

# THE ECLECTIC REPORT

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## Mutterings and Musings from the Editor: Greetings!

Summer has left us. Early snowbirds are heading south. So are the geese. Some of us adore Fall. Some of us can only think about what follows. Well, shame on me! Autumn is a lovely time in North Dakota and truly we ought be enjoying each day as it comes. God has placed us in this place at this time. He makes no mistakes.

We had another opportunity to realize the importance of the local church. I often wonder how folks make it through life without the body of Christ. I guess that's why so many people join clubs, cults, and such and frequent bars on a regular basis. I think we are generally looking for con-

nections. We enjoy such connections through our local body of believers.

The men of our church spent three days shingling our roof last weekend. The Lord gave them both safety and perfect weather. We enjoyed conversation around the table twice a day and had the joy of one another's fellowship.

We are grateful beyond telling for the help. It is God's design that we care for one another. And how wonderful to be a part of a local congregation that takes this seriously. We are most blessed.

Grace and peace,

*Gail M. Biby*



The NDHSA is a 501c3 non-profit.  
We rely on memberships  
and donations to keep operating.

## Homeschool Day

at the Capitol

Feb. 18, 2021

## NDHSA Convention

Bismarck Civic Center

Feb. 18-20, 2021

# The VIEW from my WINDOW

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator



I am guessing everyone is moving along with their homeschooling by now. I hope you are taking advantage of the nicer days to do some outside instruction before the snow begins to fly. Sorry, did I really say that word?!

At our last board meeting one of our board members said he wished there was a way to be aware of **businesses that home educators own** so he could support them rather than the large box stores. I thought I would take this opportunity to remind everyone of the **extras on the member portion of our website**. First of all there is a section to **list your business**. Currently all that is listed is Knight Publishing and an independent Tastefully Simple Consultant. Are you a member of the NDHSA and have a home business? Why not consider listing it! Also, if you just have an item for sale you can use our classified ad section. Classifieds must be approved, but go ahead and list, just realizing it might take a couple of days to be approved.

Other **extras on the member side of the website** are:

- A list of **testing services** with descriptions and contact information;
- A list of **online curriculum** options;
- The NDHSA **Student Planner** for 2020-2;
- Membership card for **educational discounts**;
- Convention **photo gallery**;
- **HSLDA discount code**;
- **Discount code for schoolhouseteachers.com**;
- Free download of the *ND Guide to Homeschooling High School* (under publications).

Join TODAY at:

[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

Plus members receive **10% off of convention registration** and HSLDA membership. Sounds like a deal to me so please consider becoming a member and taking advantage of some of these member extras!



# Guest Column

By Miss Abigail Wilson, Patrick Henry College  
abigail.karen.wilson@gmail.com

In Goethe's *Faust*, a classical adaptation of a German legend, Faust the renowned scholar enjoins his student to give up his intent to learn—to give up his intent to seek after the great and mysterious truths of humanity. Faust associates learning with the wasted life he has lived, for though souls may long for beauty, they will find that it ends in futility. “Why don't you learn to ply an honest trade? / Why be a fool with tinkling bells? / Stick to right thinking and sound sense,” Faust exhorts; for, “[t]hose few who had some knowledge of the truth, / whose full heart's rashness drove them to disclose / their passion and their vision to the mob, all those / died nailed to crosses or consigned to flames.” The book ends with Faust selling his soul to the devil<sup>(1)</sup> and sinking into a life marked first by sensuality and then by despair.

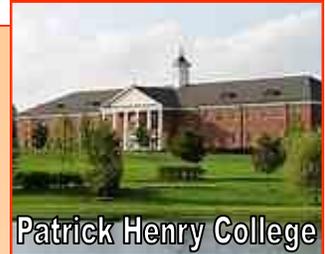
This low view of education is one that has permeated Christian culture since the Enlightenment. We tend to undervalue how critical it is that we read and interact with great minds in history. We happily push that off to a few renowned Christian thinkers and forget that the responsibility is ours. This was not always the case, and in centuries prior the church regarded itself as the leader in the search for the true, good, and beautiful. This changed when the church allowed the culture to redefine reason apart from faith and granted that man's intellect could be a starting place for finding truth. Allowing man to redefine meaning initiated the death of meaning (as in *Faust*); and now we live in a culture starved for meaning. In light of this, what does a Christian approach to education look like? What does it mean to re-establish the Christian ethos in the arts? My experience at Patrick Henry College, a liberal arts college in northern Virginia, has shaped the way I look at learning and the place that education should have in our life.

There is a myth that is perpetuated that learning and the imagination are somehow separate from the real world. We think that the purpose of reading literature is entertainment or that we study history so that we “are not condemned to repeat it.” We become disillusioned with school because it is “not real life.” We associate education with superficial thinking. As in *Faust*, education becomes a series of endless tirades. But as so many professors at PHC continually<sup>(2)</sup> reiterate, that is not why we choose to learn.

God created women and men *imago Dei*: in the “image of God.” We were created with the capacity to reason, to love, to learn, to create, to work, to discover. These things glorify God;

and all these things are part of what constitutes reality.

We tend to impose a sacred/secular split on our everyday life. We tend to view cleaning, or changing the oil in our car, or working through a math problem as less holy than spiritual disciplines. And while it is true that eternal things are infinitely more important than temporal, it is not true that daily life is less important to God. How we view God and how we view eternity affects every part of how we live our daily lives. Our mundane, daily activities are important not because of the actions themselves, but because God designed us in such a way that our actions in this life serve as a living sacrifice to our Creator. Every action, every thought, reflects our view<sup>(3)</sup> of God and His



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place in our lives. We have often heard the phrase, “What would Jesus do?” But perhaps a better question to ask is, “How would Jesus live our lives were He us?”<sup>(4)</sup> What does it mean to live with intentionality?

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write and study literature not to entertain ourselves but to communicate and discover truth. We study history because it is the story of God's long and patient dealings with mankind. We study logic because it helps us to order our minds and to think more deeply about the world around us. We study science because it reveals the brilliance of the mind of God. We study art because it reflects His beauty.

These are some of the things that PHC has taught me. The professors show us how to read great books, write worthwhile papers, and think deep thoughts. Most importantly, they exemplify how to love Christ more fully and to love our neighbors more selflessly. The professors foster an environment of discipleship and humility. We have nothing that was not given to us by Christ; we are daily debtors of grace.

“What do we have? We have this moment.”<sup>(5)</sup> We often wonder what we would do if we only had a few days left to live. Jesus knew, and He washed the feet of His disciples. We are not guaranteed tomorrow. We are not even guaranteed another hour. We only have now. In this world, we as Christians are commanded to brilliantly reflect the majesty of God to everyone around us by boldly proclaiming His goodness, truth, and beauty. The stakes of the Gospel are high, and the weight of eternity presses on us greatly.

1. Johann Wolfgang Goethe, *Faust* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), 20-21.

2. *Ibid.*, 20.

3. Romans 12:1

4. This is a question that Dr. Matthew Roberts, professor of philosophy at PHC, often asks us.

5. Dr. Steven Hake, professor of literature at PHC.

I haven't reviewed this yet but with the state of things today **critical thinking** is more important than ever. Here's a course you might find helpful. **Philosophy Adventure** from a biblical worldview. Go to: <https://homeschooladventure.com>

Here is a new perk to our NDHSA members. There is a **FREE homeschool planner** on the member portion of our website. You can download as many as you want.

Find a support group near you at: [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)  
Click on support groups.

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education**:  
**Laurie Morstad**  
9175 80<sup>th</sup> St. NE,  
Hampden, ND 58338  
Check expiration dates.



For legal assistance **JOIN Home School Legal Defense Association.**  
[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

### Who's the Expert?

Deb Wuehler, senior editor for *The Old Schoolhouse* magazine has a succinct article in the Fall 2020 issue dealing with the nagging doubts many homeschoolers have regarding their ability to homeschool successfully. She states:

You are giving them the freedom to learn in their own unique way, to develop passions for ideas and knowledge, and nurturing their curiosity. You are answering their questions--no matter how many. You are loving them by giving them this freedom to learn and love learning. You are the expert I their sleep patterns, their nutrition, and their physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and academic needs. *You are the expert!*

### Take a LOOK at the Research

You can stay up to date on the latest research and read hundreds of past research projects at [www.nheri.org](http://www.nheri.org). Dr. Brian Ray is the president of National Home Education Research Institute and has testified as an expert witness in many court cases, before legislatures and is the leading international expert in research on homeschooling.

I saw this posted in a recent magazine. It's probably worth checking out. [neptunenavigate.com](http://neptunenavigate.com)

[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

### Who is Jared Dodd?

Dodd is founder of Dodd Family Ministry and has been involved in the ministry for more than 20 years. He and his wife live in Texas with their nine children. He speaks on Apologetics, Family, Homeschooling, Discipleship and more. Some of his keynote addresses include: The Importance of Genesis, History of the Family, The Importance of Gender, A Challenge for Sons and Daughters, and God's Calling for Grandparents. Visit him at: <https://www.facebook.com/jareddodd.doddfamilyministry/> Or check out their homepage at <https://jareddodd.com/connect/>

**Jared Dodd is the keynote speaker at the NDHSA Convention, Feb.18-20, 2021**

Currently reading: *Fake Evidence* by Ron Milliner which takes a look at the evolutionary evidence for more than 90 years in the court cases from *Scopes* to *Kitzmiller*. Very interesting.

With [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](http://SchoolhouseTeachers.com), you don't need anything else. We offer [Preschool Playground](#) for the littles, and many options for the rest of your children all the way through [12<sup>th</sup> grade](#)! Science to language arts and everything in between, we've got you covered. Every subject, every grade, every student.

# Put this on your calendar!

**NDHSA**  
**Home Educators Convention**  
**Feb. 18-20, 2021**  
**Bismarck Event Center**

**Keynote Speaker: Jared Dodd**



- Inspiring speakers
- Teen sessions
- Children's workshops
- Kids' Program
- Used Book Sale
- Curriculum vendors
- ...and much more!

# Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

From the Fall 2020 issue of *The Old Schoolhouse* magazine.  
**SIX REASONS Why Colleges Recruit Homeschool Graduates:**

1. Homeschoolers are creative and independent thinkers.
2. Homeschoolers have genuine and passionate interests.
3. Homeschoolers demonstrate mature and responsible behavior.
4. Homeschoolers are motivated and self-directed learners.
5. Homeschoolers have social skills beyond their age group.
6. Homeschoolers achieve quality high school education.

Read the whole article at [www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com](http://www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com)

## NDHSA Board of Directors

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### NDHSA Statement of Faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

### Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

### NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

### The Eclectic Report

Gail M. Biby, editor

The *Eclectic Report* is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts and memberships of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com).

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for almost 30 years. She has served on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her: [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com) She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

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[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) Instagram link: <https://www.instagram.com/ndhsassociation/>

### North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

- 2014** Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund
- 2015** Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington
- 2016** Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer
- 2017** Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel
- 2018** Linus & Anna Evinger
- 2019** Dr. Brian Ray, the Sack-Headed Anonymous HSer
- 2020** Leroy and Ann Nelson, Greg Lange, esq.



# PRAYER

- **Beg God** for mercy for America!
- **PRAY** for those who are anxious about the corona virus and its ramifications. Pray for safety for our police officers during this time of riots and unrest.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen those who are weary; ask Him to renew the homeschooling mom's courage and perseverance. Pray for those who are thrust into the role of homeschooling. Pray for peace in the journey.
- **REMEMBER** the lost. If one dies apart from Christ, one is eternally lost...think about it. Speak to them.
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray we will be faithful, obedient, and willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **PRAY** for all who are confined in nursing homes and not allowed visits. What a harmful thing to do to our elderly.
- **ASK GOD** to give strength to Doug Berntson and daughters Angela and Charissa, after the death of Ruth. Long-time homeschoolers and convention vendors. Doug now resides at Villa Maria in Fargo.
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom.
- **PRAISE GOD** for Home School Legal Defense Association; for Daniel Beasley, HSLDA rep for ND; for their continued careful monitoring of federal legislation; for their continued work for homeschoolers.
- **REMEMBER** the suffering Church around the world. They are giving their lives for the sake of the Gospel. Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Cameroon, Sri Lanka. Pray for those in Beirut. Ask God to end the polio outbreaks in Africa due to the vaccine.