



Faith
Mission
Home

HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER | JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026



Amanda Johnson

MEET OUR STUDENTS

Let me introduce you to Amanda Johnson. Amanda is a fun-loving, outgoing young lady who thrives on the action and social life at the Bakeshop.

Amanda spends most of her day in the Bakeshop with an occasional morning or afternoon in the cottage classroom. Going to school includes academics, craft class, home ec, and assisting with tidying the guest house. Her favorite jobs in the Bakeshop are drying dishes, peeling bananas, prepping pans for the next bake day, and folding laundry.

In the evenings, you'll often find her relaxing on the couch with a good book. She always has a paper and a pen beside her to write down her favorite sentences or paragraphs from the story. She also loves listening to music. Her face will light up and she'll give an emphatic "yes!" if a song plays that she especially loves. Her current favorites are "With Wings as Eagles, and "Speak O Lord."

Amanda has a wonderful sense of humor and loves a good joke. Teasing and being teased seems to be her love language. She is often heard gasping "I mean it!" and "sooo funny" between fits of laughter. Amanda is very opinionated and isn't afraid to share her opinions with you. Whether it's about wearing hair bows, self-discipline, or child training, she has good observations and will share them with animated expressions and gestures.

Communication is challenging for Amanda. It's difficult for her to speak clearly and to verbalize what she's thinking. She is usually very patient with me and will sometimes laugh at my attempt to guess at what she's saying. I'm impressed with the persistence she has to keep trying even when it takes a lot of effort.

Even though Amanda faces challenges, she doesn't let them stop her from enjoying life. I'm reminded that we can choose to have joy and make the most out of what we've been given.

Emily Beiler | Cottage Supervisor | East Earl, PA

EVENTS



THANKSGIVING DAY
Nov 27



CHRISTMAS DAY
Dec 25



CHRISTMAS VACATION
Dec 20 - Jan 3



WEDDINGS
Nov 8 - Benji Stoltzfus & Dianna Landis
Nov 21 - Eugene Beiler & Kendra Stoltzfus



FAREWELLS
Nov 21 - Josh Weaver



It is said that one is never too old to learn something new. Don't believe that? Come to Faith Mission Home for any length of time, and you will probably be convinced otherwise. My time at Faith Mission Home has taught me, if nothing else, how much there is to learn.

I learned the beauty of doing for others what they cannot do for themselves. I learned that Jeff dislikes salsa and Chrissy loves chocolate with an equal passion. I learned how to teach C School classes to twelve students every day. A little later, I learned how to keep Motor Skills classes from descending into chaos, but also that despite my best efforts, they would sometimes do exactly that. I learned that some of the best things in life are Nicole's hugs, Wesley's random questions, Bitty's big smiles, Cheyenne's laughter, and Markie energetically singing "Blessed Assurance". I learned that with the right group of friends, anything can be a party; cleaning the staff house, hoeing corn, doing firewood, processing hundreds of quarts of sweet corn or apple sauce, or labeling the Highlights. I learned that some of my most treasured memories are not only the fun and easy things such as sledding parties, intense games of Spikeball or Marble Chase, and epic days off to Virginia Beach, Baltimore, DC, and Lancaster, but also the tough days in my classroom, the hard moments in Girls' End, or the unwanted scenes in the dining room, because they taught me to rely on God, not myself. I learned to be extra grateful for the beautiful moments of life, and to enjoy the tiny details like the mist on the mountains, a fresh chocolate chip cookie, a walk in the snow, or blowing bubbles in the sunshine. But most of all, I learned in a new way that God's grace is always there, and that when I cannot keep going on my own strength, He sustains me with His. I discovered that patience and compassion are never wasted, and that joy is a daily choice.

Faith Mission and the dear students I was privileged to teach have impacted my life forever. I have loved learning alongside every one of the staff and students I worked with. Keep on learning and growing!

Emily Sauder | Motor Skills Classroom | Drayton, ON

FAREWELL THOUGHTS

GROUP SPOTLIGHT



D-GIRLS WITH LADONNA NISSLEY

Cheyenne Furrer. Christine Coley. Dinah Brunk

"PRAISE THE LORD, I TELL YOU!"

- NICOLE KONTOS

STUDENT QUOTE

A DAY AT THE MASTER SHOP

Well, good morning, and welcome to the Mastershop. I would like to give you a little tour of what we do here. The Mastershop opens for the day at 8 AM. As I get to the shop, I wonder sometimes what the day will bring. You never know who will stop by to visit for a bit or ask, "Can you make this?" The answer is of course, we are the Mastershop and we'll see what we can do. We work on a variety projects, including foosball tables, marble chase games, clocks, cabinets, scaled replicas of the Gutenberg press, wall art, etc.

The Oakridge boys have had their breakfast by now, and they usually show up between 8:10 and 8:15 AM. This is a special time to interact with them. They like to inform you about what they had for supper and what happened on the late shift the night before.

When Tom comes in, he sets his "bombs" (matchbox cars) at strategic spots, gets the broom, and faithfully sweeps the steps going down to the basement, which he has done since 1985.

Jeff carries around his crossword puzzle book and lets me know what page he is working on. He also has one eye on his watch to let me know, "It's probably about time to go to Cedar Spring's, right?"

Alex is out in the chicken house giving the chickens their morning ration of food. Alex also enjoys coming up to you and acting like he wants to arm wrestle. Of course, we need to make sure he knows who is the strongest.

Bob is content to watch the rest of the world go by until all of a sudden, the air compressor comes on and away he goes, descending the steps to watch the compressor run. Bob enjoys listening to the noises of the generator and compressor.

9:00 o'clock rolls around and away go the boys to Cedar Springs for their daily classes. Several days a week, they head up the hill to the barn for Barn Class. On these days they show up back at the shop around 11:30. Lunch break is from 12:00-1:30.

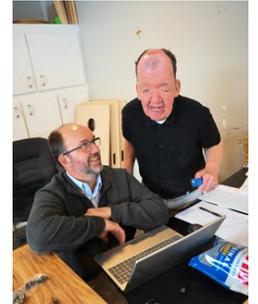
1:30 finds us back in the shop again with the boys busy doing their afternoon chores. Bob and Alex collect drinking water from the spring and deliver it in their little wagon to several spots on campus. Meanwhile, Jeff gathers the eggs and washes them. When Bob and Alex come back from the water route, Bob goes and smashes boxes for recycling, while Alex is making sure the chickens have had their supply of feed for the rest of the day.

After the boys have done their chores, they come back in and help out in the shop such as sweeping or vacuuming the floors and getting wood for the furnace. At times, they can help hold or carry a piece of wood for you if you need an extra hand.

The boys will then be in the shop with us until 4:00, when Alex, Jeff, and Bob walk the dog. Tom goes down to the house to shower. When the rest of the boys come back, which is about 4:30, they head down to the house to get ready for supper and a relaxed evening.

Well, it's 5 o'clock now and it is time for me to go home now also.

Lester Swartzentruber | Oakridge Houseparent | Chesapeake, VA



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FAITH MISSION HOME

3540 Mission Home Lane, Free Union, VA 22940

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHARLOTTESVILLE,
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NEW STAFF PROFILES



Keturah Yoder
MONTEZUMA, GA
12.08.2004
MICHAEL & KATHY



Joel Peachey
DYKE, VA
04.03.2005
IVAN & KAY



Serena Beachy
HUNTLAND, TN
08.07.2003
ALFRED & JUANITA



Megan Swartzentruber
FREE UNION, VA
04.02.2005
LESTER & MIRIAM



Caleb Butts
FREE UNION, VA
08.01.2004
STEPHEN & KATHERINE



Rosalee Stoltzfus
POCOMOKE, MD
09.30.2004
JAY IVAN & RUTH ANN