



## Meet Our Alleluia Graduates Class of 2015

Alleluia Community School has fourteen candidates for graduation for the 2014-2015 school year, eight boys and six girls. They have worked very hard to complete their assignments to the best of their ability, compete in the field of sports with skill and gusto and strive to be what God has called them to be...strong followers of Jesus who are not afraid to share their love of Him with the world. We proudly present them to you.

### Daniel James Allison



Daniel James Allison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Allison, attended ACS K-12. He played soccer in 6th and basketball in 8th grades and was a manager in 11th-12th. He performed in the Youth Development play "Little Women" in 9th. He earned First Honors 9th-12th, and was a GICAA Personal Essay winner, Dream Builders of America Essay winner, National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student, Augusta Best and Brightest Finalist and a STAR Student. He also earned the Eagle Scout 3 Palms Award and served on the Spring Dance and Field Trip Committees in 11th, and was in charge of the Coke machine. He plans to attend Georgia Institute of Technology to pursue a degree in physics.

### Paul Ethan Balducci



Paul Ethan Balducci, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul V. Balducci, attended ACS K-12. He played soccer and basketball grades 9-12 and was JV soccer captain in 10th and soccer captain in 12th. He also performed in the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. He earned Second Honors in 10th, First Honors and Perfect Attendance in 11th and All Tournament JV in 10th. He also earned the Eagle Scout Award in 2015 and served on the Spring Dance, Pep Rally, Christmas Party and End-of-the-Year Committees and was Senior Class President. He plans to attend Georgia Institute of Technology to pursue a degree in architecture.

### Theresa Anne Almeter



Theresa Anne Almeter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Almeter, attended ACS K-12. She played volleyball and basketball in grades 6-12 and was assistant director for the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. She was named All Region Player in volleyball and basketball and All Star in basketball in 12th. She also served on the Christmas Party and Pep Rally Committees. She plans to attend Augusta Technology College to pursue a degree in Radiation Technology.

### William Red Conkright



William Red Conkright, son of Dr. and Mrs. William Conkright, attended ACS K-12. He played soccer and basketball 6th-12th grades, earning Most Valuable Player in Soccer in 11th. He earned Second Honors in 10th and First Honors in 11th grade. He served on the Spring Dance, Christmas Party and Pep Rally Committees. He plans to attend Georgia Regents University to pursue a career in medicine.

# Meet Our Graduates

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## Deanna Nicole Doughty



Deanna Nicole Doughty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Doughty, attended ACS K-12. She played volleyball grades 6-12, basketball grades 9-10 and was basketball manager 11-12. She performed in the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. She earned First Honors 9th – 12th, National Financial Capability Challenge Award 9th, and was a Student Ambassador to Europe 10th. She won First Place in Girls Trio 10th and Honorable Mention 11th; and First Place in Humorous Oral Interpretation 11th and First Place in Regional and Third Place in State Literary Competition in 12th. She also served as Senior Class Treasurer. She plans to attend Georgia Regents University to pursue a degree in cellular and molecular biology followed by a medical degree in emergency medicine.

## James Abraham Dresser



James Abraham Dresser, son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Dresser, Jr., attended ACS K-12. He played soccer and basketball in 9-12 and made All Star team for the GICAA State Tournament. He was a stage hand in the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. He earned Second Honors in 10th and First Honors in 11th. He earned the Eagle Scout Award in 2015 and served on the Spring Dance, Pep Rally and Field Day Committees. He plans to attend University of North Georgia to pursue a degree in biology.

## Matthew Peter Eyrich



Matthew Peter Eyrich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Eyrich, attended ACS 5-12. He played soccer 9th – 12th, basketball 9th – 10th, and was basketball manager 11th -12th. He performed in the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. He earned Second Honors in 11th. He also served on the Spring Dance Committee 11th. He plans to do missionary work in Australia.



## Andrew John Fowler



Andrew John Fowler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Fowler, attended ACS K-12. He played soccer 9th – 12th and basketball 9th, 10th and 12th and was a manager 11th. He earned Rookie of the Year for soccer in 9th and made Second Honors 9th - 11th. He served on the Pep Rally committee. He plans to attend Georgia Regents University majoring in business and minoring in music.

## Faith Elisabeth Harmon



Faith Elisabeth Harmon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harmon, attended ACS K-12. She was the bookkeeper for volleyball for 3 years and played basketball 9-12. She performed in the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. She earned Second Honors in 11th. She also served on the Spring Dance and Pep Rally committees. She plans to attend two years at Georgia Regents University to major in nursing and minor in Spanish, then transfer to University of North Georgia.

## Bernadette Marie Hartney



Bernadette Marie Hartney, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Hartney, attended ACS K-12. She played volleyball and basketball in 6th -12th grades. In basketball she earned Rookie of the Year 9th & 10th, Most Valuable Player 11th, All State Player 10th, 11th, 12th, All Region Player 9th & 12th, and All Star 12th. In volleyball she earned All Region Player 10th & 12th, All State Player 11th & 12th, Most Valuable Player 11th, and All Star Player 12th. She performed in the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. She earned First Honors 9th – 12th, highest GPA 11th, Excellence in Athletics 11th, Valedictorian 12th. She served on the Spring Dance Committee 10th & 11th, Pep Rally Committee 10th – 12th, Christmas Party Committee 10th, and served as the Senior Class Vice President. She plans to attend Ave Maria University playing soccer and majoring in biology to pursue a degree in the medical field.

## Sarah Ann Meredith



Sarah Ann Meredith, daughter of Mrs. Cecilia Meredith, attended ACS K-12. She played volleyball and basketball and was a manager grades 9-12. She earned Second Honors in 11th. She plans to work while discerning her future goals.

## Sean Patrick Sullivan



Sean Patrick Sullivan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sullivan, attended ACS K-12. He played soccer and basketball grades 9-10 and was a manager of 11th. He was a stage-hand in the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. He earned Perfect Attendance in 10th. He also earned the Eagle Scout Award in 2014 and served as head of the spaghetti dinner fundraisers in 12th. He plans to attend Georgia Southern University to pursue a degree in Information Technology.

## Therese Elena Visintainer



Therese Elena Visintainer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Visintainer, attended ACS K-12. She played volleyball and basketball in 6th - 12th and was Team Captain in both sports 9th - 12th. She performed in the Youth Development Play "Little Women" in 9th. In basketball she earned All State Player in 11th, and All State, All Star and All Region Player in 12th. In volleyball she earned All State in 11th and All Region and All State in 12th. She also earned Second Honors 10th and First Honors 11th. She served on the Spring Dance, Pep Rally Christmas Party and Field Day Committees and served as Senior Class Secretary. She plans to attend Georgia Regents University to pursue a degree in social work/missions.

## Ryan Matthew Wilby



Ryan Matthew Wilby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wilby, attended ACS K-12. He played soccer and basketball in 6th - 12th grades. He earned Second Honors in 11th. He plans to attend University of North Georgia to pursue a degree in physics and a post-graduate degree in engineering.



## Class of 2015

# Hospitality Alleluia Style

By Dorrie Platte

In recent years, I have presented a program called "Pray the Windows" where I explain the meaning and symbolism of the beautiful stained glass windows at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church. I then take several windows and show how I have used them for prayer. One of my prayer windows portrays the "Visitation," and I have named this window "hospitality." I see smiling Elizabeth with arms open wide greeting Mary, her visitor, whose arms are open ready to receive this warm greeting. They are both standing in front of the door to the house. When I meditate on this picture, I ask God to help me be open to greeting whoever He sends me today and that I will receive others' gestures of hospitality toward me with a grateful heart. I believe that extending and receiving love is part of God's plan.

God must consider hospitality very important because examples can be found throughout the Old and New Testament. In my travels to the Middle East, I have experienced wonderful outpourings of hospitality that is so basic to their culture. I came to the realization that I was called to practice Christian hospitality and that, in reality, all Christians are called to show others the love of Christ Jesus which is hospitality.

In Alleluia Community we are getting ready to have visitors just like Elizabeth had Mary as a guest. Our visitation will take place June 27 through the end of July in the form of Christian brothers and sisters from Jundiá, Brazil. They are here to learn about ecumenical, covenant community life and to improve their English by living with us and observing us on a daily basis. We have a wonderful opportunity to show God's love to those He is sending to us. May I exhort each of you—every man, woman and child—to respond with warm Alleluia hospitality.

Here are several suggestions that may help you to feel more comfortable in extending hospitality.

1. Make eye contact. This is a cultural thing and in our culture eye contact is very important, so model this small but meaningful gesture.
2. A firm handshake is appropriate, but a hug would be welcoming and more like what our guests are used to in Brazil.
3. Introductions are so important. Work hard on remembering and correctly pronouncing each person's name. Repeat it, ask about the spelling and then remember to use their names when introducing them to others.

# Hospitality is Sharing Jesus With Others

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Always introduce yourself even if you have already been introduced. Give your name again. The visitors are meeting many new people and you can help them keep names straight. Keep in mind that some of our names will be different to them. I'll bet they haven't met too many "Dorries," so I will have to keep reminding them.

4. To engage our visitors in con-

versation is a kind act, and there are several guidelines that you can follow to help the encounter go smoothly.

Speak at a slower rate—This is the most important single thing that you can do to help the Brazilians understand you.

When not understood, repeat. It is not necessary to raise your volume.

They are not hard of hearing; they just need time to process what you have said. If they still do not understand, re-phrase. You can also use gestures.

Remember to use simple language. Using slang or colloquial phrases will impede your communication. Example: "That shirt will cost you an arm and a leg." A better way would be to say, "That shirt will cost you much money."

Listen! Ask questions and listen to their response. Questions about family, occupation, church, travel, what do they enjoy/like and where are they living while in Alleluia are good conversation starters.

5. If you see a visitor alone at a meeting, go to them and ask if you can help. Maybe you could offer to sit with them or explain something they don't understand.

6. Communicating one-on-one will be easier than trying to communi-

cate in a group, but the most important thing is not the setting but to engage them in conversation and reach out to them.

7. SMILE—A smile crosses all language barriers and is very welcoming.

8. Until one is proficient in a language, jokes are very difficult. Many jokes are based on advanced language skills.

9. If a visitor makes a mistake while in a casual conversation, a good thing to do is to model the correct way without correcting the person's speech directly. Example: "Her goed to the store." You can repeat back to them, "Oh, she went to the store." Our ears are our corrector mechanism and they must hear correct language patterns modeled.

Support Groups can invite individual Brazilians to their meetings. Individuals can invite a visitor to join them and their family for an activity such as fireworks on the 4th of July, swimming at a pool, a concert, or a sporting event.

Remember your manners—include don't exclude! All these suggestions apply to everyone. Kids and adults are to be witnesses for Jesus, and He thinks hospitality is important.

May this up-coming "Visitation" be a blessing to you and to our Community. Hospitality is showing the love of Jesus to others. Alleluia hospitality is going the extra mile to show our visitors just how much Jesus loves them.



The window of the Visitation at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church