

BENEFIELD HALL
20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
TRAVIS CAVALIER REMARKS
OCTOBER 18, 2018

In 1969, Mrs. Tiggie Bennefield had an idea that would change St Simons Island forever. She approached her husband, Dewey, and told him that she would like to see a middle school on St. Simons so that children would not have to go over to Brunswick when they got to middle school age. Mr. and Mrs. Benefield got to work.



On August 31, 1970, Frederica Academy opened its doors. This new school welcomed 108 students in grades K-8. The only part that didn't fulfill Tiggie's dream was that the school was located at the old hospital building on the south end of Brunswick. So the Benefields, teachers, and parents kept working on phase 2 of their project. The school was growing and had lots of support. The Sea Island Company generously gave 25 acres of land on St Simons for school development. On December 20, 1974, the new Frederica Academy building was dedicated right here where we are standing now. Soon after, thanks to generous donations from many people including Joel Bartlett and the Candler family, a new gym and sports complex was added.

Tremendous growth of the school followed thanks to the leadership and dedication of the Benefields. This included completing Mrs. Benefield's dream of a dedicated middle school building which was dedicated in October 1998.

Every day, this school makes new memories for its students and teachers. Some of the oldest memories are, Coach Willis' small gang. Mrs. Smith's "getting whipped on the back of the hand." Some of my favorite memories here at Frederica include pirate day, our trip to Camp Ebenezer, and some cool football games at recess, even the one when I broke my wrist.

Thank you for listening. Here is Mary Wallace Champion.