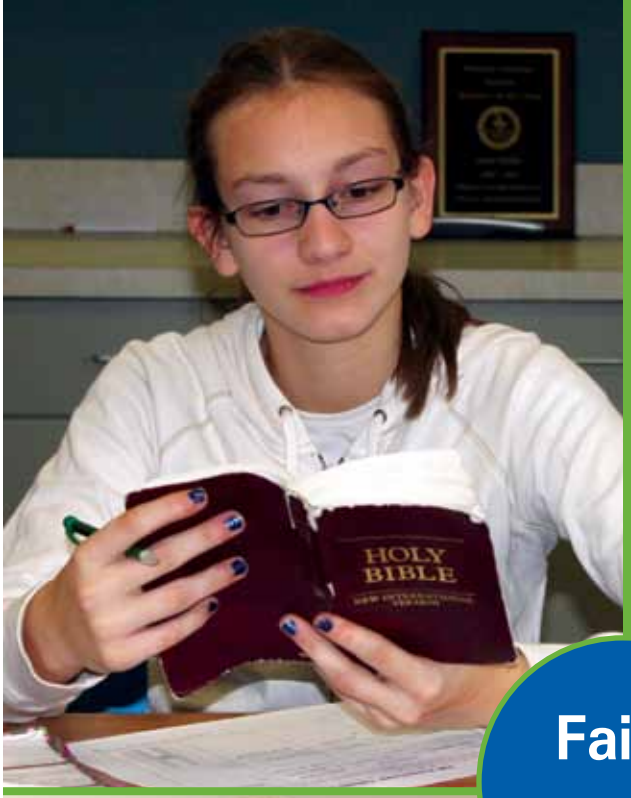
Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN





Faith Learning





Inside this Issue

Alumni News and Reunions 6-7
- Quilting Connects with Faith

Campus News 4-5
- Grade 4-5 Expands
- Commencement 2012
- New Assistant Principal

From the Principal 2

Faith Learning

Bible Program Review

Faith-based Personal Finance

pp. 2-3 and 8

Bethany
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Faith

Cover Photos

(clockwise from top left) Isabel Rondo ('16) reads in *Bible 8*; Macinsy Sanchez ('20) displays her creative interpretation of world peace from her J-Term class; Simon Hurst ('17), Naomi Riley ('18), and Anne Nisley ('18) serve at Pathways Retreat Center; Lynea Kaethler ('14) gives a presentation in *New Testament* class.

Personal Finance (cont. from p. 8)

handle their finances. At Yellow Creek Mennonite Church, we feel strongly enough about this to offer a three-month Dave Ramsey personal finance course to our youth every other year. Malaina found it useful to have those concepts reinforced in the *Economics* class at Bethany. Having her teacher share personal experiences and lessons learned prompted additional discussion around our dinner table."

A key class assignment engages students and parents in looking together at their family finances. Using a detailed monthly budget sheet, students first estimate what they think their family spends in each area. Then they meet with their parents to get actual figures and discuss their family's budget.

Senior Emma Caskey says, "Analyzing the monthly expenses for my family gave me a new appreciation for what my parents do for me and for the appreciation of money they have instilled in me. We talked about ways we could save in various areas, which helped me want to change the way I decide to buy things."

Evan Grimes and Jared Miller, whose parents had involved them in financial planning prior to the class, were amazed at how much even they underestimated actual costs. Now they possess new insights into the importance of starting retirement planning early and feel better prepared for future decisions such as buying a car or house.

Like the Weldys, Robert and Donita Wheeler appreciate what their daughter has learned. "This unit stimulated interesting conversation at our house. Our daughter, Paige, was quite unaware of the true costs of living expenses, but had a better grasp of expenses that she participates in. We had a lengthy conversation about first-fruits giving and why we personally have chosen to put our charitable giving before saving. I think she now has a better understanding of 'where money goes' in a household and how to make money work for her."

From the Principal

Some years ago, in updating Bethany's mission statement, we asked alumni to identify the most distinctive dimension of their Bethany experience. Virtually everyone pointed to the way Bethany integrates faith with academic excellence.

The student address at commencement underlined that integration of faith and learning remains central at Bethany. Speakers Ben Hochstetler and Paige Wheeler noted that faith helped their class through various struggles—including the absence of math teacher Renae Yoder who missed most of the school year to battle cancer.

Early Anabaptist Hans Denck said, "No one can truly know Christ without following him in life . . . ." Society's emphasis on dividing life into "sacred" and "secular" compartments pushes in the opposite direction from the Anabaptist conviction that being a Christian means following Jesus every moment.

Bethany encourages students to integrate faith into all their activities and decisions. Obviously, faith questions are front and center in Bible classes. However, they routinely arise in other classes as well—for instance, when students discuss how faith impacts financial decisions. And, in preparing for a tennis match, students consider how their Christian commitment shapes their approach.

Music groups achieve high standards of excellence, as witnessed by the golds they garner in competitions. In addition, these groups integrate faith with art, as illustrated by theater troupe Emmaus's "Stand Up" program, which calls audience members to stand up for the weak.

In a world that pushes us to compartmentalize faith commitments, Bethany invites students to holistic Christian living—allowing faith to infuse every moment and every decision.

—Allan Dueck



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Faith

Bible Program Reviewed

"Bethany students are often spiritually curious and courageous. They understand that engagement with scripture is a conversation and that understanding is best demonstrated in living a life that resonates with the text," observes Jo-Ann Brandt, professor of Bible and religion at Goshen College and a member of the committee that recently reviewed Bethany's Bible program.

While Bethany weaves Christian teachings into the entire curriculum, systematic biblical instruction takes place in Bible courses required at each grade level (4-12) with the theological framework designed to match students' development stage.

Younger students increase their familiarity with the Bible, encounter God in devotional reflection, and become a community as they share and pray together. A key project for eighth grade students is to reflect on who Jesus is and how they should respond to him.

Developmentally, ninth graders learn to be more independent and hear our surrounding culture's emphasis on individual freedom to "do what you want." So in their study of Old Testament stories, they also learn that with the freedom to choose comes consequences—judgment for poor choices—and grace. Bible teacher Dale Shenk says, "I use the parent image of God a lot. God and your parents love you; when you make a mistake there are consequences, but they still love you, and will give you another chance."

As sophomores, students increasingly think about ethics and morals and choosing how they want to live their lives. Shenk says, "Jesus can inform that process. Jesus' saving grace makes a difference in our lives now, not just after we die." So *New Testament* students' understanding of Christology broadens beyond "I believe in Jesus = I go to heaven" to include following Jesus daily. They examine the life and teachings of Jesus—nonresistance, his identification with the poor, and his extension of grace to all people—and how they can apply these teachings to their personal faith.

Junior *Church History* students broaden their understanding of church from beyond their own congregation to include the global Christian community in both time (the past) and space (geography). To better understand their present-day context, students examine Christian thought and practice throughout its historical periods—the early church, the state church, Reformation, and the Anabaptist-Mennonite story—and across denominations. As juniors begin to think what they will do beyond high school, they also begin to think about what kind of church they want to be a part of.



Katie Shank and grade 10 *New Testament* students lead a chapel. To learn more about Bible courses offered at each grade level, see bethanycs.net/academics/courseinfo/bible.

Seniors continue this questioning, but with the need for pressing decisions about what they will do (college, work, or service), they also need to own what they believe. In *Christian Faith Journey*, they discuss their faith experiences and gifts, reflect on the beliefs of the Christian church, and explore spiritual disciplines and lifestyle. Then, in a public setting, students describe their own response to the teachings of the Christian church at this point in their faith journey.

Brandt, who sees the results of Bethany's Bible program firsthand as a professor at Goshen College, observes that most Bethany students coming to Goshen College are comfortable asking questions, but out of commitment to growing in faith rather than rebellion against faith. She says, "While their willingness to ask questions that challenge the core convictions of our faith may at times seem as though they are poised to reject what they have received, I find something quite different. Their questioning appears to be anchored in the conviction that what they have received is a good and reliable base upon which to build."

Campus News

Grade 4-5 Expands

In 2011-12 Bethany Christian Schools offered a combined 4th-5th class in the first year of a two-year pilot program. In view of significant community interest and encouraging enrollment, Bethany will offer 4th and 5th grades in separate classes in 2012-13, the second year of the pilot program.

At each grade level, a home room teacher will teach the core subjects while other teachers will teach enrichment classes such as art and music. The classes will feature faith-based instruction, individual attention for each child, hands-on learning in the classroom and on field trips, and unique enrichment opportunities.

For more information, call 534-2567 or email admissions@bethanycs.net. Bethany accepts School Choice vouchers for students in grades 4-12 and offers need-based financial assistance.



Fifth-graders Emma Bontrager, Brayton Schrock, and Kaliah Lefever collaborate on a class project.

Commencement 2012

You May Now Share a Kiss

"The things you marry and the relationships you marry will determine who you become and equip you to make a difference in the world," said commencement speakers Kevin and Sharon Yoder at Bethany's 58th commencement on May 27, 2012.

Using metaphors from funerals and weddings, the Yoders, pastors at Olive Mennonite Church and parents of senior Alena Yoder, noted the class has shown sensitivity and compassion and encouraged them to "marry a future that takes you into the lives of other hurting people around you. It may be easy to turn and walk away from the pain you see in others' lives, but the future of this world relies on you to carry compassion and care into the world.

"Your current relationships with family, teachers, and friends have already made you who you are today. They are part of your faith community. As you go to new places, join a faith community that cares about who you are becoming in Christ."

Student speakers Ben Hochstetler and Paige Wheeler noted that their class is resilient and diverse—and so is their faith: "We don't give up on each other, just as we don't give up on God. We are on a journey that will continue long after we leave Bethany."

More on valedictorians and class gift at **bethanycs.net/graduation_2012**.

Calendar

August
13 First day of school
September
21-22 Alumni Weekend (see p. 6)
October
16-17 Parent-teacher conferences
18-19 Fall break
26 Fish Fry and Carnival, 4:30-8:00 p.m.
November
16-18 HS Play: *To Kill a Mockingbird*
29 Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Day to benefit Bethany, 4-8 p.m.



Cody Yoder, Alena Yoder, and Grace Whiteford celebrate their graduation.

Assistant Principal Chosen



Tim Lehman (F'02-), a middle school social studies teacher at Bethany since 2002, has been named assistant principal, beginning July 1. He replaces Hank Willems ('89, F'05-12), who is leaving education to work in his family's business.

Principal Allan Dueck says, "A creative and accomplished teacher with a proven track record, Tim brings a commitment to supporting excellence in instruction along with an easy-going manner and caring spirit that will serve him well in relating to students, teachers, and parents."

Tim was named Indiana Geography Teacher of the Year by Geography Educators Network of Indiana (GENI) in 2005 and was recently honored as 2012 Distinguished Teacher by the National Council for Geographic Education. The Distinguished Teacher Award recognizes Tim for his extraordinary contributions to the teaching and learning of geography in the classroom.

In addition to his recognition as an outstanding teacher, Tim has shared his creative ideas and expertise in workshops at state and national conventions since 2006. Additionally he has served in special roles with both state and national organizations. In 2008-09 he served as a curriculum reviewer and pilot teacher for the National Geographic Society and in 2010 as a reviewer with the Indiana Department of Education for state teaching standards for geography educators. And in 2011 he taught a geography course at Goshen College. He has also served as a board member of GENI since 2006.

Tim, who holds degrees in psychology (B.A. Goshen College 1986 and M.A. Connecticut College 1988), worked first as a psychologist and then a behavior analyst before obtaining his teacher certification in 1995. These early work experiences helped him become an outstanding teacher and will serve him well as he now transitions into administration.

Tim says, "I have appreciated the flexibility that Bethany has given me to pursue my interests in the classroom and engage students in unique lessons. As a teacher and parent I have appreciated the opportunities that Bethany provides students to pursue a variety of interests. I hope to continue to make Bethany a great place for students to thrive and look forward to this new challenge of working with students throughout the entire school."

News at bethanycs.net

HS Awards: leadership, academic, athletic, music, and special awards and scholarships for 2011-12. See /HS-Awards_2012.

College Athletics: Eight members of the class of 2012 have signed letters to play athletics in college, with several others still contemplating. See where they are going at /athletics/college.

Bike-to-School Day: 32% of students participated and set a school record, biking 398 miles one way! See /bike-to-school_2012.

Service Days: Students gave back to congregations and community that support them. See /Service_Day_2012.

School Garden: Students in grades 4-5 and 9 planted the school garden to produce food for the cafeteria. See /garden_12plant.

If I Were Mayor: Ronit Goswami ('18) read his essay to Goshen City Council. See /Mayor-Essay_2012.

Music Groups Golden: Concert choir and orchestra received a top rating at district contests. See /district_contest_2012.

National Forensics Honor: Coach Michael Yeakey received first diamond pin. See /yeakey_NFL12_diamond.

Campus News



Maintenance Director

Brent D. Miller ('81) began March 5 as maintenance director at Bethany.

Brent holds a BS in Industrial Arts Education from Bethel College (Kan.). He has worked in residential construction and cabinet manufacturing, most recently operating a custom woodworking business with his brother Bryan ('83).

Brent and his wife Romo Jo (Martin '82) co-led a Service Adventure unit in Albany, Ore. (2000-02). They are members at Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, where Brent has served as trustee.

They have two adult children: Joey (ng'08) and Kelsie ('06).

Alumni News

Alumni Weekend

The next alumni weekend will be Sept. 21-22, 2012, with reunions for classes ending in 2 or 7. Information on these class reunions will be posted at bethanycs.net/reunions as it becomes available.

Births

Dallas ('92) and Carla **Barkman**, Goshen, son Brayden Sebastian, May 10.

Jason Miller ('96) and Jenn Souder, Philadelphia, Pa., daughter Liliana Josephine, March 29.

Sarah (Wenger '97) and Jeffrey **Short**, Atlanta, Ga., son Jacob Walker, Nov. 20, 2011. Grandmother is Esther (Bontrager '65) Wenger.

Rebekah (Yoder '98) and Chris ('00) Westerbeek, St. Joseph Mich., daughter Ella Marisa, May 9. Grandmother is Marisa Yoder (F'83-04).

Lisa (Bergey '99) and Welby **Lehman**, Harrisonburg, Va., son Grant Dean, Oct. 10, 2011.

Megan (Berkey '99) and Todd **Gingerich**, Aurora, Ill., daughter Grace Olivia, Feb. 27.

Amy (Leatherman '01) and Jesse **Berkey**, Lebanon, Ore., daughter Jocelyn Dawn, March 19. Grandmother is Jane Miller ('70). Amy and Jesse work in his family's organic blueberry farm (berkeysblueberries.com).

Gretchen (Stoltzfus '01) and Jon ('01) Paulovich, Austin, Tex., daughter Lucy Mae, Feb. 15. Gretchen received a bachelor's degree in nursing in Dec. 2011, and the family is now relocating to Seattle, Wash. Ruth (Horst '74) Stoltzfus is a grandmother.

Phoebe (Christophel '02) Lee, Goshen, son Carter Ryan, May 7.

Melanie (Histand '02) and Jason **Schmucker**, College Station, Tex., daughter Caitlin Mae, March 28. Melanie earned a master of library science from Texas Woman's University in August 2011.

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serving grades 4-12

Marriages

Cory Livengood ('97) and Elizabeth Hayes, Dover, Ohio, May 5.

Crystal Wentorf ('01) and Robert Majdak, Lynchburg, Va., Mar. 9.

Adrienne Yoder ('01) and Jonathan Brenner, Seattle, Wash., Mar. 24.

Andy Kehr ('05) and Jacqueline Betsch, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 19.

Max Carlson ('06) and **Kayla Kaufman ('06)**, Lafayette, Ind., Apr. 28.

Carrie Slagel ('07) and Eric Scholten, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 18.

Jordan Kauffman ('07) and Christa Graber, Goshen, Apr. 28.

Katie Yoder ('09) and Dean Grass, Fort Wayne, Ind., June 16.

Deaths

See online obituaries at bethanycs.net/alumni/obits

Rosa (Cross '55) Borntrager, Middlebury, Ind., April 15, 2012.

Verba (Stutzman '57) Wilson, Fort Wayne, Ind., Apr. 19, 2012.

Phyllis (Burkey '64) Mast, Goshen, Apr. 8, 2012.

Karen Tyson ('69), Sarasota, Fla., Jan. 14, 2012.

Flossie Yoder (Staff 67-68, Board 71-75), Goshen, Apr. 26, 2012.

Notes

Nancy (Yoder '71) Schaffer, Bensalem, Pa., graduated in May, after nine years of night school, with a degree in business administration from Holy Family University.

Alum Stories at bethanycs.net

Alumnae Stage Original Play: Emily Bowman ('08) wrote and directed *The Sun Never Comes Up the Same*, which featured Lora (Esch '55) Miranda and four others dramatizing memories from their lives. See /ebowman08_12.

Memorial Music CD featuring David Lee Miller ('61) in six gospel quartets, including four other Bethany alumni. Proceeds support Menno-Hof. See /dlmiller61_12.

For these and other alumni stories, see bethanycs.net/alumni.

Alumni News

Quilting Connects with Faith

Though quilting is not inherently a faith practice, Bethany alumni Carol Helmuth Honderich ('68) and Wendy Yoder Nice ('97) have found that it can be, and their passion for quilting and faith brought them together as teacher and student in a quilting class last summer at Menno-Hof, an Anabaptist-Mennonite interpretation center in Shipshewana, Ind.

Carol helped Menno-Hof identify the Anabaptist Cross design for its annual quilt garden and then taught a class on how to create a wall hanging using that design. Carol, who enjoys finding ways to build community and share stories of faith around quilt activities had participants listen to stories of early Anabaptist women and share their own stories of growing up in Anabaptist homes and communities while working on creating their own wall hanging.

This combining of faith and community centered on quilting is what attracted Wendy to attend the class. Wendy, who learned to quilt from her grandmother and attended the class with her mother, says, "I love that quilting is an activity that so many generations of women before me have participated in. I enjoy meeting quilters of all ages and after seeing Carol's work in other places, I wanted to work with her."

Carol, who serves as event facilitator for Mennonite Church USA, began intentionally connecting quilting and faith after she asked God to "bless the work of my hands" (Psalm 90:17). She says, "when you pray that prayer, you need to be ready to respond, because God will provide opportunities."

Her web-based quilt pattern store, patternsoffaith.com, grew out of her creating a Women of the Bible quilt as a legacy for her children and grandchildren, when some friends asked her to start an online group in which they could make the quilt together and study the Bible women represented. She says, "At first I resisted, until I realized that this was actually an answer to my prayer."

Carol's online quilting/Bible study projects have grown to include other series, which challenge women as quilters and provide new faith insights. Carol says, "Each woman in the Bible has an amazing life-changing encounter with God. We can see God's care, protection, and guidance in these stories, and realize that God still provides for us today in the same ways."

Wendy's interest in quilting began about 12 years ago, when she helped her grandmother make a quilt. She got hooked and soon started her own projects: making aprons, bags, stockings, pillowcases, and blankets, and personalizing them with an embroidery machine. A recent project has been making L'il Bruin tee-shirts for infants of Bethany alumni. She also has dabbled in knitting, wool-spinning, and made a couple of rugs, but quilting is what she enjoys most. "There's something about 100% cotton, carefully selected and hand-crafted that I just love. I can't really explain it," she says.



Wendy Yoder Nice ('97), front, with her mother Ruthie Yoder (staff, '87-), left, and Carol Helmuth Honderich ('68) at the Menno-Hof quilting class.

Wendy, a stay-at-home mother and sign-language interpreter, regularly participates in quilting projects at her church. In addition to the joy of fellowship, she values sharing her gifts with others as the group donates their work to church organizations such as the Mennonite Relief Sale. And she practices that same spirit of giving with her personal projects. "I like giving away the things I make. Over the years, I've been the recipient of some wonderful quilts—and they are among my most cherished possessions."

She believes her creativity and passion for quilting is God-given and often feels most at peace when working on a project. "Imitating our Creator God by working with my hands is something that resonates with me. At times I can't sleep because I'm thinking of a new project. That kind of enthusiasm must have been created in me," she says.

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Faith-based Personal Finance

"I was totally clueless . . . found out I didn't know much about money" were typical responses by *Economics* students during their unit on personal finance.

Though personal finance is not part of Indiana state standards for the *Economics* curriculum, teacher Barbara Slagel sees her class as an opportunity for Bethany to help prepare seniors for independent living and participation in Mennonite Church USA's Purposeful Plan vision of stewardship education. Students not only learn basic money management and financial planning skills but do so from a faith-based perspective. Using *Financial Foundations*, a curriculum designed by Everence and Mennonite Schools Council, students acquire an integrated understanding of finance and faith as they build financial skills through solid instruction, thoughtful dialogue, and disciplined practice.

Slagel says, "I know from personal experience how difficult learning to manage personal finances can be. My husband and I made some poor financial decisions when we were younger because we didn't know any better—and it can be embarrassing to talk about our failures. My desire is to give students the tools they need to make informed, and hopefully wise, choices."

Teaching personal finance from a faith-based perspective runs counter to the predominant message of North American culture that possessions define people and bring happiness. Slagel says, "Our culture emphasizes individual ownership of money and freedom to spend it on oneself, perhaps save a little, and, if any is left, share it with others. In contrast, the biblical approach is that everything we have belongs to God and individual worth is not found in possessions. As followers of Christ, our highest financial priority should be to give first-fruits for God's work, then save for the future, and finally spend on oneself from what is left." The class also examines the difference between needs and wants, consumption and simple living, living within one's means, sharing not hoarding, and being generous.



In playing the game of *Life*, students recognize the interplay between earning and spending and differentiate between cultural teachings and reality: seniors Femi Hollinger-Janzen, Abbey Reith, and Cody Yoder.

Alan and Carla Weldy appreciate Slagel's teaching their daughter money management from a faith-based perspective. "One of the most important life skills for our children to develop is the ability to appropriately

See **Personal Finance** on p. 3