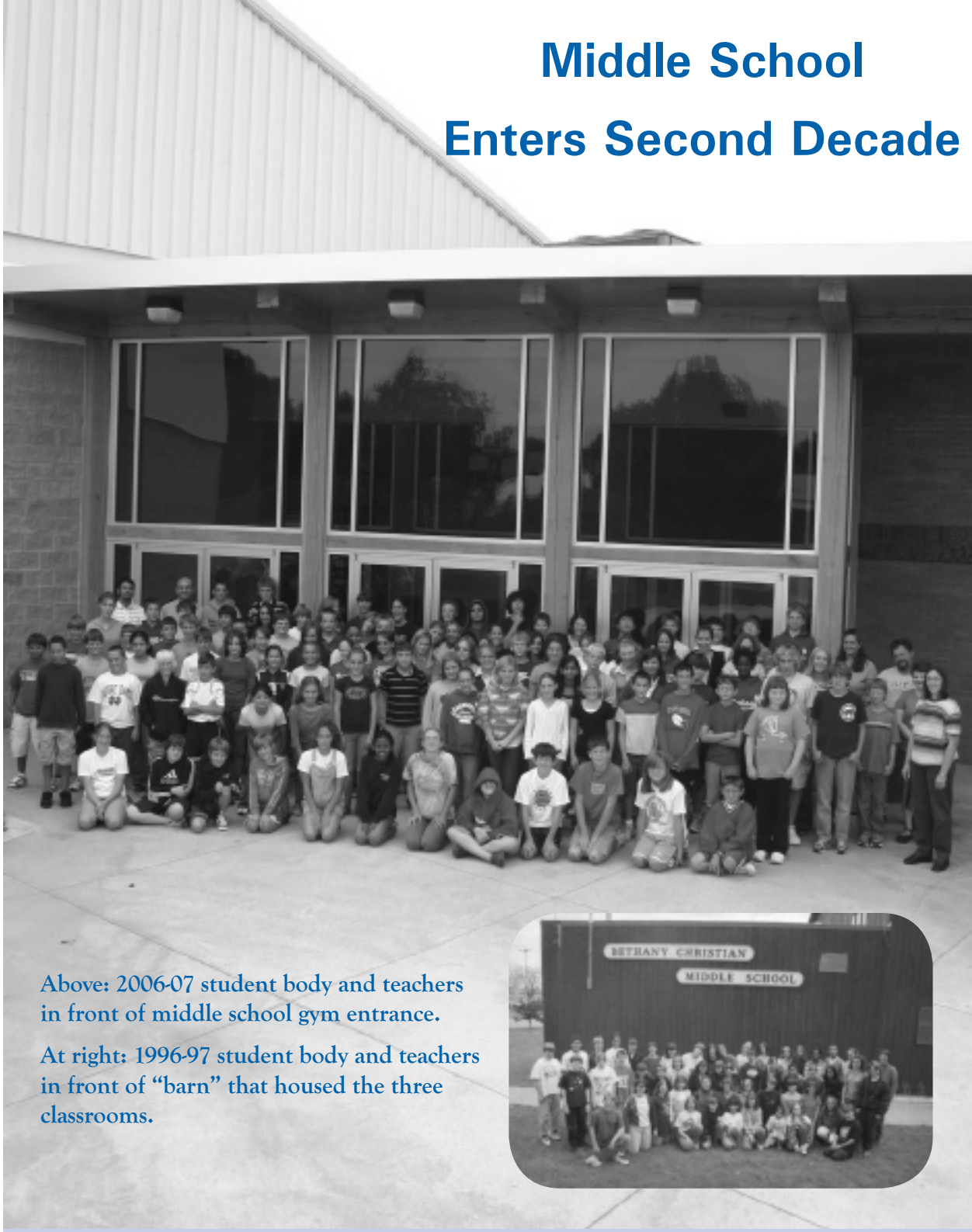
Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN

Middle School Enters Second Decade



Above: 2006-07 student body and teachers in front of middle school gym entrance.

At right: 1996-97 student body and teachers in front of "barn" that housed the three classrooms.

Inside this Issue

Alumni News and Reunions 5-7
Calendar 5
Campus News..... 4
- Fall Festival
- SAT Scores Impressive
- Fall Drama

From the Principal 8

Middle School Enters Second Decade
see p. 4

Fall 2006
Vol. 52 No. 1
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New Personnel

Board

Bj Leichty



Bj Leichty, associate pastor at Holdeman Mennonite Church, worked at Western Mennonite High School for 19 years and has had children attending Bethany for the past six years. She hopes many others can benefit from Bethany and sees affordable tuition and helping parents make Christian education a priority as key factors. A graduate of Hesston and Goshen colleges, Bj and her husband Rol have four children: Annerose ('05), Alan (grade 11), Julianne ('10), and Jennifer (grade 5).

Vilma Padilla



Vilma Padilla desires that students at Bethany will not only "hear the good news, but use it as a guide in the everyday problems in their lives." Vilma, a Goshen College sophomore majoring in education and Spanish, is a member of Iglesia Menonita del Buen Pastor where she serves in many roles, including leader of youth, Sunday school teacher, and council member. She and her husband Saulo have three daughters: Sara ('07), Rebecca ('11), and Vanessa (grade 4).

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Alan Weldy



Alan Weldy, associate professor and chair of Goshen College's business department, wants to see that Bethany students continue to grow "academically, spiritually, and socially so that they are prepared to be leaders in their churches and communities." An attorney, Alan has provided legal counsel to Bethany since 1992. A past moderator at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church, Alan now serves as vice chair of the church council. He and his wife Carla have three children: Marissa ('10), Malaina ('12), and Landon (grade 4).

Orville Yoder



Orville Yoder, who worked for more than 30 years with Goshen College and Mennonite Board of Education, has maintained a strong interest in Bethany since its beginning. He hopes Bethany can build stronger connections with Mennonite congregations and families, "emphasizing education for an alternative Christian community built on the teachings of Jesus as applied in the values and practices of Anabaptism." Orville and his wife LaJane are members of Benton Mennonite Church, where he serves as Sunday school teacher and finance ministry member.

Robin Yoder



Robin Yoder is lay ministry coordinator at Pleasant View Mennonite Church, where she works with the community outreach team, worship committee, and gifts discernment/nominating team. Robin and her husband Kevin have three children: Nicole ('08), Katie ('09), and Cody ('12). Robin says that her children continue to have life-shaping faith experiences at Bethany, and she looks forward to "contributing to the future of other young people at Bethany."

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Faculty and Staff

Janice Eigsti Miller

Janice Eigsti Miller is business manager. She had been a senior assistant for McGladrey & Pullen LLP since graduating from Goshen College in 2001 with a B.A. in accounting.

She and her husband Brian attend Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, where she serves as an MYF sponsor and co-chair of the finance committee.

Len Harms

Len Harms, a former elementary teacher in Goshen Community Schools (1970-2002), is groundskeeper. Though not formally trained in grounds care, he has demonstrated his interest and abilities in horticulture by maintaining flower beds for two restaurants in Goshen and designing and installing landscaping around Goshen Community Schools' administrative offices.

Len and his wife Loanne are members at Waterford Mennonite Church where he has served as a Sunday school teacher and for nine years as a youth sponsor. They have one adult child, David, who is serving with Mennonite Disaster Service in Texas.

Richard Miller

Richard Miller teaches chemistry and physics. Early in his professional career he taught high school for seven years, including a year at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School. Since teaching he has worked in insurance and financial planning, including ten years at Mennonite Mutual Aid, and in development at Goshen College (1990-2004).

He and his wife Cheryl attend Hively Avenue Mennonite Church where he has served as trustee, stewardship chair, Sunday school teacher, moderator, and mentor. He has four adult children—Cedric ('85), Curtis ('89), Toya ('91), and Tina—and a stepson Chad Goertz ('94, F'02-04).



New faculty and staff (l to r): Janice Eigsti Miller, Evie Nafziger, Richard Miller, Len Harms, Jesse van Eerden.

Evie Nafziger

Evie Nafziger, who has directed Bethany's middle school dramas the past three years, teaches high school English. A graduate of Central Christian High School and Eastern Mennonite University, she had taught English and directed high school dramas before focusing on raising her children.

Since then she has volunteered in schools and served on worship commissions in several Mennonite congregations. She and her husband Dan are members of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, where she is a member of the worship commission. They have four children: Liz ('06), Lucas ('07), J.D. ('10), and Anna ('12).

Jessie van Eerden

Jessie van Eerden serves as SST Tutor for two periods and as sponsor for the high school newspaper, *The Reflector*. She is in process of completing a master of fine arts in nonfiction writing at the University of Iowa, where she also taught general education literature. She previously taught GED prep and adult basic education classes for three years in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

In August she married Mike van Eerden, a student at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. They are part of a small group affiliated with Faith Mennonite Church.

Campus News

Fall Festival

The second annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 14, will again include a pancake and sausage breakfast (7-10:30 a.m.), 5K run/walk (8 a.m.), closest-to-the-pin golf shot contest, giant rock climb slide, caricature artists, and educational displays. For more information, contact the school at 574 534-2567.

Spring Fun Fest is scheduled for Friday, March 16.

Middle School Enters Second Decade

This fall Bethany Christian Middle School begins its eleventh year since opening in fall 1996. Since that time there have been constants such as Melissa (Shirk) Jantz (the only teacher here all ten years), a low student-teacher ratio that allows for unique learning opportunities, and a commitment to provide an excellent education in a safe environment where students explore, grow in, and strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ. At the same time, the middle school has grown and changed in many ways. Following are some comparisons between then and now.

	1996	2006
Enrollment	52 students with one section per grade.	97 students (high of 111 in 2004-05) with two sections per grade.
Facilities	Three classrooms in upstairs of renovated "barn" with an outside walk required to access other facilities shared with high school.	Six new classrooms and gym connected with high school facilities plus new/remodeled cafeteria, media center, instrumental music room, and computer labs.
Core Teachers	Three: one for grade 6; two for grade 7-8 with one specializing in math/science and another in social studies/language arts.	Eight (6.55 FTE): two for grade 6; one specializing in PE/Health (grades 6-8); one each specializing in grades 7-8 math, science, social studies, language arts, and Bible.
Enrichment Curriculum	Music, phys ed, home ec, health, computer, foreign language, art.	Increased options in same areas, beginning instruments, algebra.
Athletic Teams	Volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys/girls soccer.	3 volleyball, 3 boys basketball, 3 girls basketball, 2 boys soccer, 2 girls soccer, boys cross country, girls cross country.
Music and Drama	Grade 6 performed two musicals written by their teacher.	Fall drama for anyone in grade 6-8; spring drama by audition.
Grading	Handwritten paragraphs with numbered grading scale issued quarterly.	Standard letter grades for achievement, effort, and behavior; grades available online weekly.

SAT Scores Impressive

SAT average scores for Bethany's class of 2006 easily surpassed averages for state, national, and local area schools. Bethany's average score of 1,670 was 177 points higher than the state average and 152 points higher than the national average. "This is particularly impressive given that our participation rate of 92% is significantly higher than other schools," says guidance counselor Jim Buller.

Over the River and Through the Woods

A comedy centered on faith, family, and food

Three Performances

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Nov. 16-17
3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19

Tickets

$8 for adults • $6 for students
Reservations begin Oct. 30
Call 574 534-2567

Prayer Corner

We invite your prayers for the following in the Bethany community:

Michael Maust ('75), Goshen, whose six-year-old son Elliot is being treated for a brain stem tumor at Riley's Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Ind.

Don Carufel-Wert ('83), Madison, Wis., for continued healing from surgery for a spinal tumor and adjustment as he returns to work as a family physician.

Births

John Kolb ('84) and Beata Krakus, Chicago, Ill, daughter Isabella Emily, June 19.

Larry ('85) and Kendra **Guengerich**, East Petersburg, Pa., son Carter Ross Peifer, Aug. 29. Larry is media and educator coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee.

Amy (Birky '88) and Viratham **Mounsithiraj**, Goshen, son Aaron Benjamin, July 28. Grandmother is Carol (Dintaman '62) Birky.

Carla (Miller '88) and Tim **Thompson**, Goshen, son Landon Reece, July 22. Grandmother is Joyce (Cross '63) Miller.

Bryan Falcon ('91) and **Lizzie Smucker ('02ng)**, Goshen, daughter Willow Elyria Twilight, June 26.

Ryan ('91) and Lisa (Miller '93) Miller, Goshen, daughter Greta Faith, Aug. 20.

Jason ('93) and Kylee **Steiner**, Noblesville, Ind., daughter Lilyanna Sue, June 26. Grandfather is J. Steiner ('59) and great-grandfather John Steiner (principal '54-66).

Amber Maust ('93), Goshen, son Xayvion Tai, July 20. Grandfather is Jerry Maust ('70).

Rodney ('94) and Amber **Kiogima**, Fisher, Ill., son Kameron Dale, June 2.

Brian (F'97-04) and **Cheryl (F'98-) Mast**, Goshen, son Tristan Perry, June 17.

Marriages

Ronald P. Yoder ('72) and Rhonda Posey, Elkhart, Ind., Aug. 5.

Lisa Stauffer ('87) and Todd Mayen, Granby, Colo., July 15. She is an educator for Wonders in Nature, Wonders in Neighborhoods in the Denver area.

Eric Risser ('93) and Michelle Tullis, Goshen, June 24.

Kevin P. Miller ('93) and Alisha Leighanne Salter, Goshen, Aug. 12.

Lana Miller ('94) and Andy Miller, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 12, in Goshen. They are students at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Eliot Friesen ('97) and Carrie Meyers, Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 12, in Goshen. They are graduate students at Harvard.

Erin Sharp ('98ng) and Jeffrey Umstead, Goshen, June 24.

Tim Nafziger ('99) and Charletta Erb, Milford, Ind., Sept. 9.

Betsy Leinbach ('00) and Jon Bontrager, Moravian Falls, N.C., June 24 in Syracuse, Ind.

Emma Loewen ('00) and Alex Dugger, Goshen, June 24.

Traci Yoder ('01) and Jered Stoltzfus, Harrisonburg, Va., July 29 in Goshen.

Zac Albrecht ('02) and Elizabeth Heiks, Goshen, July 22, in Iola, Wis. He received a $5,000 grant from Goshen College's Entrepreneurship Learning Center to assist in starting a photography business.

Jacob Stuckey ('02) and ReBecca Johnson, Chicago, Ill., June 17 in Cassopolis, Mich.

Elya Peshina ('04) and Braden Brubaker, Lebanon, Pa., Aug. 12 in Goshen.

Calendar

October

13 Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m.
14 Fall Festival (see p. 4 sidebar)
15 Fall Choir Festival, 7 p.m. at Sauder Concert Hall, Goshen College
27 Fish Fry, 4:30-8 p.m.

November

16-17, 19 HS Drama: *Over the River and Through the Woods* (see page 4)

December

8 HS Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m., Sauder Concert Hall
12 MS Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.
16 Alumni Night

Admissions Calendar

Visit Day for prospective students: Monday, Nov. 13

Alumni News

Benefit Days

Hacienda Restaurant Nov. 28: Bethany receives 20% of sales from patrons presenting coupon. Coupons available at the school and local congregations several weeks prior to events.

Ten Thousand Villages Dec. 14: Bethany receives 25% of all sales this day—no coupon required.

Alumni News



The **class of '61** met July 22 at Bethany for a meal and tour. Attendees included: (front) Marvin Eash, Warren J. Yoder, Bob Brenneman, Carol (Hartzler) Grieser, Janet Moore, Judy (Kauffman) Kennel; (middle) Josie (Guedea) Jamin, Nancy (Yoder) Nofziger, Phyllis (Erb) King, Janice (Carpenter) Miller, Sharon (Nunemaker) Brooks, Jean (Lehman) Moyer, Rachel (Leichty) Pittman; (back) Lauretta (Ramer) Hoover, Dwight Grieser, Karl Lambright, Lavon Welty, Charles Kauffman, Russell Leinbach, Duane Stutzman, Irma (Yoder) Stutzman, Diana (Burkey) Weldy.



The **class of '76** met Aug. 5 at Bethany for a tour and then for dinner at Waterford Crossing. Attendees included: Peter Metzler, Ed Mendoza, Rebecca Martin, Wilmer Beachy, Mark Chupp, and Karen (Burkey) Mishler; (not pictured) Phil Herr and class sponsor Wilmer Hollinger.

Exploring Ministry and Service

This summer Sara Padilla ('07) participated in Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary's !Explore program, and four Bethany alumni attending Goshen College participated in ministry and service exploration programs: Sara Becker-Hoover ('05) at Camp Hebron, Peter Koontz ('04) at Camp Friedenswald, Justin Heinz ('03) at Benton Mennonite Church in Goshen, and Kristine Bowman ('03) at LaCasa Grande in Benin. Mimi Hollinger-Janzen ('05), a student at Conrad Grebel College, also served at LaCasa Grande independently.

Notes

Marge (Lengacher '59) Potts, Fort Wayne, Ind., is editing a New Testament commentary, writing a book, and hoping to publish her poetry.

Rachel (Hernandez '61) Hensley, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., is a studio artist in weaving and fiber art at Madison Art Center. She has taught weaving for over 25 years, including a course in Mexico this summer.

Sandra (Lambright '68) Yoder is vice president of healthcare and oversees operations at Greencroft Retirement Center's nursing facility in Goshen.

Karen Weldy-Kaufman ('69), Elkhart, Ind., is vice president of the Mennonite Chaplains Association.

Mark ('75) and **Karen (Burkey '76) Mishler,** Bristol, Ind., have nine children (ages 15-27) and a three-year-old granddaughter. Mark works as a diesel technician and Karen as an independent beauty consultant.

Mark Chupp ('76), Cleveland Heights, Ohio, joined the social work faculty at Case Western Reserve University this fall. He also works with a justice and service ministry in his church.

Rachel Miller Jacobs ('79) was ordained August 20 at Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, Ind., where she is pastor of Christian formation.

Christina Gingerich ('80), Middlebury, Ind., co-founded a mental health clinic in July. She focuses on anger and family/children issues.

Judy Clemens Smucker ('87), Bluffton, Ohio, has published the third book in her Stella Crown mystery series: *To Thine Own Self Be True*.

Heather Kropf ('90), Pittsburgh, Pa., released her second CD "What Else Is Love."

Jill Landis ('94), Harrisonburg, Va., is pursuing graduate studies at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University.

Anthony Detwiler ('97) works as a graphic designer for the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce.

Peter Hartman ('98) spoke on 3D Dialogue regarding Mennonites and technology (see www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdAQt5dx67I)

Carl Meyer ('98ng), Porcupine, S.D., is serving with Mennonite Central Committee to protest commercial development near Bear Butte, a sacred place for more than 30 Native American nations.

Anna Marie Becker-Hoover ('00), Seattle, Wash., works as a deckhand for a cruise company that partners with National Geographic Society to promote eco-tourism and adventure travel in southeast Alaska (summers) and Baja California (winters).

Jason Kauffman ('00), Goshen, is an urban conservationist for Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Sarah E. Miller ('01), Chicago, Ill., works as a designer for the Right Brain Project Theater Company.

Michael J. Sharp ('01), mission worker with Military Counseling Network in Germany, guides soldiers seeking conscientious objector status through the multi-step process required by military regulations.

Theo McFarlane ('02), Los Angeles, Calif., completed a B.A. in worship leadership at Milligan College in Tennessee. He works with the music ministries of Lion of Zion Entertainment and GospelReggae.com.

Austin Scharf ('02) graduated with a B.S. in chemistry from University of Richmond and works as an associate scientist for Pfizer in San Diego, Calif.

Sarah Roth ('03), majoring in history and English at Goshen College, studied Mennonite poet Anna Ruth Ediger Baehr as she archived her papers in the Mennonite Church USA Archives this summer.

Cooks' Recipes Published

Arianne Hochstetler (cook '88-96) and **Marilyn Nice (cook '92-)** had their recipes published in Good Book's *Fix-It and Enjoy-It* cookbook. Marilyn's recipe was submitted by daughter-in-law **Wendy (Yoder '97) Nice**.

Alumni News

Bikemovement

Sarah Thompson ('02), North American representative for Mennonite World Conference's youth committee AMIGOS, cycled across the U.S. this summer with Bikemovement, raising funds for youth from the global south to attend the Global Youth Summit in Paraguay 2009. Other alumni who participated in portions of the trip included Doug Kaufman ('85), Jill Landis ('94), and Andrea Kraybill ('06).



The **class of '81** met July 15 at Bethany for a tour and five-course meal in which everyone switched seats for each course, providing opportunities to visit with each other. Attendees included: (front) Sandy (Peachey) Slabaugh, Charlotte Yoder, Brenda (Hooley) Nebel, Paul Steury, Starla Graber; (row 2) Brenda Chupp, Vi (Miller) Delagrange, Tami (Walters) Snodgrass, Deb (Fisher) Sweetser, Karen (Yoder) Wyse, Karla (Yoder) Minter, Roger Bontrager; (row 3) Tyrone Hunt, Kent Hershberger, Brenda (Stoltzfus) Toews, Donna (Bontrager) Miller, John Mast, Phil Hertzler (partially hidden); (back) Todd Friesen, Ron Whiteford, John Blosser, John Hooley, Brent Miller, Barb Meyer-Reed.



The **class of '91** met July 29 at Bethany for a tour and meal. Attendees included: (front) Margie (Broni) Miller, Brandon Miller, Eric Martin; (middle) Deidre Summerton-Bias, Stephanie (Black) Chlebek, Stephanie (Lambright) Roth, Ami (Steiner) Damer; (back) Luke Lefever, Sam Miller, Tim Swartzendruber, Brad Weirich, Ryan Miller; (not pictured) Alison (Birkey) Sties, Mindy Zook.



The **class of '01** met Aug. 19 at Bethany for a tour and fellowship. Attendees at an evening meal included (l to r): Kate Showalter, Nick Gingerich, Joanna Shenk, Matt Gongwer, Sarah E. Miller, Jeremy Braun, Joel Koeneman, Adrienne Yoder, Jessica Berkey, Andy Gingerich, Anthony Slabaugh, Tom Stahly, and Dan Horst; (not pictured) Anna (Newburn) Parker, Andrea Chupp, Kyle Thomas, Jonathan Fridley, and Jeff and Mariko (Miyama) Claassen.

From the Principal

Allan Dueck



Recently when middle school students and teachers gathered outdoors for a group photo, admissions director Sarah Yoder recalled that she had been there for a similar photo when Bethany Christian Middle School opened its doors for the first time ten years ago. Out of curiosity and nostalgia, I pulled the first middle school yearbook off the shelf and, sure enough, on the title page is that photo with fifty-two smiling middle school students and their teachers.

Thinking back to 1995-96, I recall considerable enthusiasm among the twelve of us on the planning committee who met often to shape plans for the new middle school. Reflecting on educational philosophy, we concurred in the desire to create, not a junior high that focuses on preparing youngsters for high school, but rather a *middle school*.

We said, among other things, that the new school should be responsive to students' needs, stimulate their native curiosity, take advantage of things important to them such as peer interaction, provide opportunity for physical movement so necessary for early adolescents, and cultivate their idealism by giving them opportunities to help address problems around them through service. Of course, a foundational goal was to present age-appropriate faith instruction in a safe, nurturing environment.

During its ten years, Bethany Christian Middle School has touched the lives of 460 students. From 52 students and three teachers in three classrooms in Bethany's "barn," it has grown to about 100 students and eight teachers in six spacious, bright new classrooms and a shiny new gymnasium. Opportunities have been enriched and expanded in music, enrichment courses, athletics, and drama. Many middle school programs, such as *Wilderness Experience* and *Eighth Grade Recognition,* have become well-established traditions.

However, these outward changes and enhancements have not diminished the fundamental vision for Bethany Christian Middle School: to provide education of the highest quality that stimulates students' curiosity to learn and nurtures their faith in a safe setting. As I walk down the middle school hall and step into their classrooms, I see the kind of learning community the planning committee, board, and parents envisioned ten years ago: a school that proffers students "Learning that lasts. Faith that lives."

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