



by Jackie Perrone

# Scott Crede

Scott Crede has been involved in the leadership at Northside Baptist Church since 2001 and is still amazed at the growth and changes he has witnessed there. He wears two hats these days, one as administrative pastor at the large church and the other as head of schools and co-founder of Northside Christian Academy. He finds himself interacting with 700 students at the school, along with the 3000-plus members of the church, on a daily basis, and he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I was enjoying a nice career in business at the R. L. Bryan Company in Columbia," he says, "when I felt the call to go into ministry. It was a big change in our lives, something we've been thankful for ever since." After completing his studies at Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta, Scott found himself back in his home town of Lexington and on the staff at Northside Baptist. It's been a fast-accelerating journey ever since.

Northside Baptist was a thriving Christian congregation in its West Columbia location on Highway 378, but, with its gymnasium and family-life center, it had just about maxed out the space available there. The energetic congregation put its hands and its pledges to work and bought a large tract of forested land closer to Lexington on the same street. Seven years ago, in 2011, the dream of a private Christian school became a reality, and Scott Crede is leading it into constant expansion.

"We now have two campuses," he says, "the second being our Early Education Center on Kitti Wake Drive. Two years ago, we added a basketball court at the school, and construction is under way now for facilities for football, baseball, and soccer, which will be ready for the next school year. Longer range, we will be building a sanctuary on the front of the Academy property. We have been greatly blessed."

Scott Crede's activities are not limited to his church and school work. He has served his community in many ways. He has been on the Boards for Vision Ventures, USC Gamecock Gallery, USC Visitors, Columbia Museum of Art, and Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties. He was named to Leadership Columbia as well as Leadership South Carolina and has coached youth baseball and basketball teams.

Scott has been married to his wife Tracey for 27 years, and she now serves on the staff at Northside Academy. They have two children, Garrett, 25, now living in Charleston, and Jessica, 22, who lives in Lexington. ■

