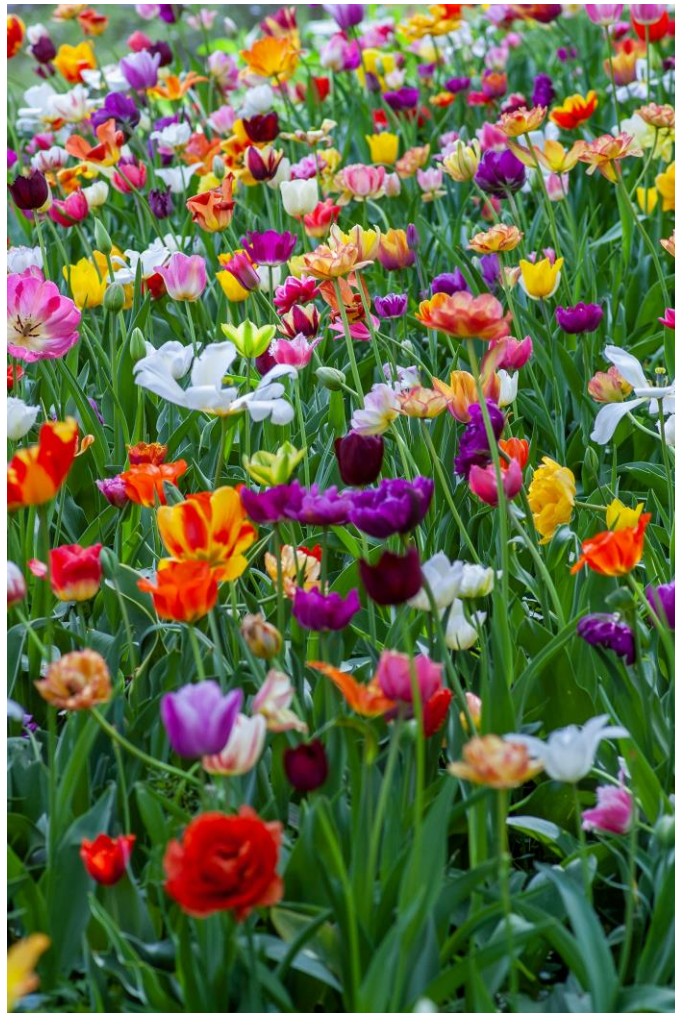




# COLLEGE *of* ATHENS

## CoA Spring 2024 Newsletter

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



### **Plant and Grow!**

Spring in Georgia can be a fickle thing. We started the month of March off with rain and highs around 40 degrees. Two days later, the sun was shining and temperatures hit 70. Only one thing seems to be guaranteed about this time of year, and that is that pollen season will soon be fully upon us.

Pollen can be both a blessing and a curse. Once released by a plant, most pollen particles are light enough to be blown about this way and that, billowing into allergen clouds that turn everything a tint of yellow-green. Once mixed with rain, pollen can become a sludge that unmercifully coats everything within its reach. As anyone who has spent a spring in the south well knows, the only thing that can truly get pollen off of your car is a good, thorough washing. However, pollen is also necessary for plants to continue to bloom, produce, and bring forth fruit. The same pollen that causes us such (literal!) headaches and trouble also ensures that we have food to eat come harvest time.

In the same way that the weather and pollen can both be fickle, so too can our words. Words can be both a blessing and a curse, as the book of Proverbs repeatedly illustrates. We are told that, “death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits,” (Proverbs 18:21). Likewise, “a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1). We have such potential with the power of our words—potential to tear down but also to build back up, to wound, but also to offer the hope of healing. Like pollen, once released, our words drift far away and to places we could not even imagine. How many of us—speaking before thinking—have seen the fallen look of hurt on the faces of friends and loved ones, and have found ourselves desperately wishing we could take our words back? How many of us have gotten up the courage to say a small prayer or word of encouragement to someone, and—seeing the look of joy and hope on our loved one’s face—have been desperately thankful that we heeded the promptings of the Holy Spirit? And how many of us, repenting, have asked to have our words be washed clean by the blood of Christ?

The purpose of pollen is not to make us miserable by irritating our allergies and caking everything with grit. The purpose of pollen is to continue the spread of the floral kingdom on earth—to plant and grow! So do our words! God did not give us the ability to communicate with one another so that we could be irritating, gritty, and make others feel miserable in our presence. God gave us words so that we might love one another by spreading the Good News of His Kingdom come to earth in Christ! What a privilege to know that we are entrusted with such a wonderful task—to be farmers and harvesters for the Lord! To realize that we are called to plant seeds and grow fruit for the Kingdom!

Spring in Georgia can be a fickle thing. Pollen in Georgia can be a fickle thing. But our words need never be fickle. We can entrust them into the care of the One who planted the first garden, and we can then follow His lead.

*We invite you to “Plant and Grow!” with the College of Athens this spring!*

**By Cynthia Wilbur, CoA Assistant Director of Program Services**

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## CoA Upcoming Opportunities

Make plans now to go deeper in your faith. CoA always has ways to connect you with others who share your passion for life in Christ!

### 2024 Athens National Day of Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 2nd // 7:00 – 8:30 AM

The Classic Center

**2024 Theme:**

*Lift Up the Word—Light Up the World*  
— from 2 Samuel 22:29-31

**Keynote Speaker:**

*Nick Honerkamp*

*Executive Director, Kingdom Consulting*



For information & tickets visit:  
[CollegeofAthens.edu/National-Day-of-Prayer](https://CollegeofAthens.edu/National-Day-of-Prayer)

### Athens Area National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2nd

The Classic Center, Athens

7:00-8:30 AM

All great movements of God are stirred by extraordinary efforts on behalf of His saints to humbly come before His throne and to PRAY! The 2024 NDoP theme is “Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World,” based on 2 Samuel 22:29-31. The 73rd Annual National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024, will have profound significance for our country. [Register Now!](#)

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## ***Transformed!* 2024 Annual Teaching Conference**

**Saturday, June 22nd**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Save the date and mark your calendars! The College of Athens' *Transformed!* Conference will help you make sense out of the challenges you face each and every day. [Registration is now open and Early Bird Discounts](#) are available!

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### **Fresh Discipleship Opportunities**

Look ahead to our upcoming opportunities this spring and summer!





## The Great Exchange @ UNG Watkinsville

CoA will be hosting another Great Exchange evangelism outreach event this month at University of North Georgia - Oconee Campus! It will be **Tuesday, March 19th from 10:00AM-1:00PM**. It will be a great opportunity to practice having spiritual conversations and sharing your faith with other students. You can also receive service hours for coming. Please RSVP to [Alex Fields](#) if you would like to come for all or just part of the time!

## CoA Boston Mission Trip May 4-11, 2024



Please join us in prayer as CoA students and staff will once again be partnering with Beacon Community Church in Boston helping reach their area for Jesus! Participants are currently in the middle of support-raising and working with the church to plan several community outreach projects. If you are interested in becoming a trip sponsor, please contact Alex Fields!

## Coaching 4 Christlikeness (C4C)

Would you like to develop the skills that will equip you to restore and build up other people to live from a place of wholeness in Christ, empowered for their personal journey through all aspects of who they are? Are you interested in becoming more effective in explaining to unbelievers who God created them to be and their place in His larger story? Do you value application and experience as key components for growing in Christ? We hope you will consider Coaching 4 Christlikeness! This 18-month training begins on Friday, May 24th. For more information and to register, please visit [CoA's Christian Life Coaching site!](#)

Coaching  
C4C  
Christlikeness

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## Spotlight on CoA

Take a look at what we've been up to!





## Annual President's Gala

The CoA family, along with old friends and new, gathered for the President's Gala on February 24th. The highlight of the evening was keynote speaker Joel Manby, experienced CEO and author of *Love Works*. Joel challenged us all to lead with Gods' agape love while keeping 3 questions in mind:

- Who do I need to encourage?
- With whom do I need to be truthful?
- With whom do I need to be unselfish?

President Wilbur shared CoA's vision for its first phase of building, allowing additional office and classroom spaces along with housing for up to 76 students. The current campaign goal is to raise \$45K per month in regular monthly giving. Your gift of \$5 or \$500 per month can make a significant difference over time! [Click here](#) to invest monthly in the future of CoA where we raise up leaders who make an eternal difference in the church, the marketplace, and around the globe! We invite you into this grand adventure with Jesus!

[Watch a short video that details the campus vision.](#)

[Learn more about the College of Athens' "Promised Land" campaign.](#)



## 2024 New Year - New Heart

Every January, CoA celebrates the New Year with our annual New Year - New Heart Conference. This year's conference took place on Saturday, January 20th, and was a day filled with worship, praise, prayer, and healing! NYNH always brings supernatural encounters with the Living God, and this year was no exception! The speakers helped participants learn to "guard their hearts" with practical teaching and application. In one

participant's words, "This was the BEST conference I've ever attended!" Make plans to attend in January 2025!

## Spotlight on Core Values

# COLLEGE *of* ATHENS

## Core Values

IN THE CONTEXT OF CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM, WE VALUE:

- A strong biblical foundation
- An abiding relationship with the Trinity through prayer
- Grounding each person's Identity in Christ
- Practical, experiential learning
- Every believer's calling to Christ-like love and service
- Worship in Spirit and truth
- Unity in the body of Christ
- Faith and trust in God alone

This edition's highlight is on our first Core Value - "A strong biblical foundation". We recently asked CoA faculty and staff to tell us a little bit about their favorite verses from Scripture.

**Cindy Berry, Operations Director**

**Romans 1:16**



*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

"This has always been my son's favorite verse. It has become my favorite verse because I see his Godly example, and it makes me give glory to God for His faithfulness in our lives! We should not be ashamed or be shy about the gospel, which is the good news! The bad news is that we deserve God's righteous judgement; we have broken all of His commandments. But God poured out our punishment upon His Son, Jesus. And God gives us the faith we need to believe in Christ and be saved!"

**Alex Fields, Director of Outreach & Student Affairs**

**John 10:10**

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*



"This is probably my favorite verse and it just shows succinctly God's plan for us versus the enemy's plan for us. It shows us God's love for us that he desires that we have abundant life. Abundant life is what every Christian should experience in Christ and is what we are ultimately trying to equip towards and provide here at CoA."

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## How Can You Pray for CoA?

When God's people pray, His Kingdom advances! Thank you for your continued prayers over:

- Every student and faculty member;
- God's abiding presence, favor, protection and grace in this place;
- Expedient cooperation from a variety of governmental agencies;
- the Hancock State Prison effort; and
- Everything we need to begin building our campus in 2024!



And let's always praise and thank Our God for the opportunity to co-labor with Him for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ! What a privilege!

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## Your Shopping Can Help CoA!

CoA will receive a percentage of the amount of purchases made by those who have designated their Kroger Cards to support CoA! We hope you will enroll your Kroger Card today in this rewards program on the college's behalf!

Register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)



- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.



- Enter CoA organization number: NG418, or select it from the list and click on confirm.
- **REMEMBER**, to use your Kroger Plus card the next time you shop at Kroger!

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## T-Shirt Raffle

We are doing a CoA t-shirt giveaway during the month of March! Any degree-seeking student who has started or made progress on a [CoA application](#) for Summer or Fall 2024 since January 1st will be entered into a raffle to win a free t-shirt! The deadline to start or work on an application for summer is March 31st. We'll announce the winner in early April!



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## CoA Service Opportunities

### New Heart Thrift Store

Planning on doing some spring cleaning? Looking to refresh your home or closet? Be sure to stop by the [New Heart Thrift Store](#) and stock up for the new season! Located just outside of downtown Watkinsville at 1450 Greensboro Highway, New Heart is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00am until 5:00 pm.

Proceeds from purchases and donations will help fund the CoA student scholarship fund while also giving back to other community ministries. Additionally, volunteers are also always needed and appreciated! To volunteer, please call 706-705-1702 or email [info@newheartthriftstore.org](mailto:info@newheartthriftstore.org).



## Thank You, CoA Business Sponsors!



## 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.

### Our Contact Information

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