

About Mrs. Hayden

I was born in Charleston, WV. At the age of 2, my family moved to South Bend, IN. No one in our family was saved. Thankfully, daddy thought it was important to take my older brother and sister and I to church. He would get up, make us “daddy cakes” (the world’s best pancakes) and then take us and drop us off at church. He would even remember to come back and pick us up, but he didn’t go with us. I loved to go to church. I would sit in our children’s church services and listen to the stories. My favorite thing was to listen to a chapter of a *Sugar Creek Gang* book every week.

Unfortunately, I never wrote down the date that I was saved, but I do remember where I was and who was with me. We had a church library and the pastor’s wife, Mrs. Hammond, led me to the Lord while we were sitting in the library. I remember crying because I knew that I was a sinner and that I deserved to go to hell. Mrs. Hammond went over with me the fact that God loved me so much that He sent his son, Jesus Christ to earth, born as a baby. Jesus lived a sinless life on this earth and lived on this earth 33 years before He was horribly crucified on the cross for the sins of Beth Shearer (my maiden name). Jesus was buried and He rose again the third day. Now He is in heaven preparing a place for me to spend an incredibly, incomprehensible, perfect eternity.

My brother and sister came to know the Lord about the same time I did. If my memory serves me correctly, we were all baptized together in October of my third grade year. My parents did start attending church with us. We became a faithful church going family. I praise the Lord that eventually my mom and dad were both saved. My dad is now with Lord in heaven.

Fifth grade was the first year I was privileged to attend a Christian school. For three years I attended Brethren Christian School in Osceola, IN. After my seventh grade year my family moved to Raleigh, NC. Unfortunately, my parents put me in public school. I did not enjoy my eighth and first half of ninth grade. My dad found a Christian school for me. Half way through my ninth grade year I began attending Friendship Christian Schools. I graduated from Friendship in 1982.

The Lord led to me Bob Jones University in the fall of ’82. I graduated in 1986 with a degree in Elementary Education. That same summer I married Roger

Hayden. We moved to Atlanta where I taught 1st grade at Cornerstone Christian School in Stone Mountain, GA. After teaching 1st grade I worked with 7th and 8th grade remedial math students at Stone Mountain Jr. High.

In 1991 Roger and I moved to Sumter, SC. I was 7 months pregnant with my first child at the time. In August of 1991 Katie was born and I was able to stay home and be a mom to Katie and eventually my son, Tanner. In the fall of '95 Roger took a job as controller at the Butterball Turkey Plant in Wallace, NC. We decided to live 40 miles away from Wallace for one primary reason – Wilmington Christian Academy. My husband and I felt Christian Education for our children was a priority and our oldest was getting ready to start kindergarten.

That fall Katie started kindergarten here at WCA and I began my first year teaching here at WCA. I taught 5th grade. At the end of the school year I gave birth to my third child, Erin. I again quit work to be a stay at home mom. While Erin was young I was able to substitute here at the academy and also work for half a year in a Reading Lab.

In the fall of 2001 I came back to teaching. I taught Kindergarten during the 2001-2002 school year. After a year in kindergarten I moved up to 2nd grade. I taught 2nd grade for three years. When Mrs. Dotson came on board as the elementary principal, I moved out of the classroom and into the office where I worked as Mrs. Dotson's secretary for 4 years. I started teaching again at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Dotson and I thought I would be teaching first grade, which was a favorite grade of mine, but the Lord had other plans. Shortly before the school year started the need for a first grade teacher disappeared, but the need for a third grade teacher appeared. Mrs. Dotson felt I was up to the task and I became a third grade teacher. The Lord truly knows best. I had a great year in third grade. I am really looking forward to teaching third grade this year.

I have been employed by Wilmington Christian Academy for 10 years and have children in this school for 15 years. I am truly blessed to be a part of this ministry. My desire for your child this year is for them to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. I want them to grow in the Lord and to be able to go out and spread the Good News that Jesus Christ died for us.