

## **Life-giving Community**

**A Shared Vision.** It was within the context of community that the early Church struggled with the implications of the “new wine” of the Christian faith. The “one heart and one mind” of Acts 4 suggests a shared vision that is also essential for the Christian school. It is as a direct result of living life with one another that we have identified our calling to provide a school, with a clear and vital mission. Additionally, we understand that every classroom is, itself, a community. Although distinct, these separate classrooms are connected by a common sense of purpose, in a climate that encourages open, honest communication, pursues justice, enforces personal and corporate discipline, and promotes genuine, Christ-like caring and compassion, with frequent occasions for celebration.

**Teachers as Leaders.** Franklin Christian Academy empowers teachers to be leaders. A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader; a great leader, however, inspires people to have confidence in themselves. This is our goal for every teacher as they become leaders for their students. We understand that as we work together within the school community, teachers not only instruct but also mentor their students, according to the New Testament pattern for Christian discipleship. A teacher cannot continually give without being “filled.” Therefore, teachers are given the time and resources to be professionally renewed. Consistent with this philosophy for leadership, the headmaster is the lead teacher, helping guide the academic community by inspiration rather than directive.

**Parents as Partners.** The school community extends beyond the classroom to embrace parents who are always viewed as the students’ first and most important teachers. A vital partnership is created between the home and school that is encouraged and strengthened at every opportunity. The behavior exhibited and choices made by students while away from the school campus will, therefore, necessitate responses from the school community to that behavior. The school’s partnership with parents is not limited to academic concerns or activities on school grounds or at school functions.