



# CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

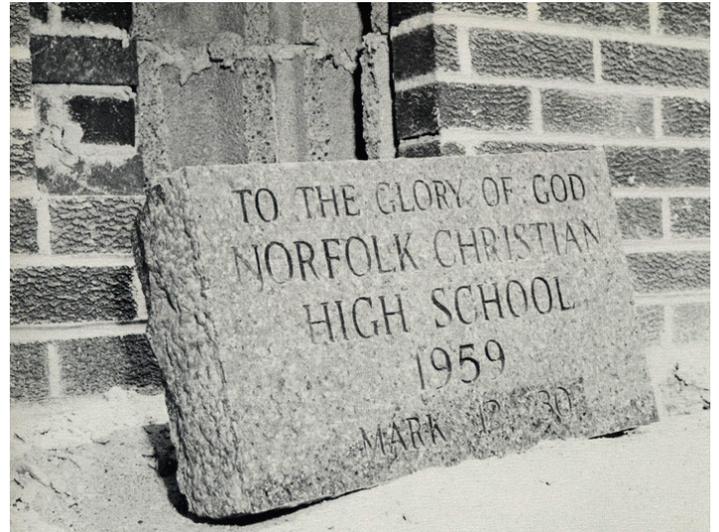
## Faith + Vision + Sacrifice = Miracle

That was the mantra of Reverend John Dunlap, Pastor of Tabernacle Church of Norfolk, when he felt God's leading to start a Christian School in the early 1950s. Although only five Christian schools existed in Virginia at the time, God had burdened him with the need for quality education in an unapologetically Christ-centered environment. When John Dunlap felt God's calling, questions like "How?" or "Where?" did not get in his way. Instead, he boldly and prayerfully shared the vision that had gripped him with his community.

Thus, Norfolk Christian Grammar School was born in 1952, with 76 students, 5 staff and a budget of \$13,070. In 1953, Pastor Gene Garrick joined as the first NCS principal and the partnership between two men of extreme faith and conviction began. Under their leadership, Norfolk Christian would grow to 350 students over the next decade, seeing a new High School built on Thole Street in 1959, and an inaugural class of 10 graduates receive their diplomas in 1963.

A heart for missions was deeply ingrained in these faithful men, which manifested itself as they forged both local and global relationships in the coming years. The introduction of "World Missions Week" at Norfolk Christian in the 1960s would have far-reaching impact worldwide and serve as a foundation for the lasting NCS vision to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

In 1980, God called John Dunlap home, leaving in his place a legacy of faith and perseverance, which Gene Garrick carried on with the same fervor as his dear friend. One cannot deny that the principal laid out by a young, visionary pastor in the 1950s, and carried forward by a brother passionate about the same mission, was ordained and blessed by God. The faith of many great servants, the vision for bringing excellence to Christian education, and



*The cornerstone placed at the new High School in 1959.*

the sacrifices of countless parents and supporters over the years, have all brought us to the miracle that is Norfolk Christian today. Dr. Dunlap's formula rings true.

Now, in our sixty-fifth year, it is a privilege to be entrusted with that vision from so long ago. Although everything has changed since John Dunlap presented the idea of a Christian school, our mission remains the same - to send students into the world who love God and are equipped to be Ambassadors for Christ, wherever He may take them. This is our most important task.

As we approach the next sixty-five years, we remember the phrase Gene Garrick said so many times: "Where God's finger points, He will always make a way." That has certainly been true at Norfolk Christian, made possible largely by the reckless abandon with which these two men served their Lord. And as we look back with gratitude on their faithfulness, we strain our eyes toward the future, eagerly seeking how God will continue to use His Ambassadors to grow His kingdom in the years to come, until that day of His glorious return.