

FOCUS

The Investigative Journalism Issue

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Have you ever wanted to know where our cafeteria gets their produce? Or what your teachers did in college? Or perhaps you were curious about the history of our Main Building? The Focus staff decided that it was time to answer some of the more entertaining and/or pressing questions at Friends' Central. We've tasked our writers with becoming detectives and investigating the issues. We hope you enjoy this issue and our festive holiday surprise at the end!
- Peter and Emilia

The Search for the New Principal

By PETER DISSINGER '14 and EMILIA WEINBERG '14

When Craig Sellers arrived at Friends' Central, it quickly became clear that things were going to change drastically at our school. From the introduction of iPads to the influx of new staff, it seems that FCS is moving in a new direction. Our administrative structure has already begun to undergo change. Ms. Quinn was named the new principal of the Middle School and there is a search currently for a new Lower School principal (Ms. Fifer is serving in the interim). Currently in the Upper School, an 18 person search team headed by Craig Sellers, Shannan Schuster, Bill Darling and Cristina Perez has set out to find a new Upper School principal.

For many years, the Upper School has had a Dean of Faculty and a Dean of Students, both of whom are principals. Mr. Sellers has decided to streamline the administrative structure of all three divisions, replacing these roles with a single principal. Now the Dean of Students will report to this principal, who will in turn report directly to Craig Sellers.

According to Ms. Perez, one of the clerks of the search team, of the numerous candidates who have come forward, all are external candidates. Ms. Perez and Dr. Schuster explained that the candidates hail from all over the world, coming from a diverse set of backgrounds, which makes choosing a new principal an even more exciting process. The

deadline for applications was in November and the search committee is currently sifting through all of the resumes they received and choosing a set of semi-finalists. Those semi-finalists will likely meet with faculty, parents, and students, potentially even answering questions in an Upper School assembly. A similar process will take place for the finalists and a principal will likely be chosen by the end of the school year.

In an interview with Dr. Schuster, we learned a bit more about why the upper school's administration will be changing. She says that one of the major reasons for the decision for the transition to a single principal system is that the school's goal is to unify and streamline the three different academic divisions at Friends' Central. It makes things less confusing for everyone! Dr. Schuster also told us that she wants the interview process to be as similar to the actual job as possible. Meaning, she wants candidates to interact with the entire Friends' Central community, much like Mr. Sellers did when he visited. She also listed a set of qualities she hopes our principal will have. Schuster describes her ideal applicant as an innovator, someone who puts the students first, appreciates the values of Quakerism, and, most importantly, will be able to balance Friends' Central's time-honored traditions with the influx of modern technology.

What Were FCS Teachers Doing in College?

By STEFAN SULTAN '15

Have you ever wondered what life was like for teachers before they started teaching? What did they do in college? What did they major in, what classes did they take? Did they always want to teach? To try to answer these questions, I talked to a few teachers about what life was like for them way before they started teaching, about what life was like in college.

For some teachers, like Ms. Kelleher, a job as a teacher was always something that they saw themselves doing. Ms. K, who has five younger siblings, would often help them with their homework and says that helping other people to learn "just seemed natural." However, in college Ms. Kelleher decided not to major in Education but rather in English (with a minor in creative writing) so she could have the full advantage of a liberal arts education.

However, not all teachers always knew they would want to teach; Dr. Graham, for example, had originally planned to go into law. Only in college did she discover she was intrigued by the idea of teaching after realizing that "reading and discussing what I read was really a lot of fun." Also, her professors "seemed to be having a lot of fun" since their job was to "read, do research, write and teach what they learned." It also didn't hurt that they got to travel during the summer and "wear jeans to work." Mike Crauderueff is another example of a teacher who did not originally plan to be a teacher. In fact, he originally planned to go to graduate school for anthropology. It was only after he became interested in Quakerism that he decided to be a teacher and ending up teaching French (Mike double majored in French and Anthropology) in a school near Chicago.

Continued on Page 2

What FCS Teacher Are You Most Like?

By ROSE GENDELMAN '15, MARISSA GRATZ '15, TALIA ROSENBERG '17, and ZOE GINSBERG '17

Our gift to you!

1. What is your dream vacation destination?

- a. Hawaii
- b. Colombia
- c. Skiing at Whistler, British Columbia
- d. A relaxing math convention in Florida

2. Which of the following is a hobby of yours?

- a. Planting seeds
- b. Taking a hike to Machu Picchu
- c. Playing the piano
- d. Doing logic puzzles

3. Which of the following classes would you prefer to take?

- a. The Physics of Stars and Stellar Systems
- b. Time, Love and Death in Spanish Poetry from the Middle Ages to the Postmodern Age
- c. Olympic Games and Literature
- d. Statistical Inference

4. What are you most likely to wear to school?

- a. A Flyers Jersey (namely Claude Giroux's)
- b. A fashionable dress and matching heels

- c. Khakis and a button down
- d. A sweater vest and glasses

5. What is your favorite book?

- a. Astrophysics of Gaseous Nebulae and Active Galactic Nuclei
- b. The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes
- c. Catcher in the Rye
- d. Pythagoras: His Life, Teaching, and Influence

6. What is your favorite food?

- a. A potato clock
- b. Empanadas
- c. Alphabet Soup
- d. Pi

7. What is your favorite sport to watch or play?

- a. Ice Hockey
- b. Racing convertibles
- c. Golf
- d. Mock Trial

See Page 2 for Results

Where Does Our Food Come From?

By JULIA STERN ‘15

With a renewed focus on nutrition and sustainability, our dining hall has made enormous strides in health awareness and mindful eating. Understanding the important role that food plays in both academic and extracurricular performance, Chris Rosenblum states that the “new system is all about educating the student base and being fully knowledgeable about what’s going in our bodies.” Working with Sodexo, a company that manages food distribution for colleges, businesses, hospitals, nursing homes, and independent schools, the dining hall team has created menus with more vegan and vegetarian options, helped manage allergies and dietary restrictions, and increased awareness concerning nutrition and sustainability.

So where does our food come from? School meats are provided by major manufacturers such as Tyson and Cargill, upheld by national contracts and Sodexo’s own meat inspectors. However, the team makes great efforts to source local and organic produce whenever possible (ideally within a 150-200 mile radius), working with businesses such as New Jersey-based company Ambrogi. Near and far, Chris tells me that the team tries to ensure they are working with “companies that are like-minded, and who care about what they’re doing and how they’re doing it.”

Taking great care on the local level, the majority of the meals are prepared in-house from scratch by executive chef Ernie Hines Jr.



and the rest of the dining hall staff. At the end of the week, extra food is sent through Service Committee to a local shelter. Overall, the team works incredibly hard and “takes a lot of pride in what [they’re] doing,” implementing

their personal standards to ensure satisfaction. While the staff continues to focus on making our dining experience more enjoyable, nourishing and social, the hope is that the FCS community will take the initiative and work towards ultimate sustainability and health.

What Is the History of the Main Building?

By CAROLINE BARTHOLOMEW ‘15

Whether we’re there to sign in at the Upper School office, give a tour, or go to a humanities class, we’re always passing through the Main Building. However, with our busy schedules, it’s so easy to overlook the beauty of the building itself. The Main Building is a staple of the Friends’ Central campus - not many schools can boast about having a Victorian mansion on campus! Have you ever thought about why or how this building became part of our school?

What we call the Main Building today was originally built in 1892 by Wistar Morris, director of the Pennsylvania Railroad, founder of Morris Tasker & Company Ironworks and also a Quaker. Morris’s mother had grown up on the property, which had been part of William Penn’s 1682 land grant from King Charles II. Built during the Victorian era, the mansion is unique because it includes Scottish, French, Gothic and Celtic architectural elements. The combination of these different European styles soon became known as eclecticism. The exterior is Scottish Baronial Style, based off Scottish castles and country estates, particularly St. Leonard’s Hall in Edinburgh. When designing his mansion, Wistar Morris wanted only the best. One of the most expensive and interesting architectural details is the Tiffany window on the second floor staircase, sometimes referred to as the “jewel of the house”. The window in the Main Building is one of the largest to be installed in a private home and it’s one of the few still in its original location! Another unique aspect of the estate is the grounds, which were landscaped by Frederick Law Olmsted, who

also designed Central Park! In 1925, the Morris family sold their estate to Friends’ Central, which had previously been located in downtown Philadelphia.

The Wistar family used first floor of the mansion primarily for entertaining. In Victorian times before phones existed, people would visit all the time and sometimes came unannounced, so the entry hall played an important role in shaping people’s’ first impressions. In what is now the OPA room was a parlor where the Morris family received guests. The Admissions Office was the library, the rooms around and including the Head of School’s office made up a large formal dining room, and the kitchen was in the business office. On the second floor, the master bedroom is now Ms. Kelleher’s classroom and the third floor was where the servants lived. As of today, the mansion has forty-two rooms!

Next time you walk through the Main Building, take a look at some of the details, such as the statues of the lions holding shields with the fleur-de-lis on your way up the main stairs, or the intricate gothic details in the “gargoyle room”. Did you know it was used as a men’s smoking room? Imagine what it would have been like to be welcomed into and entertained in such a grand home. For thirty-three years, the Morris family called this mansion their home, and now we’re fortunate to call it ours.

**Special thanks to Mr. Dankoff for giving me a tour of the entire Main Building and providing all of the historical and architectural information used in this article!*

From FCS Teachers in College on Page 1

When they weren’t in class, our teachers would often be doing extra curricular activities, playing sports, or just enjoying some down time. For instance, Mike was both a member of the French club and a fencer. While he loved baseball and played it in high school, Mike intentionally chose a college without baseball so he could focus more on academics. While in college in Canada, Dr. Graham often spent her time cross-country skiing, playing squash, and “sliding around on the ice of the Rideau Canal.” She also spent a lot of time at the movies (after all, her first girlfriend was a film studies major) and also volunteered at the Carleton Women’s Center where she would help paint murals.

One summer, with \$5000 in funding from the Carter Society of Junior Fellows, Ms. Kelleher was able to go to England where she studied Romantic poetry. While she was there, she compared Romantic poetry to contemporary pieces of art from various European countries, allowing her to backpack across Europe, staying at various hostels throughout the continent. She had several jobs during college, working at a Wawa during the summer and breaks, tutoring at a local middle school, aiding at a local elementary school, and working in the school library. Ms. K was also able write for the school newspaper, help create a literary magazine, and even become part of the National English Honor Society and Writer’s Union. Despite all of this, Ms. K often went to the Chesapeake Bay in the winter for polar bear swims, and once a year, on May first, when all of the fraternity and sorority pledges (of whom Ms. K was not one) had to shed a few layers and run around the campus, Ms. K and her friends would climb up into a tree and soak these unsuspecting pledgers with water guns.

From What FCS Teacher are You Most Like on Page 1

If you answered mostly a’s, then you profile as Ms. Maraziti; an avid physics lover, you have a penchant for Flyers hockey and spend your free time watching the stars.

If you answered mostly b’s, then you and Ms. Perez have a lot in common. Maybe it’s your love of Latin America or Spanish Literature, but you’ve definitely got a connection here.

If you answered mostly c’s, then you’ve got a love of all things Canadian (and Mr. MacFarlane). Things you might enjoy: golfing on the weekends, using your unusually loud voice, or reading a good sports lit book!

If you answered mostly d’s, then maybe you should join the Mock Trial team and spend more time with Mr. Morris. He loves statistics, pre-calc, and the Beatles!

Why Four Years Of Lit?

By GRACE KAUFFMAN-ROSENGARTEN ‘16

I have always wondered why Friends’ Central chose to require four years of English classes, something they haven’t done for any other subject. What is it about the study of literature that makes it important enough for the school to require it for all students, every year? To find out, I sat down with Liza Ewen, chair of the English department.

As it turns out, FCS is not alone; most high schools have the same four year requirement because it is a prerequisite for most four year colleges. This brings up another question, though: Why do all these colleges want their students to have taken four years of English? According to Ms. Ewen it is because “the ability to read, write, and think about something is the underpinning of every other discipline.”

In my own experience, I have found this to be very true. Last year in Geometry, the analytic writing skills I had were invaluable in trying to figure out how to put my ideas into a clear and concise proof. I know I would never be able to write a coherent paper in History without having already learned how to use information from the text to create a valid thesis. During labs in science, I draw on my literature skills to understand and interpret the information.

Clearly the English requirement is a critical component of the Friends’ Central education, useful not only in the classroom, but in clubs and other extracurriculars as well.

Dear Georgia Fox: Winter Addition

By SOPHIE MACFARLANE ‘15 and HANNAH KAMINSKY ‘15

Dear Georgia Fox,

SOS! It is getting so cold that I feel like I am going to freeze! During free blocks I find myself searching for somewhere warm to hang out! I know that I could go to the cafeteria, but it’s always really loud and there’s always a draft of cold air from the constant flow of people coming in and out of the side door. And in the library, I have to be quiet, so if I want to talk to my friends I can’t! Where’s a good place that I could hang out somewhat quietly but still be toasty?

Sincerely,
A student but soon to be icicle

Dear Soon to Be Icicle,

I know exactly what you are going through! We have all experienced that frigid draft barrelling through the cafeteria door. Before you resort to throwing yourself into the Main Building fireplace, I have some secret sweltering suggestions for you. If you find yourself travelling through the Language Building, stop in Mr. Fisher’s room and take a seat near the back of the room. If you sit right in front of the window, you will immediately be blasted with a rush of heat. That heater really knows how to keep a room at the perfect temperature for those below-freezing winter days. If you find that the heat is a little too much to handle, you can open the window just a smidge and sit back against the heater. You will keep cool enough that you don’t sweat, but warm enough to be comfortable! Just make sure to ask Mr. Fisher before you start piling into his room!

Another option to keep your toes toasty is the hallway in the FCC main lobby between Ms. Plunkett and Mr. Darling’s room. That hallway, known as the “CalCove”, is always super snug in the winter and there is a nice nook to chat with your peers. It is a perfect place to “people watch” as well. I hope that these tips were helpful in defrosting you during the brutal winter months.

With love,
Georgia Fox

Dear Georgia Fox,

I am getting bored with my meals at FCS! I want to spice it up a little bit! Do you know any cool combos that I can have for lunch?

Sincerely,
A wannabe foodie

Dear wannabe foodie,

I have some ‘gourmet’ food combos that could actually make you a foodie! Here are some of my favorite concoctions from the FCS cafeteria:

1. Saoirse’s Sandwich: 2 slices of your choice of bread, a bit of turkey, cheese, and a bag of potato chips. In order to make the perfect turkey sandwich, first toast your bread. Then put your choice of spread on both halves of the toast (My faves are mayo and spicy mustard)... then place the cheese on the sandwich, and then your turkey. Last but definitely not least, place some of your potato chips on top of the turkey for the perfect crunch. Then, put your sandwich together, cut your sandwich in half, and enjoy!

2. Homemade Granola Parfait: One crushed Nature Valley bar, various fruits, and your choice of yogurt. Layer each ingredient in a bowl for a delicious French parfait. If you are having trouble crushing your Nature Valley bar, here are various ways I have found work the best: you can slam it against the table, take a friend’s water bottle to crush the bar, or take it out of the package and just break it into small pieces

3. Gourmet Pasta: One bowl of pasta, cheese (shredded from the salad bar), tomatoes (salad bar) and chicken. For this delectable dish, just get your bowl of pasta, then go over to the salad bar and get some shredded cheese and tomatoes, then mix in chicken (or hot dog for that matter!) for some needed protein. If you’d like, you can add butter or olive oil for extra flavor! Then head over to the microwave to heat it up!

Your friend,
Georgia Fox

10 Reasons You Know the Holidays Are Here

By MAYA ROSENBERG ‘14 and KATE FORREST ‘14

1. Starbucks Cups

Every time you go to Starbucks, you wait in line, order your routine drink, and then wait for it to come out in a boring white cup with a green logo. But one day in November, when the Starbucks worker calls your drink and name, you are greeted with the iconic red, white and green holiday cups. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, you know that drinking from one of these cups means holidays are near.



2. Lancaster Light Up

Driving down Lancaster Ave. tends to be a fairly mundane activity that many FCS students partake in on a daily basis. Passing the same shops and Main Line landmarks can be very repetitive, but once a year, the road completely revamps itself and turns into a Winter Wonderland. The township decorates the streetlights with light-up snowflakes and lines the street with yellow lights. It’s hard not to feel in the holiday spirit as these decorations illuminate your drive home.

3. Black Friday Shopping

Whether you are talking to friends about their potential post-Thanksgiving activities, or being interrupted by loud commercials on TV for 25% off deals, Black Friday can not be missed. Even though the commercials can be a little annoying, we all have to admit that they make us happy as they are just another sign the holidays are near.

4. 25 Days of Christmas on ABC Family

I’m sure we have all heard of this one. Every year in November, ABC Family releases their annual 25 Days of Christmas Schedule online so that

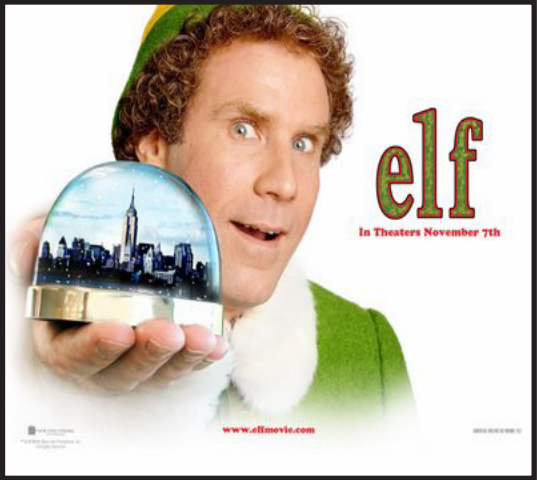
avid holiday movie-watchers can prepare for their favorite films. From The Polar Express to “claymation,” nothing help helps spread the holiday cheer like a heartwarming Christmas story.

5. Thanksgivukkah

We all know that Christmas songs start playing after Thanksgiving, and Hanukkah is an obvious sign that the holiday season is here! So, what can be a better reminder than the two combined - Thanksgivukkah! The anticipation of cheerful Christmas music along with the beautiful menorah lights and potato latkes made this holiday one to remember.

6. Having a Legitimate Reason to Watch Elf

This movie is a classic. If you haven’t seen Will Ferrell’s Elf yet, put this newspaper down and rent it via Netflix or On Demand. No matter what holiday you celebrate, everyone can laugh and get in the holiday spirit with this movie. Some of us, though, find ourselves wanting to watch this movie in the dead of summer. But have no fear, now that the holiday season is near you can watch this movie in the comfort of your own home without feeling like a crazy person!



7. Secret Snowman

The pure excitement, happiness, and love that go into giving and receiving gifts undoubtedly puts everyone into the holiday spirit! And if your Secret Snowman doesn’t come through, you at least know that you have Winter Break to look forward to!

8. The UGGs Come Out

Although there is a rare sighting of someone sporting UGGs in the summer, these infamous boots are normally taken out of the closet around the holiday season. Whether you are going to pick up coffee at Starbucks or you’re shopping in Suburban Square, UGG boots are notorious for being worn during the colder months. Not only are these shoes worn during the holidays, they also happen to be one of the top items on kid’s wishlists these days.

9. Christmas Lights

You always hear of those homes whose exteriors are decorated from door to roof in lights and wreaths. Driving by one of these extravagant homes undoubtedly puts us in the holiday spirit. Knowing that someone loves the holidays so much that they put the time and money into revamping their entire house solely for the enjoyment of the people who pass by their house really makes me feel like holidays can bring the best out of everyone.



10. Snow

Last week, for the first time in almost three years, Friends’ Central had a snow day! While the snow is not always convenient (it can turn a 25 minute car ride into an hour long debacle), it does bring out a bunch of good as well! With snow come the beautiful sight of wintry backyards, spending time by the fire, and lots of hot chocolate. But best of all, the snow is a clear sign that the dead of winter along with the holiday season is just around the corner!

Phoenix in the Phast Lane

Elliot Gross: Squash

By MAX GINSBERG ‘14



This issue’s male athlete for Phoenix in the Phast Lane is Varsity squash player, junior Elliot Gross. Elliot was inspired to play by his father, who started taking him to the UPenn squash courts when he was six years old. Soon he started playing seriously at Berwyn Squash Club with other junior players and played competitively for about five years before decided to take a break from the sport. Last year, Elliot decided to pick up squash again, remarking that, “Once I stepped away [from squash] I was really able to enjoy it again and decided to get serious [last year] because I decided that I wanted to play in college.”

Now, having fully gotten back into the swing of things, he is rediscovering his love of the sport. On playing squash currently, Elliot says “I really like the longevity of each point and how it’s a game based on tactics rather than brute power or strength.” He is now playing for the Friends’ Central team, which has improved in each of the team’s first two seasons due largely to Elliot’s solid play as the team’s number one player. For this upcoming season, Elliot hopes to go undefeated and to help his teammates improve so that the squash team can compete with the best teams in the area. The team’s biggest challenge this year will come when they play rival GFS who is a squash powerhouse in the area. Not only is Elliot successful within the school season but he plays all year round, is nationally ranked, and hopes to play in college. This year, Elliot wants to become one of the top 50 nationally ranked players in the country and improve his all around game, as he makes the leap towards playing college squash. We wish Elliot and the rest of the squash team the best of luck this year and hope they’ll Cage the Tiger for us!

Sydney Chamley-Oerton: Swimming

By FARIA REHMAN ‘17



Many people are passionate about swimming, but few love it as much as Sydney Chamley-Oerton. A new 9th grader at Friends’ Central, Sydney started swimming seriously on the Penn Charter Aquatics Club team in 7th Grade. Only two years later, she says, “I can’t imagine my life without it now.” She swims the individual medley, freestyle and butterfly, which is her favorite stroke. She also made the summer Junior Olympics in the 100 fly. Sydney said she’s “super psyched” to swim for the Friends’ Central team. In her first meet, she managed to set a personal record in every race she swam. When I asked her why she continues to swim, Sydney replied, “I swim to beat my old records and because I love pushing myself.”

I also asked about her future goals and although at first they sounded simple, I soon found out that she aims high. “My goals are to keep improving my technique and beat my old times...My goal is to make swimming a career. I would absolutely love to make the actual Olympics one day, especially because my brother [Miles Chamley-Watson] made the Olympics last year in fencing.” Miles had started fencing as a time-filler, but he turned that hobby into a major opportunity, which is a huge source of inspiration for Sydney.

Clearly, Sydney Chamley-Oerton is a girl who is incredibly determined, especially because she’s willing to put the massive amount of work and effort in to make the Olympics. She’s definitely convinced me that she’s an athlete to look out for this season, and for many more to come.

Artist In the Spotlight

Jordyn Karliner: Dancer

By ANNA SORENSEN ‘15

Jordyn Karliner has been dancing at Radomile Academy of Dance since she was 4 years old. She started out taking ballet and jazz classes, but in 8th grade she took up modern, tap and lyrical classes as well. At her dance studio, there are two ballet companies - a junior and a senior - and one jazz company. This year, Jordyn is part of the senior ballet company and she is a demi-soloist in the jazz company.

Every year since first grade, Jordyn has danced in Radomile’s *Nutcracker*, a holiday favorite of dancers and audiences alike. This year, Jordyn was cast as the Snow Queen, so she was the soloist in the *Waltz of the Snowflakes*. Jordyn says the dance was “technically difficult,” because she was on pointe the whole time. Her favorite part is at the end, when, “I pose on pointe and everyone spins me around, which looks pretty cool.”

Jordyn says that one of the best parts about dancing is that “it’s really accomplishing when you finally master a step that you’ve been working on.” She also says that she likes ballet the most of the five types of dance she does at Radomile because she has been doing it the longest and she can see how she has improved over the years. Jordyn hopes to continue to take dance classes in college. You can see Jordyn perform in her spring recital, and in a recital in early June.



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Service Committee’s Holiday Plans

By ELIZABETH RAPHAELY ‘16

The holiday season is always a cheerful time at Friends’ Central. One way to spread this joy is through the Prison Fellowship’s “Angel Tree” program. Each year in December, FCS Service Committee works with this organization, which benefits inner city children whose fathers or father figures are currently in jail and are unable to be with their children during the holidays. With the help of the “Angel Tree” these fathers are given the opportunities to send their children gifts. Volunteers receive forms from these men and can then raise money to buy the gifts and directly deliver them to the houses of these boys and girls. At FCS, each homeroom receives a form that hangs from the Christmas Tree in Ms. Maraziti’s room, and that homeroom donates money to buy the particular gifts for the kids.

To be involved in Angel Tree is a truly rewarding experience. According to Ms. Maraziti it’s truly life changing for the kids. Service Committee feels that the opportunity to give these gifts in person, as opposed to raising money and sending it to an organization, is so heart warming. One of the caregivers for the children of Angel Tree described the organization as one of the most thoughtful and meaningful organizations she has encountered in a very long time. The happiness she saw on her son’s face on Christmas morning was so memorable. The amount of appreciation she has for Angel Tree and its volunteers is unexplainable. FCS Service Committee, along with many other volunteers, has clearly made a huge impact on the lives of these kids, making their holidays a little more merry and bright.