



# COLLEGE *of* ATHENS

## CoA Summer 2026 Newsletter

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



By God's grace, College of Athens celebrates the grading and gravel work of many of the roads into the campus property! And the refreshing to the property entrance looks fantastic! The work was accomplished by two precious volunteers, Hal Jones and Mallory Granitz. Thank you, friends! In Hal's words, "I owe my life to the college!" Hal and Mallory have participated in CoA courses and activities where God radically transformed their lives in all the best ways. So they wanted to give back!



Over the coming months, CoA will be working towards establishing four "high tunnels" or greenhouses as part of the campus plan where we will teach our students how to grow food as part of agricultural ministry that can be used around the globe as we share the Good News of Christ.



Getting the House of Hope built is also mission critical so that we can move our operations onto our campus. Please be in prayer for God to provide the resources needed so that construction can begin. And definitely support this effort to the greatest extent that you are able. Every future student will be blessed by your generosity!

CoA Board and leadership will be hosting a campus property tour on **Saturday, July 18th at 9:00 AM**. You are welcome to join us! Meet at the entrance at 9:00 AM. The address is 4080 S. Barnett Shoals Rd., Athens, 30605. See you there!

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands!*

(Psalm 90:17)

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A photograph of a peace lily plant with several white flowers and green leaves, set against a light blue background. The text "In Loving Memory" is overlaid on the left side of the image in a black, elegant cursive font.

*In  
Loving Memory*

### **Remembering Brandi Long**

One of our beloved students, Brandi Long, died tragically in an auto accident on Gray Highway on February 20th. Please be in prayer for Brandi's son, J.J., her family, and her church family. She is dearly missed and remembered. CoA awarded Brandi an honorary Associate of Arts in Christian Ministry degree at her May 30th memorial service. Brandi had nearly completed all of her degree requirements, and she loved the Lord with all her heart!

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## Looking to Take Your Faith in Christ to New Depths?

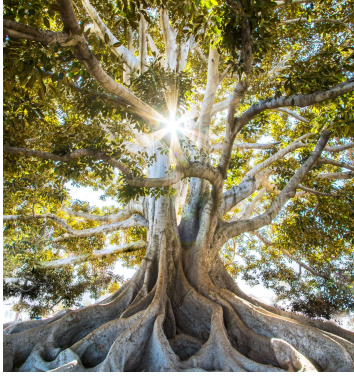
As Christ-followers, we are well familiar with the Old Testament Bible stories, the Ten Commandments, and Christ's amazing gift of salvation at the cross. But it can be challenging to understand what is meant by scriptures such as Galatians 2:20--"I no longer live live, but Christ lives in me."

If you'd like to engage in one-on-one personal coaching from a certified Christian Coach who will walk with you on a deep discovery of just exactly who you are in Christ, consider [Coaching 4 Christlikeness](#). C4C provides the life-in-Christ transformation that our hearts desire but that we can struggle to accomplish! You can be paired with a personal life transformation coach today!



### CoA Transformational Prayer Ministry

The objective of CoA's Transformational Prayer Ministry Center is to help restore people to wholeness and abundant life in Christ by connecting them to the heart of God and to one another so that they may live out the fullness of their identity and purpose with power, peace, and joy. [Please contact the CoA Transformational Prayer Ministry Center to learn more!](#)



### [Impact Partnership](#)

Have you heard about the [Impact Partnership](#)? Your church or business could provide **FREE** undergraduate tuition to up to 25 individuals at College of Athens. Contact [Alex Fields](#) to learn more about this incredible opportunity.!

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## Save the Date: Upcoming @ CoA!



Fall Semester is right around the corner! While it's a time of harvest, it can also be a season for new beginnings! The [CoA Fall 2026 Course Schedule](#) is now available. Take a look and see what we have to offer! We welcome degree-seeking and non-degree students to join courses like Inductive Bible Study and Identity in Christ.



Mark your calendars for the 2026 ServeAthens ICN event on Saturday, October 24th from 8:30 AM-2:00 PM! Churches from around our city are joining together to serve others in Christ's Name! We would love for your church to be a part of this year's ServeAthens event by hosting a project near to your hearts or serving on a project team in the local area! Centrally located at 660 W. Broad St., Encounter Church will be serving as the host site for our morning kick-off. Please contact Alex at [a.fields@collegeofathens.edu](mailto:a.fields@collegeofathens.edu) or 706-769-1472 if you are interested in hosting a project this year!



Save the date – **Thursday, October 1st** from 8:30-10:00AM for the 2026 **Pastor's Appreciation** event! As leaders of God's Church, we are making plans to encourage, bless, and appreciate *you*. Hope you will mark your calendar and plan to take part as we strengthen one another in Christ!

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## [CoA Employment & Service Opportunities](#)



CoA is growing! Consider becoming part of a dynamic team charged with bringing glory to God! And help spread the word about these opportunities:

### **[Recruiting & Marketing Coordinator](#)**

College of Athens would like to hire a [Recruiter](#) to work with the Admissions department. Perhaps you know someone about to finish college who loves the LORD and people and looking for employment in a Christian environment. Free graduate school tuition is an added benefit! Thank you for pointing qualified individuals in our direction!

### **[Events Director](#)**

CoA is hiring for an [Events Director](#). This position will be responsible for organizing, managing, and growing the suite of public-facing events hosted by the College. Please contact [Mr. Alex Fields](#) for more information.

### **[Support CoA Staff](#)**

Many who work at CoA work to grow their personal support teams who contribute monthly to their salaries. Because CoA promises that all students will graduate debt-free, staff work hard to raise support so that students can receive tuition discounts as needed. We invite you to establish a monthly recurring gift in honor of any hard-working CoA staff member!

**[Click here to give!](#)**

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## Spotlight on CoA



### CoA Spring 2026 Academic Honors

Congratulations to our Spring 2026 Academic Honors recipients:

**President's List (3.76 - 4.0 GPA)**

*Undergraduate:* Raymond Church, Stacy Fleming, Abby Ham, Angela Izzo, Josh Phillips, Noah Shoemaker, Marja Thompson

*Graduate:* Amy Alred, Hunter Land, Deon Vanstaden



## 2026 National Day of Prayer

On Thursday morning, May 7th, the College of Athens hosted the Athens Area National Day of Prayer Breakfast and it was a huge success! It was a wonderful time of food and fellowship as we heard a keynote speech from Governor Brian Kemp, passionate worship from Reginald Willis, and were led in prayer by several local pastors and ministry leaders.



## Update on Hancock State Prison

Under the direction of Dr. Jesse Colbert, College of Athens continues to offer its undergraduate and master's programs to students at Hancock State Prison--a Level 5 Maximum Security facility in the state. The students are hungry to learn more in their respective programs - Christian Ministry or Transformational Leadership. Five men are slated to graduate with a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry this fall. All students are becoming well equipped to share Christ with every other inmate that they encounter. Let's thank God for the faculty who teach there week after week, for the generous supporters who make the program possible, and for God's own work in the hearts and lives of each student we are blessed to serve. Please continue to lift up the program and the prison--it can be a volatile environment with frequent lock-downs that interrupt the students' ability to come to class. But by God's grace and in His strength, the program has moved steadily forward.



Left to right: Lynn Sutton, Dee Pesaresi, Angela Curinton, Lisa Connerley, Tiiloni Beavers, Crystol Jordan

## CoA Prayer Ministry at WAHN

Several members of our CoA prayer ministry team had the opportunity to attend the Women's Affordable Housing Network (WAHN) conference in San Diego, California, May 2–5. WAHN exists to empower, connect, and advance women working in the affordable housing industry—including attorneys, architects, developers, financiers, and advocates—who are committed to seeing families and seniors live in safe, quality housing. We are grateful to represent CoA in this setting and to serve in a way that reflects our values of compassion, hospitality, and prayer.

This was our second year serving at the conference as part of the hospitality team, thanks to the invitation and support of Cissy Watson. Our ministry served in what's called the Tea Room—a welcoming space where attendees can step away from a busy schedule, relax, enjoy snacks, and connect in conversation. As we sat with many of the women, we were able to offer a listening ear and pray with them and speak encouragement into their situations. Please continue to pray for the women we met, for ongoing open doors to serve in this space, and for our team to be led with wisdom, compassion, and sensitivity.

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Come join the party! New CoA student Eve Hatlevig is having a blast volunteering recently at New Heart Thrift Store.

### [New Heart Thrift Store](#)

Volunteers are always needed at the New Heart Thrift Store! You can also make a donation or a purchase. Proceeds from the thrift store help fund CoA and our college's mission while also giving back to other ministries within the community. Contact Mr. Doug Schneider at [dschneider@acmin.edu](mailto:dschneider@acmin.edu) or 706-705-1702 if you are interested in volunteering.



## Spring 2026 Student Potluck

On Saturday, April 19th, College of Athens hosted our annual Spring Potluck, where faculty and students get together to fellowship and celebrate all of God's blessing during the Spring semester! Attendees shared good food, good fun, and lots of laughs. Be on the lookout for the Summer Student Field Day coming in July!



## Support CoA!

CoA appreciates your support as faithful ministry partners and friends! There are so many ways to invest in the mission of CoA. In addition to your prayers, please consider blessing the College with your gifts of cash, stock, real estate, crypto currency, or through estate planning. We offer many strategies that provide both tax benefits

to you, the generous donor, while helping CoA grow in ways that are sure to impact God's eternal Kingdom through every future Christian leader who trains with us.

Whether your goal is to make a big impact or a modest gift, and whether you are planning for year-end or for an enduring legacy, you have many options. Visit [Support CoA](#) to learn more!

## 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**



### Spotlight on Core Values: Wholly in Christ

The CoA staff recently enjoyed time together at the annual staff retreat, where we explored what it means to live in intimacy with Christ so that we can be walking, talking bearers of his character and power in the earth. More than an institution that provides "head knowledge" to its students, the most important mission is to ensure that every student who attends comes to understand and live out of their identity in Christ. "As he is, so are we in this world." (1John 4:17)

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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 state and federal governmental agencies;
- The Hancock State Prison effort; and
- The funding needed to build our campus.



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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## Thank You, CoA Business Sponsors!



*the Sparrow's Nest*



ATLANTA LUXURY RENTALS

Atlanta Chimney Doctor



## 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.