



COLLEGE of ATHENS

CoA Fall 2022 Newsletter

Equipping the next generation of Christian leaders to transform the world in Jesus' Name



***"And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."
Acts 4:13***

In Acts chapters 2-4, we find the Apostles Peter and John in Jerusalem, healing people and preaching the Gospel. The Jewish religious leaders—the same group who had only recently called for Jesus' death—were now confronting

Christ's disciples for following in His footsteps. What most surprised the religious leaders was how boldly these apostles preached and proclaimed their message! After all, Peter and John were just ordinary, "common men." Until only a few years ago, they had spent their days fishing on the Sea of Galilee. How was it that they were drawing large crowds of people (crowds these religious leaders could only dream of)? From where had they gotten their authority? What had given them such boldness? Something had changed in Peter and John—but what?

Later in the New Testament, we have the letters the Apostle Paul wrote to the people of the Corinthian church. Even though Paul suffered from a certain ailment, he did not use that suffering as an excuse to quit preaching the Gospel. Instead, Paul used his pain, along with Old Testament Scripture, as the inspiration for one of his best-known encouragements: "*Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord*" (1 Corinthians 1:31; 2 Corinthians 10:17; cf. Jeremiah 9:24). Paul had learned a remarkable truth: we can be at our weakest according to the world, and yet we can know that we are at our strongest according to the Word. But from where had he gotten his authority? What had given him such boldness? Something had changed in Paul—but what?

What changed for Peter, John, and Paul was not anything of their own doing. They did not suddenly get rich, famous, or well-connected. They did not just "try harder" or "do more" for the sake of personal accomplishment and to keep busy. What made all the difference in their lives was not a change in their rank or reputations, but a change in their relationships.

Peter, John, and Paul had all been with Jesus.

The assurance that comes from being with Jesus and spending time in His Word is nothing like worldly arrogance. The boldness that comes from being a child of God in no way resembles the sinful idea of being "the best" or having bragging rights. No, Christ-like confidence is a lot less like conceit and a lot more like the gentle humility of Jesus (Philippians 2:3-5). After all, we cannot save ourselves, and we cannot add to our salvation. That work has already been accomplished by God's grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9.) As followers of Christ, we are not called to strive after our own greatness; we are called to spend time with Jesus.

Whether we feel tempted to boast in our own accomplishments or to shrink back in our own weaknesses, let us continually preach to ourselves the words of Isaiah 41:10:

*"So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

By Cynthia Wilbur, Assistant Director of Program Services





Academic Honors

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding achievement during summer semester 2022. Qualifying students must have enrolled in two or more courses.

President's List (3.76-4.0 GPA)

Raymond Church
Stacy Fleming
Lisa Graham
Dee Pesaresi
Wilna Vinke

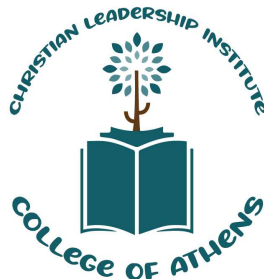
Invite Your Pastor to Pastor's Appreciation

Each year we hold an annual Pastor's Appreciation event to bless local pastors and ministry leaders. This year's event will be held at **Alps Road Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, October 4th from 10:00AM-1:00PM** and we'd love for your pastor to attend! Please [share this link](#) with any pastors or ministry leaders you may know so that we can thank them for their service.

Serve With Us At ServeAthens ICN

Our annual service event, **ServeAthens** In Christ Name, is **Saturday, October 22nd!** We'd love for you to come serve with us that morning! From 8:00-9:00 AM there will be a morning kick-off and from 9:00 AM until 1:30 PM volunteers will be serving at various project sites around Athens. The event is family friendly, lunch will be provided, and everyone is welcome to come serve.

[Click here](#) to register to serve our community together!





2023 Christian Leadership Institute

We are now accepting applications for the January 2023 Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) cohort! CLI is an 18-month program designed to prepare you to teach, reach, lead and minister to others out of your identity in Christ through relational, hands-on training for life and leadership in any setting. Learn more about the [CLI program here](#).

Kroger Rewards

CoA champions like YOU who shop at Kroger can help support the College through your regular grocery shopping! Visit www.kroger.com. Once logged into your Kroger rewards account (or after setting up a new Kroger account), you can search for College of Athens, Inc. either by name or by using the non-profit organization number **NG418**. Then click Enroll. Thank you for choosing to support CoA through your Kroger rewards card!

Save the Date!

Save the date for the College of Athens annual New Year - New Heart prayer conference in January!

New Year - New Heart, Saturday, January 7th, 2023; 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Living Hope Church

MinistrySafe Training

Living Hope Church is hosting a free "Sexual Abuse Prevention" seminar on **Sunday, November 13th from 6:30-8:00 PM** at 2150 Lexington Rd., Athens, GA. Brad Eubanks will be the presenter. All are welcome, but this is especially geared for pastors and church leaders. Sign up by contacting David Holt, davidholt08@gmail.com.

CoA Community Impact

CoA is making a difference in our community by serving as Jesus' hands and feet! See how your prayers and support are impacting the Athens area and beyond!



Congratulations to **Stacy Fleming**, one of our undergraduate students, on being **officially ordained**! We know that God will use you in great ways for his kingdom!



CoA is blessed to welcome our **largest incoming class of students** this fall (some of them are pictured above)! In 2022 the college has had the privilege of impacting almost **100 students across all programs**! We thank God for the wonderful students He is bringing us and for the opportunity to equip and impact them as eternal Kingdom difference-makers!



Peggy Lowery, (pictured above middle), was present at the College's very first open house to announce its establishment. She is an extraordinary cheerleader for CoA, telling everyone she meets about God's goodness in and through our shared Kingdom work. Peggy has also served through the College's Prayer Ministry Center since it opened in January 2013, leading countless sessions as she ministered God's love into the hearts of the weary and broken. At the milestone of her 80th birthday, Peggy is retiring from regular Prayer Ministry service. In honor of her decade of faithful sacrifice, the College of Athens awarded her an **honorary Prayer Leadership Certificate**. We thank God for such a faithful servant who holds the vision for all that God wishes to accomplish at CoA in the depths of her beautiful heart!

New Team Member - Welcome Cynthia!



Please join us in welcoming **Cynthia Wilbur** as our **Assistant Director of Program Services**! Cynthia comes to us with two decades of experience working in state and local government as well as higher education. She has a passion for theology and is nearly finished with a Master's of Divinity program. In her new role, Cynthia will be supporting CoA growth by accomplishing important duties such as student onboarding, financial aid, student advising, conference events, prayer ministry, and more. We could not be more grateful that the Lord has brought her to the College at this time. Welcome to the team Cynthia!

New Heart Thrift Store Grows - Volunteers Still Needed!

New Heart Thrift Store is located at **1450 Greensboro Highway** and supports the CoA Student Scholarship Fund as well as other local ministries. Thank you for supporting this effort by shopping with friends and with your donations of gently used items. Let's thank God for Doug & Laurie Schneider who faithfully run the store week in and week out as volunteers! **Many more regular volunteers are needed to help serve at the thrift store!** If you could serve 2 or 3 hours per week or more at New Heart Thrift Store, please contact **Doug** at **706-705-1702** or by emailing thrift@acmin.org.

Find out more about New Heart Thrift Store!



Prayer Ministry

These are anxiety-producing days. Do you know anyone who would benefit from some help from the LORD in overcoming a hurt, trauma, a relational challenge or negative behavior? **The CoA Prayer Ministry Center** exists to help foster freedom and wholeness in Christ to all who are willing to bring their burdens to Him. [To schedule a confidential appointment, click here.](#)

Prayer sessions can be held both virtually or in-person using appropriate social distancing, as you prefer!

Interested to learn how you could serve others through Prayer Ministry? Consider enrolling in [CoA's Prayer Leadership Certificate Program](#)!

How To Pray For Us

Would you pray for CoA? Here are some things you can lift up to the Father on our behalf:

- for God's continued provision of funds, people, and resources for our campus development project;
- for expedient favor with our governmental applications to begin receiving international students as well as PELL Grants for students in need;
- for protection and favor over the entire CoA community--every student, staff member, and volunteer; and
- for the right people for our open positions (see below).



We're Hiring!

We're hiring! Are you interested in working as an administrative assistant, recruiter, marketing and social media manager, or event coordinator in a part-time or full-time role? To find out more about available positions, please visit

[our open positions page](#)! You can submit the necessary application materials to Dr. Marcia Wilbur by [emailing her here](#).

Thank You, CoA Business Sponsors!





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CoA Mission Statement

College of Athens is a biblically-grounded, Holy Spirit-empowered, accredited Christian college that prepares and restores men and women who will teach, reach, lead, and minister to others out of their identity in Christ through relational, hands-on training for life and leadership in the church, in the marketplace, and across the globe.

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