

# COACHES HONOR

CHRISTMAS 2016

## NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT: CHIP STROUD,

ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND  
HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT EPISCOPAL HIGH SCHOOL

The Tuesday night before Thanksgiving, our bid for a perfect season went out the window. We were 1-0 and traveled about an hour away only to come up 11 points short. I didn't feel like we gave our best effort at all. We just weren't good. Halftime was interesting to say the least. Standing in a timeout late in the game with our coaches, we didn't have much to say other than, "We need to learn from this." We had practice the next morning to try and fix it, drill it, and get better.

Sports and Jesus have a great correlation. Statements like "be better," "try harder," and "hope that is good enough," are all I heard playing basketball and growing up in church. I never truly understood the love of our Father as a young kid. I never felt like I gave the effort needed or read my Bible enough.

Fast forward 15 years later to 2011 and my first season as a head coach at Episcopal. I'll never forget my first meeting with Wink. He reminded me (and still does) that the scoreboard in basketball and my scoreboard with Jesus are two completely different things. **While I think my basketball team needs to "do more" and "practice better" to win, I am reminded this time of the year especially, that I don't have to do more to gain the approval of Jesus. He sees**

**me as perfect.** For a coach, that usually takes a while to sink in. My entire athletic career has been extra practice and doing more. Yet the Gospel reminds me all the time that I don't have to do anything, it's already been done. He has defeated death for me, and I already have the W on the scoreboard. So me, the controlling coach, doesn't have to earn the love of Jesus? As prideful as I am, that is tough to accept. Yet, as a husband, parent, and coach, that is the most refreshing news ever.

Hopefully by the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, you have been to a holiday party and we have won 5 or 6 straight games. I know there's no guarantee in that, but there is guarantee that Jesus came for you. The best part of that is you don't have to keep practicing or trying harder to gain His love. **He loves us more than we can imagine.**

Merry Christmas! Go Eagles!

- Chip Stroud



Chip with his wife, Bridgett,  
daughter, Lauren, and baby girl  
#2 on the way



Chip meeting with Wink



Chip coaching the Eagles

## WILD & WONDERFUL WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Our Annual Wild & Wonderful Women's Weekend is coming up! The weekend will be February 17-19 in Atlantic Beach. The cost is \$150 (until January 16), and we recommend that you sign up as soon as possible to reserve your spot. The retreat is capped at 100 women, so sign up today! To sign up, visit [coacheshonor.org/women-s-retreat](http://coacheshonor.org/women-s-retreat).

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS - ANNUAL DINNER - WHAT A NIGHT!

Thanks to everyone who helped make the COACHES HONOR Annual Dinner such a success! Thank you to those who sponsored tables, gave donations, pledged support, attended the dinner, and invited friends & family to join us! We are so thankful for those of you who have partnered with us over the years and also for those of you who are new to the COACHES HONOR family. We are overwhelmed by the continued support that you so generously give!



Merry Christmas!  
From: Wink,  
Reina, Jake, &  
Tracey

## PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING A SPECIAL YEAR END GIFT TO COACHES HONOR!

Dear COACHES HONOR Family,

Our COACHES HONOR Board would like to thank you for your love, support, and belief in this unique ministry. As we approach the new year, we ask that you please consider giving a special Year End Gift to help us meet our end-of-the-year budget.

If you would like to send in a Year End Gift, you can do so online at [www.coacheshonor.org](http://www.coacheshonor.org) or by sending donations to P.O. Box 51139, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240.