

Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN



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Capital Campaign Ends

The final project supported by The Capital Campaign for Sustainability was completed this fall with the installation of the wind turbine (above). For information on the campaign and its energy initiatives, including a daily dashboard of solar production, see bethanycs.net/capital-campaign.

Campus News

Cover: Grade 6 science students learn about Bethany's recent energy-efficient initiatives, including the installation of a geothermal system, solar panels, and a wind turbine (pictured).

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New Leadership Team

Bethany Christian Schools began a new era of leadership this school year with the appointment of Tim Lehman as head of school. He succeeds Jim Buller who served on an interim basis since Allan Dueck retired in December 2014 after nearly 20 years as Bethany's lead administrator.

Tim is quite familiar with Bethany. Most recently principal at Iowa Mennonite School (2014-15), Tim served in several positions at Bethany from 2002 to 2014, as teacher, coach, and assistant principal. As a previous member of Bethany's leadership team, Tim brings proven administrative skills and leadership capabilities.

Tim's breadth of educational experience, excellence in teaching, knowledge of Bethany, and affirming rapport with his peers has allowed him to step into this role informed and prepared to offer excellent leadership from the outset. Tim understands Bethany's

unique and dynamic learning environment, and supports the vision for the future recently articulated as part of Bethany's Campaign for Sustainability.

In announcing his appointment as head of school, Bethany Board chair Sharon Yoder noted, "Tim understands that the integration of faith and learning encourages critical thinking, creativity and innovation. He recognizes the inherent dignity and uniqueness of each individual and believes that students need to be empowered to learn while being encouraged to live out their faith in tangible ways."

Tim strongly supports Bethany's commitment to equip students for Christian discipleship in the church and around the world. He says, "Who we are shapes what we do, and being rooted in the Anabaptist tradition, I'm excited about Bethany's mission and direction. We are intentional about

From the Head of School

Eric Weiner, in his book *The Geography of Bliss*, explores why citizens in some countries are happier than those in other countries. One thing he discovered is that cultures that place a high priority on relationships tend to have people reporting high levels of satisfaction, contentment, and happiness. Specifically Weiner notes that "happiness stems from our relationships, both quantity and quality, with friends, family, coworkers and neighbors." Anybody in a meaningful relationship knows this to be absolutely true.

It is also true that healthy relationships don't just happen, but require effort, attention, and discipline. Bethany students continually work at building friendships and maintaining healthy relationships. This includes learning to resolve conflicts peacefully. Bethany provides guidance by establishing cultural practices rooted in the Anabaptist tradition.

We view relationship building as a matter of faith because relationships are the foundation of doing God's work in the

world. To create habits and rituals that model healthy relationships, fourth grade teacher Adam Friesen starts each day with a community meeting.

Sometimes relationship building means addressing tough social issues. High school Bible teacher Dale Shenk collaborated with other faculty to develop a chapel series on relational stewardship (see page 4)—in part how pornography, which is prevalent and accessible in mainstream culture, affects our relationships with God and each other.

I enjoy hearing stories of alumni who are finding joy and happiness through Kingdom work. Three living faith stories of recent alumni (see p. 5) exemplify how Bethany graduates are doing God's work in the world by continuing to value, establish, and maintain relationships.

—Tim Lehman





Bethany's administrative team: *front* Jim Buller, guidance counselor; Tim Lehman, head of school; Hank Willems, principal; *back* Anne Horst Hanby, business manager; Sarah Kraybill Lind, admissions director; Scott Richer, advancement director

building a caring community that fosters learning that lasts and faith that lives.”

Tim is supported on Bethany's administrative team by five experienced administrators, four who continue from the previous administrative team: Hank Willems, principal; Jim Buller, guidance counselor; Sarah Kraybill Lind, admissions director; and Scott Richer, advancement director.

New Business Manager

The sixth member of the administrative team is Anne Horst Hanby, who began as business manager in August. A graduate of Bethany (1996) and Goshen College (2000), Anne has served on the board of Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience, as associate director of Southwest Women Working Together in Chicago, and as a grants manager for a child welfare and youth development agency in Chicago. As an independent grant writer, she authored a grant last year that secured \$100,000 for Bethany's renewable energy initiatives.

Anne combines her faith and work through her involvement with the Michiana chapter of MEDA and has served with Bethany's outgoing business manager, Patrick Farran, as co-chair of the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale's silent auction.

New Faculty

Nina Fox teaches Spanish for grades 9-12. Originally from Grand Rapids, Mich., Nina



graduated from Goshen College in May 2015. She grew up in the Covenant church and now attends East Goshen Mennonite. Nina has volunteered at an orphanage in Bolivia and

has studied in Spain and Ecuador. She loves exploring the intersection of language and culture and its consummate expressions (art, music, history, social dynamics, food).

Brody Thomas teaches vocal music for grades 4-12. He is a 2015 Goshen College grad and student taught at Bethany last year. Brody identifies his involvement at Springs (Pa.)



Mennonite Church and church activities as having created significant spiritual growth in his life. He has traveled to Central America on service trips, worked as a music leader and counselor at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center summer camp, and served as an assistant to the Shout For Joy youth choir for two years. He especially enjoys playing the piano—his primary musical instrument.



New on Board

Malinda Berry ('92), assistant professor of theology and ethics at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), joins the Bethany board.

Malinda is a graduate of Goshen College, AMBS, and Union Theological Seminary. She is a member at Fellowship of Hope.

Malinda says, “My dream is that Bethany students, families, and supportive congregations will understand that (Mennonite) Christian education is something designed to build empathy and compassion for self, neighbor, community, and world.”

Faith That Lives: Stewardship of Relationships

In the process of reaccreditation by Mennonite Education Agency several years ago, Bethany identified stewardship education as a high school improvement goal: for students to “grow in their understanding of and commitment to stewardship of their bodies, finances, and environment” by taking care of the things God has given us.

Outcomes since then have included a fitness event, a chapel series on caring for the earth and using our resources to care for others, and two chapel series on addictions

and behaviors—one on technology and one on substance abuse. This year Bethany addressed what some call the new drug: internet pornography.

Understanding that God created people to be in healthy relationship with each other—and that our Bethany community is

based on respectfully honoring each other—provided the framework from which to examine the effects of pornography on our lives, as individuals and as a community.

We are fortunate to operate in such a context of faith where the expectations of moral behavior are clearly communicated. Yet unfortunately we recognize that here at Bethany—and in our churches—we are not immune to the addictions present in society.

Early in the week-long series, Bethany teachers and a Mennonite pastor, Steve Thomas, presented biblical views of sexuality, noted psychological effects of addictions, and provided statistics that overwhelmingly show how pervasive and accessible pornography has become. Pornography is increasingly affecting children—both boys and girls—and their view of sexuality is often being formed by pornography rather than by family or church. According to Internet

Filter Review, 25% of internet searches are for pornography, the average age of first use is age 11, and 60% of children in the U.S. first learn about sex from pornography.

Later in the week students met in gender-based groups to reflect on what they heard and to discuss questions such as: Is it a problem? How might pornography damage relationships? Why is this hard to talk about? How can we help each other?

A common thread of discussion among many of these groups was both surprise at the overwhelming use in society as verified by statistics and at the same time the acknowledgement that this is a problem for many—whether a habitual or infrequent user. A leader from one group said, “It feels lousy that many of us struggle with pornography at some level, yet comforting to know we are not alone.”

As one way of acknowledging an ongoing commitment to respect each other and value the relationships we have at Bethany, students had opportunity at the conclusion of the week to sign posters that said “You are my brother” and “You are my sister.” Some took additional steps. Two male students committed to help each other, agreeing, “We will not do pornography.” That is friendship and community at its best—developing meaningful relationships that allow vulnerability and holding each other accountable.

Throughout the week chapel planners provided parents with daily chapel summaries so they could further dialogue with their children. Typical parent responses included one mother who said, “A great topic to address from a spiritual perspective! It’s a wonderful way to start the conversation around a topic that is typically shrouded in secrecy and shame. Bringing it out into the light, within the community of faith and spiritual perspective is just awesome.” Her husband added, “This is the type of reason why we send our kids to Bethany.”



Students sign posters renewing a commitment to build respectful relationships.

Alumni Value Relationships with fellow Christians

At the 2015 Mennonite Church USA youth convention, many youth enjoyed singing *Together*, written by **Nathan Grieser ('05)**, with its message of maintaining relationships amid differences. Similarly, singing *Together* in chapel has meaning for Bethany students who each year form a tight-knit community despite coming from diverse religious, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds.



Nathan wrote the song after leading a congregational conversation on a topic that resonated with many, but not all. He says, "*Together* was meant to be an expression of humility, of honoring the dissenters and reminding myself that God invites all of us into relationship. The body of Christ is richer when we find ways to disagree well."

Nathan, a former youth pastor, is director of The Shalom Project in Lancaster, Pa. Listen to Together at purevolume.com/nathangrieser.

with strangers and neighbors

For the past seven years, **Jes Stoltzfus Buller ('04)** has built new relationships by focusing on the needs of others in



Colombia where she has served with Mennonite Central Committee and Sembrandopaz. Recently Jes has experienced Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan in a new way.

Following a motorcycle accident, Jes lay injured on the sun-scorched pavement. Several people stopped to look, but none helped. Eventually a man stopped who phoned for help; then a woman stopped, laid clothes under her sunburned body, gave her water, and sheltered her with an umbrella. Both waited with her until help arrived.

During her initial ten-week hospital stay—hours away from family and friends—Jes was amazed by the sacrifices others' made for her: a poor rural community she

worked with pooling money so one person could travel to visit her; a visit from a stranger whose church was praying for her; and friends who took time from work and traveled hours to physically care for her—no matter how disagreeable the task.

Having received acts of mercy she asks, "How aware are we of those who are different from us? What sacrifices are we willing to give to Jesus' call to love our neighbors?"

with close friends

While social media is increasingly viewed as a hindrance to the building of authentic relationships, five alumni from the class of 2007—**Rick**

Eigsti, Hans Hess, Phil Shenk, Matt Thomas, and Jakob

zumFelde—use it

to maintain a friendship that began at Bethany—one that might gradually dissipate if not for social media.

Coming to Bethany from different schools and churches, they were glad to find friends with shared values. Maintaining that friendship beyond high school was important for them, even though they ended up moving to different communities: Goshen, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Iowa City, and Honduras. Speaking for the group, Matt says, "The close-knit community and conversations we had in classes such as Bible helped develop deeper relationships which contributed to our staying in contact."

To meet the challenge of maintaining their friendship beyond occasional gatherings, they began communicating via weekly Skype sessions, which include playing Ticket to Ride, sharing about their week, discussing topics such as sports or politics, and hashing out tough faith topics with each other.

Although they are busier and at different life stages, they thoroughly enjoy conversation with each other. Matt says, "There is something about talking with friends with whom you have a long history."



Melina and Hans Hess with son Elias, Jakob zumFelde, Matt Thomas, Phil Shenk, Rick and Renee Eigsti. Not pictured: Anne Lehman Shenk.

Alumni News

Alumni News

Alumni Weekend

More than 260 alumni (including spouses, children, and former faculty) attended the seventh annual alumni weekend on Sept. 26, 2015. Activities included reunions for classes ending in 0 or 5, tours of the school, an evening banquet, and children's activities. Reunion photos can be viewed at bethanycs.net/alumni-weekend-2015.

What Class of '65 valued at Bethany:



Class of '75: Sharon Shumaker, Barbara and James Nelson Gingerich, Joe Springer.

- All classes being taught from a Christian perspective.
- The music department was influential in music becoming a lifelong guiding force and anchor.
- During missions week I dedicated my life to God's call.

Little did I know the passion of my life would be Christian education, impacting the lives of over 1,000 children.

- I appreciate the sacrifices my parents made to enable me to attend Bethany.
- I have been able to teach Sunday school with more confidence because of the grounding I got in Bible classes and church history that I would not have received in a public school.

Next Alumni Weekend

The next alumni weekend will be Sept. 23-24, 2016, with reunions for classes ending in 1 or 6. Information and registration will be available online in summer 2016 at bethanycs.net/reunions.

"Missing" Alumni

Bethany needs updated contact information for some *missing alumni* (with urgent interest for those with upcoming reunions). See bethanycs.net/alumni/missing and send updates to alumni@bethanycs.net or call 574 534-2567.

Alum Stories at bethanycs.net

Elkhart County Sports Hall of Fame:

Jes Stoltzfus Buller ('04) and Seth Kauffman ('10) inducted. See [/countyhall-2015](http://countyhall-2015).

Femi Hollinger-Janzen ('12), collegiate CLASS award candidate, is lauded for character. See [/hollinger-janzen12-imahoosier](http://hollinger-janzen12-imahoosier)

Births

Deidre (Summerton '91) Bias and Tyler Brinson, Carmel, Ind., daughter Zosia Ellyanna, Oct. 7, 2015.

Lisa (Schmucker '95) and Brian **Showalter**, Tucson, Ariz., son Julian, Oct. 25, 2015. Grandmother is Karen (Erb '58) Schmucker.

Zac Boughner ('99) and Andrea Gingerich, Elkhart, Ind., daughter, Addison Grace, July 31, 2015.

Aaron ('00) and Anne **Lehman**, Goshen, Ind., son Charles Winston, Nov. 2, 2015.

Jeremy ('01) and Carli **Braun**, Dalton, Ohio, son Micah Theo, Oct. 22, 2015.

Adrienne (Yoder '01) and Jonathan **Brenner**, Seattle, Wash., daughter Nora Yoder, June 17, 2015. Grandfather is Paul Yoder ('73).

Mark ('04) and Mikki **Bowman**, Goshen, son Eli John, Oct. 9, 2015.

Lauren ('05) and Mark **Eash Hershberger**, Bristol, Ind., son Charlie James, June 26, 2015.

Josh ('06) and Natalie **Hochstetler**, Noblesville, Ind., son Emmitt James and daughter Eliza Ann, Oct. 25, 2015. Grandfather is Conrad Hochstetler ('79).

Katie (Yoder '09) and Dean **Grass**, Churubusco, Ind., son Jeremiah Dean, October 30, 2015.

Brandon ('11) and Melissa **Sharkey**, Goshen, son Wyatt Cooper, Nov. 7, 2015.

Joy (Houser F'05-08) and Ben **Metcalf**, Phoenix, Ariz., son Theodore Luke, June 11, 2015.

Nathan (F'10-15) and Grace **Swartzendruber**, Iowa City, Iowa, son Ira Henry, Aug. 7, 2015.



25-year reunion, class of '90: *front* Marisa (Schipani) Klopfenstein, Cheryl Hochstetler Shirk, Lori Miller, Lesley Rutt Dyck, Heather Kropf, Karla (Miller) Schrader; *back* Andre Nathan Hirschler, Daniel Thut, Joel Miller, Rhonda Martin, Rochelle Martin, Marisa Smucker

Deaths

See online obituaries at
bethanycs.net/alumni/obits

DeWayne Carpenter ('58), Elkhart, Ind., Nov. 19.

Carol (Stutzman '58) Wall, Sturgis, Mich., June 25.

Joan (Yoder '67) Gingerich, Elkhart, Ind., Nov. 22.

Dennis Martin ('69), Chicago, Ill., Oct. 26.

Marriages

Rosalina Cortes ('96) and Andrew Bishop, Goshen, April 25, 2015.

Kristine Bowman ('03) and Zachary Cooke, Comer, Ga., Sept. 5, 2015.

Monica Cender ('05) and Kyler Kearby, Elkhart, Ind., August 1, 2015.

Ben Shenk ('05) and Krista Allen, Goshen, Nov. 21, 2015. They reside in Lenexa, Kan.

Kate Steury ('07) and Jon Leaman, New Paris, Ind., Aug. 1, 2015. They reside in Harrisonburg, Va.

Juanita (Klassen '09) and Garrett Sheline, Goshen, Oct. 17, 2015.

Kelly Snyder ('10) and Kyle Yoder, Indianapolis, Ind., July 25, 2015.

Ian Croyle ('11) and Bonita Garber, Lancaster, Pa., June 20, 2015.

James Helmuth ('11) and Sara Ritchie, Nashville, Tenn., May 24, 2015.

Notes

Andy Kehr ('05), Bethesda, Md, earned a PhD in biological sciences (Carnegie Mellon) and has started a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health.

Emily (Shantz '05) Huffman, Las Vegas, Nev., graduated from Vermont College of Fine Arts in July with a masters in writing. She is working on a novel.

Alumni Entering Service

Luke Penner ('04), San Julian, El Salvador, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), health promoter.

Alli (Hawkins '06) and Kyle ('06) Stiffney, San Nicolas, Nicaragua, Voluntary Mission Movement in education and community development.

Hannah ('07) and Jacob **Roth Geyer**, Santander, Spain, teaching English.

Jacob Gerig ('10), Kansas City, Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS), Connecting for Good intern.

Jenae Hershberger ('11), YWAM and Justice 180, working with victims of human trafficking in Los Angeles, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Ali Hochstetler ('11), Nicaragua, serving with several medical clinics.

Eva Lapp ('11), Alamosa, Colo., MVS, restorative justice/mediation coordinator.

Ben Mast ('11), South Korea, teaching English.

Emily Shenk ('11), Aibonito, Puerto Rico, teaching English at Academia Menonita Betania.

Marla zumFelde ('11), Seattle, Wash., MVS, community service representative with Rainier Health and Fitness.

Jesse Amstutz ('15), Honduras, MCC Serving and Learning Together.

Vashti Neff ('15), Tanzania, Love Volunteers, working with disabled children in an orphanage.

Alumni News



McCutcheon Concert

Bethany theater department will host folksinger/storyteller John McCutcheon in concert on Sunday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m.

Bethany's performing arts troupe, *Emmaus*, will also perform a few pieces prior to the concert.

Reserved-seat tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online at bethanycs.net/tickets.

Visit Opportunities

Grade 4–5: March 9

Grade 6–10: Feb. 15 and March 21

Little Sibs: Feb. 1

Register at bethanycs.net/visit



50-year reunion, class of '65: *front (seated)* Eloise Gingerich, Phyllis (Yoder) Gehman, Esther (Bontrager) Wenger, Shirley (Sawatzky) Yoder, Vicki (Gardner) Lichti, Becky Tyson, Bessie (Bontrager) Lehman; *middle (seated)* Waneta (Yoder) Riegsecker, Joan (Stauffer) Love, Joy (Hunsberger) Beiler, Esther (Bontrager) Cross, Marie (Hoover) Troyer, Anita (Hershberger) Myers, Ida (Martin) Weiler; *back (standing)* Ruth Ann (Bender) Scott, Pauline (Chupp) Diggins, Rosemary Slabaugh, Lois (Bixler) Martin, Leona (Weaver) Schmucker, Veronica (Beachy) Denlinger, Marvin Schmucker, Karen (Diener) Thompson, Tom Gardner, Joe Christophel, Tom Lehman, Daniel Ventura, Dennis Myers, Philip E. Bontrager, Steve Riegsecker, Clair Byler, Eileen (Hoogenboom) Clemmer, Sherry (Miller) Miller

Return Service Requested

Notice to parents:

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

Learning That Lasts

Grade 4 *Indiana History* students visited Trail of Death sites as part of their study of Native Americans in northern Indiana.

At each site they learned about events, sang songs, and recited a lament—pictured below at the Potawatomi village near Plymouth. Alina Brill Bergstresser says, “It was sad to see these places, but I learned a lot.”

At the last site, students requested, “Can we lead the lament?” Teacher Adam Friesen says, “I knew then they had taken ownership in the experience. It is unexpected moments like this, where I see God working through 9 and 10 year olds, that fill me with hope.”

Read more about their experience, including the lament, at bethanycs.net/150925-trail-of-death.

News at bethanycs.net

National Merit: Nick Schrock ('16) named a commended student. See [/nationalmerit-2016](#).

Speech Nationals: Lena Yeakey ('15), Bethany's first-ever national qualifier, finished in the top 100 out of 250. See [/speech_nationals2015](#).

Fall Athletics: Hannah Yeakey ('17) qualified for the state cross country meet and earned all-state honors for the third time, highlighting a successful fall sports season. For awards and summaries, see [/fallsports-15](#).

Spanish Language Trip: Students form relationships with fellow Christians in Paraguay. See [/slt-2015](#).

Digital Literacy: *Goshen News* article on Bethany's 1:1 computer program that helps students learn to become good digital citizens. See [/150831_digital literacy](#).

