Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN



Habitat Build at Bethany

Bethany
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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Learning That Lasts

Cover photo: Aaron Yeakey ('21) and maintenance director Brent Miller ('81, S12-) work together on a Habitat for Humanity Panel Build hosted by Bethany.

Following Christ

When I started attending Bethany, faith became a part of my everyday life, not just an afterthought of Sunday mornings. In the past year though, I began to question, "What does it mean to be a Christian?"

Galatians 5:6 has been a crucial verse because it debunks the lies that we tell ourselves. It doesn't really matter what we accomplish, what others think of us, or what we have. All that matters is that we wholeheartedly try our best to do what's right in a way that is genuinely based on faith in God.

I have felt a lot of pressure to nail down what God's plan is for me. I confused myself by looking narrowly at the best career to pursue and best place to go. Finding God's will is a lot easier than I was making it to be and is incredibly broad. Look within yourself and ask others for their perception of you and go from there.



Philip Krabill plans to participate in Anabaptist-Mennonite Biblical Seminary's !Explore program this summer to grow in his faith and to test a career in pastoring. He then plans to attend Eastern Mennonite University and study 1) Peacebuilding and Development and 2) Bible, Religion, and Theology.

Community and Suffering

Community is a huge part of my faith and Bethany has been a big part of why I think community is important. Community is where I have seen God at work the most, found unconditional love, and grown in faith. A community should care as much about you as you care about it.

My view of suffering has changed since the death of classmate KeShawn Smith in February. At first I found it hard to forgive God, but through Bible class discussions

From the Head of School

Many in my generation bemoan the fact that young people don't appear to be interested in anything but their phones. They think of Generation Z (those born between the mid 1990s and mid 2000s) as entitled, unfocused, anxious, and unprepared for adulthood. Christians worry about the future of the church, and employers lament a lost work ethic.

However, those of us who interact with youth every day have a very different perspective. We see students who want to make a positive impact on their world. They believe strongly in justice, are technologically advanced, and understand how interconnected we are with each other and the world. They understand the interplay and necessary balance between faith, life, and work.

This issue of the *Bulletin* highlights excerpts of Senior Faith Statements, which offer glimpses of students wrestling with how God is at work in their lives and in the lives of others. Each has a unique understanding of what it means to be a Christ follower in today's world, to have a Faith that Lives.

Elsewhere in the *Bulletin*, we see how Bethany's academic program, infused with biblical teachings, prepares our students to be active participants in the church and community.

As Bible teacher Dale Shenk noted in his commencement address, our students are "ready to take a seat at the table." They are prepared for college, they are prepared for active engagement in the church, and they are prepared to lead lives of meaning and purpose.

—Tim Lehman



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Faith That Lives

I began to understand that suffering has nothing to do with God choosing someone to suffer, but happens because our world has problems. I'm finding it easier to talk to God again and instead of asking why, I ask, "what now?"



Emma Bontrager plans to study pre-med at Goshen College. She says, "I want to go into medicine not only because I find it fascinating, but also because I want to be able to volunteer at places like Healing and Hope or Doctors without Borders. I want to find a community that I can be a part of and serve."

Finding God's Will

Growing up my life was split into two parts: 1) church and home and 2) school. So coming to Bethany was a culture shock as I went from a secular school in which speaking about faith was almost fundamentally wrong to a Christian school where speaking about faith was encouraged.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 is on the inside cover of my Bible and for the past four years I have tried to understand how it is possible to be righteous, godly, and have great faith. During a mission trip to Haiti, I met people who literally had nothing (economically) compared to me, yet they had more joy than I and a great belief that God is good and has a plan. I remember yelling at the sky, "What do you want with me God?"

I found my answer in Bible class discussion on God's will. God has blessed me with many gifts and I am therefore called to further his kingdom with those gifts wherever I end up. Marvel's Spider-Man states, "with great power comes great responsibility."



Evan Brown plans to study business management and leadership at Bethel University. He says, "My goal is to bridge the gap between those educated in business who do not understand religious concepts and those motivated for mission who may not have necessary business tools."

Sharing Time and Resources

Growing up I learned that faith is active. My family focused time and resources towards service rather than having the newest things, which helped shape in me the importance of serving others rather than self. Colossians 3:23-24 has been important in understanding that joy comes not from a luxurious life, but from blessing others and serving the Lord.

During a Bible class assignment on global wealth, I wondered if I would be considered a rich man—and if so would it be hard for me to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? I realized that having lots of money can be both good and bad; what matters is not how much wealth we have, but what we do with it. Money can be evil when it is at the root of our motivation to use for our own selfish desires, but can be good when viewed as God's gift to us to share and bless others.



Cedric Brenneman plans to attend Grace College to major in exercise science and play soccer. He says, "I am fascinated by how complex God has created us and look forward to learning more about human performance and the amazing things our bodies can do."

Trusting God as Protector

In school I felt lonely in my Catholic faith until I transferred to Bethany as a junior and learned to talk about my faith and to trust God more. He has a plan for all of us. Sometimes I may not be able to see it, but other times it's obvious.

I view God as a protector, but do not believe he keeps us away from suffering. Those are two different things to me. Romans 8:28 does not mean that God does good things for us, but that he does things for our good.



Meg Heinisch plans to study accounting at Indiana University and hopes to work for an organization whose mission is to help others.

Senior Faith Statements

Each senior's final Bible assignment is to share his or her faith journey, present beliefs, and future dreams/plans in class, chapel, or a group setting outside school. On pages 2 and 3 are excerpts from five presentations shared in church, school (chapel), or home (with parents, pastors, and friends).

Learning That Lasts

Interterm

During one week in March, students take special interest courses that provide additional opportunities for creative learning and travel and that draw upon the expertise, interests, and passion of their teachers. Read more at bethanycs.net/interterm.

Interterm Students Study Civil Rights in Deep South

Course highlights:

Sunday: Walked the streets in Louisville, Ky., learning how the civil rights movement impacted the city.

Monday: In Atlanta, Ga., learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Tuesday: Visited the Children's March in Birmingham, Ala., and then the memorial of those who were killed for fighting for equal rights in Montgomery, Ala.

Wednesday: Visited the Lynching Memorial and Legacy Museum to understand what the costs were for protesting equal rights or simply being of a different race. Walked across the bridge in Selma, where protesters were violently arrested in 1965.

Thursday: Visited with the deputy mayor of Philadelphia, Miss., near the site of the Freedom Summer murders. Stayed at the Mashulaville Dormitory and met hosts Larry and Maxine (Kauffman '64) Miller and a local high school senior, Cortes, to hear about their life in the Deep South.

Naomi Torres (center with camera): This trip has connected me to places, events, and people in the civil rights movement that I have studied in class. Meeting people from these places narrowed the boundary of a "us" and "them" way of thinking. At the Lynching Memorial, I strongly sympathized with the many young people—some my age—who were killed simply for being a different color. That moment caused me to move beyond the facts to reflect on the emotional side of what happened.

Peace Muhagachi: I really appreciate having the opportunity to have tough discussions with my friends. This trip sparked important dialogue that would not have taken place had we not been put in intense and sometimes uncomfortable situations, where we had to accept the truth about a lot of terrible things that took place. This interterm did a great job of paving the way for us students to become more knowledgeable about history [in the Deep South] as it greatly impacts their present as well as their futures.

Andrew Hoang: My favorite part of the trip was the interaction with people, not just my friends and teachers, but especially the people we met who willingly shared their thoughts and experiences. This is significant to me because [as a person of mixed race] racism is a sensitive topic and many times people are afraid to ask questions. Talking and listening to my classmates was a great opportunity for me.

Malachi Lind: The Lynching Memorial touched me in a personal way. Looking at the statue symbolizing slavery shocked me. I can't imagine what life would have been like [for me] in the 1960s. It was difficult to read the names of the people who were lynched. This is what happened to my ancestors. Now I am living an easier life in a way. It's sad that people were lynched and couldn't be identified. The main reason is the color of their skin. I still think about going through the memorial and seeing all those names. It will be a moment I will never forget about African-American history—let alone what is still going on to others today.



Visiting the King Center in Atlanta: Sarah Hochstetler, Naomi Torres, Malachi Lind, Naomi Klassen, and teacher Josh Weaver.

Faith That Lives

Film, Food, Philosophy, and Faith Interterm

by Clara Lind ('20)

While we spent a lot of time watching movies, we also spent time talking and thinking—particularly about what it means to be a hero. Using the movies we watched as an avenue for this, we discussed who the heroes were in each of the movies based on their role and actions.

Interestingly, the heroes usually weren't who we expected. This led to discussions about heroes in faith and in real life. For me, this was a new lens to watch movies through, and the discussions that came out of it were relevant to me.

Another daily activity was baking bread together. The kitchen was a little crowded and hectic, but it became a routine that was a lot of fun. We learned skills, such as how to properly knead dough, and all participated in an experience that was difficult because it required a lot of patience.

I particularly enjoyed getting to know people whom I don't often spend time with. Our activities—such as baking bread, shopping together for groceries, and making short films—provided fun ways to interact and get to know people in a very different setting than we are usually in at school.

Habitat for Humanity Panel Build and Interterm

On Saturday, March 16, Bethany hosted a Habitat for Humanity Panel Build. In less than four hours, over 50 students, faculty, family, and alumni built panels for a 1,421 square-foot home for Guadalupe Gonzalez and her four children. Pictured below is the second shift.

In the weeks leading up to the build, students raised more than $10,000 to help with the cost of materials. Fifth-grader Erin Floriana, the top student fundraiser, is pictured with a model house that students created, adding layers of blocks as funds came in.

During the following week, March 18-22, an Interterm group worked onsite at another Habitat home in Elkhart. Pictured at right are sophomores Tatiana Goertzen, Ana Yoder, and Tyson Miller.







Campus News

Commencement 2019

"Are you ready?" asked commencement speaker Dale Shenk in his address "Tables or Desks" to the class of 2019 at Bethany Christian High School's 65th commencement on May 26.

Shenk, who teaches Bible at Bethany, noted how their sitting at round tables—rather than desks—in his class provided no "front" or clearly defined personal "territory." Instead they were forced to engage with their table community and be ready to deal with the messiness of others and work together. As they leave Bethany, he charged them to continue to "Be ready. Take a seat at the table. Heal the world."



Seniors listen to commencement address by Bible teacher Dale Shenk (below).



Senior speakers Rachel Leininger and Alistair Tollar noted how the tight-knit Bethany community has instilled in them a value for service and provided opportunities to grow in faith. Rachel said, "Service is an important way to show love and care for our community. Alistair added, "Hearing inspiring stories from classmates in chapel and discussing our own faith journeys in Bible encouraged our spiritual growth."

The class gift was a donation towards purchasing tables for use at fish fry. Seniors recessed while singing "Go Now in Peace," and as a parting gift from Bethany each received a ceramic mug made by art teacher and class sponsor Eric Kaufmann.

Most of the 27 graduates plan to enter college: 7 to Mennonite colleges, 7 to other Christian colleges, and 9 to other colleges/universities. Two plan to serve, one with Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure and one with Americorp. Two are undecided or planning to work.



Fourth graders studying Potawatomi culture in Indiana History plant a three-sisters garden, learning how corn, beans, and squash/pumpkins help each other grow and together provide a balanced diet.

Bethany expanded its garden this spring to include new areas, thanks in part to a $2,000 grant from Whole Kids Foundation, which helps schools "turn outdoor spaces into powerful hands-on learning gardens that connect kids with food, spark their curiosity, and support classroom curriculum."

The garden is part of Bethany's Farm-to-School initiative which not only provides fresh locally-grown food for student lunches, but uses compost from food waste and biodegradable items such as napkins.

New Employees



Daniel Mast ('06) is Bethany's varsity boys basketball coach. Daniel was a three-year varsity letterwinner under longtime Bruin coach Jim Buller. Since then he has coached at various levels at six different schools across three states, most recently serving as a varsity assistant at Goshen High School.



Katie Hurst ('14) began in June as marketing and communication manager. A graduate of Goshen College (communication and peace and justice studies), Katie served as a public affairs intern at Disney World for one year and then managed internal communications at Everence prior to joining Bethany.

Alumni News

Deaths

See online obituaries at bethanycs.net/alumni/obits

Erma (Kauffman '56) Swartzendruber Stutzman, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 18, 2019.

Janet (Yoder '57) Judy, Millersburg, Ind., Apr. 28, 2019.

Marge (Lengacher '59) Potts, Fort Wayne, Ind., Apr. 19, 2019.

Dwight Grieser ('61, Board'78-84), Goshen, Feb. 25, 2019.

Betty (Bontrager '62) Slabach Hite, Goshen, Dec. 21, 2018.

David A. Bontrager ('63), Elnora, Ind., Feb. 24, 2019.

Judy E. (Yoder '66) Bontrager, Rochester, Ind, March 23, 2019.

Janlee (Horst '67) Graber, Portage, Mich., Feb. 12, 2019, in Sarasota, Fla.

Dennis L. Weaver ('70, F91-96, Board '73-85), Goshen, Jan. 27, 2019.

Carl Chupp (S'87-97), Goshen, March 29, 2019.

Births

Lisa ('03 Byler) and William **Courts**, Goshen, son Isaiah Davi, Feb. 9, 2019.

Brenna (Steury '03) and Brad **Graber**, Goshen, daughter Margo, May 23, 2019.

Monica (Cender '05) and Kyler **Kearby,** Warsaw Ind., son Paxton Lee, Jan. 24, 2019.

Charity (Grimes '05) and Matthew **Bauman**, Chicago, Ill., daughter Lena Marie, Sept. 28, 2018.

Emily (Shantz '05) and Jarod ('05) Huffman, Dothan, Ala., daughter Theodora, Dec. 21, 2018.

Collette (Weaver '08) and Weston ('08) Troyer, Goshen, son Reid Thomas, Dec. 17, 2018.

Lynelle (Yoder '09) and Josh **Hofer**, Freeman, S.D., son Gideon Todd, May 22, 2019.

Alyson (Kilmer '12) and John ('09) Leatherman, Elkhart, Ind., son Luke Thomas, Feb. 19, 2019.

Stephanie (S95-) and Darrell **Shover**, Syracuse, Ind., adopted daughter Ember Ivy, born Apr. 14, 2018.

Marriages

Conrad Burkholder ('91) and Jen Marr, Kokomo, Ind., July 28, 2018.

Joshua Leinbach ('04) and Erin Miller, Goshen, Feb. 23, 2019.

Notes

Denise Risser ('89, S'00-19), Goshen, resigned as administrative assistant at Bethany after 19 years. She will serve as a volunteer with Mennonite Disaster Service this summer in South Carolina.

Jameson Kısmet Bell ('96) is an assistant professor of western languages and literatures at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey.

Peter Hartman ('98) is an assistant professor of philosophy at Loyola University Chicago with a primary interest in medieval philosophy of mind and metaphysics.

Landon Yoder ('99) will begin in August as an assistant professor at Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Joe Hartman ('03ng) is an assistant professor of art history and Latinx and Latin American studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In April he released his first book, "Dictator's Dreamscape: How Architecture and Vision Built Machado's Cuba and Invented Modern Havana."

Kari Heusinkveld ('08) was awarded the E. Wayne Cooley "You Can" Award by the Iowa Girls Coaches Association for her work in rebuilding the Iowa Mennonite girls basketball program.

Johnny Kauffman ('09) covered Georgia elections for National Public Radio last fall and now has been named a 2019-20 fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard.

Jonathan Mark ('09) graduated in May from Duke Divinity School.

Sam Carlson ('12) joined Chicago Coalition for Homeless in May as research and outreach manager, working in the business and faith communities on public policy and advocacy.

Malaina Weldy ('12) graduated in May 2019 summa cum laude from the University of Notre Dame Law School with her Juris Doctor (JD) and magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business with her Masters in Business Administration (MBA). She will begin her professional career as an attorney in Grand Rapids, Mich. this fall.

$390,000 Match Award

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County has awarded Bethany a matching grant of $390,000 to assist in athletic complex improvements in the Great Strides Campaign.

A city bike path extension will be part of the project to upgrade fields, add a track, and increase safety and accessibility to the athletic complex.

More information on the project will be announced this fall, but any donation to the campaign after May 1 counts towards the matching grant.



Bethany students using the Winona Railway Trail to bike to school. Plans are to extend the trail through Bethany property to connect with neighboring communities, parks, and schools.

Bethany CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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Notice to parents:

Please notify the *BCS Bulletin* of the new address of your son or daughter. Email alumni@bethanycs.net.

Speech and Debate to Nationals

A school-record seven students are advancing to speech and debate nationals in Dallas, Texas, in June. A team of four will compete in World Schools Debate and three will compete as individuals (see photo below).

For the second year in a row, the speech team finished third in state. The debate team finished seventh in state. Both are the highest state finishes in school history.



Coach Michael Yeakey earned his second diamond pin for reaching 3,000 points, which recognizes a professional career that combines excellence and longevity.

MCC Public Policy Essay Contest



Rachel Leininger (pictured in speech and debate photo below) and Isabelle Moore won the top two prizes in a national public policy essay contest held annually by Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office.

Additionally, eight other Bethany students were national finalists: Cedric Brenneman, Caroline Cartmel, Jonah Farran, Sarah Hochstetler, Carissa Mast, Aiden Schloneger, Alistair Tollar, and Christian Yoder

In this year's contest, contestants could choose from topics of immigration, gun violence, and North Korea.



Heading to nationals are senior Philip Krabill, World Schools Debate (WSD); senior Alex Cartwright, WSD; senior Alistair Tollar, United States Extemporaneous Speaking; senior Rachel Leininger, WSD; sophomore Aaron Yeakey, Congressional Debate; frosh Reesha Bhagat, Lincoln-Douglas Debate; and junior Christian Yoder (not pictured), WSD.