new foster parents, and increasing the support for our families," as a result of its relationship with the institution, and recognizes Reed says. how a successful legacy can pave the way for new resources to reach The ARC Reflections model is part of the grant assistance, and hurting children and families in South Carolina. offers therapeutic resources to foster families and children working

Since its founding in 1892, Connie Maxwell's mission has been to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. Current data reflects that, at any given time, roughly 4,000 children are active in the foster care system in South Carolina. Connie Maxwell is already active in recruiting, training, and supporting foster families, as well as the children in their care. Now, through this \$350,000 endowment award, more children can be reached through its foster care services.

According to Tim Duncan, vice president for programs, recent federal legislation prevents children of a certain age in DSS custody to be placed in a residential setting. However, through foster care services, Connie Maxwell can serve these

children. "We feel that reaching as many children as we can is God's task for us. This allows us to diversify without taking away

from our heritage in residential care. Adding more services for more children is our duty," he says. Duncan says the grant idea was born out of a simple conversation with the Duke Endowment, as they discussed areas of critical need and their shared commitment. Because of the twentyyear relationship between the two institutions, Duncan believes the endowment understands Connie Maxwell's ability to be diverse while staying strong to its mission. Paula Reed has served as Connie Maxwell's foster care coordinator since July 2017, and looks forward to the ways this

Dr. Ben Davis named President Emeritus of Connie Maxwell



President Emeritus Dr. Ben Davis, left, with President William D. NIcholson II during the Nov. 9, 2017 board meeting.

Connie Maxwell Board of Trustees has conferred the status of president emeritus upon former president and longtime organizational supporter Dr. Ben Davis. At the November board meeting, a motion from the executive committee of new President William D. Nicholson. The motion

was brought to the full board, at the suggestion passed unanimously.

"I've studied leadership for a long time," Nicholson said, "and one of the things I took away in all my studies was that history reveals the

We feel that reaching as many children as we can is God's task for us. This allows us to diversify without taking away from our heritage in residential care.

99

through traumatic situations. Presented in a flexible learning format, the material includes selfregulation, acceptance, and relationship-building tools. The curriculum is tailored to the type of programming Connie Maxwell seeks to offer.

"We strive to support our foster families in caring for the children who come to them. With ARC, we will be able to provide relevant trauma training for our foster families to use as a tool for promoting healing for the children in their care," Reed says.

President Danny Nicholson says Connie Maxwell is proud to partner with the Duke Endowment. "We know that we are at the top in delivering child care because we have been so

wonderful in our tradition of residential care. We continue to expand our services, because the world is changing. We want to be the best we can be in all the ways that we care for children, as we love and nurture them to be whole human beings made in the image of God. It's the gospel's call to give them a home like God gave each of us. That's the passion moving Connie Maxwell forward," Nicholson says.

"When people talk about foster care, I want to hear them say 'Connie Maxwell' during that conversation. I want all of the Baptist Churches in South Carolina to re-affirm their commitments to our children, and promote foster care again. There is so much we can do," Reed says.

future. History builds what you get to stand on, and you stand on it with reverence and respect." Nicholson continued, "Just like we respect our parents,

grandparents, coaches, or other people who have been a part of our past and molded us into who we are, so Ben Davis has done for this organization. The best thing we could do was not only thank Ben for his 21 years of sacrifice and service, but to honor him and name him president emeritus."

Davis began his relationship with Connie Maxwell as a trustee in 1990, becoming a staff member in 1993 and ultimately being named president in August 2002. He has continued to remain involved with the organization since his retirement in 2014.

"I'm humbled and very honored," Davis said. "People would often mention to me and Polly what a blessing we were to the children's home but the real blessing was to us. The time period that we were at Connie Maxwell has overshadowed all the other things we have done in our lives."

"Again I'm so honored and appreciative and will continue to do everything I can to support this ministry," said Davis.



From left, bottom row: Barbara C. Mead; Jane Wooten; Brooks Shumake, Sumter High School Baseball Coach ; Jeff Francisco, School of Education at the University of Kentucky; Ruth Graham; Kay O'Brien; Marnie and Gene Cotton, Nashville songwriter and artist. Top row, from left: Kevin Jones, Director of Sports Recruiting at N2 Publishing; President Danny and Debra Nicholson; Dr. Randall O'Brien, president of Carson Newman University; and Stephen Edwards.

Ruth Graham shares her story of redemption during 'New Beginnings' celebration service

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beginning, and you

know God is a God of

new beginnings. I'm

so glad he is because

I've needed new

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beginnings.

This is a new

November 9, 2017, was a day of 'New Beginnings' at Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Not only was it the first trustee meeting for new president William D. Nicholson II, but a special celebration service was held that evening with a line-up that included a university president, a Nashville songwriter, and Ruth Graham, daughter of evangelist Rev. Billy Graham.

More than 300 guests filled Connie Maxwell Baptist Church to

join in the celebration and hear the keynote message shared by Ruth Graham.

"This is a new beginning, and you know God is a God of new beginnings," Graham said. "I'm so glad that He is because I've needed new beginnings. My story is sort of messy - it's not very pretty, but God has been faithful through all of it."

Graham paralleled her life with the Parable of the Prodigal Son found in Luke 15:11-32.

In the story, a father has two sons. The younger son asks for his inheritance and, after wasting his fortune, becomes destitute. He returns home with the intention of begging his father to be made one of his hired servants, expecting his relationship with his father is likely severed.

The father welcomes him back and celebrates his return. The older son refuses to participate. The father reminds the older son that one day he will inherit everything and that they should still celebrate the return of the younger son because he was lost and is now found.

Graham described how like the older son, she was doing everything right-she was a faithful wife, loving mother, and

8 The Connie Maxwell • Spring 2018

leader in her church. However, her husband was dishonorable and had 'squandered his privileges for years.'

"He didn't deserve any compassion," Graham said. "I needed compassion—where was everybody? Like the older brother, I believed it was very unfair and I was angry."

Graham felt as long as she was a long-suffering faithful wife, she looked good to herself and others, but God knew her heart.

> "He saw the hardness of my heart, and the selfrighteousness," Graham said. "I was anything but tender towards my husband. I wanted him to pay." The damage and hurt took a toll on Graham,

and her marriage ended in divorce after 21 years.

"I felt like failure was tattooed on my forehead for all to see," Graham said. "No one had ever been divorced in my family."

Her ex-husband soon moved on with his life, but what was she supposed to do?

"Divorced people are very vulnerable. Sometimes they need protection from themselves," she said.

Graham described how she soon became the Prodigal son herself-headstrong, willful, and stubborn. "He was out to have a good time," she said. "He was going to make his own new beginning."

In an effort to make a fresh start, Graham decided to move near her older sister. She joined her sister's church and it wasn't long before the pastor introduced her to a handsome widower.

"We began to date, fast and furiously," Graham said. "You know the end of the story. My children didn't like him, but I reasoned

that I knew what was best for my life. My family warned me, but I in the back of the church with her mother, listening to her friend didn't listen." and pastor preach on Luke 7:37, the story of a sinful woman She tried to find peace by praying and reading scriptures who brings an alabaster box of perfume to anoint Jesus.

but wasn't telling herself the truth. "I was manipulating what I was hearing from others, and even read the scriptures to fit my thinking," said Graham.

After knowing the widower for 6 months, Graham made the decision to marry him. It wasn't long before she realized she had made a terrible mistake.

After 5 weeks of marriage, she became afraid of him and fled.

It was a two-day drive to her parents home and as she made the trip all kinds of thoughts swirled in her head. "What were they going to say to me? What was I going to say to my children? What kind of example had I been?" Graham thought to herself.

Her family home was located on the side of a mountain, and as she got to the last bend of the drive, she could see her father standing and waiting for her at the end of their driveway.

"When I got out of the car, he wrapped his arms around me and said, 'welcome home.' There was never any condemnation, never any blame, never any shame, never any

questions—just absolute, unconditional love," said Graham. "Connie Maxwell is that kind of place for these children," she said. "A safe place where they can come and find their Fathertheir Heavenly Father."

That gift of grace changed her life. Her father gave her a chance to make a new beginning, and so she did.

Graham moved again and began attending the church that she grew up in. She recalled how one Sunday morning she was sitting



Above, Gene Cotton, Nashville songwriter and artist entertained the audience with several beloved songs, including Shine On.





Ruth Graham.

Ruth Graham spent time with some of the Connie Maxwell children before her evening program.

"We tend to think that brokenness means ruined," she said. "That it means to throw away. It doesn't. Brokenness qualifies us for service to the King. What would God do with my brokenness?"

Connie Maxwell is that kind of place for these children. A safe place where they can come find their Father—their **Heavenly Father.**

Graham recalled how she felt compelled that morning to walk to the front of the church during an altar call. No one else moved, everyone looked up and saw her, and she didn't care.

"I was desperate to be whole. I was desperate to make it right with God," said Graham. "I wanted to know that I had been forgiven, that I had been cleansed. I reached out to my pastor and he embraced me in his arms."

At that moment she let go of all the guilt, shame, and condemnation and felt the tender presence of the Lord's love.

"My Father had embraced me in his loving arms. The Prodigal had come home," she said.

"God doesn't stop at ruins. That's where He begins. God redeems the ruins for Himself and for His glory if we just give the pieces to Him," said Graham.

Graham said the story of the Prodigal is for all of us. "Maybe no one on earth has ever welcomed you the way my father welcomed me that afternoon on the mountainside, but your heavenly Father always will," said Graham. "He will say all is forgiven, welcome home."



Carson Newman President Dr. Randall O'Brien, above, led the introduction and prayer, as well as concluding remarks of the program.

Senior Pastor. Dr. Don Wilton, above, from First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, spoke during the Trustee luncheon that afternoon



From left: Connie Maxwell alums Evelyn Cauley, Leslie Taylor and Sue Sheriff pose with



From left: Board of Trustee member B.M. Cave; Ruth Graham; President Danny Nicholson; and Board of Trustee Chairman Rev. Johnny Muller, Sr.

Finding the hero inside:

The tale of an unlikely basketball star

Children at Connie Maxwell have the opportunity to participate in many enrichment activities – one of those being intramural basketball during the winter. The games are played on Friday evenings and become a time of fellowship for family and friends who gather to watch the children play.

Teams are divided by age and proficiency with Beginner, Junior, and Senior league divisions. The ability and skill of the children typically range from 'never played' to 'experienced'. Often times children who have never played before are mixed with experienced players with the common goal of having fun and learning to play together as a team.

Meet Juliana

Julian<mark>a is ne</mark>w to Connie Maxwell and hasn't had much experience with organized sports like basketball. She was, however, willing to give it a try and learn the game. Dan Thorpe, Murdoch team leader, and volunteer basketball referee recalls how she had to be coached by the referees while she was playing, to help her understand the game and rules.

"Referees make calls based on a players experience and ability," Thorpe said. "Some players are monitored more closely because they are better players. Other players not as experienced sometimes make infractions that are overlooked by the referees. The children typically understand what the referees are doing and are graceful about it."

Juliana was not a child one would look to find a 'hero' in the game – and then it happened. Thorpe recalled how Juliana received a pass from a teammate. "You could see she had a look of anxiety and wasn't exactly sure what to do," said Thorpe.

The referees overlooked her first double dribble. They also did not call her for traveling when her feet were anxiously shifting as she searched for someone else to throw the ball to. Seeing no one to pass the ball to, she shot the ball towards the basket.

"Her first shot bounced off the backboard and she was able to grab her own rebound," Thorpe recalled.

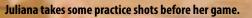
Without hesitation, she immediately shot again and made her first two-point shot.

As soon as the ball went into the net, the crowds in the stands went into an uproar – clapping, cheering, and celebrating the shot from an unlikely basketball star.

One of the more experienced players asked 'Mr. Dan' if he had ever heard it get this loud before? Thorpe replied, "No" and began to chuckle.

Juliana's team lost that day by four points. At the end of the game, as the children were lining up to shake hands, she was swarmed by her cottage sisters. They were so proud of her. She only made two points, but you would have thought she won the game. On that day, she became a hero, and her Connie Maxwell family celebrated with her.

Camaraderie, sportsmanship, fellowship, and finding the hero inside each child - welcome to basketball at Connie Maxwell.









Scenes from the court

1. Coach Brian Darrah, left, and referee Dan Thorpe follow the action from a beginner league team. 2. Referee Dan Thorpe watches as children giggle and dribble the ball down the court. 3. Referee Brian Patterson looks on as Bryson looks to pass the ball. 4. Debra Nicholson never misses out on a hug. 5. High school senior A.J. goes up for a shot. 6. Referee Brad Martin watches the action during a senior league game.



CONNIE MAXWELL OF CHILDREN TOUR

Connie Maxwell takes the message of hope, love and dreams of children across the state.

Connie Maxwell has taken the message of hope, love and dreams of children across the state. Named the Dreams of Children Tour - the event has included stops in Florence, Charleston, Fountain

Inn, Lexington and Rock Hill. Each location offered the opportunity for friends, alumni, children, and staff of Connie Maxwell to gather for fellowship and heartfelt stories. It was also a chance for guests who didn't know much about Connie Maxwell to learn more about the rich history and current impact of our vital ministry.

Kasey Proctor, a houseparent at our Pee Dee girls' home in Florence, shared during the Florence event what it was like to welcome a new child to their cottage. In addition to the normal duties of preparing the child's room and getting her things in order, prayer is an important part of their ministry.

-66 When a new child is accepted

into our program, we begin praying for them before they even come.

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Proctor spoke about the importance of prayer because so many of the children who come to Connie Maxwell carry a lot of emotional pain and burdens. Proctor recalled the time when she sat by a girl's bed all night long because she wanted to cut herself.

"When a new child is accepted into our program, we begin

praying for them before they even come," Proctor said.

"It's not easy to see the pain they go through, because you have to go through it with them," she said. "I just want God to speak to me about who they are, through a relationship with them."

Ultimately, her favorite part of being a houseparent is the loving relationship she gets to develop with all the girls. While she appreciates the small things, like listening to them sing, or letting them do her makeup or fix her hair, she

acknowledges that being a houseparent is very busy and they need praver too.

"As far as being a houseparent, you have to be a nurse, a counselor, a maintenance person, and balance the budget. I've learned so many things," Proctor said. "But, it is God's house, and He is looking to me to

take care of it." Madison, a student at Pee Dee also shared some of

her feelings about being at Connie Maxwell. "There is so much I could say that I love about

Connie Maxwell, but I think what I love most is that it is a ministry based around God," Madison said. "It's not just about caring for the child – it's showing them that they can have a relationship with God, who loves them more than anything. His love is eternal and He will never leave you."

Madison said she was baptized on November 20,

2016, and was thankful for how much her life has changed. "A lot has changed for my future, and now I see myself as a strong person because I know for a fact that I have people who will always be there for me," said Madison.

Alumnae Aggie Cox Cooper spoke during the Fountain Inn event about the challenges her family faced that brought her to Connie Maxwell in 1950.





12 The Connie Maxwell • Spring 2018

Her father had passed away and her mother worked hard to raise 12 children by herself. When she was 5 years old, a house fire left her and five other siblings with nowhere to live. They found out

There is so much I could say that I love about Connie Maxwell, but I think what I love most is that it is a ministry based around God.

about Connie Maxwell through someone at their church.

"We had a loving, Christian family wherever we were on campus," recalled Cox. "Dr. Smith always held our hands, and I can see Danny doing the same thing - holding the hands of the children." At each of the tour stops, guests had an

opportunity to hear from new President William D. "Danny" Nicholson II, and learn more about what led him and his wife Debra to Connie Maxwell. Nicholson was adopted as a child, but reminds us that we are all orphans that have been saved by the grace of God.

99 "All of us were adopted – lost in our sin, without a father, broken without a family, hungry, cold, meaningless – until Jesus's sacrifice made it possible for us to have a father and a family," said Nicholson.

"Remember our children in your prayers, come visit us often, and hold fast to dreams," said Nicholson.

> Left photo: President Nicholson address the crowd at Calvary Baptist Church in Florence.

Right Photo: Former President Dr. Ben Davis says a few words during the event at Fountain Inn First Baptist Church.

HONOR GIFTS October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

Rocky Abbott Mrs. Linda Hite Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Adams Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Dr. John Adams & Family Mr. & Mrs. William Hughes **Tommie Adams** Kilbourne Park Baptist Church **Chip Adams** Eddie Rivers **Tippee Allender** Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop **Cole Allender** Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop **Carson Allender** Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop Wade S. Ammons Jr. & Family Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Dukes III Irma Anderson Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hill Sarah Anderson Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. Anthony Ms. Victoria Bishop **Dayle Arant** Longwood Plantation Susan Ardis Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Lester Sara Ardis Ms. K. Ayers Stabler Mr. & Mrs. Richard Arnold Mr. & Mrs. Robert Woody **Bobbie Ashley** Eric & Kimberly Branham Calvin Azarowicz Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Dr. & Mrs. Booker Bagby Mrs. Margaret Cole Mrs. Sarah Clinkscales Ms. Jeanne Fowler **Emily Bailey** Mr. & Mrs. Henry Salley **Doug & Laura Bailey** Mr. & Mrs. Larry Holmquist Mr. & Mrs. Dan Baker Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Mack Baltzegar Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lloyd Mack & Frances Baltzegar Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Brooks Jim Barbare Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop **Carolyn Barger** Mrs. Marv D. Worley Juanita Bartlev Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller **Sharon Bartley** Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller Kave Bathe Mr. & Mrs. C. Wayne Ford Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Batson Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith Debbie & Don Bazemore Mrs. Laura Beach Adam, Madison, Samuel & **Caroline Bazemore** Mrs. Laura Beach Bill & Greta Beach Mrs. Laura Beach

Laura & Richard Beach Jewell Brown Mr. & Mrs. Len Brown Mrs Laura Beach Virginia Faye Beam Jo Brown Ms. Bobbie Jean Hall Mrs. Carolyn Harding **Raymon & Barbara Brown** John Redfern Mr. & Mrs. Don Praeger **Ruth Becker** Ms. Donna West **Richard Liles & Rufus Brown** Mrs. Elizabeth Smith **Stuart Beddie** Mr. & Mrs. Edward Zeigler Lib Brown Trudi Belcher Mr. & Mrs. Albert Keck Michelle, Bud & C.J. Brown Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Benden Mrs. Laura Beach Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop Lib & Earle Brown Mrs. Elizabeth Caddell **Kevin Bernhardy** Hazel Brown Mr. & Mrs. Eckles Phillips Mr. Robert Brown Hugo Ackerman & Hudson Berry Dean & Charlotte Brinson Sally Brown Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown Gene & Pat Bishop Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cauley **George & Carolyn Bryant** Ms. Patricia Desjardins Mrs. Jacqueline Ridings Cathy Cannon Sylvia Bryant Dr. & Mrs. James Mahaffev Herbert Brvant **James & Sharon Bishop Caroline & Elizabeth Bryson** Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown, Mr. & Mrs. John Bumgarner Janice Black Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown Jenny Bumgarner Mrs. Joel Blackwelder Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown **Shirley Bunnell** D. B. & Linda Bledsoe Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Davis Terry Griggs **Donald Bolton** Mr. & Mrs. J. Russell Burleson Mrs. Irene Casey Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Paul Burleson Mrs. Charlene Yarborough Longwood Plantation Michele Bossi Longwood Plantation Edvthe Burress M.Sat. & Mrs. Christoper Bouker Mr. James Burress Rev. & Mrs. Herbert Gladden Mr. & Mrs. Steve Sanders The Henry Varn Family **Rosemary Bowie** Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Sanders Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Henry Salley Andrea & Thomas Burriss **Gladys & David Bragg** Dr. & Mrs. Michael Norman Mrs. Laura Beach Mr. & Mrs. Robert Branham Sr. Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Burroughs Mr. & Mrs. F. E. (Pete) James Mrs Fula Holland Jessica Cabrera David Branham Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. Beth Caddell Jennifer Brantley Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brantley Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown **Bobbie Branvon** Rose Calder Mr. & Mrs. William Ardrev Ms. Carol Ann Flmore Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bowers **Bobbie Branvon** Chris, Elizabeth & John Daniel Mr. & Mrs. John Collins Bowen Mr. Ward Faulkenberry Mr. & Mrs. Michael Callahan & Ms. Jane Hall Bowen James & Lynn Elmore Master Finch Callahan Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Dukes III Bobbie Branvon Mr. & Mrs. John Case Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Campbell Mr. Darryl Nance Robert & Elsie LeMaster Sarah "Chris" Christopher & Mr. & Mrs. Ned Page Mr. & Mrs. Mac Brawley **Remley Campbell** Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Paul & Ann Hooker **Travis Brian** Melvin & Lucille Carabo Mr. Thomas O'Neal Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller **Mary Bridges Janice** Carlson Ms. Anita Green Kilbourne Park Baptist Church Julia Britton Cora Lee Carnes Mrs. Betty DeLoach Wolf Pond Baptist Church **Grace Brooks** Agape Lady Encouragers Class Todd, Erin, Hudson, Haves & Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Price Mr. & Mrs. Ed Broughman James Walker Carroll

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Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tavlor

Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Carroll

HONOR GIFTS

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

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October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

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Mrs. Avanelle Howard

Billy & Jeanette Ridgill Mr. & Mrs. O.C. Parker Jr. Jami Owens **Michael Antee & John Riley** Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop Mr. & Mrs. Doug Robbins & Family Sid, Julie, Alexandra & Gabriella Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Dukes III Mr. & Mrs. William Roberts Mr. Rodger Roberts Rev. & Mrs. David Robinson Mr. & Mrs. William Mackey **Charles Robinson** Mrs. Kimberly Mullan **Betty & Ray Rodgers** Jim & Nora Dean Mahaffey Mrs Barhara Clarv Peggy C. Rogers Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Dukes III Mrs. Teresa Scarlett Shirlee Rollins Mrs. Susan Hawkins Mr. & Mrs. Steve Root Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop Brenda Rowland John & Patricia Andrews Ken & Mariah Royce Mrs. Linnie Edenfield James Rush Jr. Saluda Baptist Church Men's II Class Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Dukes III **Chandler Salley** Mr. & Mrs. Henry Salley Molly Samies Longwood Plantation Forest, Anne, Addie, Eliza & Mr. & Mrs. Raymon Brown Vivian Sams Mrs. Linnie Edenfield Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Sanders Mrs. Edvthe Burress Mr. & Mrs. Steve Sanders The Henry Varn Family E. W. Sanders Jr. The Henry Varn Family Linda Sanders Ms. Kelli Sanders **Cecil Sandifer** Bob & Amy Armstrong Mrs. Frances Armstrong Westminster Baptist Church Dr. & Mrs. Larry Ratliff Ed & Mandy Tompkins C. David Sawyer Mr. & Mrs. Earle Powell Patricia Saxon Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Lvon Alice Sealy Mr. Scott James Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sears Mr. & Mrs. Paul Knight Mr. & Mrs. David Sease Mrs. Lucy Eleazer Beverly Sease Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. **Shirley Seawright Doctors Steve & Pam Wallner Renee Hunter & Emily Servideo** Mrs. Laura Beach Eric Seymour Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sharpe Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Dukes III Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor

Estelle Smith & Juanita Shealy Mrs. Barbara Clary John & Sue Sheriff Ms. Bobbie Jean Hall **Edd Sheriff** Mr. J. Chris Brown Dr. & Mrs. William Carpenter Ms. Bobbie Jean Hall Ms. Mary Lee Shirley Prue & Nancy Sheriff Mr. & Mrs. George Hunter **Steve Shiflet** Mrs. Linda Hite **Renee Shiflet** Philip & Libby Bell Mr. & Mrs. Fric Taylo Johnnie & Margaret Shirer Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Shirer Sr. **Brad & Tessa Shirer** Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Shirer Sr. Mr. & Mrs. Buck Shuford Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Joseph Shumpert Malcolm & Annette Lucas & Family Mr. & Mrs. Frank Signore Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop Judy Sikes Gethsemane Baptist Church Choir **Doris Sims** Mr. & Mrs. Andy Jarman **Dorothy Sims** Mr. Terry Sims Mrs. James E. Sineath Mr. & Mrs., Daniel S. Dukes III **Mike & Nancy Smith** Mrs. Susan Hawkins Nancy Smith Mrs. Susan Hawkins Rosie, Hampton & Jodi Smith Mr. & Mrs. Fred Auld Jr. **Ronda Smith** Longwood Plantation Scott Smith The Fisher Family **Randolph Smith** Augusta Plastic Surgery Associates, P.C. Larry Smith Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. **Thompson Smith** Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. **Derrill Smith** Pam Rivers Louise Smithwick Mrs. Lucy Eleazer Marvin Snead Wolf Pond Baptist Church ALEC Homer Snelarove Mrs. Martha Risinger Fred Snyder Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown Laura Snvder Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown Mr. & Mrs. Frank Snvder Mr. & Mrs. Earle Brown **Eric Snyder** Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr.

Rebecca Sparrow Mr. & Mrs. Henry Salley Jaxon & Austin Spell Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Spell Gary Spires Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. **Andy Stabler** Longwood Plantation **Baptist Courier Staff** Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bishop J. G. Starnes Mr. & Mrs. Garry Young Mr. & Mrs. Roy Stewart Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Lester Mr. & Mrs. Fred Stewart Mr. & Mrs. Dean Reeves Mr. & Mrs. Fred Stewart Mr. & Mrs. Carl Blaylock Mr. & Mrs. Charles Still Sr. Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller Mr. & Mrs. Charles Still Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller Virginia R. Stogner Mr. Michael Stogner **J. Porter Stokes** Mr. & Mrs. Henry Salley Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Stroupe Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Lesia Sturkie Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ott Jr. Shane Stutzman Longwood Plantation Joyce Styles Ms. Edna Styles Tim & Donna Sumner Ms. Jovce Travlor **Billy Swann** Longwood Plantation Mr. & Mrs. John Talbert Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor Lillian Tanner Mrs. Barbara Powell **Eric Taylor** Mr. & Mrs. Jack Taylor Mr. Herman McGrew Mrs. Linda Hite **Erin & Lindsay Taylor Eric Taylor Jack & Leslie Taylor** Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Amick Mrs. Virginia Faye Beam **Connie Maxwell Alumni** Association Columbia Chapter Ms. Bobbie Jean Hall Rev. & Mrs. Julian Long Mr. Len McDaniel Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller Pam Taylor Eric Tavlor Leslie Tavlor Dr. & Mrs. George Fann Dr. Lynn Campbell Mr. & Mrs. Larry Poole Johnny & Judy White Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tavlor Mrs. Joel Blackwelder Mr. & Mrs. Richard Taylor Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Lester Joseph & Erin Taylor & Son Mrs. Linnie Edenfield

Eleanor Teal

George Teasley

Mrs. Mary Bontreger

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tenny

Jana Grace Thacker

Marshall Thomas

Jov & Grace Thompson

Mr. Cecil Sandifer

Mr. Cecil Sandifer

Mr. Charles Huggins

Mrs. Ginger Rhodes

Rob & Jan Traynham

Mr. Scott James

Sylvia Trimmier

David Trotter

Ann Trotter

Katie Troutman

Trimble

Susan & Bob Smith

Ms. Jennie Travnham

Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Carson Troutman

The Fisher Family

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Mr. & Mrs. Larry Turner

Diann & Buddy Tuten

Nancy Tyner

Rebecca Upton

Kenneth Vick

Omie Walker

Annette Vinson

Mrs. Nat Powel

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Taylor

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor

Mr. R. Wavne DeLoach

Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Davis

Joseph & Sally Trask

Mrs. Bernice Brewer

Mr. & Mrs. J. Braxton Vick

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor

Charles & Mariorie Elmore

Mr. & Mrs. James Rauton

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Dr. & Mrs. James Mahaffey

Mrs. Lois Timmons

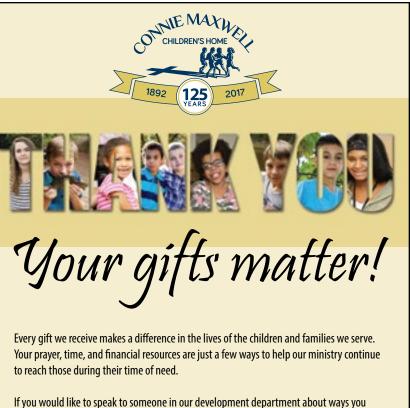
D. Leslie Tindal

Lou Thomas

Sam Thrift

Tom Thrift

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October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

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can help, please contact Eric Taylor at (864) 942-1446 or erictaylor@conniemaxwell.com

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Spring 2018 • The Connie Maxwell 23

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24 The Connie Maxwell • Spring 2018

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MEMORIAL GIFTS October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

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26 The Connie Maxwell • Spring 2018

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Annuity, Estate, Scholarship and Trust Gifts Received October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

Mrs. Alice B. Cribb Annuity Sarah Blanton Estate Jacquelyn Brigman Estate Mary Cromer Estate Bettie Cox Estate Simon Peter Hair Estate Julia O'Dell Estate Nancy Owings Estate **Nell Owings Estate Carol Locke Rogers Estate** Wilma Thomas Estate **Barbara Wishert Estate** Hal Bland & Billie Kelly Putman **Bland Scholarship Fund**

Collins-Shealy Memorial Fund Compton Family Fund Mary Sue Sproles Davis Scholarship Ada Falconiero Scholarship Fund Scott Huggins Scholarship Fund Edgar H. & Lula O. Parkman Scholarship Fund Cecil & Frances Sandifer Scholarship D. Leslie Tindal Scholarship Fund 0. L. Able Trust Under Will Wilbur Lee Carter Trust Joseph DuRant Trust The Whitfield Family Charitable Trust



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