

CougarNow

AND THEN
AND NEXT

Volume 7 • Spring 2018

*Bloom
Where
you are
planted*



Welcome from Monty Ortman

Welcome to the newest edition of CougarNow! I (Monty Ortman) am currently the Board Chairman of Phoenix Christian Preparatory School. I am an alumnus of this institution, son of a former board member, spouse of a former faculty member and parents when Stephanie was in the first junior high class in 1988 to 2000, when Mark graduated. In 2002, I chose to assume the "emancipated" role of Chairman of the Board, Emeritus. However, four years ago, I was asked by a group of past board members to step back into the role of Chairman. Since that time, it has been a journey of opportunities and obstacles, along with challenges that have enlarged my faith AND challenged my faith. Some of you have been here throughout those years, some of you joined somewhere along the way, and some of you have come along just this year.



Recently, Joe Bradley (President of Phoenix Christian) communicated his uncertainty of his remaining time at PC. Because of the timing and necessity to plan and prepare for the 2018-19

school year, the Board felt that it was prudent and in the best interest of the school to make a change in leadership, effective immediately.

With much confidence and great anticipation, we have asked Jeff Blake to become our new Superintendent! Jeff has graciously accepted our offer and will assume the role immediately. For nearly 20 years Jeff has walked this campus wearing numerous "hats". His faithfulness, leadership, and loyalty is an inspiration to students, faculty, staff, and parents and to my wife, Anne, and me personally!

Jeff joined the teaching faculty at Phoenix Christian in the spring of 1997 after graduating from Grand Canyon University and studying in both Oxford and DC. Jeff married Lisa Blake (Tomb, 1994 alumnus) in 2001. Jeff attended University of Phoenix where he completed his MA in Administration and continued his studies at Spring Arbor University where he gained a masters in Spiritual Formation and Leadership. Jeff spent a few years as a youth pastor at Trinity Bible Church but returned home after realizing the extraordinary

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opportunity he had at Phoenix Christian to have personal and spiritual encounters with so many young people. After returning, Jeff was asked to join the administrative team in 2012 and has served as Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs. Jeff and Lisa have four children who attend Phoenix Christian.

In the coming weeks, we will begin to communicate upcoming plans as we look towards growth and expansion of Phoenix Christian Preparatory School. On behalf of the Board of Phoenix Christian, we thank you for your continued love and support of PC. We welcome your feedback as we work to serve your student(s) and family so please feel free to email board@phoenixchristian.org.

In His Service,

Monty Ortman

Monty Ortman,
Chairman of the Board
Phoenix Christian Preparatory School

Meet Ainsley Ebert

Live Life in Full Bloom

Out of my six years of playing basketball at Phoenix Christian (1998-2004) and my 7 years of coaching basketball at PC, I have never met someone like Ainsley, a Freshman at Phoenix Christian, who wants to build the program like she does. Ainsley led her team to the 2017 Junior High Basketball Championship her first year at PC as an 8th grader, was a 1st year starter at the Varsity level, led all scorers with 312 points in one season, a captain of her team, was selected All-Region 1st Team in all of the 2A Division, currently assists on the Junior High Lady Cougar Basketball program and excels in the classroom. She is always making sure she puts academics first as she realizes that not staying on top of her studies would ultimately be a detriment to the team. She has developed a strong positive mentality that is necessary to blossom. Ainsley is a student-athlete who takes advantage of the opportunities here at PC and thrives in circumstances that are not always ideal. She accepts changes as they occur while challenging others around her. She has made many connections while at PC and demonstrates a strong work ethic. She is the type of person and student-athlete that makes the most of each day while providing positive reinforcement to her classmates, teammates and coaches. In any given situation, she controls how she chooses

to see and perceive what's occurring around her. She has learned to "bloom" despite any circumstances or situations that come her way by not being too rigid in her habits and she is open to new experiences. Ainsley gives feedback to those around her that she is forever thankful to be able to receive the skills she learns in the classroom and both on and off the basketball court. She is a role model to the young student-athletes she is helping to coach at the middle school level. She values and focuses on what she has here at PC. She has shown so much personal growth in her two years at Phoenix Christian and continues to blossom at a rapid pace. Ainsley already knows, as just a Freshman, that the life lessons she will learn while playing basketball will carry her far beyond her years on the court.

It's truly an honor to walk this journey with her.

- Coach Tara Poovey,
Class of 2004
Head Women's Varsity and
Middle School Basketball Coach

I have had a lot of amazing coaches and mentors over the past few years including my Dad, who has been teaching me the game of basketball ever since I was a little girl, Pastor Joe Eriquez who has been encouraging and mentoring me in all areas of life since 2nd grade, and especially Coach Tara who has been coaching me for the last two years and has spent countless hours inside and outside the gym, improving my game and always challenging me to be the best that I can be in both life and on the court.

- Ainsley Ebert, 2021



You get a Box!

Third grade recently studied/discovered how air and water are used in the community and world as a natural resource. We discussed groundwater, pollution, conservation, how water is treated and redistributed for re-use and how resources are wasted. In our discussion we talked about how we use water in practical ways every day and how we can conserve the amount of water we use. Some examples of water waste the students mentioned were running water to brush teeth, taking long showers, cleaning dishes and leaking faucets. When we dived into the idea of pollution, our main focus was ocean health and how animals living in the ocean are affected by pollution.

Once our discussion ended, I told the class that I was going to reveal to them where we were going on our class field trip and how what we learned about Ocean Health was connected. Their faces were lit with excitement as I started disbursing gift

boxes and all I could think about was Oprah when she would bless random people with cars and say, "And you get a car! And you get

a car! And you get a car!" So, I did the same with my boxes and said, "And you get a box! And you get a box! And you get a box!" I told all the students to wait until everyone had received a box and then they could open them. Within three seconds their boxes were open and I heard O'ryan say, "We're going to Dolphinaris!!!" Of course, the classroom was so excited, and in that moment, I could connect with Jesus when He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It is a huge blessing to be able to give.

I will end on the note of giving. My childhood Pastor/Bishop always said Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over [with no space left for more]. For with the standard of measurement you use [when you do good to others], it will be measured to you in return."

-Ms. Nelson,
3rd Grade Teacher



Comforting with Stuffed Animals

In 2017, Shelby Shearer, a then First Grader, along with her family, asked us to join their efforts in collecting stuffed animals for the Phoenix Police Department. The goal of the Shearer Family was to provide comfort and support to the young and innocent victims of accidents, crimes, and the many tragedies that the Phoenix Police Department encounters on a regular basis. Police Officers will often times provide young children with stuffed animals as a way to offer comfort and support at the scene of a crime or accident. When Shelby and the Shearer family learned of this, Shelby selflessly volunteered to collect stuffed animals for the entire month of February, in lieu of receiving birthday gifts.

We were delighted to host the 2nd Annual Stuffed Animal Drive. In 2017, we collected approximately 300 new and gently used stuffed animals. This year, we were thrilled to collect over 500 new and gently used stuffed animals. We ended the Stuffed Animal Drive with a special chapel service that was attended by several members of the Phoenix Police Department, SWAT Team Members, a Canine Officer and his Canine Dog-Duke. The students thoroughly enjoyed watching Duke and his owner showcase his many talents and they also answered student questions.

-Tene Burrow,
Elementary Assistant Principal



STEMing in Middle School

Cougars in the Middle

R2Clean wins first place!



There are few greater rewarding experiences than seeing God's hand in your hard work - learned through trial and error, molded into a presentable work to showcase such effort amongst your peers and skilled professionals. The morning of Wednesday, February 28, was ripe with expectation and a healthy dose of anxiety as a six-month journey culminated. When almost 100% of Phoenix Christian middle school students dropped off their project boards and binders, they were greeted in the gym with Bosa Donut Holes as an early reward for their hard work. That afternoon was more than I hoped for, but everything I prayed about. From 3-5pm, students presented their experiments to judges, parents, and peers. Points were tallied and final signatures attached to a professional, teacher created certificate on linen cardstock.

I truly have not seen a more gracious and appreciative crowd as every student group applauded and cheered for each other's success. For Plant Sciences, the First Place winners of eighth graders: Daisy Martinez, Michelle Shields, and Malia Towne, created a testable problem of, "Are plastic chemicals harmful to plants?" It is well researched and documented that plastic bottles release carcinogens when left in sunlight

and these ladies using microwaves to speed up the heating process created a great way to test the effects of that on plant growth.

With great expectation in our largest participating category of Chemistry, Physics, & Energy, we had a tie for First Place that was broken based on how well the experiment was carried out and documented. The eighth-grade team of: Tegan Duty, Payton Joselit, and Chan Santawuski, modified a problem with help from ScienceBuddies.org to see, "Which popular drink actually has more Electrolytes?" Using a digital multimeter, these gentlemen sampled a variety of drinks - both popular and known to contain electrolytes and some not so popular. They conducted at least three trials per drink to find out which one you should ingest in your time of need.

Reaching the pinnacle of elation at the Science Fair, the First Place team for Robotics & Engineering also won the overall Science Fair Champion Trophy. Brooklynne Blake, Nancy Felix, Aurora Grimwade, and Cerina Palmer could not

have been more excited to celebrate the reward for their hard work as they accepted their certificates and Amazon gift cards. Creating an automated, mopping robot for a fraction of the cost of a Rhoomba, this power team of female scientific greatness ran multiple trials, fixed broken parts, and modified their way into a superb project and a First Place win.

So, if you get to meet these pioneers of Phoenix Christian's STEM program and Science Fair - whether at a MESA competition or school event, they'll share what they learned and you might find out - just how much did that robot cost? Or, which drink has more electrolytes? Or, what happened to the plants given chemical water?

A special blessing and thank you to our volunteer judges: Mr. Callahan, Mr. de Laet Sr., Mr. de Laet Jr., Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Milgrim, Mrs. Rosey Bailey, Mr. Siciliano, and Mr. Wolfe. May the Lord bless you and may He continue His provision and favor on Phoenix Christian.

-Ryan Gallifant,
Middle School Science and Math teacher



Planting Solutions

Every day, people participate in various activities which require eating and creating a focused attention on eating healthier organic foods. In Arizona, 19% of those living in Phoenix (Source: 2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau. Updated 10/2017) live in apartments where access to growing their own organic food is limited. The problem is, not everyone can afford organic food because of how expensive it is to purchase in local grocery stores. We wanted to solve this problem by designing an inexpensive mylar growth tent using

hydroponics to grow organic food indoors. We created an easily constructed device which allows anyone to grow and harvest their own food that is mobile, year-round, free of pesticides, soil free, completely in

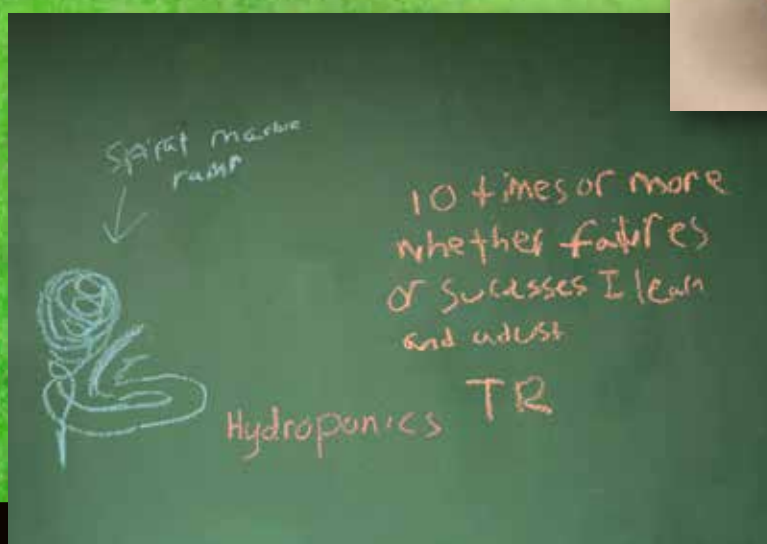
a controlled environment with light, moisture, and temperature, monitored by an Arduino unit to measure all three of these to notify by email if any of these are not at the correct levels for growing healthy organic plants. A key design feature is our growth tent which can easily be assembled in any apartment, condo, house, or building with very little space to house this indoor garden. Another key feature of our design was to create a visually appealing aquarium stand so that fish could also be added in this enclosed system where the fish wastes could be used as a source of nutrients for the plants. The growth tent is contained inside this stand, which is hidden from view, yet can be easily accessed.

Our team will compete in the upcoming competition on April 21st at Apollo High School in hopes of qualifying for nationals in Philadelphia.

-Kelby Milgrim
and the Hydroponics Team



Left to right: Cerina, Payton, Brooklynn, Chan and Mia



Chapel Team

Student lead chapels (CsALT) is a unique and beautiful element of Phoenix Christian. The high school group consists of the Worship Team and the Chapel Team. Lead by Jeff Blake and Michael Eriquez, this group of students pray together, debate each other, encourage each other, challenge each other and grow together. CsALT plans, coordinates, practices and develops three chapels each week (elementary, middle and high school). Several students have emerged as natural leaders including Miriam, Joey & Joseph (the three pictured below). Miriam has lead in chapel for three years and this is Joey and Joseph's first year on the Chapel Team. When talking with these three, they shared some of their favorite moments. Joey quickly mentioned Trent Renner as his favorite in that he exposed the demons that many people do not mention. Joseph (also known as Kelloggs) loved Pastor Fry's all-out preaching who really gave the hard-core truth

without holding back. And Miriam loved the chapel when it was completely student led in the testimonies and the teacher interviews about their faith.

They also shared some funny moments. Kelloggs shared that Mr. Eriquez accidentally burned a hole in the gym floor from kicking over a light. He was mortified! And Miriam remembered when they set-up for the Veterans' chapel, they accidentally drove a nail into the gym floor and Mr. Blake tried to cover over it with a green marker.

All craziness aside, the three shared their distinct desire to bring the students to Christ. They hope to help students look inward versus outward and for those in Christ, to strengthen their relationship. Each week chapel goes live on Facebook—we would love for you to join us each Tuesday at 9:25am.





Growing is Contagious

Every Christmas for more than twenty-five years, Phoenix Christian has had the honor to celebrate with Maurice C. Cash (MC Cash) Elementary school in Phoenix. Students from the school arrive at PC and enjoy a winter wonderland full of arts and crafts, games, presents, and delicious food!



On March 23rd, for the second year, our Student Government had the opportunity to celebrate Easter with MC Cash students at their school as a part of our Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy capstone event. Ainsley Ebert co-chaired the event as Director with student body Vice President, Tate Holterman. Fourteen students from Phoenix Christian spent their final day before spring break serving and celebrating with the students at MC Cash. The PC team created six different stations for the students to rotate through including: Bunny Bowling, Flower Power, Spring Dirt, Pin the Tail on the Bunny, Pin the Lady Bug on the Flower, and Tic-Tac-Toe Relay. The grand finale was when the MC Cash students went on an egg search for over 600 candy filled eggs! As a part of the event, Chick-fil-A provided 90-boxed meals with all the trimmings. The addition of the Spring Event has an extra special element for our PC Team because it allows special education students from MC Cash to celebrate with us!

-Ainsley Ebert



Career Fair & Expo

Students in preschool through grade 12 participated in our annual Career Fair and Expo. We had over 30 different careers represented including real estate, engineering, education, sports medicine, stenography, business, counseling, medicine and culinary arts. We also had a very special visit from the Phoenix City Police and our local fire station. Our little cougars and cougar cubs listened while the police, fire and military shared stories, let them climb through their vehicles and received special stickers. Our middle and high school students interviewed four different career representatives and explored all sorts of interactive exhibits. Our 3rd-5th graders received passport stickers for meeting the different representatives. Students were also encouraged to dress-up like they were going to an interview or like their future career. Many students participated and looked AMAZING!





Mark Van Sant -
2A Metro West
Region Coach of
the Year



Good Things Take Time



The Phoenix Christian Preparatory School Cougar Men's Basketball team has shown steady improvement over the course of the last three seasons. In 2017-18, the Cougars reached postseason play for the first time since February of 2014 (2013-14 season). Coach Mark VanSant's senior heavy squad was led by Kole Ebert (11 points/5 rebounds per game) and Michael Gomez (9 points/4 rebounds per game). Sophomore Kalil Williams provides promise for the future as he was the second leading scorer (272 total points/9.4 ppg average).

-Keith Baker, Vice President of
Athletics & Activities

By the numbers ...

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 2017-18 Season Record: | 19-10, 2nd place (of 6 teams) in Metro West Region, participated in 2A Conference State-Tournament Play-in game |
| 2016-17 Season Record: | 9-16, 4th place (of 6 teams) in Metro West Region |
| 2015-16 Season Record: | 5-21 overall record, 9th place (of 11 teams) in Division IV, Section IV |
| 2014-15 Season Record: | 2-24 overall record |



If These Walls Could Talk



1952 Phoenix Christian Graduation



Shirley & her friend going to Junior/Senior Banquet.



Citizenship Plaque - we found Shirley's name!



The greatest gift my mother and my father have ever given me has been their commitment to pray daily for each one of their children and eventually grandchildren. I believe it is because of their prayers that each of us knows the Lord personally. I learned when I had a child of my own what an amazing gift it truly is to be held up in prayer daily. I have never hesitated to call my parents with a prayer request or need. I miss my mother every day.



Shirley Anne (Hancock) Graves -Class of 1952

Shirley's daughter, Nancy Rosenblad, contacted the school earlier this year letting us know that her mother recently went to be with the Lord. Nancy expressed her desire for Shirley's family to visit Phoenix Christian so they could see the place that had such a beautiful impact on her mother. I happened to receive the email request and called Nancy right away, inviting them to the school. We met over Christmas break on a brisk winter morning. Nancy's father, husband and two children accompanied her to Phoenix Christian. We spent over two hours, wandering the buildings, talking about Shirley's experience at "Christian High" and her remarkable spiritual growth.

Nancy shared a few of Shirley's journal entries during our time together.

Spiritual Beginnings: *Those that helped me in my Christian walk were Mrs. Elizabeth Clawson, my high school teacher and Mr. Wayne Sanford, the principal, at Phoenix Christian High School. (I attended my Junior and Senior year.)*

Nancy noted that her older sister was named after Elizabeth Clawson, although they always called her Betsy.

My favorite teachers and why (High School): *Mrs. Elizabeth Clawson; she was an excellent teacher who gave us a thirst for learning. She was also concerned about our daily lives. She would privately take me out to her car, open the trunk, and let me have first pick of clothes she gathered for charity. Mr. Wayne Sanford, principal, taught Bible and sparked my interest for more. He really taught the Word in depth.*

Friends I spent time with: *Onita Bates, Wanda, Betty Thomas and Rita Neish (sister of my brother Laddie's future wife, Donna).*

Popular Fads when I was in high school: *Spaghetti strap shoes, sun dresses and saddle shoes.*

As we continued our visit, Nancy shared that her mom did not have an easy childhood. She became a Christian around 9; eventually her whole family started going to church and found personal relationships with Jesus. Shirley was desperate to attend PC, but her family did not have the resources to pay for tuition, so Shirley worked to help pay for school. She grew in so many ways during her time at PC. The family emphatically believe that the strength of their family's spiritual foundation was laid in large part by those who taught and served at Phoenix Christian.

Nancy shared a few more details about her mom:

After graduating from PCHS in 1952, she went to Midwest Bible School (now Calvary Bible College) where she met my dad (Daniel Graves), fell in-love, married and graduated in the class of 1955. My father was ordained and they spent their lives in church and Christian school ministries. In the 1970's, my mom, a mother of 5, went to night school and completed first her early childhood education certification, then her A.A., B.A. and eventually her lifetime teaching credential. She spent most of her teaching ministry with second graders, but she worked with all grades including pre-kindergarten and middle school. She tutored, substituted and stayed involved in Christian School ministries all her life. In 1999, she and my dad moved to LaGrange, Wyoming where they both taught at Frontier Bible School; she was especially thrilled to be involved with women's ministers. This was her weekday life; she was always involved in Sunday School, Children's Church, Good News Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools and women teaching women ministries. My mother also attended classes and was a certified story teller; she was my personal favorite story teller when I was young using flannel graphs for continued stories that kept kids coming back to church for more. My parents returned to California in 2008. They were part of the ministry at Galt Bible Church, serving seniors, leading prayer meetings, and helping wherever needed. My dad remains on staff there even now.

If I was to describe my mother in song lyrics, I would choose, "This is my story, this is my song; praising my Savior all the day long!" She was an extraordinary woman who opened her heart and home; gave generously from anything she had; she loved the Lord. We wanted to visit PCHS because she often had shared with us the impact those years had on her life. As my dad expressed, PCHS was family to her; she was supported, welcomed, encouraged and thrived spiritually from the rich Godly foundation. These truly were some of her happy golden years and God used PCHS to build the spiritual heritage she would pass on to us and literally hundreds if not thousands of students over the years.

I'm not sure who was more blessed by the visit, Shirley's family or myself. I found myself wiping away a few tears as they drove away from campus. What a beautiful family with a huge heart for Christian education. Interestingly enough, after our visit, it dawned on me that my grandfather, Larry Tomb actually taught at the school she attended in California. When I emailed her to ask if she remembered him, she said she remembered him well. He taught her U.S. History and even came over to their house for dinner several times. What a beautiful and extraordinary connection.

Shirley Anne (Hancock) Graves,
June 3, 1934 - August 23, 2015

If you or a loved one would like to visit Phoenix Christian and reminisce on God's goodness, we would love to give you a tour. Just be sure to bring your Kleenexes, we'll probably need them! Please give us a call or send an email to cougarnow@phoenixchristian.org.

One more note, prior to printing Nancy let us know that her uncle, Laddie Hancock, Class of 1953, recently passed away.



| CLASS OF 1952 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| FACULTY SPONSOR Elizabeth Clawson | |
| CLASS ROLL | |
| Onita Bates | Sara Foster |
| George Bean | Shirley Hancock |
| Wanda Bodine | Elmer Mae Sims |
| Jesse Brakehill | Chalma Rene Spoonmore |
| Jeanette Clark | Mae Beth Spurling |
| Adeline Duncan | Juanita Stewart |
| Bill Eagleson | Barbara Wilson |
| Shirley Evans | Rod Williams |

What's New with You

We'd love to hear from you!
Please send updates or comments to
cougarnow@phoenixchristian.org.



March 16th, we welcomed back several members of the 1968 Baseball AIA State Champions at the Phoenix Christian Baseball game vs Chandler Prep. It was exciting to see so many alumni return home!



Letter from the Editor

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come

—Song of Solomon 2:11-12

I love spring! I know I'm an Arizona girl BUT I've always loved the idea of seasons. When I went to college in southern Illinois, I don't think I saw the sun for the first 3 months and that was just fall. So then winter hit which was a very difficult season for me. It was FREEZING, I never felt warm, I missed the green, the flowers, the birds. Life seemed sparse, almost dead. And then I remember one morning, walking to class (late March) and tulips were everywhere! I could not comprehend how yesterday seemed like complete darkness and the next, I awoke to beauty, sunlit skies and TULIPS. But isn't that so life? Sometimes life feels so dark, barren, and empty. So we wait, expectantly, with deep hope that God, our creator is planting. Planting and toiling and weeding so we can bloom. And that's why we love to highlight students in full bloom. God has planted them in deep, rich soil at Phoenix Christian and we wait as His spirit stirs in their souls. So we celebrate as we notice new life, sprouts, growth and full blooms!

—Lisa Blake

Produced by the PC Family
for the PC Family

CougarNow

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phoenixchristian.org

We'd like to hear from you.
Send your emails to:
cougarnow@phoenixchristian.org

Calendar

April 18
Elementary Spring Arts Program
CCV Mid-town Campus
6:00pm

April 26
Middle & High School Spring Fine Arts Festival
Elementary Education Worship Center
(formerly Light & Life Free Methodist Church)
6:30pm

April 27&28
A Night of Agatha Christie.
Small Box Theatre, Rm 306
Friday at 3:00pm and
Saturday at 6:00pm

May 2
Middle School Awards Ceremony
9:00am

May 7-11
5th Grade Science Camp in Prescott

May 21
Kindergarten Promotion
6:00pm

May 22
8th Grade Promotion
— Trinity Bible Church
6:30pm

May 24
Senior High Graduation
— Bethany Bible Church
6:30pm
Honoring Class of 1968



He has made
every thing
beautiful
in its time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Phoenix Christian Preparatory School

