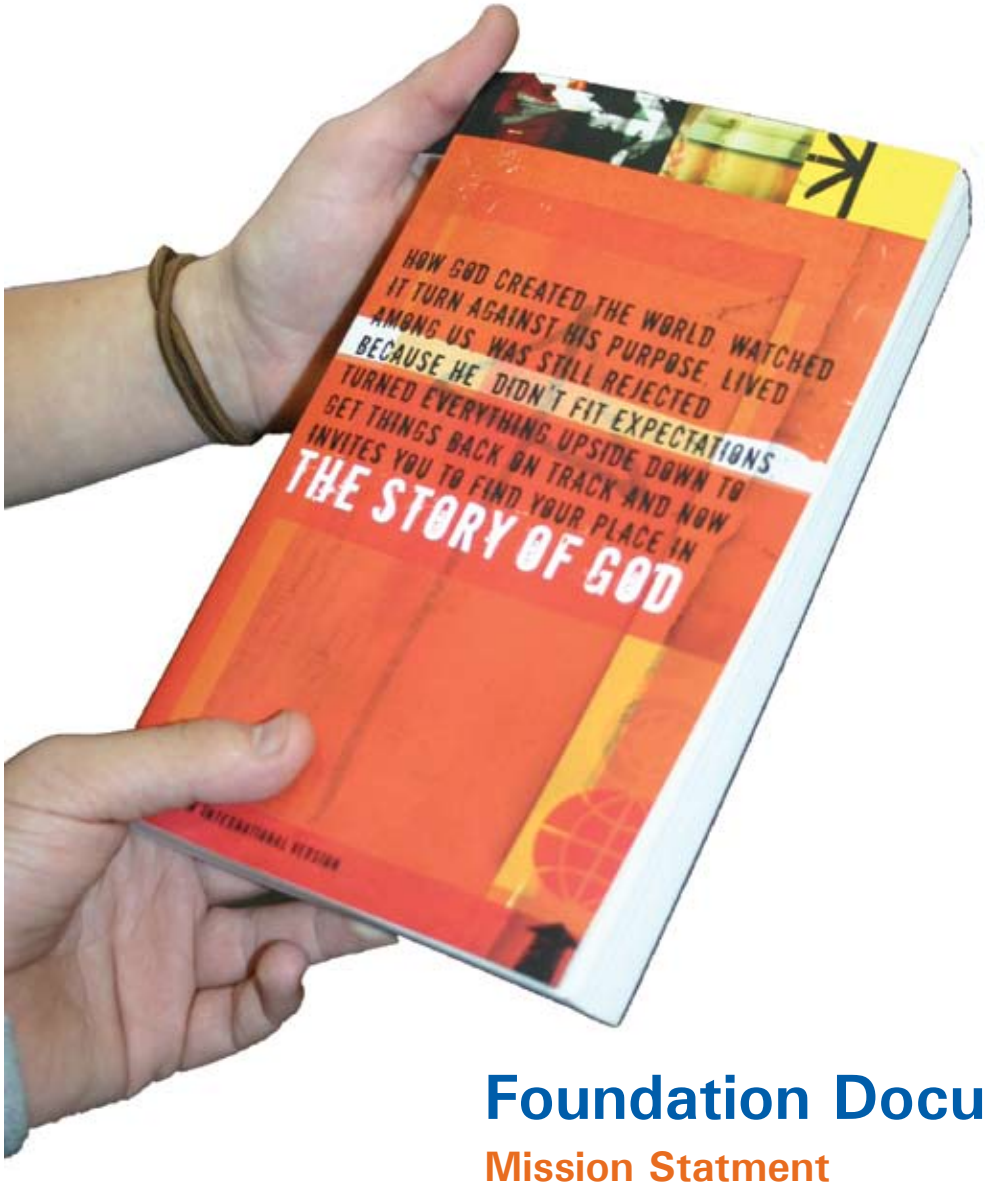
Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN



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Parameters: The Broader Context

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Bethany
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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Foundation Documents

Board Approves Foundation Documents

Mission statement, core values, graduate profile, and parameters within which Bethany operates were approved at Bethany's Sept. 17 board meeting. These foundation documents become the cornerstone that will help position Bethany to better serve the church and community in the coming years.

These documents grow out of a 2006 board decision to engage in a two-year self-study and strategic-planning process to assess where the school is and where it should head in the next five years. The process is also fulfilling requirements for reaccreditation with Indiana Department of Education and first-time accreditation with North Central Association and Mennonite Education Agency, accrediting bodies with emphasis on academic excellence and faith formation.

A Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from faculty and constituent groups, is leading the strategic planning process that has included input from faculty, parents, students, donors, alumni, and pastors. A March 23-24 visioning event saw over 50 representatives from these groups work intensely with the Steering Committee, which used input and ideas from this and other settings to shape the final documents approved by the board. These representatives met again Nov. 2-3 to dream of possible ways to enhance the school's mission in the next five years.

Music Program Review: In light of self-study data Bethany is initiating a thorough review of its music program to better position the program for increasing effectiveness in helping Bethany achieve its mission. Once the review committee completes assessment in early 2008, a new committee that includes individuals with interest and qualifications in music will use the information to begin shaping the future direction of Bethany's music program. The school anticipates this committee's recommendations will begin to be implemented in 2008-09.

Mission

Bethany Christian Schools is a dynamic learning community that integrates faith development with academic excellence. Grounded in Mennonite values, Bethany equips students for Christian discipleship in the church and around the world.

Core Values

We at Bethany value:

Christ-centered education: Integrating faith and learning from a Mennonite perspective that highlights discipleship, peaceable living, and service, we invite each student to engage in a personal faith journey.

Academic excellence: Through vibrant, creative, and student-centered education, we empower all learners to meet academic challenges.

Gifts development: We nurture the spiritual, academic, artistic, physical, and social gifts of all students and unleash these gifts to further God's work in the world.

Community: Within a diverse faith-based community, we foster respectful and compassionate relationships among students, faculty, staff, and the church.

Parameters: The Broader Context

Academic accreditation: Since its inception in 1954, Bethany Christian Schools has been accredited by Indiana's Department of Education. Bethany joined the North Central Association in 2006 and anticipates completing requirements for NCA accreditation in 2007-08.

Church affiliation and theological context: As the church school of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, Bethany Christian Schools functions within the framework of Mennonite Church USA. The denomination's Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective serves as the foundational theological document for Bethany.

Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

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Editor: J. Kevin Miller
Consulting Editors:
Allan Dueck,
Scott Richer,
Karen Shenk,
Hank Willems,
Sarah Yoder
2904 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-5499
574 534-2567
info@bethanycs.net

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to Bethany *Bulletin*,
c/o Evangel Press
2000 Evangel Way
Nappanee, IN 46550

Mennonite education affiliation and accreditation: Bethany Christian Schools is a member of the Mennonite Schools Council (MSC), a network of about 35 PreK-12 Mennonite schools serving more than 10,000 students in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Canada. In partnership with the church, the Mennonite Schools Council advances Christ-centered PreK-12 education by networking schools and equipping them to implement the vision of Anabaptist/Mennonite education.

In 2007-08, Bethany anticipates completing requirements for accreditation by Mennonite Education Agency (MEA), which oversees Christian education from PreK through seminary on behalf of Mennonite Church USA.

Foundation Documents

Graduate Profile

In light of Bethany's parameters, mission, and core values—the school educates and nurtures students so that, upon graduation from high school, they:

Academic Competence

- Exhibit foundational knowledge and competence in academic disciplines.
- Communicate effectively through listening, speaking, and writing.
- Possess the knowledge and skills for success in making decisions, managing resources, relating to others, and functioning in the workforce.
- Value and demonstrate the skills of life-long learning—including thinking critically, accessing information, solving problems, and collaborating with others.
- Utilize current technologies effectively and ethically.
- Appreciate and demonstrate creativity and artistic expression.

Spiritual Growth

- Possess basic biblical literacy, the tools of biblical interpretation, and the know how to draw on the Bible for spiritual discernment.
- Explore the implications of Jesus' call for their own lives, grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and the faith community, and understand faith as a life-long journey.
- Ask questions and seek answers through the practice of spiritual disciplines and the counsel of others.
- Explore and develop their God-given gifts.
- Value worship as an essential part of Christian life and utilize the skills acquired at Bethany to participate meaningfully in worship.
- Articulate their beliefs, values, and convictions.
- Practice service and peacemaking as practical expressions of Christian discipleship.
- Cultivate a Christian worldview informed by Anabaptist-Mennonite theology and experience.

Lifestyle Integrity

- Maintain healthy relationships with others, build friendships, and resolve conflict peaceably.
- Practice stewardship of all God has entrusted to them—including personal gifts, physical wellness, the environment, time, and resources.
- Participate in congregational and broader church life.
- Seek to be compassionate leaders.
- Value diversity and demonstrate cultural sensitivity.
- Balance conscientious work with generous service, enjoyment of leisure, and Sabbath rest.
- Demonstrate integrity and honesty.
- Live with a sense of curiosity and wonder.

Learning that lasts.

Faith in Action

Bethany's two mainstage theater productions for 2007-08 unfold around the theme "Faith in Action." In February *Dead Man Walking*, based on Sister Helen Prejean's interactions with inmates on death row, will focus on the death penalty but also highlight issues of racial and economic justice. This compelling story, with thought-provoking reflections from Sister Helen, urges us to consider our roles in working for a more just society. The school is planning other educational opportunities in conjunction with this production (for updated information, see bethanycs.net/deadmanwalking).

Dead Man Walking

a compelling story that prompts us to reflect on the role of Christian faith in contemporary social justice issues.

Three Performances
Feb. 21, 22, and 24, 2008

Tickets
$8 for adults • $6 for students
Reservations begin Feb. 4
Call 574 534-2567



In November students breathed new life into the familiar gospel narrative through the energetic music and quirky retellings of parables in *Godspell*. Director Talashia Keim Yoder and the cast compiled their reflections into a study guide (see bethanycs.net/godspell), where she notes that *Godspell* is about "a community that is transformed . . . and that community becomes equipped to transform the world."

At left: *Godspell* disciple (senior Emily Bowman) follows the hand movements of Jesus (senior Jay Mast) as she sings of the desire to "follow you more nearly" in "Day by Day." Emily is the daughter of Murray and Helen (Stoltzfus '71) Bowman; Jay is the son of John ('81) and Lois (Stoltzfus '80) Mast.

Fall Sports Excel: Cross Country Runner to State

Cross country (girls 11-4; boys 7-8). Ali Hochstetler ('11) won every regular-season race and placed first in sectionals, second in regionals, third in semistate, and nineteenth in state.

Sportsmanship Award

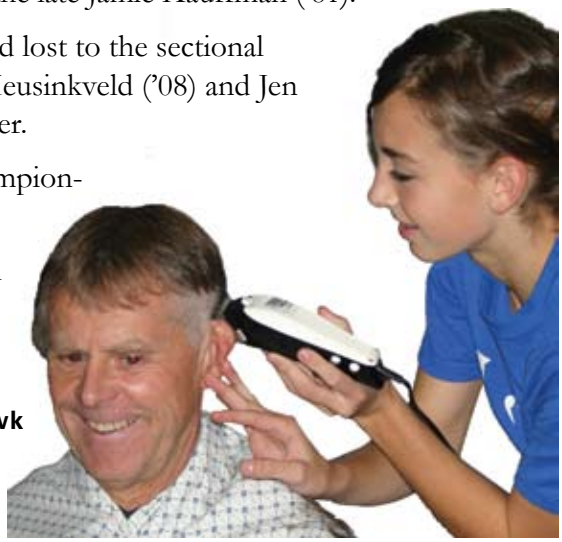
Bethany received the 2006-07 IHSAA Sportsmanship Award. Congratulations to all fans and athletes who represent Bethany with a positive spirit.

Boys soccer (12-7) won the NISC title and lost 1-0 in the sectional championship. All district: Stephen Pettifor ('08); all-conference Pettifor, Calvin Graybill ('08), Jordan Weaver ('09), Seth Kauffman ('10), and Jesse Ramer ('10). Jordan is the son of Lisa (Nunemaker '86) Weaver; Seth is the son of Cheryl (Roth '83) Snyder and the late Jamie Kauffman ('81).

Girls soccer (11-6) finished second in NISC and lost to the sectional champion in a shootout. All-conference: Kari Heusinkveld ('08) and Jen Snyder ('08), daughter of Kim (Shank '79) Snyder.

Boys tennis (12-6) lost 3-2 in the sectional championship (all varsity players were underclassmen).

Volleyball (15-14) won the Wawasee invitational for the first time since 1998; lost to the sectional champion after splitting regular-season matches.



At right, Ali Hochstetler ('11) gives a mohawk haircut to coach Ken Willems ('64, S'06-), who offered to let the team shave his head if Ali placed in the top 25 at state.

Faith that lives.

Carrying Bibles Everywhere: A Faith-Building Lesson

To carry a Bible around school all the time is unusual. To do so in public places, even more so. But for one week in October, choir members did just that: carry their Bibles with them everywhere—to school events, restaurants, stores, and church.

Music teacher John D. Smucker's inspiration for this assignment came through his participation in Bethany's strategic planning process and his engaging with questions such as "What do we wish to nurture in our students at Bethany? What does it mean to be Christ-centered?" He says, "The connection between music and the experience of carrying the Bible is directly related to how we should talk about and live out our faith, including singing songs of faith in concert halls, churches, and at school."



Students found that carrying a Bible with them was a catalyst for conversations with others, stood a tension with mainstream culture, and served as a personal reminder to spend time with God. For more on this story, including reflections from individual students, see bethanycs.net/carrymyBible.

Sophomores Create Musical

Class Voice students wrote and performed their own high school musical: four scenes about relationships at Bethany. In their musical a male and female student notice each other in the lunchline, get stuck in the muck in *Environmental Science*, search library stacks for romance (and find they are "checked out"), and finally meet in the Friendship Garden. Teacher J. D. Smucker says, "Students learned composition skills, vocal technique, and how to put together a musical with theme, dialogue, and choreography—an amazing learning experience." For more information on the story and to listen to two excerpts, see bethanycs.net/performingarts/CV07.

40-Day Health Challenge

In chapel ninth-grade Health students presented a 40-day challenge for students, faculty, and staff to change patterns in one of six components of health: physical, spiritual, emotional, mental, environmental, or social. "Studies show that if you can make a lifestyle change for 40 days, you have a good chance of making that change permanent," said teacher Krysten Parson. In November the class led a chapel in which students reflected on their 40-day experiences.



Serving the Community

At left, Katie Hoekstra ('11) cleans debris from a field as part of a student-body-led relief effort following the Oct. 18 tornado that hit neighboring Nappanee.

Below, Eco Club juniors Si Gustafson-Zook, Jon Mark, and Hope Thomas participate in a river cleanup orchestrated by Anthony Fizer ('07), who is serving with Elkhart Envircorps.



Alumni News

Fun Fest

BETHANY FUN FEST

March 14, 2008

Fun Fest on Friday, March 14, will raise funds to benefit all Bethany students. Activities will include live and silent auctions, a chicken barbeque, a carnival for youth and children, and a bake sale. Auction items will be published in an auction catalog, available at bethanycs.net by late February. Everyone is invited to participate as a donor or buyer. Contact the office to donate auction items, baked goods, money to cover expenses, and volunteer help.



Ruth Miller Roth and Emmon Schmucker auction a quilt.

Nice Hikes Appalachian Trail

In September **Sam Nice ('00)** became one of about 200 people this year to hike the entire 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail that runs from Georgia to Maine. Nice quit his job at Little Eden Camp, Onekama, Mich., to begin his five-month trek in April. He was inspired not only by the adventure and physical challenge of the trek, but sought to spend time in nature reflecting on the direction of his life and his relationship with God. His trip helped him learn to rely on God more and strengthen his personal discipline—to get through the bad days for the good. Along the way he spent several days of voluntary service in helping maintain the trail. He realized his goal of seeing a bear, moose, and rattlesnake, and the scenic views reinforced his belief in God as creator. He has since returned to working in the kitchen and on the grounds at Little Eden Camp.



Deaths

Marner Miller, founding supporter, Oct. 7, survived by wife Lala and children Shirley ('60), David R. ('61), and Larry ('67) and preceded in death by son Marlin ('57). Grandchildren include Rachel Miller Jacobs ('79), Eric Miller Sommers ('81), Lynelle Clark ('83), Kevin Miller ('85), Devon Miller ('88), Brent Miller ('92), Anne-Marie Miller (ng'92), Alex Miller (ng'00). A greatgrandson is Brice Miller (ng'04).

Births

Matt ('84) and Lisa **Litwiller**, New Paris, Ind., daughter Bridget Caroline, Oct. 6.

Tonja ('90 Zook) and Nick **Nicholas**, Middlebury, Ind., son Ty Alexander, Oct. 4.

Eric ('94) and Renee **Yoder**, Goshen, son Case Michael, Oct. 14. Grandparents are Wes ('68) and Ruthie (S'87-) Yoder.

Becky ('96 Wieand) and Matt **Bateman,** Goshen, daughter Gretchen Rose, Sept. 1.

Brooke (Steury '97) and Nate **Clemmer**, Harleysville, Pa., daughter Aubrey Mae, Dec. 3. Grandparents are Bob ('73) and Barb Steury.

Jeremiah (F'04-06) and Stefanie **Wade**, Goshen, daughter Scarlett Eliza, Oct. 21.

Calendar

January

23 Pastors' Day

February

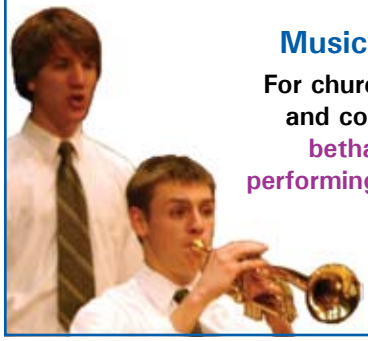
21-22, 24 *Dead Man Walking* (see page 4)

March

7 Donkey Basketball, 7 p.m.
8 Spring Arts performance, 7 p.m.
14 Fun Fest (see above)
28-30 MRM Orchestra Festival, Kidron, Ohio

April

7-11 Spring Break (offices closed)
11-14 MSC Choir Festival, Hartville, Ohio
18 Fish Fry, 4:30-8:00 p.m.



Music Calendar

For church itineration and concerts, see bethanycs.net/performingarts/schedule

Alumni News

Notes

Gary Martin ('71), Goshen, is transitional team leader at College Mennonite Church.

John Troyer ('88) and wife Sheila, Goshen, were installed in August as pastors of youth and young adults at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church.

Lana Miller ('94), interim campus pastor at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va., was the spiritual life emphasis week speaker at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School in September.

Kent Yoder ('97), a student at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, is teaching and preaching in a local congregation and will teach a college course on ethics and morality this spring. Between semesters he will do research at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland.

Sarah Thompson ('02), Elkhart, Ind., is serving with Mennonite Voluntary Service at Jubilee House and studying toward an M.Div. at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Gabe Baker ('03), Goshen College senior, received a $5,000 entrepreneurship grant for his magazine, *Maple City Art Review*, which examines and endorses artists, exhibits, and events in the Goshen area.

Destiny Peshina ('04) participated in Mennonite Mission Network's Service Venture program this summer in Albuquerque, N.M.

Caleb Miller ('05) and **Mitch Stutzman ('07)** were part of a Hesston College troupe that performed *The Complete History of the Old Testament in 20 Minutes and Other Traveling Tales* in churches this fall.

Stephanie Hollenberg ('07) is serving the international portion of her Reaching and Discipling assignment in Colombia.

Encourage someone you know—
a child,
a grandchild,
a friend
—to consider Bethany.

Visit Days: Feb. 4, Feb. 18, March 3

574 534-2567 or admissions@bethanycs.net

Hall of Fame Inductees

Myron Bontreger ('87, F'98-'05) and **Eric Risser ('88)** were inducted Nov. 10 into the Elkhart County Sports Hall of Fame. Myron holds Bethany soccer scoring records with 33 goals in one season and 66 career. Eric holds five career baseball records including most wins (14) and lowest ERA (2.27). Both were part of the 1987 sectional champion baseball team. For more information see bethanycs.net/countyhall2007.

Dan Bodiker (F'64-07) was inducted into the Indiana Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame "for his efforts in helping shape the high school game in Indiana." In addition to success as a coach (326-135-39, for a .707 winning percentage), he helped form Indiana's first soccer conference, first state soccer tournament, and Goshen Youth Soccer Organization. For more information, see bethanycs.net/Soccer_Hall.

Spirit Wear

Interested in owning a Bethany polo shirt, denim shirt, sweatshirt, T-shirt, or seat cushion?



For additional photo samples, prices, and information on ordering, see bethanycs.net/spiritwear.



The **class of '57** met Oct. 13 at Das Dutchman Essenhaus for a meal, time of sharing, and special music from a women's sextet. Attendees included: (seated) Esther Rheinheimer Hoover, Janet Troyer Weaver, Rachel Bixler Guedea, Helen Good, Leah Anne Yoder; (standing front) Marvin Yoder, Barbara Plank Slabach, Betty Miller Yoder, Verba Stutzman Wilson, Janet Yoder Judy, Grace Sommers Whitehead, Mary Schrock Yoder, Pat Yoder Miller; (back) Chris Yoder, Marybelle Kauffman Beachy, Galen Eash, Melba Weaver Martin, Charlene Weaver Farmwald, Mary Ellen Kaufman Miller, Janice Schrock Prowant, Evelyn Birkey Yoder, Ralph Hartman, Carolyn Burkholder Bontrager, Dale Schlabach, Don Newcomer, J. Marvin Nafziger (class sponsor).

From the Principal

Allan Dueck



Once last spring and again this fall, Bethany invited 50-or-so friends of the school to devote eight hours on a Friday evening and Saturday morning to discuss the school's future. On March 23-24, 2007, our task was to identify the basic ingredients of the school's foundation documents: mission statement, core values, and graduate profile. While this agenda may not sound very exciting, most participants left the meetings invigorated—even inspired—from thinking together about Bethany's future.

Common sense does confirm what any strategic planning expert asserts. An institution must continually reinvent itself to thrive. As the provocative title of a recent book on renewal puts it, institutions must "change or die." Now, early in the 21st century, Bethany is seeking to redefine itself in light of current realities.

The 55 people gathered at Bethany on March 23-24 included board members, teachers, students, parents, administrators, donors, alumni, pastors, and friends. Beginning with thinking individually, then sharing ideas with others in our table groups, and eventually talking all together, we identified key ingredients of Bethany's mission. A central idea emerged: that two emphases are primary at Bethany—faith development and academic excellence. Yet these are not distinct elements, on two separate tracks, but rather an integrated set.

We went on to outline core values—those key convictions that shape the educational enterprise here—and then to define the graduate profile. The thought was that to educate today's students well, we as a school community must identify the competencies we want students to exhibit upon graduation. The list of academic, spiritual, and lifestyle competencies that resulted from our discussion now becomes a valuable gauge for measuring curricular and co-curricular programs: how do they equip students with the identified competencies?

As Alan Deutschman says in his book, *Change or Die*, we as individuals and institutions must change if we hope to flourish in a changing context. Through intensive self-study and strategic planning, we at Bethany are addressing this need. To ensure our school's continued success in calling young people to Christian commitment and equipping them to be Christ's hands and feet in a needy world, we must rethink and articulate anew our mission, core values, and desired outcomes. The process itself is invigorating: moreover, it promises exciting new opportunities for students at Bethany.

Bethany CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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