



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

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

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Dear SHIELD family,

When Harris children are going out the door or being delivered to fairly rare but necessary independent activities, one of the last things they will hear are the words, “Stay in the place where God can bless you.” It is a phrase that my husband has devised over the past thirty-two years plus of parenting, and it packs a great deal of wisdom in a few words. (It works for “already married” children, too.) Just what does it mean?

It means that to be blessed, to receive God’s rewards and encouragements, our children must remain in obedience to us as parents (even when we can’t see them) and to the revealed words of God. It is a reminder not to stray from our expectations or they will be outside of God’s protection and will have consequences to pay, both with Him and with us. It is telling them to be who they know they should be. But these words aren’t just applicable to children. They are just as true for adults. If we want God’s blessing, we must remain under His direction for us, His commands, and His purposes. Then He is so eager to pour out His protection, His grace, and His gifts of all kinds.

Twenty-one plus years ago when God convicted my husband and me about the need to home school our then three (six now ☺) children, we thought we were just going to be academically training our children. We did not know that, as God trained us to be independent of the culture in that area of our lives, He was also training us to take responsibility and think more independently in many other areas. He was training us to stop listening to the myriad voices of the world and to seek His voice in all things, becoming dependent on Him alone. This remarkable journey has changed our lives in so many ways and paid dividends in areas that are way beyond what we imagined! (Sort of like that promise of God’s in Ephesians 3:20, “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we **ask or imagine**, according to *His power that is at work in us*,”--- Why are we always so surprised when God keeps His word?!?)

As we homeschoolers near the end of this academic year, it is easy to be overwhelmed by the pressing schedules, the coursework that won’t be finished “in time,” the papers that need grades, the grades that need calculated, the reports that need to be filled out, the piles of unfinished projects and accumulated debris, the season’s clothes to change out, camp applications, and on and on it goes.



We may even be tempted to reject the thought of another homeschooling year--another year of a house littered with papers, none of which is the one we are looking for, of books stuffed in every nook and cranny, but not the one we need to do today's work, of clutter that is stressing us out! Let me encourage us to **stay in the place where God wants to bless us!** If He has called us, He will empower us. Diamonds are formed by heat and pressure. Pearls are formed by the repetitious coating over of an irritant. God-dependent, heart-true, spiritually hungry Christians are formed by struggles and suffering! It is in the struggles and failures and re-tries and do-overs that He meets us and we learn to give up our own futile efforts and cry out for His strength. We begin to not just know about Him, but experience *Him* as He provides, motivates, and works His purposes in us. As He frees us from the culture's expectations and demands, we learn to hear and respond to His voice, knowing that is where we'll find His peace. Peace is not in a neat house and finished coursework; it is in our neat God and His finished work in us!

The Message phrases II Corinthians 4:16-18 in this way: "So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without His unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever."

It may look like things are falling apart on us as we're behind, exhausted, and pulled in many directions. But as our children watch us struggle and see us cast our cares on God, as the verse says, they are learning far more than meets our eyes. Our children are here today, but they'll soon be gone. The things they take with them from this walk of faith in our homes will last them forever!! We need to stay in the place where God wants to bless us, and we need to always encourage our children to do the same, being obedient to God's will and direction, despite the cost and struggles. In the trials of homeschooling, God is laying a foundation of trust in Him, strength from Him, and power through Him. The beyond-expectation reward is going to leave us all awestruck. The lavish celebration is going to be greater than our minds can comprehend! We just must accept each day's blessings *as God unfolds His grace, (i.e., as His power is working in us)*, allowing time for those diamonds to be formed. God is blessing us in this place!

~Devotion by Valerie Harris~

## Calendar of Events

<b>May 7 (Mon)</b>	<b>Healthy Moms Group</b> , Sue Faulk's home, 7:30 pm
<b>May 11 (Fri)</b>	<b>THRILL End-of-Year Party</b> , Andrews home, 6:30-8:30 pm
<b>May 18 (Fri)</b>	<b>Achievement Night</b> , Riverbend Church, 6:00-8:30 pm
<b>May 24 (Thurs)</b>	<b>SHIELD Chick-fil-A Day</b> - yearbook pick-up, yearbook signing, yearbook fundraiser, 5:00-7:00 pm
<b>June 9 (Sat)</b>	<b>H.E.R.S. (Home Educators Resource Sale)</b> , 9:00-12:00, Richland Fashion Mall

See below for details on many of these events

## Thank you to our SHIELD Coordinators and Volunteers:

Thank you to the many Coordinators and Volunteers who sacrificed their time and energy this year to make SHIELD a thriving support group! For those who will be changing to a different area of service, we thank you for what you did this year and look forward to where you will be serving during 2012-13.

## SHIELD's Achievement Night 2012

Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
 Riverbend Community Church  
 1015 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072

**Deadline to register: Friday, May 4**

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

Come together to celebrate all God has done in our home schools this year! This year our Achievement Night will have the following elements:

- Celebrating Kindergarten & High School Graduates
- Celebrating Academic Achievement by Class
- Yearbook Distribution & Cake!

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

**You must rsvp for this by Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Send student/s name and grade completing to Stephanie Harmon at [stephanie@harmonsc.com](mailto:stephanie@harmonsc.com).

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

Achievement Night Panel	Tracy Taylor Beth Martin Karen Collins	<a href="mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com">ttaylor24@sc.rr.com</a> <a href="mailto:bethsmartin@hotmail.com">bethsmartin@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jk-kids@sc.rr.com">jk-kids@sc.rr.com</a>	834-0316 957-6005 445-6043
Refreshment Team	Carolyn Jackson Heather Dickert Joy Dyer Katherine Schilling	Thanks to all of you for volunteering to help!	You are very much appreciated!
(1-11 <sup>th</sup> Certificates)	Stephanie Harmom	<a href="mailto:stephanie@harmonsc.com">stephanie@harmonsc.com</a>	864-445-3905
(K5 Graduation)	Holly Winters	<a href="mailto:hwinters@sc.rr.com">hwinters@sc.rr.com</a>	957-8810
(Senior Graduation)	Michelle Steyne	<a href="mailto:mlsteyne@aol.com">mlsteyne@aol.com</a>	796-9090



## SHIELD's Lending Library

The library has received many donations lately. The website will be updated soon to reflect the new additions. In the meantime, feel free to email to inquire about a book that you are interested in but do not see on the current list.

Also, as you make plans for next year, the library can be a great resource if you are considering buying curriculum but would like to take some time to look through the book first. Or if you have curriculum that you will no longer be using, donating those books to the library is a great way to free up space on your bookshelf for new curriculum while at the same time blessing other SHIELD families. Also remember, you can check out a book for an entire school year!

The Lending Library is available to all SHIELD members. Contact Jenny Stallings at [jen9874@msn.com](mailto:jen9874@msn.com) or 803-808-5365 for more information.



## Healthy Moms Group

The Healthy Moms Group will meet at 7:30 PM, Monday, May 7, at Sue Faulk's house, 124 Epic Drive in West Columbia.

It's time to learn how 12 minutes of exercise per day, several times per week will help you get fit! Hard to believe, but true, and easy to do! Wear your workout clothes because you will do a workout which fits your current activity level and go home with the info to help you continue working out alone or with your family.

Please call (808-2873) or e-mail Sue ([smfaulk@juno.com](mailto:smfaulk@juno.com)) if you will be attending the meeting.

## SHIELD Membership 2012-2013

We will begin accepting membership applications for the 2012-13 year in June. At that time, we hope to have an online application available to simplify the process for all involved! We will be available at Achievement Night to answer any questions you have concerning membership, however we will not be taking applications at that time. Watch your e-mail for updates concerning the 2012-13 application process.

To help you with your planning, the cost for SHIELD Membership for 2012-13 will be:

- \$15 SHIELD Membership ONLY
- \$15 SCHEA Membership (optional)

Note: a \$10 late fee will still apply for current members who renew after August 31, 2012

If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Coordinator, Beth Martin, at [bethsmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:bethsmartin@hotmail.com) or 957-6005.

## Join the Field Trip Team!

Do you have a few good field trip ideas?

Would you be willing to organize a few field trips for SHIELD members during the 2012-2013 school year?

SHIELD is looking to add a few new members to the Field Trip Team! We are hoping to gather a team of 4-5 volunteers who are willing to organize several field trips each in the upcoming school year. A team-planning meeting will be held in July to share ideas, plan a variety of trips, coordinate them on the calendar, etc. Then each volunteer will plan a few field trips each to have a GREAT year of field trips!!

Will you join the team? Email Karen Collins at [jk-kids@sc.rr.com](mailto:jk-kids@sc.rr.com)



## Attention SHIELD Members

An idea has been proposed to have a used curriculum sale as a fundraiser for yearbook. We can rent tables to members and any area homeschoolers can come and sell their used curriculum. It would be sometime this summer, on a Saturday morning, perhaps 8am-noon. It could be advertised to other groups, online, at churches, and libraries in hopes of a big crowd. **What we need to know from membership** is if anyone has access to a facility that we could use for free, or very cheaply, that has enough room to set up many tables and shop. Also, we would need access to tables and chairs. If you're like me, you have years of old curriculum sitting around your house, taking up space that you haven't been able to sell via the internet and this could be a great way to pass it on to other local homeschoolers.

Please let us know if you're interested in having this and if you have a place that would work to have it at.

Email Josie Seacrist at [pjseacrist@yahoo.com](mailto:pjseacrist@yahoo.com).





## THRILL

(Teen Homeschoolers Radically Impacting Lexington County Lives)

### THRILL's End-of-Year Party

Friday evening, May 11th, 6:30- 8:30 pm

We will be meeting at the Andrews home  
335 Pond View Lane, Lexington

Please let Michelle Steyne know if you can make it.  
She will then let everyone know what to bring.

All volunteer hours must be submitted to Mrs. Collins ASAP  
[aikosmom@sc.rr.com](mailto:aikosmom@sc.rr.com)

Remember to keep logging volunteer hours throughout the summer.  
THRILL tracks volunteer hours for teens starting in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and higher  
for a 12-month period.



For more information or if you have any questions, you can contact:

Michelle Steyne, [mlsteyne@aol.com](mailto:mlsteyne@aol.com), 796-9090  
Elizabeth Collins, [aikosmom@sc.rr.com](mailto:aikosmom@sc.rr.com), 356-5858

## Yearbook News

### Yearbook Distribution

You have two opportunities to pick up your 2012 yearbook:

**Achievement Night:** Friday May 18, 6:30-8:30pm  
(Yearbook distribution and signing starts at 6:00)  
Riverbend Community Church, 1015 Corley Mill Road

~or~

**Chick-fil-A Spirit Night:** Thursday May 24, 5-7pm  
Lexington Chick-fil-A, right in front of Wal-Mart on Sunset Blvd.

If you can't make it to either of these events please contact Josie Seacrist at [pjseacrist@yahoo.com](mailto:pjseacrist@yahoo.com) to make arrangements to get your yearbook.

\*\*\*\*We still have yearbooks available if you have not ordered yours yet. They will be sold at Achievement Night for \$30 or you may also mail a check made payable to SHIELD to Jonathan Liva - 270 Browning Court - Lexington, SC 29073.\*\*\*\*

### Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

We will be holding a yearbook distribution and signing at the Lexington Chick-fil-A on Thursday, May 24 from 5-7pm.

Come have some yummy Chick-fil-A and have your friends sign your yearbook. Mention SHIELD to the cashier anytime on the 24th and we will get a portion of the sales to help fund yearbook. Tell all your friends and family to do the same any time on that day, just remember to mention SHIELD.

## 2013 Yearbook Theme

The Yearbook Team is already hard at work on the 2013 Yearbook. The theme has been chosen and is South Carolina. We are going to be designing a spectacular cover featuring you, our members. If you want your child/ family/ or child's artwork to be included please submit your items to [shieldpictures@gmail.com](mailto:shieldpictures@gmail.com) We would especially like pictures at South Carolina landmarks or artwork related in some way to South Carolina. The deadline for submissions is June 30th.

## Fundraising

The Yearbook Business team is in search of fundraising activities. If you have an idea or know of an opportunity that the yearbook staff could participate in to raise funds for yearbook please email Josie Seacrist at [pjseacrist@yahoo.com](mailto:pjseacrist@yahoo.com).

## Old Year Books

We still have some copies available of the 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2008 yearbooks. If you are interested in having any of these for free please contact Josie Seacrist at [pjseacrist@yahoo.com](mailto:pjseacrist@yahoo.com). They will be disposed of after Achievement Night.

Please direct any questions about yearbook to:

Linda Barnhill - [elbeemee@gmail.com](mailto:elbeemee@gmail.com) - Yearbook Consultant  
Susan Liva - [srliva@juno.com](mailto:srliva@juno.com) – 2012 Yearbook Sales

2013 Yearbook Advisory Panel:

Leah Tilghman - [leah.tilghman@gmail.com](mailto:leah.tilghman@gmail.com) - Yearbook Coordinator  
Teresa Andrews - [teresaandrews38@yahoo.com](mailto:teresaandrews38@yahoo.com) – Layout Advisor  
Susan Liva - [srliva@juno.com](mailto:srliva@juno.com) - Photography Advisor  
Josie Seacrist - [pjseacrist@yahoo.com](mailto:pjseacrist@yahoo.com) - Business Advisor

**H.E.R.S. 2012**  
(Home Educator's Resource Sale)

**Annual Used Curriculum Sale:**

Saturday, June 9th 9am-12pm

Richland Fashion Mall

Applications to reserve a table and sell your used curriculum/books/resources are available on the REACH website [www.reachgroup.org/HERS.html](http://www.reachgroup.org/HERS.html). Tell all your friends--parents, educators and fellow homeschoolers! REACH offers this as a community service to all homeschoolers.



## Members' Services

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

### Babysitters:

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

### Lawn Service:

Jonathan Liva, Landscaping Services, 920-7522, [jliva360@gmail.com](mailto:jliva360@gmail.com)

### Music Lessons:

Kayla Tilghman, beginner level lessons in violin and piano, 920-8475,  
[leah.tilghman@gmail.com](mailto:leah.tilghman@gmail.com)

### Other:

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

Kim Bice, Scentsy dealer, <https://kimbice.scentsy.us/Home>

Kim & Henry Bice, Kim's Doggy Day Spa, 426 S Lake Dr., Lexington, 803-231-8006 or 803-250-9360, <http://kimsdoggydayspa.webs.com/>

Debbie Myers, ministry of wedding director/instrumentalist/soloist, 30 yrs experience, rates negotiable, 803-359-2493, [dprincess58@aol.com](mailto:dprincess58@aol.com)

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

Shannon Steen, Party Lite Consultant, [all4mikidz@yahoo.com](mailto:all4mikidz@yahoo.com), 843-412-9264

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

Jason Wallace, Dick Smith Nissan Sales & Leasing Consultant, 803-603-1425

Mike Kollmansberger, Computer Repair, 246-5616

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

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

Sally Lucas, Coldwell Banker realtor 760-0289 &  
Michael Lucas, Coldwell Banker Mortgage broker, 315-8880



## SHIELD 2011-2012 Leadership & Coordinator Team

Strategy Team Leader	Tracy Taylor	<a href="mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com">ttaylor24@sc.rr.com</a>	834-0316
Financial/Membership Team Leader	Beth Martin	<a href="mailto:bethsmartin@hotmail.com">bethsmartin@hotmail.com</a>	957-6005
Communications Team Leader	Karen Collins	<a href="mailto:jk-kids@sc.rr.com">jk-kids@sc.rr.com</a>	445-6043
Website Coordinator	Dean Jacobs	<a href="mailto:dddjacobs@msn.com">dddjacobs@msn.com</a>	828-884-7195
Student Club Coordinator	Mandy Dufries	<a href="mailto:sixdufries@gmail.com">sixdufries@gmail.com</a>	996-1379
Mom's Night Out Coordinator	Rebecca Smith	<a href="mailto:Rsmith71@sc.rr.com">Rsmith71@sc.rr.com</a>	unlisted
Library/Book Sale Coordinator	Jenny Stallings	<a href="mailto:Jen9874@msn.com">Jen9874@msn.com</a>	808-5365
Field Day Coordinator	Ellen Nagelvoort	<a href="mailto:adamandellen@windstream.net">adamandellen@windstream.net</a>	960-8312
Field Trip Panel	Tracy Taylor	<a href="mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com">ttaylor24@sc.rr.com</a>	834-0316
	Lisa Philips	<a href="mailto:angelslp@sc.rr.com">angelslp@sc.rr.com</a>	661-9647
	Heather Schaub	<a href="mailto:theschaubs@juno.com">theschaubs@juno.com</a>	233-4059
	Amanda Smith	<a href="mailto:smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com">smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com</a>	808-0725
Academic Presentation Day Coordinators	Rhonda Hutchinson (fall)	<a href="mailto:rwsmiles@aol.com">rwsmiles@aol.com</a>	730-8510
	Valerie Harris (spring)	<a href="mailto:valeriemharris@yahoo.com">valeriemharris@yahoo.com</a>	957-5388
THRILL Advisory Panel	Michelle Steyne	<a href="mailto:mlsteyne@aol.com">mlsteyne@aol.com</a>	796-9090
	Elizabeth Collins	<a href="mailto:aikosmom@sc.rr.com">aikosmom@sc.rr.com</a>	356-5858
Yearbook Advisory Panel	Linda Barnhill (Layout Advisor)	<a href="mailto:elbeemee@gmail.com">elbeemee@gmail.com</a>	772-3184
	Susan Liva (Business Advisor)	<a href="mailto:srliva@juno.com">srliva@juno.com</a>	359-3415
	Wilenda Turner (Photography Advisor)	<a href="mailto:wilendasemail@gmail.com">wilendasemail@gmail.com</a>	608-8005
Standardized Testing Coordinator	Elizabeth Collins	<a href="mailto:aikosmom@sc.rr.com">aikosmom@sc.rr.com</a>	356-5858
Talent Showcase Coordinator(s)	Danita Palazzolo	<a href="mailto:ddzolo@sc.rr.com">ddzolo@sc.rr.com</a>	646-7598
Mid-year Meeting Coors.	Darby Reeves	<a href="mailto:preeves1@sc.rr.com">preeves1@sc.rr.com</a>	206-0672
	Leslie Buzzell	<a href="mailto:jlbuzzell@gmail.com">jlbuzzell@gmail.com</a>	359-1934
Achievement Night Panel	Tracy Taylor Beth Martin Karen Collins	<a href="mailto:ttaylor24@sc.rr.com">ttaylor24@sc.rr.com</a> <a href="mailto:bethsmartin@hotmail.com">bethsmartin@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jk-kids@sc.rr.com">jk-kids@sc.rr.com</a>	834-0316 957-6005 445-6043
(Decorating/Food) (1-11 <sup>th</sup> Certificates)	Stephanie Harmom	<a href="mailto:stephanie@harmonsc.com">stephanie@harmonsc.com</a>	864-445-3905
(K5 Graduation)	Holly Winters	<a href="mailto:hwinters@sc.rr.com">hwinters@sc.rr.com</a>	957-8810
(Senior Graduation)	Michelle Steyne	<a href="mailto:mlsteyne@aol.com">mlsteyne@aol.com</a>	796-9090

### About Our Newsletter...

***Newsletter submissions must be received by July 25 for inclusion in the August newsletter.***

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