Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN



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Learning Compassion from History

Indiana (The Land of Indians) celebrates its bicentennial this year, lending special emphasis to topics in the fourth-grade Indiana history class. As part of their study, Bethany fourth graders made their annual fall pilgrimage to visit several sites associated with the Trail of Death—the forcible removal in 1838 of most native people from northern Indiana.



Adam Friesen Miller offers Simon Dutkiewicz fry bread as fourth-graders reflect on their visit along the Trail of Death.

Students sang songs and read litanies of lament and blessing at the site where the Potawatomi (many baptized Christians) were imprisoned in their own church and at the campsite where the first birth and death occurred. As they learned about negative attitudes and actions towards native peoples, they also learned that women in Rochester—not agreeing with the action of their government—offered the Potawatomi food and water as they passed by their homes.

As the students walked part of the trail with no food and water—anticipating a late lunch—their teacher, Adam Friesen Miller, said, "Your physical discomfort is a way to experience a bit of what they went through. Learn from your discomfort and grow in compassion." Later he offered them each some fry bread that they ate together as they reflected on this experience—and then some water. Standing at a historical marker, fourth grader Simon Dutkiewicz reflected on their deportation and said, "We shouldn't forget their story so we don't do something like this again."

The class is assisting the Trail of Death Association in planning a public day of remembrance on Apr. 22, 2017.

Cover photo: Bethany students, alumni, and friends sing the Hallelujah Chorus at the 2015 Christmas program.

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From the Head of School

Creating place through singing

In geography place refers to the characteristics of a location, such as rivers, buildings, language, or religion. The mental images we create about place are based on our senses and emotions. Anyone who has returned to the *home place* knows exactly what I mean. Sights, sounds, and smells can evoke feelings of nostalgia, security, happiness, or even sadness and anxiety.

What is it about our community or *place* that makes Bethany truly unique and worth coming back to? What will be the memories or mental images students carry with them long after they are gone?

Some students will remember a specific classroom, perhaps the smell of Buttercup the hamster in fifth grade. Others might remember the smells and sound of the throwing wheels in the clay room, or a particular high school government teacher. Some may drive by the school and remember their first love and their first kiss.

These experiences, though unique to individual students, are not unique to Bethany in general. What makes our *place* remarkable is our Anabaptist-Mennonite worldview. Students practice service and peacemaking through courses like *Civil Rights in Mississippi* or *Appalachian Sojourn*. They learn basic biblical literacy and tools for biblical interpretation; and they learn to value and participate meaningfully in worship.

It is notable that we use music to instill a sense of place. A culture of singing sacred music is valued and woven into the school day. In chapel students regularly sing hymns such as *Teach Me Kingdom Ways,* this year's high school theme song. Years from now, hearing that song will transport graduates right back to this place, Bethany.



—Tim Lehman

Faith That Lives

Emmaus: Bethany's Performing Arts Troupe

by Talashia Keim Yoder, teacher and College Mennonite Church pastor of family ministry

Emmaus is a unique performing arts experience for students at Bethany. While the music Emmaus works with is an eclectic mix of many styles, our method for arranging and learning music follows the folk tradition more closely. We listen, we experiment, and we arrange based on chords and ear rather than on music notation. The music Emmaus performs is always evolving. For example, when delivering Singing Valentines, at the beginning of the day we may sing a song with two vocal parts, a few solos, and a guitar. By the end of the day, it may also include up to four vocal parts and some beat-boxing.

The goal of Emmaus is threefold: to be ambassadors for Bethany, to develop leaders, and to provide an experience for dedicated performing arts students that is different than they can get anywhere else.

We develop leaders in many ways. The decision-making process is collaborative, with built-in mechanisms to make sure each student both listens and contributes.

Students choose their theme and all of their own music—I serve only as guide in the process. It's actually a lot to require of high school students, but it is incredible what creative leaders students can be when given structured freedom.

They choose pieces they especially want to work with, then work in groups of two or three to lead that piece. This involves researching the piece, looking at its place in the whole picture of the Emmaus show, brainstorming various ways to perform it, arranging it, assigning parts/instrumentation, designing the staging, finding the story in the piece, and then leading their peers in putting all of this together into something that can be performed.

Once the show is up and running, students also take on performance leadership—to the extent that the only adult they really need for a performance is a bus driver. This level of leadership and creativity, as well as the challenge to understand and adapt to an audience, I believe sets them up well for leading in other parts of life, including the church.

Students perform the themed show they develop for a variety of audiences, including public elementary schools, churches, and coffee houses. These are pretty diverse! So they have to learn to read their audience and perform in a way that draws them in.

As a pastor, I see a future coming that involves intergenerational, flexible collaboration within the congregation. The church choir is going to become just one of many ways the community leads each other in worship. Worship is becoming multi-sensory. And people who can lead in all of this are few and far between. Through Emmaus and other leadership opportunities, Bethany helps to equip people for this future and present church.



Emmaus, Bethany's performing arts troupe, is student-led and student-directed with teacher Talashia Keim Yoder facilitating the process. Troupe members for 2016-17 are Dustin Miller, Gavin Rusel, Sarah Leininger, Jonah Hochstetler (seated at piano), Elizabeth Eby, Madison Swartzendruber, Gabi Klopfenstein, Melina Liras, Philip Krabill, and Abby Rudy-Froese.

Buckets Make a Sandcastle

This year's theme focuses on the unique way each human being is created, and the way that we come together to form one unique creation. Stories and songs include Flowers Are Red (Harry Chapin), One Voice (The Wailin' Jennys), Tacky the Penguin (Helen Lester), and Brother (Needtobreathe).

Public performance:
6 p.m. Sunday, May 14

Learning That Lasts

Singing That Enriches Faith and Worship

While traveling on a field trip to visit sites along the Trail of Death—the forcible removal of most Native Americans from northern Indiana in 1838—Bethany fourth graders passed the hour-long ride talking and singing. Not unusual for school children their age.

What was unusual though was what they chose to sing: songs they had learned in church and Bible classes at Bethany. They provided a holy moment as they sang, "Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your spirit in this place." How fitting to invite God into their presence as they prepared to learn about injustices inflicted nearly two centuries ago that still have repercussions today. (See story on page 2)

What and why we sing matters

Church schools like Bethany are in a unique position to teach music competency and Christian faith at the same time. This benefits students in their faith journeys and enriches the congregations in which they worship. Vocal music teacher Brody Thomas calls this, "mission and ministry—a very high calling—and why I enjoy this job."

At Bethany this mission begins early as fourth grade students sing regularly with a trained choral teacher, learning how to be comfortable and capable using their voices as an instrument to worship God. Over their years at Bethany, they become more capable individually and corporately—earning awards in solo and choral competitions and learning to lead and be led in worship.



Bethany students and faculty worship together. Pictured, Carlos Orellana, Jonah Hochstetler, Alexa Haarer, and Eileen Becker-Hoover (F'79-).

Key questions that Brody asks himself when choosing music—and asks his students to ponder as well—include: "Who do we sing for? ourselves? God? both? Do we sing songs that have pleasant-sounding melodies? words that inspire and instruct our faith? both?"

Senior Simon Hurst reflects his teacher's vision when he says, "Concert choir has taught me to experience music spiritually and more fully. I'm more comfortable singing hymns in church, but also have greater appreciation for our traditions and why we sing. I enjoy the musical complexity of hymns, find deeper meaning in the text, and am enriched in learning the history behind the songs and composers."

In a world where music is often debated in church—some strictly hymn singing, some just praise songs, and some using both—Brody finds value in each as different styles can reach people in different ways. Thus, his role is to teach skills such as reading music and differentiating parts that allow students to sing a wide breadth of music styles.

Sophomore Philip Krabill likes the diversity of music that Brody selects and has

Music teacher Brody Thomas (F'15-) views teaching at Bethany as mission and ministry as he teaches students music competency and Christian faith.



developed an appreciation for sacred music across time periods and of varying styles: from slow medieval chants to classical songs in Latin, to more fast-paced modern songs. He says, "it is a good way to develop faith as we discuss the text and experience different styles of music that can express faith."

Music is divine and builds community

Throughout the Bible God's people sang: songs of joy, songs of lament, and psalms of praise. "Music connects us with the divine so that we may share it with others," says Brody.

For Philip and classmate Mason Richer, this community aspect of singing together is significant. Philip has enjoyed the friendships developed across grade levels and Mason the teamwork of everyone working together. "I know what I can do, but coming together to produce something greater is awesome—and then sharing that with others as we sing in churches," says Mason.

A highlight for years has been the high school's participating with other Mennonite schools in an annual choir festival that brings together several hundred youth into one mass choir. Senior Sarah Leininger notes, "This is a community bonding time for our choir, but also an opportunity to learn to know other youth and be a part of something larger. It is a cool experience."



CJ Zmudzinski ('17), front left, sings with youth from other Mennonite schools at the 2015 choir festival hosted by Bethany.

Simon, who began his choir experience as a junior, concludes, "Concert Choir has broadened my horizons and in a short time has given me confidence to participate in a men's choir at church. I've become more comfortable with my voice and no longer fear making mistakes when I sing. I'm not going to be perfect and that's okay. Singing in four-part harmony is beautiful and not something I can do myself—it takes a community. "

Ultimately, Brody desires to see students like Simon participating more fully in worship at school and in their congregations: competent as musicians and competent as leaders in the church.



Opportunities such as these students leading singing in middle school chapel, guided by adult mentors, help Bethany students develop leadership skills and become comfortable participating in and leading worship. Pictured: Beth Grieser (F'99-), Tyson Miller, Caleb Mast, Austin Shenk, Spencer Kim, Sid Hostetler, Ana King, Julia Jun, and Emma Thomas.

Alumni News

Alumnae Serve on New Mennonite Hymnal Committee

Sae Jin Lee ('06) and **Emily Grimes ('10)** serve on the 13-member Mennonite Worship and Song Committee tasked with developing a new collection of songs for the Mennonite Church in Canada and the U.S.



Sae Jin is a freelance graphic designer for Anabaptist-Mennonite educational institutions and regularly leads singing and worship at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind. She says, "At Bethany I learned to read music with confidence, to perform with emotion, to listen and analyze tunes with keen ears, and to worship with joy."

Urged by church leaders and mentors to serve on this committee, she says, "Mennonites are continually redefining our identity within and outside our faith commuinty; I pray that our work can reflect who we are becoming as Christ's body in the world."

Emily is in her first year teaching music at Dock Mennonite Academy, following two years at Western Mennonite. She will be part of the adult worship team at the July 2017 Mennonite Church USA convention—previously serving on music leadership groups at the 2013 Mennonite youth convention and 2015 Mennonite World Conference



A member of Bethany's inaugural performing arts troupe, Emily recalls, "*Emmaus* helped me make sense of my world through the arts. I connected with God and with my community in a uniquely intimate way. Bethany provided a safe space for me to sing alone in front of others and helped me gain confidence. Bethany is the place where I started to believe in my own abilities, which I feel called to share with the church.

"I deeply value our denomination's tradition of congregational singing, and love collaborating with others. We are a diverse body, full of individual, unique voices, which make beautiful harmony when joined together. As the church continues to face challenges and division, I hope that our love of music and the theology we sing will keep us united."

2Harts Surrendered

Tiffany (Slabaugh '92) Swihart, Hydro, Okla., a happy stay-at-home mother with many "side" jobs—massage therapy, church choir director, and substitute teacher—didn't plan to start a music ministry with her daughter Skyler, but the Spirit has led them in that direction.



Tiffany (Slabaugh '92) and **Jason ('89) Swihart** with daughter Skyler and son Stetson.

Six years ago Tiffany and her husband **Jason ('89)** developed a friendship with Larry Skrant, a former inmate and founder of Changed Lives Ministries in Strasburg, Ohio. Several years later, Skrant heard Tiffany and Skyler sing a duet in church and subsequently had a vision from the Lord that they should record. Tiffany says, "We were humbled by the thought, but willing."

They formed *2Harts Surrendered,* which is a play on their family name. Tiffany says, "Swi, pronounced *zwei* in German, means two and we both have surrendered our hearts (harts) to follow Christ." Their first CD, *Trusting You*, is used by Skrant in his prison ministry. They also sing at benefits for the prison ministry, other fundraisers, and in churches. They hope to keep singing together and have just released a Christmas and praise CD (listen/order information at bethanycs.net/2harts).

Tiffany developed her love for music at Bethany, specifically crediting then music teacher J.D. Smucker (F 1987-2010): She says, "Attending Bethany was an amazing experience that truly helped me grow as a young Christian and shape me into who I am today."

Alumni News

Deaths

See online obituaries at bethanycs.net/alumni/obits

Dennis B. Hartman ('56), Traverse City, Mich., Sept. 26.

Larry D. Weldy ('58), Elkhart, Aug. 13.

Robert Stutzman ('62ng), Milford, Ind., Oct. 20.

John Christner ('64), Goshen, June 13.

Cindy (Hooley '67) Troyer, Middlebury, Oct. 17.

Janet Miller ('74), Goshen, Sept. 1.

Jay Bufton ('81), Belmont, Mich., July 22.

Marriages

Jodi Miller ('86) and Jay Hochstetler, Goshen, July 16, 2016.

Gloria Figueroa Vargas ('00) and James Muia, Bridgewater, Va., Aug. 13, 2016.

Phoebe (Christophel '02) and Greg Hughes, Millersburg, Ind., Oct. 8, 2016.

Laura Sharp ('03) and Nick Enzinna, North Newton, Kan., May 28, 2016.

Jes Buller ('04) and Willian Murillo, Sincelejo, Colombia, Sept. 30, 2016.

Reanna Kuitse ('06) and Adam Carver, Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 10, 2016.

Sae Jin Lee ('06) and Lane Miller, Elkhart, Ind., Aug. 13, 2016.

Elijah Martens ('06) and Nicole Weaver, Seattle, Wash., Aug. 6, 2016.

Darin Schwartzentruber ('06) and Greta Weaver, Portland, Ore., Sept. 7, 2016.

Alicia Schwartzentruber ('07) and Nathan Kurtz, Carmel, Ind., Oct. 1, 2016.

Aaron Shenk ('07) and Elizabeth Core, Goshen, Sept. 10, 2016.

Lewis Caskey ('09) and Maryn Munley, Goshen, June 11, 2016.

Elias Kehr ('09) and Liesl Bertsche, Minneapolis, Minn., July 10, 2016.

Luke Slagel ('09) and Nicole Smith, Traverse City, Mich., Oct. 1, 2016.

Derek Plaster ('09) and Kassie Adams, Middlebury Ind., Sept. 4, 2016.

Sydney Kehr ('10) and Tim Nelson, Elkhart, Ind., Sept. 24, 2016.

Danielle (Yoder '16) and Justin Smith, Middlebury, Ind., Oct. 29, 2016.



Elkhart County Sports Hall of Fame 2016 inductees Lisa (Bergey '99) Lehman and Tom Lantz ('84) with Dan Bodiker (F'64-) and Jim Buller (F'79-). See /countyhall-2016.

Births

Sam ('96) and Leah **Richardson**, Goshen, son Luke Alexander, July 21, 2016.

Anthony ('99) and Rebecca **Graber**, Ashley Pa., son Andrew J., Aug. 19, 2016.

Tom ('01) and Jill **Stahly,** Goshen, son Davis Oliver, Aug. 15, 2016.

Brenna Steury Graber ('03) and Brad Graber, Paris, France, son Caleb Bradley, Apr. 30, 2016.

Joel ('04) and Annerose (Leichty '05) Lederman, Goshen, daughter Reagan Kyle, June 25, 2016.

Jonny ('04) and Hannah ('04) Gerig Meyer, Goshen, son Owen Alan, Oct. 9, 2016.

Nathan ('05) and Kate **Grieser**, Lancaster, Pa., daughter Juniper Eden, Sept. 19, 2016.

Emily (Morgan '05) and Jacob **Kizor**, Elkhart, daughter Elowen Morgan Kizor, Aug. 23, 2016

Abby (Steury '05) and Seth ('05) Troyer, Wakarusa, Ind., son Ronan Thomas, May 22, 2016.

Hans ('08) and Melina **Hess**, Goshen, son Mikel Eden, May 18, 2016.

Keren (Martin '07) and Wes ('07) Klassen, Goshen, daughter Jara Marie, Oct. 7, 2016.

Tim Gautsche ('09) and Stephanie Plummer, Falmouth, Maine, daughter Scarlett Rose, Aug. 22, 2016.

Sarah (Lederman '09) and Alex **Roth**, Middlebury, Ind., son Emmitt Grey, July 19, 2016.

Notes

Bryan Mierau ('72), Goshen, began as executive director of Center for Healing and Hope in October.

Jonathan Bornman ('85), Lancaster, Pa., serves on Eastern Mennonite Mission's Christian-Muslim Relations Team (emm.org/peacemakers). In September he began doctoral research towards a PhD at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies in England.

Judy Clemens-Smucker ('87) has published a new book, *Tag, You're Dead*, under the pen name J.C. Lane.

Jason ('95, F'08-10) and Tonya (Yoder '96) Rupp and children are serving with Mennonite Mission Network at a rural Christian school in Paraguay where **Marcelo Warkentin (F'00-12)** is principal.

Chris Kingsley ('00), Goshen, began as director of development for LaCasa in January 2016.

Heather (Kaufman '02) and Job **Esteban**, Goshen, opened *The Slice***,** a pizza restaurant in Nappanee.

Hannah (Grieser '09) and Caleb **Hochstetler** are unit leaders for Mennonite Mission Network's new Service Adventure unit in Jackson, Miss.

James('11) and Sara **Ritchie-Helmuth** began a three-year assignment with Mennonite Central Committee in Guatemala in fall 2016.

Anna Nafziger ('12) began teaching English in Seoul, South Korea, in October 2016.

Leah Swartley ('13) is serving with Mennonite Mission Network's Journey International in Indonesia.

Next Alumni Weekend

The next alumni weekend will be Sept. 22-23, 2017, with reunions for classes ending in 2 or 7. Information and registration will be available online in summer 2017 at bethanycs.net/reunions.

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Notice to parents:

Please notify the *BCS Bulletin* of the new address of your son or daughter.

Alumni Reunion Weekend

More than 200 alumni, plus spouses, children, and some former faculty, attended the Sept. 24 event, which included class reunions (for classes ending in 6 or 1), tours of the school, an evening banquet, and children's activities. Reunion photos can be viewed at bethanycs.net/alumni-weekend-2016.

Many double alum attended—the longest married being Marvin ('56) and Mary Ellen (Kaufman '57) Miller at 59 years! Marvin says, "The two most influential years of my young life were at Bethany. The lasting friendships, the opportunities afforded me to discover, use, and strengthen my talents and abilities were very influential in shaping me into the kind of person I became....one who believes that a life spent in service for Christ is most meaningful and most effective."

News at bethanycs.net

Fall Athletics: Setting career or season records were Byeong Min Lim ('17) in boys tennis and Tessa Clark ('17) and Sophie Miller ('17) in volleyball. For awards and summaries, see /content/fall-sports-16.

International Physics Project: Jackson King ('17) participated in summer program at the University of Notre Dame. See /content/international-physics-project.

New Bible Curriculum: Faculty Adam Friesen Miller and Josh Weaver are among 17 educators working on new PreK-12 Bible curriculum for Mennonite Schools Council. See /content/work-new-bible-curriculum.

New to Bethany Board: Mark King, Mark Schloneger, and Kris (Sommers '93) Shenk. See /board-new-2016.



50-year reunion, class of '66: *front* Dee Helmuth Birkey, Verna Miller, Rose Kulp Shirk, Rosie Stoltzfus Hartzler, Ginny Davidhizer Birky, Lois Johns Kaufmann, Myra Nafziger Oswald, Jeanne Shrock Riegsecker, Marty Yoder Miller; *row 2* Rex Tyson, Joan Zehr Link, Georgia Miller Davis, Wilhelmina VanVeen Beardall, Cheryl Fogleman Mundle, Vera Metzler Leinbach, Ruth Mishler Basinger, Agnes Brubaker Cross, Barb Miller, Lena Troyer Delegrange, Bev Milne Hershberger, Pat Kauffman Yoder; *row 3* Verda Weaver, Ray Yoder, Jerry Slabaugh, John Birkey, Henry Miller, Dave Leinbach, Bob Troyer, Charles Cross, Bev Stutzman Snyder, Carlyle Kuhns, Leon Miller; *back* Dennis Stichter, Dennis Yoder, Stan Huffman, Carl Graber, Dave Johnson, Del Yoder. Other class photos of reunions since 2009 available at bethanycs.net/reunions.