

# The Encourager



Supporting Home Instructors  
Encompassing Lexington District

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

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

## In This Issue

Devotion by Rebecca Becker	p. 2-3
Coordinator Spotlight: Terri Brokaw	p. 4-6
Calendar of Events	p. 7
May Park Day	p. 8
Drama Club Presentation	p. 9
Field Trip	p. 10
Achievement Night	p. 11
Box Tops	p. 12
Student Clubs	p. 13
Yearbook News	p. 13
Members' Services	p. 14-15
Leadership/Coordinator Team Contact Info	p. 16



## About Our Newsletter...

The SHIELD Encourager Newsletter is published monthly and e-mailed to our members at the beginning of every month (except June & July). If you have an item you would like to submit, contact Karen Collins at [kscollins2@icloud.com](mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com).

Dear SHIELD Families,

We are nearing the end of another school year. For some, it has been a smoothly flowing year and you are sad to see it come to an end. For others, perhaps it has been a very challenging year and you are ready for a fresh start that a new school year brings. I am always surprised by the speed at which a year passes by marked with ordinary and extraordinary days with my children. One of the greatest joys we have as homeschooling families is time to grow our relationships with our children. We have the gift of seeing God at work in the daily details of our lives. Our children live life with us! We can point them to their Savior from an early age as we learn and discover truth together. This past week, Ava Joy was opening her toy from her kids' meal. It was a simple 3-piece puzzle. "Oh, it is just a puzzle," was the response of one child, but then we read the directions. "Hold it up to the light and see a wonderful hidden world." We did and boy were we surprised! There were sharks, turtles, seahorses, starfish, and stingrays just waiting to be discovered. What was needed to see this amazing, hidden world? Light. The light is what made it beautiful. It made something ordinary extraordinary. When you think about your own life and your own children, what is needed to see the beauty going on inside? It is God. He is the light that shines in our hearts and changes us. It is ultimately His work on our behalf through His sacrificial death on the cross that gives us life, light, joy, and peace. He is the one that will grow our children and change them to be like Him. What does God call us to do? We need to faithfully shine the light. We need to take the time to pray with our children and listen to their cares. We take them to the Bible as their source for strength and answers. We teach them to trust in the Lord.



Oh boy...sometimes we won't get it right as parents. We may speak to them unkindly or make the wrong decisions. We get tired and weary. But boy am I thankful that God did not call me to be a homeschooling mom because I am a perfect light shedder! No, He called me to be a homeschooling mom so I can be a part of His beautiful plan to see my children grow each day, place their faith and trust in Him, and learn His truths. On the days where we aren't sure there is any growth, we can ask God to illumine our understanding. On the days we feel tired and weary, we can go to Him for strength and wisdom. We can be confident that He who began a good work in us will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

How thankful I am to have the blessing of walking this journey with other homeschooling families! I pray God gives you strength to finish this year with joy, and some peaceful time off this summer to rest and enjoy your kids without any lesson plans!

Blessings,  
Rebecca Becker  
(Field Trip Coordinator)



## “Coordinator Spotlight”

While all of our coordinators and volunteers give all glory to God while they serve SHIELD, and would probably prefer to stay out of the spotlight, we thought you would enjoy getting to know them a little more!



In 1992 **Terri Brokaw** met her husband, Tim, while student teaching in high school math and history. Tim was the guidance counselor, basketball coach, and, Fellowship of Christian Athletes director (which is how they met when Terri volunteered to help FCA.) They married the next year; she was hired by the school; he resigned from the school after much prayer on both their parts in order to enter seminary that fall. Upon graduation, they moved in 1997 to Lexington to minister with Midlands Christian Church.

Terri and Tim were blessed by the births of Hannah and Olivia in 1998 and 2000, respectively. The family enjoys spending time together. Terri and the girls enjoy serving with the pre-school and elementary children at church. The family volunteers monthly at LICS, Lexington Interfaith Community Services, and have since Hannah and Olivia went along in their car seats. They also enjoy board & card games, and camping with their dog, Honey.

With Terri and Tim both having been public school teachers, “their plans” were not to homeschool. They were introduced to it by a friend and decided to homeschool for one year. Ten years later, they are still homeschooling. Hannah, 16, and Olivia, 14, enjoy homeschooling and have many of the same interests. They both enjoy serving with children and LICS; they both love dancing (ballet, pointe, jazz, and tap) and have since they were each three. Both girls are avid readers, enjoy writing, and spending time with their friends.

**Q. What is your favorite SHIELD activity/event?**

**A.** *We have certainly appreciated the annual testing that SHIELD provides. We value the volunteers and the time and care they give to this vital element of our school year. As far as “enjoy,” I would have to say the clubs. My children thoroughly enjoy drama and book club. We are grateful for the people who give of themselves to make drama club a fun and challenging opportunity. With book club, I’m appreciative of my daughters. Hannah said three years ago that she would like to start a Middle School Book Club. After consulting SHIELD, we began the process in 2012. It is still going three years later, and we also have a High School Club. Hannah reads the books, prepares the discussion questions, chooses thematic games, and compiles the handouts and e-mails. Olivia always helps with the preparation and organization at each monthly gathering, too. I’m present to help and guide and read everything before it goes out, but I receive more than I give. It is such a hoot hearing the clubs talk about the books, see their excitement, share with each other, and talk on-and-on about the book of the month. The kids are GREAT!*

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

**A.** *We are all history fans, so any field trip along those lines. Last summer we travelled to Massachusetts and enjoyed Salem, Boston, Concord, and Lexington (Massachusetts!). We want to go back because there were so many places we wanted to see, and we just ran out of time.*

**Q. What is your favorite food/recipe?**

**A.** *I do not have one favorite food. We enjoy everything from Italian to Chinese to Mexican, and wraps to salads to pizza. We do eat a few vegetarian dinners each week and rarely eat beef.*



**Q. What is your family's favorite activity?**

**A.** *We do not have one favorite, but we all enjoy watching Jeopardy together every night. If we are not home, the DVR is set to record it for later viewing.*

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

**A.** *That's a hard question; I do not have just one. But, I try to remember as I live my life:*

*1 John 3.16: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. **And** (emphasis mine) we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

*Micah 6.8: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*



## Calendar of Events

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>May 8 (Fri)</b>     | <b>Drama Club Presentation</b> , Lexington Baptist Church, 7pm                 |
| <b>May 13 (Wed)</b>    | <b>Field Trip</b> , Lexington County Museum Native Americans, 10:00-12:00      |
| <b>May 15 (Friday)</b> | <b>May Park Day</b> , Springdale Town Park, 12:00-2:00 pm                      |
| <b>May 22 (Fri)</b>    | <b>Achievement Night</b> , Riverbend Church, Lexington                         |
| <b>May 26 (Tues)</b>   | <b>Chick-fil-A Yearbook Fundraiser and Pick-Up Day</b> , Lexington, 5:00-7:00. |

See below for details on many of these events.



---

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

## **May Park Day** Come and join us!

**When:** Friday, May 15th, 12:00-2:00 pm

**Where:** Springdale Town Park  
2915 Platt Springs Rd  
West Columbia, 29170

**Who:** All SHIELD Families!

Come out and enjoy the beautiful weather and the company of SHIELD families!

Contact Kari Zwisle at 803-556-9393 or [kzwisle@yahoo.com](mailto:kzwisle@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.





## Drama Club Presentation

Please Mark Your Calendars Now!

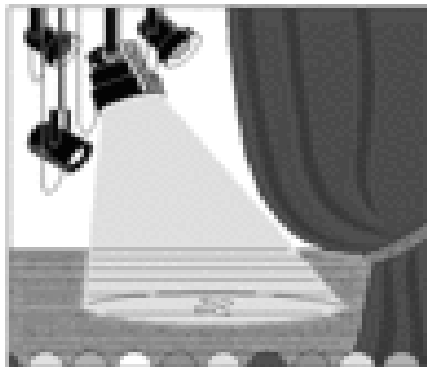
**Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.**

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

The teachable themes involve the work of 4 different Missionaries from the 18th century to the 21st century. This would be a great night for families to learn together while supporting our Home School Actors and Actresses. From 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. we will have an "Africa" Display Table hosted by some Missionaries that served in Zimbabwe for 35 years.

There is NO COST for this Performance!

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



## SHIELD Field Trip

Name of field trip: **Lex. Co Museum-Native American**

Address of event: 231 Fox St, Lexington, SC 29072

Date/Time: **May 13, 2015 10am - 12 pm**

**There is space remaining in this field trip for a few families.**

### Description of field trip:

This program is a wonderfully interesting way to learn about the culture of the early Cherokee Indians in the Lexington area. The children touch various animal hides, teeth and claws from black bears, foxes, deer, raccoons and rabbits. Baskets, food, hunting, fishing, clothing, and pottery are shown and discussed. An animal-tracks game teaches children to identify the paw prints that Cherokee children saw every day. Each child gets to make their own clay pinch pot to take back to their class. The second half of the program has the guide telling the children early Cherokee stories about animals to which the guide uses music and hand puppets. A ceremonial dance takes place in which the children participate by wearing masks, dancing and playing musical instruments such as the drums, hawk bells and turtle rattles. After the dance, the children participate in various Native American games such as Lacrosse, Chunkee, and others which test hand to eye coordination. These two hours are sure to provide great enjoyment and give good insight into the Cherokee culture.

Please park at the gin off of Sunset Blvd. The gates will be open.

\*\*Each child needs to bring a gallon size Ziploc bag with their name written on it.

Grade Level: all

Cost: free

Coordinator: Dani Toussaint, [charles0322@windstream.net](mailto:charles0322@windstream.net), 803-237-1832

Registration: 15 children min/ 25 children max , Registration closes on May11.

To Register: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=lbkchtoab&oeidk=a07eaj3ijby11117970>

## **SHIELD's Achievement Night 2015!**

**Friday, May 22nd, 2015**

Riverbend Community Church  
1015 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072

Each spring SHIELD families come together to celebrate the closing of the school year and the achievements of our students! Sometimes we forget what we've been doing all year in the midst of doing it and so we take a moment in the spring to recognize all the hard work of our students (and their parents!).

6:00 pm-Yearbook distribution and signing

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm –Achievement Night

Cake and beverages following.

The evening includes a Kindergarten Graduation and Special Recognition of our Seniors. We also hand out THRILL Presidential Service Awards to those who have earned it.

You **must** rsvp for this by **Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** in order to have certificates ready.

Send student/s name and grade completing to:

Kindergarten: Holly Winters at [hwinters@sc.rr.com](mailto:hwinters@sc.rr.com)

1st-11th grade: Tracy Taylor at [tracyltaylor24@gmail.com](mailto:tracyltaylor24@gmail.com)

Senior: Tricia Heen at [tricia\\_heen@yahoo.com](mailto:tricia_heen@yahoo.com)

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

## Box Tops

Save your **Boxtops** over the summer! **Boxtops** are on everything from Ziploc bags and plastic cups to Cheerios and butter! There are even **Bonus Boxtops** on some packages and cash register receipts. Clip, trim, peel off heavy backing and bag in 50's; each baggie is worth \$5.00, so ask all your neighbors, friends and family to save them for you. You will get a check in the mail!

We will have two collection dates; one in the fall and one in the spring.

Also, think about if you might have a couple hours to help count **Boxtops** for the two submissions next year. If you can help, be ready to sign up to help when you reapply for SHIELD.

Those who submitted **Boxtops** in February 2015 should receive checks in a few weeks. If you haven't received your check by June 15, please let the **Boxtops** Coordinators know.

Thank you all for a great year! Congrats and warm wishes to our Seniors and Happy Summer!!

If you have any questions, contact  
Sonja Sharpe at [sonjasharpe1977@gmail.com](mailto:sonjasharpe1977@gmail.com) or  
Janey Goude at [djgoude@icloud.com](mailto:djgoude@icloud.com)

## Student Clubs

We have already had one member submit a special interest club idea for next year! We love that some of you are already considering ideas and how you can serve our SHIELD family for next year! We encourage all of you to prayerfully consider how you will serve next year.



## Yearbook News

Yearbooks will be distributed at Achievement Night on Friday, May 22 at 6:00 at Riverbend Community Church and on Tuesday, May 26 from 5-7pm at the Chick-fil-A in Lexington This is a fundraiser so ask all your friends to eat there anytime that day and mention SHIELD when ordering!

You can still purchase your 2015 SHIELD Yearbook by sending a \$30 check payable to SHIELD to Leslie Buzzell, 327 Dungannon Dr., Lexington, SC 29072.

## Members' Services

Do you or someone in your family have a service to offer other homeschoolers? If so, please send the information to Karen Collins at [kscollins2@icloud.com](mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com).

### Babysitters:

**Mackenzie Dufries** 803-996-1379, Red Cross certificate

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

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

### Other:

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

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

**Rebecca Becker**, Director: Classical Conversations of Lexington, [ccoflexingtonsc@gmail.com](mailto:ccoflexingtonsc@gmail.com), 528-6492

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

**Allison Martin** – Independent Designer, Origami Owl Custom Jewelry, (803) 600-0575, [jewelrywithcharm@gmail.com](mailto:jewelrywithcharm@gmail.com), [www.jewelrywithcharm@origamiowl.com](http://www.jewelrywithcharm@origamiowl.com);

**Allison Martin**, Consultant, Pink Zebra (Home Fragrances), (803) 600-0575, [ezpzpinkblack@gmail.com](mailto:ezpzpinkblack@gmail.com), [www.pinkzebracome.com/pinkblack](http://www.pinkzebracome.com/pinkblack);

## Members' Services

### Continued:

**Jenn Lott**, Orton-Gillingham Tutor, 843-701-6266, [jlott584@gmail.com](mailto:jlott584@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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



## SHIELD Leadership & Coordinator Panel 2014-2015

Strategy Team Leader	Shelley Cannon	<a href="mailto:Sheldanc35@gmail.com">Sheldanc35@gmail.com</a>	360-7978
Financial/Membership Team Leader	Mandy Dufries	<a href="mailto:sixdufries@gmail.com">sixdufries@gmail.com</a>	996-1379
Communications Team Leader	Karen Collins	<a href="mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com">kscollins2@icloud.com</a>	445-6043
Academic Presentation Coordinator	Carolyn Jackson	<a href="mailto:imacarolyn@gmail.com">imacarolyn@gmail.com</a>	665-5159
Achievement Night Panel	AN Coordinators Leadership Team	<a href="mailto:Sheldanc35@gmail.com">Sheldanc35@gmail.com</a>	360-7978
	1-11 <sup>th</sup> Certificates Tracy Taylor	<a href="mailto:tracyltaylor24@gmail.com">tracyltaylor24@gmail.com</a>	834-0316
	K5 Graduation		
	Senior Coordinator Tricia Heen	<a href="mailto:tricia_heen@yahoo.com">tricia_heen@yahoo.com</a>	348-6575
Box Tops Coordinators	Janey Goude	<a href="mailto:djgoude@icloud.com">djgoude@icloud.com</a>	951-0943
	Sonja Sharpe	<a href="mailto:sonjasharpe1977@gmail.com">sonjasharpe1977@gmail.com</a>	466-3897
Field Trip Team Coordinators	Rebecca Becker	<a href="mailto:jandbbecker@aol.com">jandbbecker@aol.com</a>	785-2237
	Colleen Eubanks	<a href="mailto:colleen@palmettoehs.com">colleen@palmettoehs.com</a>	260-3202
Library Coordinator	Jenny Stallings	<a href="mailto:Jen9874@msn.com">Jen9874@msn.com</a>	530-8681
Literacy Family Night Coordinators	Jennifer Cogle	<a href="mailto:coglefour@gmail.com">coglefour@gmail.com</a>	261-9593
	Holly Winters	<a href="mailto:hwinters@sc.rr.com">hwinters@sc.rr.com</a>	237-8455
Mid-Year Meeting Coors.	Darby Reeves	<a href="mailto:preeves1@sc.rr.com">preeves1@sc.rr.com</a>	951-8489
	Leslie Buzzell	<a href="mailto:jlbuzzell@gmail.com">jlbuzzell@gmail.com</a>	359-1934
Park Day Coordinator	Kari Zwisle	<a href="mailto:kzwisle@yahoo.com">kzwisle@yahoo.com</a>	556-9393
Standardized Testing Coordinator	Elizabeth Collins	<a href="mailto:aikosmom@sc.rr.com">aikosmom@sc.rr.com</a>	356-5858
Student Club Coordinator	Melissa Bryan	<a href="mailto:smabryan@aol.com">smabryan@aol.com</a>	292-7122
Talent Showcase Coordinators	Tina Hewitt	<a href="mailto:tinahewitt@gmail.com">tinahewitt@gmail.com</a>	446-4635
	Carolyn Jackson	<a href="mailto:imacarolyn@gmail.com">imacarolyn@gmail.com</a>	665-5159
THRILL Coordinators	Michelle Steyne	<a href="mailto:mlsteyne@aol.com">mlsteyne@aol.com</a>	466-4951
	Karen Collins	<a href="mailto:kscollins2@icloud.com">kscollins2@icloud.com</a>	445-6043
Yearbook Advisory Panel	Josie Seacrist (Coordinator)	<a href="mailto:pjseacrist@yahoo.com">pjseacrist@yahoo.com</a>	957-8707
	Jessica Sims	<a href="mailto:jess.sims@gmail.com">jess.sims@gmail.com</a>	996-0609
	Leslie Buzzell	<a href="mailto:jlbuzzell@gmail.com">jlbuzzell@gmail.com</a>	359-1934
	Jennifer Cogle	<a href="mailto:coglefour@gmail.com">coglefour@gmail.com</a>	261-9593
Website Coordinators	Jason & Jesseca Bennett	<a href="mailto:angelmommy2nd@sc.rr.com">angelmommy2nd@sc.rr.com</a>	429-2645