

The Newsletter of  
The Little Light House  
Central Mississippi



# THE Beacon

## June 16, A "Bittersweet" Day *by Camille Ball*

"This is a bittersweet day," Dr. Ellison, our friend and pediatrician, said when making an unofficial visit to the hospital when Joshua was born. We did not know at the time how true these words would be...this is our story.

Joshua Parks Ball was born June 16, 2005. He is our 6th child, and we were very eager for our 2nd son to join the family. During pregnancy, we were flagged for one of the many things they check for during a sonogram. The repeat sonogram showed all things normal. His delivery came fast and easy, but as the first sonogram foretold, we were soon informed that he had Down syndrome. We went through the normal emotions of grief and sadness and shed many tears over the unknown life that we and our son were beginning. While at the



*Joshua's first day at the Little Light House*

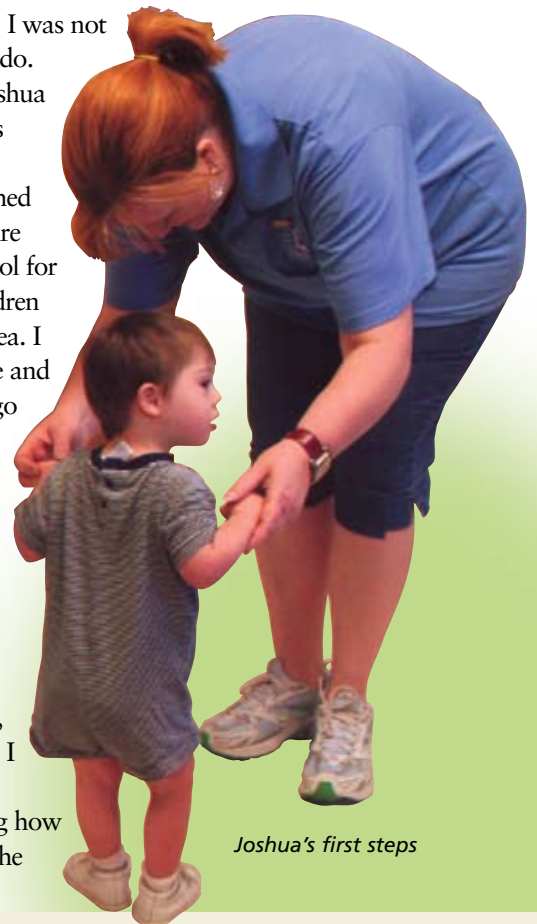
hospital, we were visited by sweet people who had children or family members with "Downs." We quickly became thankful that the Lord had given us a healthy child and opened our eyes to a beautiful world of children with special needs, their families and the people who love them.

One other thing I learned at the hospital was the amount of therapy Joshua would need to

help him get off to a great start. I was already overwhelmed with 5 kids. But, with Joshua, I now had 6, and this one would need a lot of extra help. I was not sure what to do.

When Joshua was 4 months old, a friend at church approached me with a brochure about a new school for special needs children opening in our area. I took the brochure and recognized the logo from a book I had read 4 years earlier at the beach. I remembered the story of the mom who started a school for her daughter in Tulsa, Oklahoma. What I remembered the most was thinking how great it was that the

Lord provided this great school "for those parents who needed it." Now, I was that parent! And, the Lord had placed it 10



*Joshua's first steps*

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minutes from my house in Mississippi.

Joshua entered The Little Light House Central Mississippi when he was 6 months old and the size of a peanut. People would ask, "How can you send your 6 month old to school at such a young age?" My simple answer, "The teachers know more than I." Miss Linda, Joshua's first teacher was the most loving and gentle lady I have ever known. The teacher's assistant was Rebecca McNeil. Her background of music and dance was a perfect complement to Linda's classroom instruction. Tammy Tadlock was our permanent class volunteer. We could not do without her constant compassion, friendship and laughter.

Other than his first 6 months, Joshua has been at The Little

Light House his whole life. So far, every milestone in his life has happened there. Going from a bottle to a cup, eating baby food to finger food to a meat and two sides! Rolling over, sitting up, scooting, crawling, walking (after 3 ½ years) and now running. If he has done it, he most likely did it there first. We can never thank our therapists enough. They are the best!

So why is June 16 "bittersweet?" Graduation. Yes, it is time to move on. We are very excited about Joshua's new kindergarten, but it will be sad to say good bye to something that is so dear to our hearts and has been part of our everyday lives for almost 6 years. The Little Light House has not only taught Joshua, but has taught the whole Ball family. Keith and I have learned so much through the parent meetings and talking

to other parents, and our kids have learned to love, assist and enjoy children with special needs.

Who would have thought that an English lady, via Canada, would adhere to the Lord's call and go out on faith to establish this wonderful school. Colin

and Maureen, thank you. It is a privilege to call you friends.

To all our incredible volunteers and staff. Thank you for your precious time and talents. Carolyn, Linda and Tammy, we are forever grateful. Joshua's graduation is truly bittersweet!



Joshua and Camille at the 2011 Tea Party

## A Step in Time

by Maureen Harbinson, Executive Director



A *step* is a measurement for walking, dancing, and marching. You put one foot down and then the other.

*Time* is a part of the measuring system used to sequence events, to compare the durations of events, and the intervals between them.

The story on the first page of the Beacon, about Joshua's *step in time*, is extremely dear to my heart. He was one of our students in the very first class when we opened the doors of the Little Light House in January 2006. Then, he was just 6 months old—a small, rotund little baby boy. Now, five and a half years later, he leaves the school in July, ready to take another *step in time* to a new school. He is able to walk (when he is

not running!), talk in complete sentences, teach the class (or so he thinks!), and is our resident greeter who is always ready with a handshake when anybody visits. What a privilege to be part of Joshua's life here at The Little Light House, and to see him reach the goals set for him.

Joshua is one of 10 children to graduate from the Little Light House this June. They will all go on to take another *step in time* in a new school. Two members of our staff, along with myself, recently got to visit the schools our children will be transitioning to, and were reunited with

some of our former students. In one class, we were delighted and honored to hear from the teacher that she could tell the difference between those children who had come from the Little Light House, and those students who did not.

From January 2006 to July 2011, there have been many *steps in time*; walking, dancing, and marching! With 11 new students arriving at the Little Light House in August, we look forward to seeing them take their *steps in time*—as they travel on the journey to reach their full potential.

# Struttin' Their Stuff/Laps for Little Ones 2010:

On Saturday October 16, 2010, the community came together at the University Christian School Track and Field, to celebrate the developmental achievements of every student at the Little Light House. This two part fundraising event allowed supporters to walk or run in honor of the students of the school while also competing for prizes donated by local

businesses. Attendees also applauded the students as they showcased their newly learned skills down the track. The parents of The Little Light House began getting sponsorships for Laps for Little Ones in August and by October they had raised \$73,382.56. In addition, the Phil Hardin Foundation generously donated a matching grant of \$50,000.

Total monies raised during this event was \$119,250.11.

We were thrilled with the outcome of this fundraiser and give God the glory and praise for its success. We also want to recognize and

thank the many volunteers that came to help during this event.

Look out for this delightful celebration coming again in October this year!



# Tea Party 2011

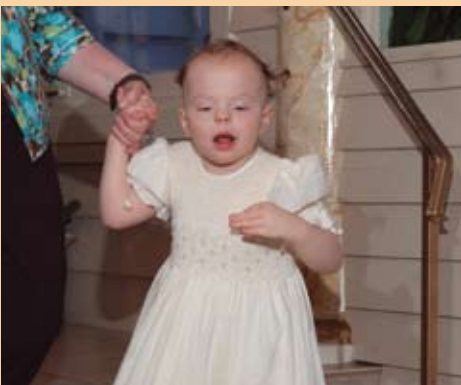
On Saturday, March 5, 2011, the Little Light House hosted its annual Tea Party fundraising event at The Fairview Inn in Jackson. Despite the bad weather, the Lord brought our supporters together raising \$21,323.36. Attendance was exceptional and as an event-first, the students of the Little Light House participated in a children's fashion show which

showcased clothing from Strausburg and Belk's Children Department. The students did an amazing job. Another highlight of the event was Dr. Maxine Harper who was born with quadriplegic cerebral palsy. She gave a message of inspiration and hope to those in attendance as she shared her real-life struggles, successes, and accomplishments.



*Dr. Maxine Harper*

## *Children's Fashion Show*



\* \* \* \* \* *In Honorarium* \* \* \* \* \*

<b>By:</b>	<b>In Honor of:</b>
Mr & Mrs Richard Phillips .....	Tanner Knotts
Donna Elaine Noblitt .....	Cathy Wasson
Bonnie Hensley Holder .....	Cathy Wasson
Dorothy Stokes.....	Cathy Wasson
Lydia W. McCardle .....	Cathy Wasson
Sandra Rasberry .....	Cathy Wasson
Carol J. Simmons.....	Cathy Wasson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Corley .....	Caroline Pittman
William & Natalie Pittman .....	Tom Pharr
Lauren LaGarde .....	Drew, Stacey & Ace Spiehler
Quinton Perry.....	Jo Ellen Talley
Alicia Carpenter.....	Ella Miller
Freddy & Brenda Wiseman.....	Ashton Wiseman
Monte Grosso .....	Dr. Stephen Fletcher
William Crim .....	Jo Ellen Talley
Mary Thrower.....	Clayton & Audrey Borne
Mr & Mrs Robert Knight.....	Caroline Pittman
Richard A. Weatherly.....	Andrew Thorne
Betty H. Quinn .....	Cathy Wasson
Susan Fontenot .....	Ashton Wiseman
Joseph E. Weatherly, Jr. ....	Andrew Thorne
Dean & Katie Thorne.....	Andrew Thorne
Rodney Sanders.....	Caroline Pittman
Glenda Gregory.....	Ava Hutton Gregory
Betty M. Marble .....	Caleb Underwood
Bettye B. Oakes .....	Caroline Pittman
Kathy A. Peusch .....	Caleb Underwood
Mary A. Peusch .....	Caleb Underwood
Susan Wallace .....	Caroline Pittman
Mr. & Mrs. William Pittman .....	Caroline Pittman
Omega T. Stephens .....	Ava Hutton Gregory
Jennifer Taulli.....	Ace Spiehler
Deborah Frederic.....	Tanner Knotts
Chad & Jennifer Smith .....	Mike & PeggyTragesser

Chad & Jennifer Smith .....	Barbara Polk
Chad & Jennifer Smith .....	Mike & Carol Smith
Chad & Jennifer Smith .....	John & Martie Kwasney
Mr. & Mrs James McCay .....	Julianna Salter
Mr. & Mrs James McCay .....	Alice Staten
Bettye Rogers .....	Ashton Wiseman
Betty B. Vandiver.....	Andrew Thorne
Mike & Wanda Thorne.....	Andrew Thorne
Dana Marie Kenney.....	Caroline Pittman
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Talley .....	JoEllen Talley
Michele Matthews.....	Emily Maclain
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Thomason .....	Mr. & Mrs. John Scott Magee
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Beard .....	Tanner Knotts
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Shannon .....	Caleb Underwood
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Underwood .....	Caleb Underwood
Bob & Barbara Bledsoe.....	Benjamin Smith
Steve & Tammy Tadlock .....	Aiden Scarborough
Janice Parker .....	Caroline Pittman
Donna Wooten .....	Dudley & Betty Marble
Bonnie Holder .....	Dr. Catherine Wasson
Bonnie Holder .....	Dr. Sandra Rasberry
Bonnie Holder .....	Dr. Dorothy Stokes
Bonnie Holder .....	Dr. Lydia McCardle
Bonnie Holder .....	Dr. Bettye Quinn
Bonnie Holder .....	Debbie Harris
Nola Curtis .....	Stacey Spiehler
Katherine Vance .....	Stacey Spiehler
Sondra Lebreton.....	Stacey Spiehler
Donna Hopkins .....	Stacey Spiehler
Frank L. Taulli, Jr. ....	Ace Spiehler
E. Atlee Breland.....	Stacey Spiehler
Rani Oswalt .....	Stacey Spiehler
Mrs. Harry T. Bailey, Jr. ....	Lois Landry
HFC Funding Corporation .....	Allison Plunkett

\* \* \* \* \* *In Memoriam* \* \* \* \* \*

<b>By:</b>	<b>In Honor of:</b>
John & Julie Swain .....	Gladys Barnette
Theodore Levi.....	Gladys Barnette
Elizabeth Helms.....	Gladys Barnette
Bettye Oakes .....	Gladys Barnette
Jenny Brown.....	Gladys Barnette
Harold & Jeanette Curley.....	Gladys Barnette
Vickie Allen .....	Gladys Barnette
Dr & Mrs Jim Moore.....	Gladys Barnette
James & Terry Berryhill.....	Gladys Barnette
Ray Neilsen .....	Gladys Barnette
Sara K. Crawford.....	Mildred Crawford
Keith & Camille Ball.....	Charlie Maris
Stacy Vance .....	Gladys Barnette
D. S. Oakes.....	Gladys Barnette
Chad & Jennifer Smith .....	Charlie Maris
Jerry W. Knotts.....	Jo Lane Knotts
Dana Marie Kenney.....	Gladys Barnette
Mr & Mrs Luther Litchfield, Jr.....	Willia Solon Mauldin, Jr.

Mr & Mrs Luther Litchfield, Jr.....	Martha Jean Burnham
Wiley & Berniece Garner .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Toni Garner Ganuchau .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Eugene Ganuchau.....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Teri M. Garner .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Joshua A. Cruso .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Samuel Aaron Montiforte .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Matthew Garner .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Ryan Heath .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Annie Garner .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Grady Garner .....	Gladys Marie Garner Barnette
Anna & Shelia Corley .....	Gladys Barnette
Bob & Barbara Bledsoe.....	Glen E. Polk
Steve & Tammy Tadlock .....	Judy Cochran
Virginia Sims.....	Eleanor Ann Hansell
Rita Hickman .....	James Dubose
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Wiseman .....	Hardy Wayne Smith

The Little Light House is pleased to recognize Honorariums, Memorials, and Special Events (birthday, Christmas, graduation, wedding, etc.). Please include the following information with your donation, and the recipient of your choice will receive a personalized acknowledgement card informing them of your gift: Donor's name and address, name of honorarium or memorial, name and address of individual to receive acknowledgement, and, when appropriate, the occasion for the gift.

**The Little Light House—Central Mississippi, P.O. Box 4392, Brandon, MS 39047**

## Job Opportunities/ Staff Applications

We have the following positions available immediately:

1. Special Education Teacher
2. Event Coordinator, for Annual Fundraising Activities

If you are a committed Christian, have a passion to work with children with special needs, and have superior qualifications and experience we would welcome your inquiries. Please contact Maureen Harbinson by email at [llh4kids@gmail.com](mailto:llh4kids@gmail.com), or by telephone at 601-829-3446.

## Let's Go Krogering!



Buy your groceries at Kroger with a Kroger Gift Card, and Kroger will donate a portion of the profits to the Little Light House! It's an easy way to get \$\$ for the LLH on stuff that you're going to buy anyway! In fact, we've bought several Kroger Gift Cards, and we'd like to get one in your hands. Just call our office and we'll give you the details.

The Little Light House Central Mississippi is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit Christian Developmental Center for children with special needs, age birth through six years of age. The Little Light House Central Mississippi does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national or ethnic origin, or medical diagnosis (unless it affects the child's ability to attend on a regular basis) in the administration of its educational policies, and other school administered programs. Some behavioral conditions may be evaluated on an individual basis. The Little Light House Central Mississippi assures that all children's records will be maintained as confidential. All gifts to The Little Light House Central Mississippi are tax-deductible, less goods and services received.

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*A Step In Time...*

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