Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN

Board Approves New Building Plans



A schematic diagram of the floor plan for Bethany Christian Schools, as approved by the Board on September 22.

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Fall 2003
Vol. 49 No. 1
www.bethanycs.net

New Personnel

Board

Randy Christophel



Randy Christophel, chief financial officer of Goshen Health System, joined the Bethany board in August. He says, "I believe that Bethany has the unique opportunity of providing the foundation and training for establishing personal beliefs and individual commitment to carry out life in a Christian manner."

Randy has served in congregations as church moderator, treasurer, Sunday school teacher, and member of pastoral search and stewardship committees. He and his wife Lori are members at Silverwood Mennonite Church. They have three children: Jared ('09), Derek (grade 5), and Taylor (grade 4).

Barb Slagel



Barb Slagel, chief information officer and vice president of information technology at Mennonite Mutual Aid, joined the Bethany board in August. She envisions seeing the building project completed while reasonably controlling costs as a major focus of the board this year. She says, "The focus on being God's people and strong academics are foundational. Extracurriculars are important in building character and community, and I'd like to see these continue to strengthen."

Barb has been involved in music programs and the worship committee at East Goshen Mennonite Church, where her husband Steve is pastor. They have three children: Carrie ('07), Luke ('09), and Andrew (grade 4).

Staff

Norm Cender



Norm serves as maintenace and custodial staff person. Having earned an A.A. in residential building from Hesston (Kan.) College in 1979, he has worked in residential and commercial heating, cooling, and appliance installation and repair for more than 20 years.

Norm is a member at Holdeman Mennonite Church, where he has served as elder, Sunday school teacher, and building committee chair. He previously served as secretary-treasurer for Illinois Mennonite Disaster Service and in voluntary service at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center.

Norm is married to Karen Cender, who worked in the cafeteria from 2000-03. Both their daughters attend Bethany: Monica ('05) and Deanna ('07).

Verna Oyer

Verna serves as a cafeteria aide. An alumna of Hesston College, she brings restaurant experience as well as experience in food services at church. In recent years she has volunteered time to assist with clerical tasks at Bethany.

Verna and her husband Steve attend Zion Chapel where they serve as a mentor couple for small groups. They have four children: Mark, Missy ('99), Michael ('06), and Matthew ('09).

Debbie Snyder

Debbie serves as a cafeteria aide. A 1982 nursing graduate of Eastern Mennonite Univesity, she also works in Goshen Health System's "Nurse on Call" program.

Debbie and her husband Jeff recently moved to Goshen from Harrisonburg, Va. They have three children: Kelly ('08), Casey ('09), and Kristin (grade 5). They attend Yellow Creek Mennonite Church.

Bethany Christian Schools
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USPS 817-760

The BCS *Bulletin* is produced four times per year by the Development Office of Bethany Christian Schools. The *Bulletin* is distributed to all homes in the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, as well as to parents and alumni of the school. Entered as second class mail at Nappanee, Ind.

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Faculty

Omie Baumgartner

Omie teaches grade 7 and 8 Language Arts. A graduate of Goshen College with an M.A. from Ball State University, Omie has taught elementary school for 14 years. She and her husband Jim attend Silverwood Mennonite Church and have twin fifth-graders: Stefan and Anika. Omie serves as vice president of Central District Conference Mennonite Women.

Beth (Bare '86) Hawn

Beth teaches grade 7 and 8 science and grade 8 Bible. Previously she served as communications coordinator for Mennonite Board of Missions. Beth earned degrees in business from Goshen College in 1998 and in elementary education from IUSB in 2002. Beth, her husband Roger, and their sons Derek (13) and Marshall (11) attend Pleasant View Mennonite Church.

Chris Kahila

Chris teaches *Bible 9: Old Testament*. He also serves as administrator of Mennonite Mission Networks's *Service Adventure*. A former associate pastor at Hesston Mennonite Church (1998-2002), Chris earned an M.A. in Christian Ministry with a concentration in Old Testament biblical studies from Friends University (Wichita, Kan.) in 2001. Chris and his wife Kerri have two children: daughter Kristen (9) and son Caleb (5). They attend Locust Grove Mennonite Church in Burr Oak, Mich.

Gwen Gustafson-Zook



Gwen began teaching *Bible 11: Church History* in October. A graduate of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, she also pastors at Faith Mennonite Church in Goshen. She and husband Les are also well-known folk singers (see www.gustafsonzook.com). They have two children: Si ('09) and Sadie (grade 4).



Front: Myron Bontreger, Beth Hawn, Verna Oyer, Joy Yoder. Back: Richard Wineland (pastor of First English Lutheran taught *Church History* in August-September only), Chris Kahila, Omie Baumgartner, and Debbie Snyder.

Faculty on Leaves

Maternity and Professional

Computer/math teacher Jodi Huebert and Bible teacher Dale Shenk are on professional leaves of absence in 2003-04—Jodi all year and Dale during the first semester. In addition Cheryl Mast (grade 7 and 8 science) and Melissa Jantz (grade 7 and 8 language arts) are on first-semester maternity leaves.

Huebert, who also teaches *Economics*, is completing a master's program in international business at the Consortium Institute of Management and Business Administration in Asolo, Italy (a small town northwest of Venice). She says, "Teaching *Economics* has piqued my interest in the role that corporations play in our new global economy."

Shenk, who will teach only senior Bible during the second semester, is designing an associate degree in Bible for Eastern Mennonite University to be used by Lancaster Mennonite Conference pastors—about 300 have no or little formal biblical training. The curriculum will be designed for pastors to take courses from within their home community.

Familiar Faces, New Roles

Myron Bontreger ('87) is teaching *Bible 10: New Testament*. He has coached boys soccer at Bethany since 1998 and taught Spanish and Bible (1998-2002). He is also assistant pastor at First Mennonite of Middlebury.

Joy Yoder is the new head cook. She has served as a cafeteria aide since 1999. With a B.A. in Home Economics and Family Life from Goshen College, Joy brings a solid grounding in nutrition and health to her new assignment.

Capital Campaign

The Joy of Giving

Yoders Donate Farmland

When Galen and Esther Yoder, Topeka, Ind., heard about plans for Bethany's Capital Campaign, they immediately thought of donating some of their land to help. "We had 56 acres of land that we didn't need any more," says Galen. "We have Bethany in our will, but also like to give while we can get some enjoyment from it." They discussed their plans with their children—five of the six graduated from Bethany—who all blessed this decision.

In fact the impact of Bethany on their children is a significant reason why the Yoders have continued to support Bethany annually as Associates. Galen says, "Looking back we are very appreciative of what Bethany did for our children as Bethany ignited a mission interest in them."

And indeed that seems to be the case. Retha ('67) served for 18 years in Zaire; Rosalie ('68) served in Afghanistan and just returned from several years of teaching in Brazil; Russell ('70) was studying to become a mission aviator at Hesston College until he died in an automobile accident; Ron ('71) served in voluntary service immediately following high school; and Roberta ('74) served in Malaysia and is currently in the Dominican Republic.

Galen and Esther also appreciated the Bethany community when their son Russell died. "We were amazed at the amount of support from teachers and former classmates," says Galen. Choir teacher, Darrel Hostetler, even returned early from a trip to lead singing at the funeral.

Galen and Esther also contribute financially to Bethany simply because of their general support for Christian education. "A Christian influence in school is invaluable and crucial during this time in children's lives," says Esther. She also notes that youth are thrown into an adult atmosphere much quicker than when her



children were in school. "So I see why it is important to start Christian education earlier [middle school]," she says.

Galen and Esther chose to support Bethany's Capital Campaign with a donation of land for two reasons: 1) it was a simpler process for them than selling the land and then donating the proceeds from the sale and 2) this process allowed Bethany to receive a larger gift. Had they sold the land on their own, with the intent of giving the proceeds to Bethany, 30-40% of the proceeds would have been used for taxes. By first donating the land to Mennonite Foundation, an agency that specializes in planned giving, Galen and Esther were able to see the full value of their property support Bethany.

When some friends learned of Galen and Esther's decision to donate property, they asked, "What are you getting out of it?" To that Galen quickly replied, "We get the joy of giving."

Capital Campaign

$100,000 Challenge Grant Announced

An anonymous donor has made a challenge grant of $100,000 to the Campaign for Bethany Christian Schools.

The donor has agreed to match each dollar of new pledges up to a total of $100,000. For example, if a donor makes a pledge of $1,000 to the campaign, the challenge grant will match this gift with another $1,000. Thus donors have an opportunity to double the impact of their. Overall the challenge grant will generate a total of $200,000 in new campaign gifts.

Bob and Barb Steury, co-chairs of the Campaign, commented: "We are gratified by this tremendous sign of faith in our capital campaign. The challenge grant will give a significant boost as we move into the final stages of the campaign."

As of September 15, Bethany had raised $3.8 million in gifts and pledges toward the $4.35 million campaign—88% of target.

Development Director Susan Gingerich stated, "this challenge grant will be a wonderful boost during our annual phonathon. During the balance of 2003, Bethany will approach all alumni, parents, and friends to solicit pledges that will be matched by this challenge grant."

A Bethany phonathon will be conducted by students during October and November to solicit gifts for this matching fund. Blank matching checks from the anonymous donor will be mailed to potential donors in advance of their being called. People contacted during the phonathon will be asked to make a campaign pledge, fill out the matching check for the 100% match amount, and then mail it back to the school.

The Campaign for Bethany Christian Schools is slated to be completed by the end of 2003.

Building Plans Approved

At its September 22 meeting, Bethany's Board of Directors approved floor plans from the Building Committee for a $4.35 million addition and renovation.

This plan includes new middle school classrooms, an auxiliary gym, an instrumental music room, renovated cafeteria and science classrooms, relocated offices, and two additional high school classrooms. The plan also features a new media center since the current library will be renovated to enlarge the biology lab, replace the current computer lab, and add a multi-purpose room.

According to Building Committee chair Duane Stutzman ('61), "We have adopted the footprint (see page 1); next we will add details."

In January 2003 the Board formed the Building Committee to oversee the building process and develop a design. Their first task was to choose an architect and a construction firm for the project. The committee selected the Moake Park Group as the architect and DJ Construction as the general contractor. Peter Shetler, Bethany's technology and maintenance director, serves as project manager.

Shetler and representatives of these firms have met with Bethany faculty and staff to collect ideas and opinions. The committee and design-build team then collaboroated to create the plan. New construction will take place on the north side of Bethany's current facility with the auxiliary gym situated adjacent to the present gym.

Initial site work, and possibly the construction of the gym, will begin this fall. Most new construction will commence in early spring 2004 with completion slated for 10-12 months later. The timeline for renovation will be sequenced carefully to mesh with the timeline for new construction and, as much as possible, be done during the summer months. The entire renovation and addition should be completed by the fall of 2005.

Campus News

50th Anniversary Update

Bethany Christian Schools held a 50th anniversary kickoff on September 12 for faculty and staff, Board, and Advisory Council members, as well as other persons involved in planning the year's anniversary activities.



Above: History book editor Devon Schrock (F'77-99) shares excerpts from the history book at the 50th Anniversary Kickoff.

Ken Horst (F'73-76) chats with Irene Gross (F'70-96) and Leonard Gross (F'59-64), one of the writers of the history book at the 50th Anniversary Kickoff.

Bethany is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout the 2003-04 school year with in-school events such as special chapels, displays, guest speakers, and dress days. Culminating the year will be a major celebration weekend, June 11-13, 2004, for all alumni, friends of Bethany, and their families.

Plans for the three-day celebration include a banquet and program, a drama, class reunions, activities for children, alumni athletic events, and an alumni choir concert. Bethany has commissioned Judy Clemens Smucker ('87) to write the drama and Jim Clemens ('83) to compose a choral piece for the concert.

A History Book Committee has been working for several years on planning and writing a history book. The book consists of six chronological chapters, each written by a different author, and includes many photographs, vignettes, and lists. It is scheduled for release during the celebration weekend.



2003 SAT Scores High

The class of 2003's average SAT scores surpassed the 95th percentile nationally and far exceeded those of local schools as well as state and national averages. Bethany's averages were 572 in verbal and 558 in math for a total of 1130, over a 100 points higher than state and national averages and 72 points higher than any area school. This is especially impressive given Bethany's 92% participation rate—historically 40% take the test nationally.

Heidi Claassen ('03) Dies



Heidi Claassen ('03) died on June 20 from complications resulting from a bone marrow transplant in late May. Diagnosed with leukemia in spring 2001, Heidi shared her story in the Summer 2002 *BCS Bulletin*. She was active in music, having participated in the Mennonite High School Choir Festival in mid-April. She is survived by parents Mel and Lorna Claassen and brother Jeff ('01). She was a member of Waterford Mennonite Church.

Calendar

October

10 Fish Fry, 4:30-8:00 p.m.
31 Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m.

November

20-21, 23 *The Chosen* (see ad on p. 7)

December

12 HS Christmas Concert at Sauder Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
13 Alumni Night basketball game
16 MS Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

Admissions Calendar

Drop-in Open House for prospective students and their parents: Nov. 9, 1-3 p.m.

Visitors' Day for prospective students (pre-registration required): Nov. 17

Campus News

National Merit Scholar

Senior Jon Meyer has been named a National Merit Semifinalist. About 95% will advance to finalists in the spring and receive academic scholarships. Bethany has had 12 finalists in the past five years and 53 in the last twenty-five years—more than eight times the national rate.

Jon, son of Rich and Brenda (Hostetler '75) Meyer, has been a member of two Bethany state-champion Academic Superbowl teams. He is co-layout editor for the student newspaper and has been the student leader for *Peace Society* for four years. He has helped establish and maintain Bethany's intranet.

A member of five instrumental and vocal music groups, he has also performed in two Bethany musicals: as Benjamin in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Jesus in the *Cotton Patch Gospel*. He is cast as the young Reuven in this fall's performance of *The Chosen*.

History Contest Winners

Seniors Jon Meyer and Ashley Bontrager placed first and third respectively in the high school division of the 2003 John Horsch Mennonite History Essay Contest sponsored by the Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee.

Jon and Ashley chose to write essays as an alternative *Church History* assignment at Bethany last year. Jon's winning essay is entitled "Conversation at Puidoux: Mennonites Rethink Church and State." Ashley's essay is entitled Civilian Public Service: Mennonites Serve Both God and Country." Contest essays are available online at www.mcusa-archives.org.

Jon is the son of Rich and Brenda (Hostetler '75) Meyer. Ashley is the daughter of Arloa Bontrager and Rohrer Bomberger.



The Chosen

Thursday and Friday, November 20-21, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 23, 3 p.m.

Adults: $6.50 • Students: $4

Reservations open November 3; call 574 534-2567

Set in 1940s Brooklyn, Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* chronicles the lives of two boys from very different Jewish communities—"five blocks and a world apart"—as they struggle for a greater understanding of each other, their fathers, and themselves. Narrated by one of the boys as he looks back on his childhood, the play begins with their meeting through a baseball accident, which leads to their developing a friendship despite their marked religious differences. Based on the novel by the same name, this play opened in Philadelphia in 1999 and has since played to full houses around the country. Potok's novels are known and loved for the way they combine compelling stories with essential struggles of faith in a secular world; it is a play that will touch anyone who has struggled for reconciliation and understanding in a world of divisions.

Alumni News

Remember when…

The 2003-04 school calendar depicts collages of photos throughout Bethany's fifty-year history. These pages are available for viewing at www.bethanycs.net. Click on the ***Alumni and 50th Anniversary*** links for this and other anniversary information.

Births

Gary Chupp ('87) and wife Melissa, Newton, Kan., a daughter, Madilyn Marie, on May 31.

Robin (Miller '87) Jacobs and husband Timothy, Plymouth, Ind., a son, Isaiah David, on May 28.

Scott Bodiker ('88) and wife Sheila, Berlin, Ohio, a daughter, Katie, on September 14.

Rod Kiogima ('94) and wife Amber, Fisher, Ill., a daughter Karly Ann, on July 11.

Jeff ('94) and **Jen (Helmuth '89) Shenk**, Elkhart, Ind., a son, Aaron Jeffrey, on May 29.

A. Jon Hartzler ('95) and **Nakeisha Miller ('95)**, Bostic, N.C., a son, Rowan Harold, on May 25.

Kristin (Stiffney '95) Grantham and husband Matt, Goshen, a son, Thomas Ryan on September 24.

Patty (Borntrager '96) Chico and husband Romel, Goshen, a son, Jeremiah Dean, on September 5.

Chris Weaver ('97) and wife Hannah, Irwin, Ohio, a daughter, Lydia Elizabeth, on June 1.

Melissa Shirk Jantz (F'96-) and husband Tim, Goshen, a son, Ethan Timothy on August 3.

Eric (F'98-) and **Cynthia (F'93-02) Good Kaufmann**, Goshen, a daughter, Rilynn, on June 22.

Brian (F'97-) and **Cheryl (F'98-) Kaufman Mast**, Goshen, a daughter, Mackenzie Emmaleah, on August 30.

Deaths

Charles Kropf ('61), Goshen, on July 10.

Joe Johns ('63), Sheridan, Mich., on September 5.

Ron Nunemaker ('64), Wakarusa, Ind., on July 27.

Heidi Claassen ('03), Goshen, on June 20.

Winifred Beechy (F'57-59), Goshen, on July 20.

Marriages

Mike Hostetler ('76) and Heather Needham, San Diego, Calif., on June 28.

Miriam Lehman ('76) and Whitney Everest, Goshen, on June 28.

Jan Vardaman ('87) and Jill Grimme, Fort Wayne, Ind., on June 7.

Jim Maust ('89) and Crystal Kelleher, Goshen, on August 2 in Fruitland, Idaho.

Lenora Hirschler ('92) and Tobias Magatti, Seattle, Wash., on August 30 in Goshen.

Matthew Weaver ('94) and Amy Arnold, Warsaw, Ind., on June 14.

Ryan Schumm ('95) and Heather Thomas, Asheville, N.C., on August 30 in Goshen.

Rachel Paulovich ('98) and Eric Sartori, Goshen, on July 12.

Eric Yoder ('98) and Julia Luitjens, Regina, Sask., on August 9. Eric works as a flight instructor.

Rachel Schultz ('99) and Matt Pinkerton, Lafayette, Ind., on July 12.

Joel Stair ('99) and Kristin Roth, San Diego, Calif., on July 11.

Lindsy Diener ('00) and **Eric Meyer ('00)**, Goshen, on August 2.

Brad Gingerich ('00) and **Brandi Schroeder ('00)**, Goshen, on July 12.

Mary Honderich ('01N) and Eric Fink, Vincennes, Ind., on June 21.

Kevin Hochstetler ('02) and **Kristen Oswald ('02)**, Goshen, on June 7.

Sue Ehst (F'97-) and Mark Goertzen, in Milford, Ind., on June 7.

Notes

John Amstutz ('58), Noblesville, Ind., works in maintenance for Clancy's, Inc., a small company that operates restaurants in central Indiana. He also is an adjunct teacher at IVY Tech State College. He enjoys biking and playing oboe.

Fern (Cender '58) Yoder, Goshen, is assistant supervisor of the Adult Day Care (Alzheimer's unit) at Greencroft. She and husband Gene plan to retire in June 2004 and do a lot of travelling. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Eva (Hoover '59) Borntreger retired from fulltime employment as Mailing Services Manager at Goshen College. She and husband Basil have moved to Lebanon, Ore., where she continues working on a part-time basis with Goshen College.

Steve ('59) and Lila ('60) Kauffman Miller reside in Surprise, Ariz., where Steve authorizes psychiatric care and referrals for military personnel and families in 16 western states. He also maintains a one-day per-week private psychotherapy practice.

Lillian Miller, wife of **David Lee Miller ('61)**, died on February 23, 2002.

Karen Weldy Kaufman ('69), Elkhart, Ind., graduated in May from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary with an M.Div. with an emphasis in pastoral care and counseling. Karen serves as chaplain at Oaklawn Psychiatric Hospital in Goshen. She and

husband **Dave ('64)** have two adult children: **Phil ('91)** and **Monica ('93)**.

Ana Maria Espinoza ('77) is the director of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction for Chicago Public Schools.

Janet (Hooley '83) Kercher, Goshen, helps new mothers with issues concerning breastfeeding. As a lactation consultant she teaches breastfeeding classes, does private consulting, moderates new mother's groups, assists inpatient mothers with breastfeeding, and coordinates staff education.

Karen Miller Rush ('83), Goshen, and her family (husband Phil and children Sarah and Luke) spent the 2002-03 school year leading Goshen College's SST program in the Dominican Republic.

Becky (Troyer '83) Fontaine, Greenfield, Ind., is a staff nurse at her local hospital. She is working toward certification as a lactation consultant.

Shane Mullet ('88), Hot Springs, Va., recently began teaching elementary school at Valley Elementary School in Bath County. He has also been accepted into the graduate program for special education at Radford University.

Anna Becker-Hoover ('00) was one of five students to operate Miller Farm, Earlham College's inaugural venture into Community Supported Agriculture. The students farmed an acre and a half of gardens for 17 customers.

Fern Derstine, wife of **James Derstine (F'70-72)**, died July 19 in Philadelphia, Pa.

Alumni News

Missing Alumni

Can you help us locate our missing alumni? Please contact development director Susan Gingerich by phone (574 534-2567) or email (sdgingerich@bethanycs.net) if you are aware of addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses of the following:

Class of 1955
Mary Jean Carlin
Dorcas Lara

Class of 1958
Kit Heard

Class of 1960
Leora Hodge

Class of 1961
Gary Fulmer
Eugene M Shrock
Linda Stevens Hugey

Class of 1962
Richard Slabaugh
Mary Ann Suter

Class of 1963
Carol Martin
Susie Yoder

Class of 1964
Barbara Birkey
Philip Lehman
Maxine Miller
Walter Troyer

Class of 1965
Larry Austin
Raymond Johnson
Merlin Kauffman

Class of 1966
Michael Hershberger
Cheryl Kersch
Micheline Rocourt Duskin

Class of 1967
Donna Conrad
Esther Lemler
Julie (Juliana) Parcell
Jerry O. Yoder

Class of 1968
Edna Yoder

Class of 1969
Steve Valtierra

Class of 1970
Marilyn Nisley
Grace Shrock
Alvin Yoder

Class of 1972
Steve Ball
Jocelyn Kauffman
Murphy Lucas
Derrise L. White

Class of 1973
Atsuko Endo
James L. Mishler
Fideles Ongoa
Sam Ovando

Class of 1974
Marlowe J. Buller
Bonnie Donnelly
Janet Kauffman
Patricia Taylor
Lamortto Wofford

Class of 1975
Jee Chung
Gene Gamber
Reinhard Wolff

Class of 1976
Annette Britton
Valerie Daw
Eliza Salvadore

Class of 1977
Narda Calbemonte
Louis Reyes

Class of 1978
Angie Luedtke
Ivonne Ortiz

Class of 1979
Bill Kilburn
Nele Schmidt
Michelle Smith

Class of 1980
Terry Bowen
Steve Hanson
Karen Miller
Dunja Moeller
Outi Sarsa
William Wiggins

Class of 1981
Angela Fetz
Carlos Gonzales
Nathaniel Regier

Class of 1982
Laurel Crawford
Tony Davila
Carmen Hopkins
Reuben Reyes
Beulah Sparkman

Class of 1983
Mark Crisantez
Tony Torrejon

Class of 1984
Johannes D. Lichti

Class of 1986
Wanda Donohau
Caterina Martinez
Allan Yoder

Class of 1987
Pedro Hernandez
Tom Shenk

Class of 1988
Alan Chism
Tony Norris

Class of 1989
Holly Yoder

Class of 1990
Susannah Gerber-Lepley
Carmen Horst
Heather Pipkin

Class of 1991
Tricia Blosser
Heather Gingrich
Ramphis Rodriguez

Class of 1992
Daniel Chuen
David Swartzentruber

Class of 1993
Nathan Boughner
Michael Miller
Andrea Slegel Pressler
Maggie Turco

Class of 1994
Austin Kaufmann

Class of 1995
James Strouse

Class of 1996
Dana Blough
Juan Camacho
Chuck Love

Class of 1997
C. J. Friesen
Katherine Turco

Class of 1998
Brad Hoffman

Class of 1999
Miyuki Aoki
Brittan Frey
Brenda Harley
Chris Nachtigall

Class of 2000
Josh Newtson
Kevin Witmer

Class of 2001
Anthony Slabaugh

Alumni Reunions

Alumni:

Send your news for inclusion in the *BCS Bulletin* to info@bethanycs.net.

Have you checked out Bethany's website for current news, to register on the Alumni Locator, or to send us your news? See www.bethanycs.net.



The class of '68 met on July 19 at Shore Mennonite Church's Lambright Cabin near Shipshewana, Ind. Thirty-two of the 84 class members were present, plus 17 spouses. Carol Honderich shared a Powerpoint presentation of class members and their families. Thanks to Gloria Miller Holub for planning an excellent reunion—she has planned all seven of the class's reunions. Attendees included (l to r): (front row) Gloria Miller Holub, Rosalie Yoder Monroe, Cheryl Miller Cotter, Janice Riegsecker Yoder, Mary Bontrager Lakner, Sandra Lambright Yoder, Donna Shrock Quiring, John W. Yoder; (second row—kneeling) Owen Weaver, Merle Christner, Ray Nussbaum, Glen Hostetler; (third row) Carol Miller Hostetler, Gwen Miller Newcomer, Dorothy Crilow Schreck, Ann Birky Koehn, Kathy Bennett Stiffney, Brenda Tyson Buller, Irene Burkey Hargrove, Paul Hartman, Lester Culp (class advisor), Carol Helmuth Honderich; (fourth row) Gene Newcomer, Daryl Zook, John Bauman, John S. Miller, Dan Shenk, David Weldy, Susan Schertz Moreno, Charles Bontreger, Verton Troyer, Martin Honderich, Richard Yoder.



The class of '73 met on June 28 for its 30-year reunion. Class sponsor Dan Bodiker led a morning tour of Bethany, which was followed by a noon meal at the home of classmate Joyce (Yoder) Bontrager. Following a time of reminiscing, Marcia (Mumaw) Jantz read letters from some classmates who were unable to attend the reunion. The program included a report on Bethany from Dan Bodiker, an update from class sponsor Al Peachey, a devotional on the love of God by Lynda Hollinger-Janzen, three hymns led by Danile Stoltzfus-Martens, and a trivia quiz led by Joan (Steiner) Vogt. Attendees included (l to r): (front) Lynda Hollinger-Janzen, Tim Baker, Danile Stoltzfus-Martens, Joyce (Yoder) Bontrager; (middle) Sam Ovando, Earl Yoder, Joan (Steiner) Vogt, Paul Yoder, Marcia (Mumaw) Jantz, Rose Riehl; (back) Larry Crilow, Randy Troyer, Enos Davidhizar, Norm Mast, Gwen (Friesen) Hershberger, Gretchen Weaver. Not pictured: John Brenneman and Mike Gingerich.

Alumni Reunions

The **class of '63** met on August 9 at Greencroft's Senior Center in Goshen for a dinner and time of sharing.

The **class of '78** met on August 2 at Barb Beachey Yoder's home in Goshen and for dinner at Bread and Chocolate.

The **class of '83** met on Saturday, August 9, at Silverwood Mennontie Church in Goshen for a meal. On Sunday afternoon they met at Bethany for a tour, ice cream, and time of recreation and reminiscing.



The class of '93 met on June 7 at Shore Mennonite Church's Lambright Cabin near Shipshewana, Ind. Attendees included (l to r): (front) Gretchen (Newcomer) Miller, Carla (Nunemaker) Richer, Jessica Whicker, Rachel Miller, Anthony Gerber; (middle) Lisa (Gingerich) Keim, Lisa Guengerich, Kris (Sommers) Shenk, Tim Hochstetler, Steve Kaufman; (back) Kevin Miller, Mark Moyer, Jeff Bontrager, Eric Risser, Heather (Saupe) Hanes, Karena (Miller) Hixon.



The class of '98 met on June 7 at Rebekah Yoder's home in Goshen. Attendees included (l to r): (front) Laura Sommers, Rachel (Wenger-Keller) Brice, Rachel Koontz, Tonya Swartzendruber, Rachael Yoder; (back) Jennifer (McFarlane) Harris, Mary Leigh, Justin Yoder, Gretchen (Gusler) Sommers, Rachel (Paulovich) Sartori, Angela Garber, Rebekah Yoder.

Upcoming Reunions

The following reunions are scheduled for June 12, 2004, in conjunction with Bethany's 50th anniversary:

Class of 1965
Reunion coordinators:
Marvin/Lee Schmucker
316 721-2443
SCHTRNG@aol.com

Class of 1985
Reunion coordinator:
Doug Kaufman
574 533-7625
dougk@maplenet.net

Class of 1988
Veronica Berkey
574 537-1985
veronica@bnin.net.

Reunions normally scheduled for 2004 are all tentatively set for the same weekend. These include the classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, and 1999.

From the Principal

Allan Dueck



The first days of school this year were "typically Indiana"—notably in the hot humid weather that made students and teachers wonder how they could think clearly or creatively. But the first days of school were also special for Bethany in that they marked the beginning of the school's 50th year.

On September 7, 1954, after a frenetic year of planning, praying, fundraising, building, selecting faculty, and recruiting students—124 students entered the doors of Bethany Christian High School for the first time. As Russell Krabill remembers it, a strong grassroots movement in the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, galvanized by the legendary Harold S. Bender, saw the pressing need for a school "with a Christian emphasis . . . with Christian teaching" as an alternative to the secular public schools.

In recent months, as development director Susan Gingerich and I have been meeting with alumni to share the needs of our current capital campaign, we have been struck time and again by Bethany's powerful impact on students during the past five decades. One couple moved me deeply as they remembered how Bethany nudged each of their children into lives of service and mission.

Throughout this 50th year we plan to celebrate the powerful impact of Bethany Christian Schools—as the school was renamed upon the addition of the middle school in 1996—on individual students and, through them, on the local community, church, and world.

Current students will enjoy commemorations such as chapels remembering what it was like to be a student in the past and changing styles of faith, facilities, and dress expectations through the decades. The school newspaper and yearbook will feature 50th emphases and alumni speakers will be invited to classes and chapels. A history book of the school is scheduled to roll off the presses next spring. And a celebrative anniversary weekend is planned for June 11-13, 2004—complete with worship, commissioned drama and music pieces, golf outing and alumni sports events, reminiscences and visiting, reception to honor long-time teachers, and much more.

As we embark on this 50th year, we thank God for the foresight and dedication of those visionaries who established the school, and we celebrate Bethany's impact in equipping generations of students for Christian discipleship. Join us in thanksgiving this year!

Bethany Christian Schools
2904 South Main Street
Goshen, IN 46526-5499

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