

Media Release

From: Caroline County, Virginia
Board of Supervisors
Re: Carmel Christian Academy
Date: October 24, 2007
Percy Ashcraft, County Administrator

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The Board of Supervisors celebrated the opening of the Carmel Christian Academy Wednesday night, October 24th, by participating in a well attended Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the facility on Jericho Road.

The Carmel Christian Academy, a private, Biblically based education institution started in 1986 as Carmel Christian School with only three teachers and 22 students, cut a Ribbon marking the expansion of the facility to 121 students, 24 teachers and staff in 17 classrooms. The Academy teaches a range of grades from Pre-school three year olds to High School seniors. Graduating Seniors are required to be accepted by a college before matriculating.

The evening was hosted by Jan Carneal whose vision of a larger Academy has driven the creation of the current facility. Administrators John and Lisa Carneal pronounced the formal dedication of the building for its educational mission. Signaled out for special recognition was benefactor, E. Claiborne Robins. Mr. Robins has underwritten the expansion of the school into an Academy.

Members of the Board of Supervisors in attendance were Chairman, Maxie Rozell, Wayne Acors, Madison District Supervisor, Port Royal District Supervisor, Calvin Taylor, and Mattaponi District Supervisor, Floyd Thomas. Mr. Percy Ashcraft, County Administrator and several members of his staff were also present. Chairman Rozell in whose District the Academy resides, gave a message of welcome and appreciation.

It was noted by many attending that the Academy provides alternative educational options for parents in Caroline County who may want their children to receive a religious education, and so widens the educational experiences possible in the community. Also recognized was the growth in employment as a result of the Academy's development which adds 24 jobs to Caroline's economy.

Numerous participants in the creation of the Academy were recognized such as Engineer, Bill Schmidt, and designer, Don Cartledge. Mr. Harold Stills pronounced the Devotional and Benediction, Ms. Lori Newcomb sang for the assembly, and the 6th Grade sang *Amazing Grace*.

Mr. John Carneal of the Academy projects a possible student body of 200 with additional building construction in the future. The Academy library is nearing completion while science and computer labs are currently operational.

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