

“SON”SHINE **Newsletter**



Special Edition **Scholarship Sunday, 2023**

Reformation Lutheran Church
633 S. New York Road,
Galloway, NJ 08205
609-652-8431
8:30 & 10:00 am Church Service
Sunday School 10 am
Rev. Heidi Link, Pastor
Brian Conover, Music Director
Stacie Krouse, Church Secretary

Pastor’s Message

As I sit here Monday morning, reflecting on the celebration of the Blanche Harffey Higher Education 2023-2024 recipients during worship yesterday morning, I hear Crosby, Stills, and Nash’s “Teach Your Children Well” playing in my head. And now I guess it’s playing in yours too, lol. The song at its core is about teaching children and parents to love and accept each other despite the generational gaps “And know they love you”¹. While the song was written by Graham Nash in 1968, it still reigns true today, not only for children and parents but for all of us. And these fine young adults who shared their heartfelt gratitude to Blanche’s legacy and the Church yesterday were well taught indeed. Foremost their messages reflected their love for God and neighbor, sharing how their faith lifts and sustains them in their hectic schedules. One thing that stood out for me was how they make serving those in need a priority in their life. I imagine this made Blanche so very happy. In his sermon, Pastor Jaggie talked about how Blanche “went out into the world dressed, as Paul suggests we all dress ourselves today, with humility, compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience. Blanche always presented herself in word and deed as one giving thanks to God from the gratitude of her heart... (and that) Blanche believes that life owed her nothing but that she owed God everything.”² In her life and legacy Blanche has taught us all well. And remember “Broccoli is 0.49/lb.”²

Pastor Heidi

**A special “Thank You” goes out to The Rev. David Jones for offering the
Blessing on our time of fellowship after worship!**

¹ Nash, Graham. *Teach Your Children Well* Lyric. Spirit One Music o/b/o Nash Notes.1968

² Jaggie, Rev. Neil. Sermon at Reformation Lutheran Church on Sunday July 30, 2023.

Blanche Harffey Higher Education Fund Awards

The 2023 BHHEF awards were presented at a special Sunday service on July 30. Thirteen students who were granted scholarships this year gathered with our congregation to worship and to share some insights into their student life. 12 students were awarded \$3400 (\$1700 each semester, Fall/Spring.) One student applied for a half year (\$1700.) A time of fellowship and food followed the morning service.

Assisting Rev. Heidi Link, was The Rev. Neil Jaggie, who served Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pleasantville, for over 30 years and is now retired. Pastor Jaggie preached the morning sermon and offered background on Blanche's legacy. A PowerPoint presentation was used to introduce each recipient followed by brief messages from the recipients in person or via video or written messages. Special music was offered by Flutist Judy Kocher Tabit, a former member at Epiphany and Alex DeStefano, one of the BHHEF recipients.

Blanche's generosity and foresight now continues at RLC (from the merger with Epiphany Lutheran Church of Pleasantville) and is also open to candidates who are from Grace Lutheran Church in Somers Point. All Applicants who are faithful Christians and whose families are active members of these congregations may apply. In the past 32 years, this legacy has granted \$860,000, disbursed among 85 students!

Good Morning, God!

(Blanche Harffey's Prayer)

“YOU are ushering in another day
Untouched and freshly new
So here I come to ask you, God,
If You'll renew me, too.
Forgive the many errors
That I made yesterday
And let me try again, dear God,
To walk closer in THY WAY.

But, Father, I am well aware
I can't make it on my own
So take my hand and hold it tight
For I can't WALK ALONE!”



2023 Scholarship Committee

Rev. Heidi Link, Pastor RLC

Nina Tillett, Council President

Phyllis Phelps, Treasurer *Emerita*

Clare Brick, Grace Lutheran

Vickie Costello, Grace Lutheran

Curtis Hinmon, RLC

The scholarships for Academic Year 2023-2024 were granted as follows:

NEW APPLICANTS

Harley Pattison, Atlantic Cape Community College, NJ
Lindsey Pattison, Atlantic Cape Community College, NJ
Sawyer Widecrantz, Lees-McRae College, NC
Samantha Bishop, Utah State University, Logan, UT
Andrew Bishop, Utah State University, Logan, UT
Lyndsey Millere, Alvernia University, Reading, PA

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

Ethan Seals, Atlantic Cape Community College, NJ
Emma Seals, (online) Stockton University, NJ
Luke Kroon, Penn State (Brandywine), PA
Angeline Dziegrenuk, Rutgers, Camden, NJ
Kabeh Kermon, (online) Western Governors University, Millcreek, UT
Dominique Perez, Rutgers Law School, Camden, NJ
Alexander DeStefano, Rowan University, NJ

AN ELCA PRAYER

Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively places for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; And grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth. We lift up to you, O Lord, the 2023 Blanche Harffey Higher Education Fund Scholarship Students from Reformation Lutheran Church:

Andrew Bishop, Samantha Bishop, Alex DeStefano, Angeline Dziegrenuk, Kay Kermon, Luke Kroon, Lyndsey Millere, Harley Pattison, Lindsey Pattison, Dominique Perez, Emma Seals, Ethan Seals, Sawyer Widecrantz. Amen

BLANCHE S. HARFFEY (January 15, 1911 – May 19, 2005)



Blanche Shainline was born on January 15, 1911, near Norristown, Pennsylvania of German descent. She became a Registered Nurse serving in the Army Nursing Corps during World War II, retiring as a Captain. She eventually moved to the South Jersey area and became an instructor in the Atlantic City Hospital Nursing School located on Pacific Ave. During this time, while in her forties, she married Charles Harffey, and they eventually made their home in Northfield. Blanche and Charles never had children of their own, but the kids of Epiphany Lutheran Church, the children of her friends, and the kids in the neighborhood became her children. She loved them all, and taught many of them this prayer which she said every morning,

“Good morning God, you have ushered in another day, untouched and freshly new, so here I come to ask you God if you'll renew me to forgive the many wrongs I made yesterday and let me again, dear God to walk closer to your ways, but Father I'm well aware that I cannot do it on my own, so take my hand, hold it tight, I cannot walk alone.”

We believe that one of Blanche's life sorrows was never being a mom, but for that sorrow God compensated her by making her a mother to many. Soldiers buzzed by bombs, blinded by shrapnel, wounded by bullets, or one that died as she held his hand, she called him “her guys.” If you were one of her students in nursing school or mentored in your first year on the ward or floor, you were one of “her girls.” If you were an intern, you were one of “her Docs,” but if you needed a quick lesson in bedside manner, she would take you down a peg or two. Dearest to her heart were the children of Epiphany, her neighborhood children, or grandchildren of friends.

Blanche had no family and in the early nineties she spoke to Pastor Neil Jaggie about creating a lasting legal legacy. She wanted “her kids” to be alive, to be faithful, to be servants, and to have the opportunities for growth and education easier than she experienced during her youth. She donated a sum of money that would provide the principle for seeing that “her church kids” could better see their dreams and opportunities that she envisioned for them come to fruition. Her desire was to establish a Higher Education Scholarship Fund. Today this fund, which bears her name, through her initiative and the ongoing support of both herself and other donors who shared her vision. The Blanche Harffey Higher Education Scholarship Fund was established on November 19, 1999, and since that time on a yearly basis has helped many Christian youth with their educational costs.

Upon her death in May 2005, at the age of 94, her estate set up a trust fund that puts interest or dividends into the principal of the fund four times every year. The Blanche Harffey Higher Education Scholarship Fund has grown quite large and has helped many of “her kids.” Applications for the scholarship are available in January each year from Reformation Lutheran Church and must be returned by March 31st of each year. Five church members and the Pastor serve as the Scholarship Committee.

**History of Scholarship Awards
And Student Recipients
The Blanche Harffey Higher Education Fund
Established November 10, 1991**

For this 2023 overview, each name is listed only once, in the year the student first applied. (85)
Dollar amounts listed are total scholarship money granted, Year to Date. (\$859,485.00)

1992/1st Year/\$7,200. (9x\$800.)

Kevin Costello
Michelle Jaggie
Shannah Jones
Jill Thinschmidt
Laura Thomas
Chuck Hewitt
Kern McGinley
James Thomas
Ryan McGinley

1993/2nd Year/\$14,800.

Christopher Jaggie

1994/3rd Year/\$21,600.

Gene Gross

1995/4th Year/\$28,500.

Corrine Jones
Jamie McGinley

1996/5th Year/\$33,850.

Noelle Jaggie

1997/6th Year/\$40,050.

Joshua Parks

1998/7th Year/\$48,050.

Antonetta Falvo
Robert Yerkes
Cynthia Ginnetti

1999/8th Year/\$54,250.

Sue Somers

2000/9th Year/\$60,500.

Kim Yerkes

Kyle McGinley

2001/10th Year/\$67,620

No new applicants

2002/11th Year/\$74,056

Diane Macready
Joyce Graumann

2003/12th Year/\$79,970.

Cliff Hewitt

2004/13th Year/\$89,056.

Tiffany Hoelker
Heather Colligan-Morey

2005/14th Year/\$98,656.

Danielle Mayo
Maurita Hewitt

2006/15th Year/\$120,676.

Janice Lehman
John Dunn, Jr.
Jade Hewitt
Angela Tranovich

2007/16th Year/\$145,696.

Joseph Graumann, Jr.
Samantha Hicks

2008/17th Year/\$201,386.

Megan Berenotto

2009/18th Year/\$249,386.

Michael Lee
Zach Mayo
Jennifer Dunn Fiedel

2010/19th Year/\$288,823.

Peg Rabel
Felicia Graumann
Kyle Bye
John Thomas

2011/20th Year/\$322,048.

Matthew Macready
Dina Stauffer
Kyle Sulzer
Bernie Somers, Jr.
Diana Lee

2012/21st Year/\$359,178.

Matthew Mayo

Joseph Graumann, Jr. matriculated from Georgetown University to The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (M. Div.) and continued to apply for scholarships from 2012-2015. Joseph's scholarship awards for those years were endowed by the Seminary Fund rather than the Higher Education Fund.

2013/22nd Year/\$402,846.

Bret Bye
Amy Somers
Dakota DiBabbo

2014/23rd Year/\$451,846.

Amanda Cannizzaro
Ryan Costello
Coti DiBabbo
Nathan Sulzer
Robert Thomas
Logan Hicks

2015/24th Year/\$511,346.

Lauren Thomas
James Judy
Brendan Hoelker

2016/25th Year/\$561,346.

Austin Long
Kara Sulzer

2017/26th Year/\$605,986.

Allison Hoelker
Savannah Phelps

2018/27th Year/\$655,556.

Marco Panting
Kabeh Kermon

2019/28th Year/\$698,164.

Max Spencer
Travis Spencer
Angeline Dziegrenuk
Alexander DeStefano

2020/29th Year/\$746,155.

Danielle Perez
Dominique Perez
Ethan Seals
Aidan Seals

2021/30th Year/\$764,485.

Olivia Phelps
Emma Seals

2022/31st Year/\$814,485.

Luke Kroon
Ashley Pintor
Sean Keys

2023/32nd Year/\$859,485.

Andrew Bishop
Samantha Bishop
Lyndsey Millere
Harley Pattison
Lindsey Pattison
Sawyer Widecrantz



