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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harvest Community School to Offer Education Alternative *Harvest Community School (HCS) will offer grades 1-6 following an educational model that applies the benefits of homeschooling in a classroom setting.*

On August 26, Harvest Community School (HCS) will open its doors to students in grades 1-6 following an educational model that applies the benefits of homeschooling in a classroom setting. HCS will offer a rigorous, classic education for children who might not be finding a good fit in other education modalities. Students at HCS will be divided into two groups, based on the historical “one-room schoolhouse” setting. Grades 1-3 will be known as the primary class; grades 4-6 will be the elementary class. A multi-age setting allows children with scattered abilities to work at their own level.

The group has recently completed the purchase of the property and building at 10 Duke Street in Summerton. Once the site of a now defunct charter school, the building has already met all the state requirements for a school (handicap access, separate restroom facilities for boys and girls, sprinkler system) and can easily accommodate up to about 50 students. The primary class and the elementary class will have their own rooms.

Founded by Angie Bruner, Shea Failmezger and Tammy Glaser, HCS will follow the model of a Charlotte Mason school. Charlotte Mason (1842-1923) was a British educator who invested her life in improving the quality of education in England. Her revolutionary methods led to a shift from utilitarian education to the education of a child based upon living ideas. Her educational methods have inspired a new generation of teachers to found schools based on her methods across the nation. This style of education is widely popular with homeschoolers.

“Charlotte Mason education is based on self-discovery, and children are allowed to gain valuable mental habits and knowledge, not be lectured,” said Bruner, who will serve as headmaster. “We have a ten-year plan that includes adding a grade each year so that eventually we will have a curriculum through 12th grade. However, we do not intend to ever be a ‘big’ school.”

“We are excited about the location,” said Glaser, who has served as a speaker at national Charlotte Mason conferences. “It already has a pond. We plan to plant a

butterfly habitat and a vegetable garden. Hands-on nature study is a big part of our science curriculum.” Glaser, who is heading up curricula planning and teacher training, explained that the school will offer classical literature, intensive year-long historical period study across the disciplines of reading, writing, science and social studies, music and art; and of course, mathematics.

“We believe that HCS will offer an important alternative to parents who seek a different kind of education for their children,” said Failmezger, who is a credentialed educator and currently homeschools all of her school-aged children in this method. “Jesus taught all his disciples through parables, history and stories,” Failmezger added. “We believe that education is the way we offer ideas about character to our children. We do that through great literature, daily storytelling and thoughts oriented toward God.”

“Traditional education uses memorization to gain knowledge and then assesses achievement by how the students can recall what they have memorized,” said Glaser. “We believe that memory is the residue of thought — we remember what we think deeply about. Children are assessed by how they internalize and express what they have studied across the disciplines.”

HCS is an overtly Christian-based school, though children of all faiths are welcome and no parent is asked to sign a statement of faith. HCS is collaborating with the S.C. Association of Christian Schools to meet their standards of accreditation.

An ice cream social for interested parents will be held at 7 p.m., July 18 at New Covenant Presbyterian Church. For additional information, contact Angie Bruner at (803) 574-1004.

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