



MT. BETHEL CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

Main Campus | 4385 Lower Roswell Road | Marietta, Georgia 30068
Upper School Campus | 2509 Post Oak Tritt Road | Marietta, Georgia 30062



Faith AND FULFILLMENT

THE **2015** STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR MT. BETHEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE UPPER SCHOOL



Faith

AND FULFILLMENT



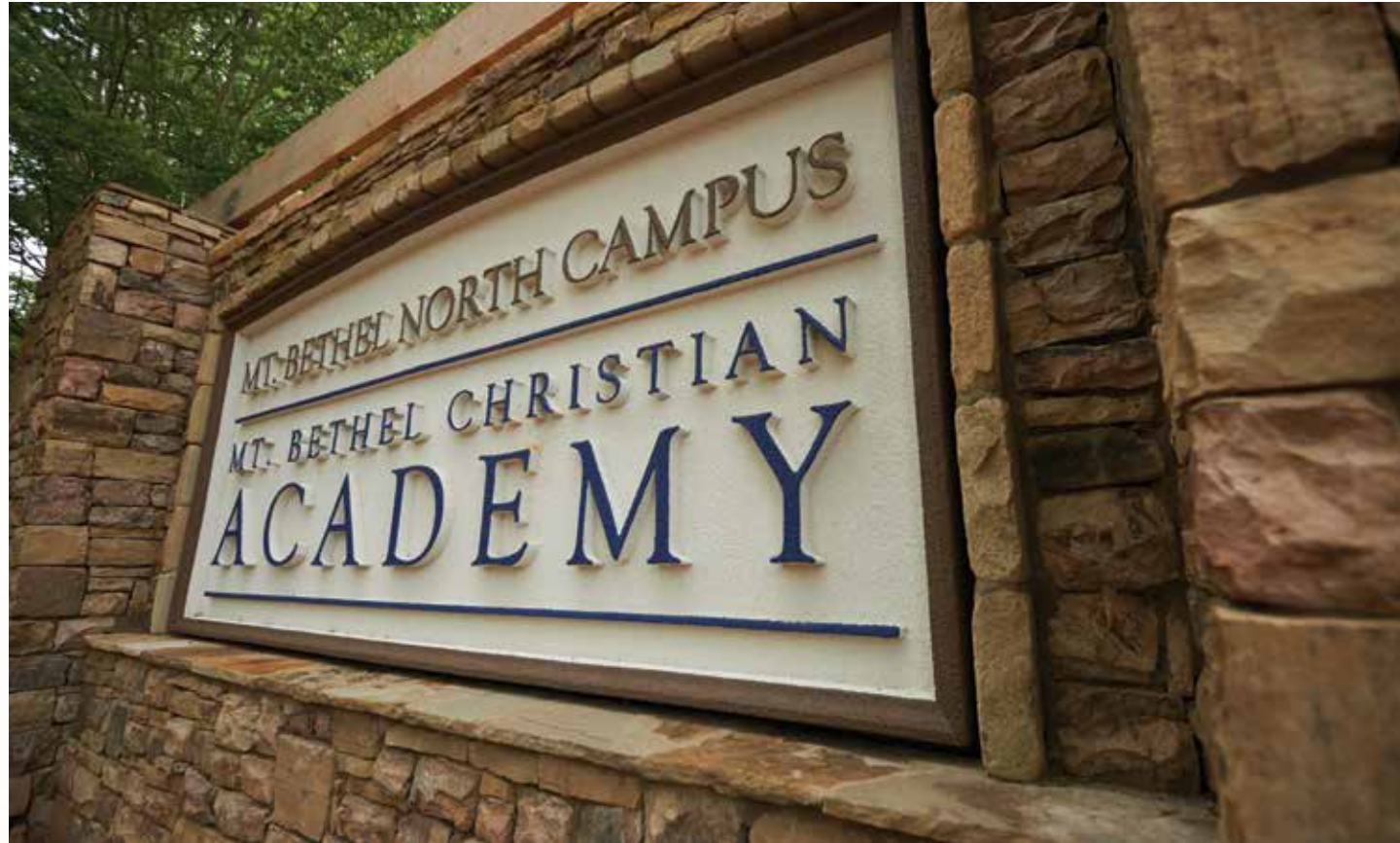
IF YOU HAVE FAITH THE SIZE AS A MUSTARD SEED, YOU WILL SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN, MOVE FROM HERE TO THERE, AND IT WILL MOVE; AND NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.

The mustard seed is an ancient but familiar story. It is remarkable even today that a seed so tiny, so dull, will produce a vibrant mustard plant. Much of the work is done well below the surface of the earth. We cannot see it, but as believers, we know it is happening. And the seed knows, too. It is in its DNA that it will grow into a mustard plant. It is God's will.

Jesus says, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20, Luke 17:6.

The seed planted 17 years ago by east Cobb families wanting a quality, Christ-centered education for their children continues to flourish.

The faith of our community never faltered and, like Jesus promised, we moved mountains.



Friends of Mt. Bethel:

It was late December 2012 when we first walked the Post Oak Tritt property that would become our North Campus home. We immediately sensed a peace and presence there that assured us this was the upper school opportunity God had prepared for us. As we introduced Dr. Mickler and others in leadership to the campus, our feelings were confirmed and we stepped forward in faith, believing that He would stir the hearts of our community to make this purchase possible.



"As I was ending my 8th grade year, I knew that what I wanted most for my high school education was for it to continue to be Christ-centered - I wanted more than just a weekly Chapel and occasional Bible class. In addition, I wanted to be a part of something that is larger than I am; something that has the hand of God on it. Staying at Mt. Bethel became the clear vision of what I wanted most and where God was steering me."



We serve a God who hears our prayers and answers them in His perfect timing. The North Campus acquisition was indeed an answer to prayer, one we held in our hearts for over a decade. In response to the Forward in Faith campaign, almost 400 individuals, companies, and charitable foundations contributed more than \$10.8 million. This stewardship report is both a public acknowledgment of this sacrificial giving and an accounting for how these funds were used to grow our school and expand His kingdom.

The North Campus is situated on 33 wooded acres located six miles north of the main campus.



This fall, our second freshmen class, twice the size of our founding class, will begin their studies. Soon, we will send our first graduates into a world desperately in need of young men and young women who have the wisdom to separate truth from lies and the courage to stand for what is right - the courage to stand for Christ. Thank you for your partnership, making this mission possible. Your investment will yield eternal rewards.

Blessings,

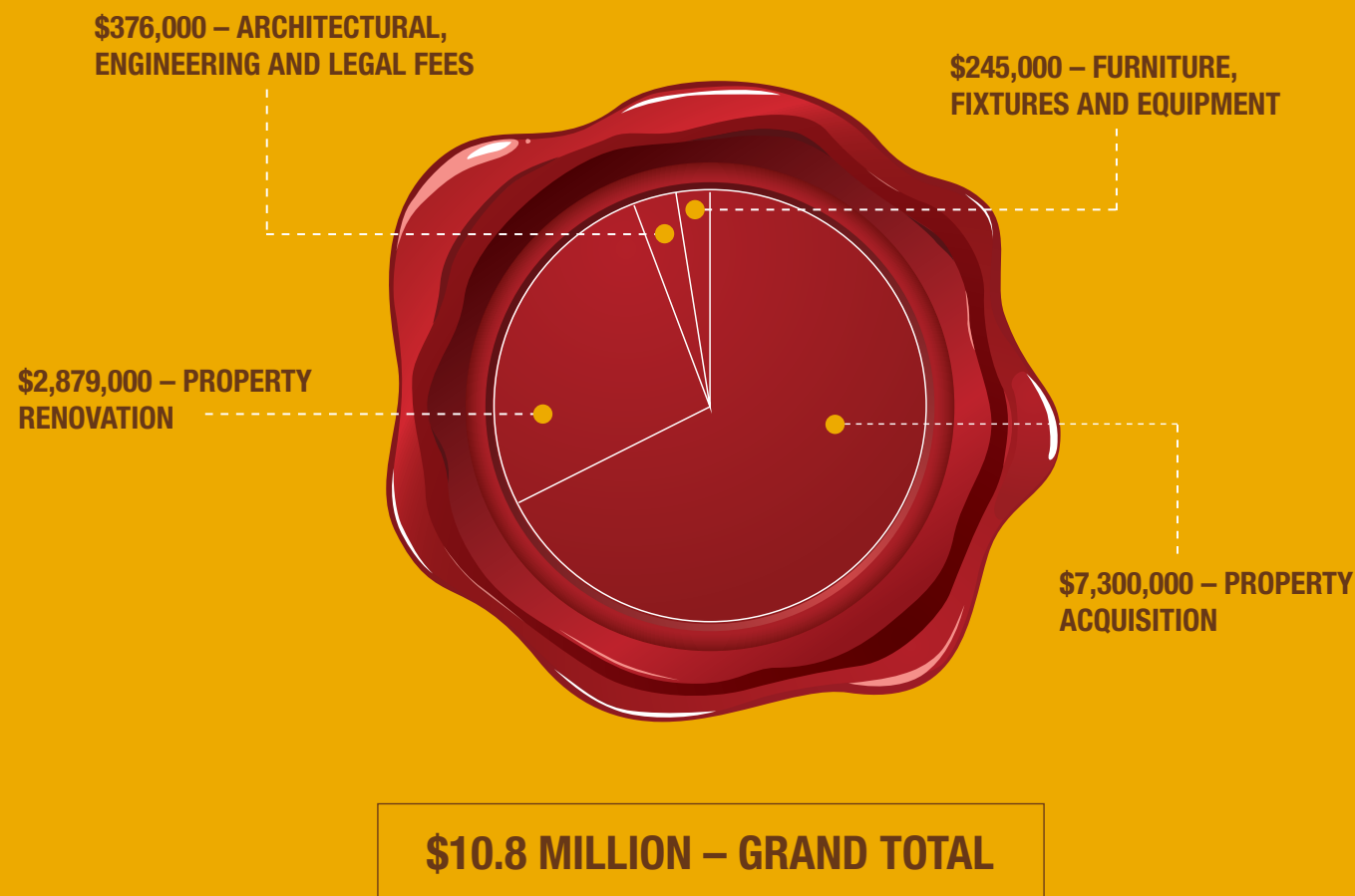
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*forward
in
faith*

BY THE NUMBERS



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2014-2015 Annual Fund

The Annual Fund allows us to maintain a balanced operating budget while keeping tuition as low as possible. Gifts to the MBCA Annual Fund do more than you realize. Certainly our current students benefit from these gifts, but future generations are also impacted. Support of the Annual Fund builds a foundation for excellence and lifelong learning. Year after year we count on gifts of all sizes to preserve our traditions and advance our mission. We are blessed to have a dedicated team of parent volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the success of this campaign. For the past two years, our \$300,000 Annual Fund goal has been met, and 100 percent of our parents, faculty, staff and Board participated. Thank you for inspiring our students and teachers with your generosity. We look with excitement to our future as an independent, preparatory school offering a Christ-centered education for students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. We are humbled and inspired each year by unwavering support from our family of donors.

North Campus at a glance

- (2) Science labs
- Performing Art studio
- Visual Art studio
- Student learning commons
- Student conference center
- Dining hall w/full commercial kitchen
- Fully equipped fitness center
- Newly renovated gymnasium with retractable seating for 140
- Six lane, 25 meter pool under management by Swim Atlanta
- Four new tennis courts under management by Tennis Academy of Georgia

ON FAITH AND FULFILLMENT. A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE.



When I think back on the last two years at MBCA, the words “miraculous whirlwind” come to mind. I’ve been charged with many fundraising goals during my career, but none compares to the way this community answered the call to give. There are conventional rules when conducting a multimillion dollar campaign. There’s an order. A process. A protocol. We followed none of it. Instead, in the fall of 2013 we hit the ground sprinting. We had an unprecedented amount of money to secure and very little time to do it. God, in His perfect timing, presented us with a rare opportunity to expand His kingdom; and despite the odds that were stacked against us, we stepped bravely forward. *Forward in Faith*. And you know what? It worked. You know why? Because God. He is so very good and so are His people. “What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31

Today, I drive by the newly renovated North Campus and I recall the miraculous events that brought it to fruition. It was a perfect storm of God’s people working His plan, at a speed that can only be described as divine intervention. It was the parent volunteers asking for pledges, the sacrificial donations that poured in, the unwavering prayers from even our tiniest MBCA members, the astounding gift from Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, and a grant awarded to us from one of the most respected philanthropic foundations in Georgia that sealed the fate of our Upper School. The absence of any of these would have resulted in a much different outcome, and I’d like to offer my most sincere and heartfelt thanks to **Heather and Matt Rendle** (Annual Fund Chairs 2013-2014) as well as **David and Pam Johnston** (Forward in Faith Chairs and Annual Fund 2014-2015 Chairs). In the last two years, their volunteer leadership, along with a team of selfless parent volunteers, helped set a 100% participation precedent for our Annual Fund that, previously, existed only in fairy tales. It is this remarkable achievement that put us head and shoulders above the competition when we submitted our grant proposal.

It was an absolute honor to bear witness to this family of believers during such a pivotal time in the school’s history. You conquered the unconquerable. Because of your faithful service and generous spirit, His kingdom expanded. Together, we stepped *Forward in Faith* and now countless generations will come to Him, know Him and believe in Him. To God be the Glory, dear ones. Thank you for your astonishing support and loyalty.

Humbly yours,

Sharon McGehee

Sharon McGehee
Director of Development



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\$1,000,000 +

A grateful MBCA and MBUMC Family Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church

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IF YOU HAVE FAITH AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED, YOU CAN SAY TO THIS MULBERRY TREE, 'BE UPROOTED AND PLANTED IN THE SEA,' AND IT WILL OBEY YOU.

As we celebrate the remarkable success of Forward in Faith, let us be mindful that our work is far from complete. We continue to ask for your prayers as we establish MBCA's new identity as a premier, PK-12 independent school. We committed to this endeavor long ago, and now, thanks to all of you, it is a reality. But let's continue with this fine work as we chart a new course together. Let us pray that our character, and the talents that God has instilled in us, mature and grow as our school grows.

It is an exciting time for the Mt. Bethel Christian Academy community. Thank you for honoring God with your investment in our future.