Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN

The Mission of Christian Education



Annas Miller and son Loren ('61), standing at right, watch Bethany's groundbreaking ceremony on March 13, 1954. The barn in the background now houses the middle school. See related article on page 2.

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CHURCH • HOME • SCHOOL • IN PARTNERSHIP

Winter 2002
Vol. 48 No. 2
www.bethanycs.net

Annas Miller

Annas Miller

Longtime benefactor dies



Annas Miller, a Goshen businessman and longtime benefactor who was instrumental in helping establish Bethany, died on October 25 after an extended illness with Alzheimer's disease. He was 90 years old.

Annas and his wife Ursula moved to Goshen in 1940 and following World War II joined others in advocating the establishment of a Mennonite high school in northern Indiana. Those efforts culminated in the opening of Bethany Christian High School in 1954.

The Millers supported the venture with both time and money. Annas served on the initial building committee that designed the school and then on the school's board from 1954 until 1970. The Millers also donated their fifty percent ownership in the land on which Bethany was built.

Annas attended the first organizational meeting of the Bethany Associates on May 18, 1967, and became a charter member. At that time Associates committed to giving Bethany at least $500 per year above what they gave through local congregations.

Although Annas had only an eighth-grade education himself, he and Ursula valued the importance of education and specifically Christian education. According to his son Galen, Annas "instilled religious principles into his children." In addition to sending their five children—Francis ('55), Loren ('61), Marcia ('63), Karen ('64), and Galen ('70)—to Bethany, the Millers made it possible for others to attend as well. Between 1957 and 1973 they boarded six Bethany students. Other family members attending Bethany have included two grandsons, Daryl ('77) and Darren ('85), and two great-grandchildren, Sarah ('01) and Nick ('05) Miller.

When the Millers moved to Goshen they became co-owners of Pine Manor Farms. With his brother Milo, Annas then co-founded Pine Manor, Inc., and later became sole owner. Pine Manor operated as an integrated turkey business and later transitioned to an integrated broiler chicken business which included a hatchery, feed mill, and processing center.

"His life revolved around his church, family, and the business," said his son Galen. And the success of his family business enabled Annas to generously contribute not only to Bethany, but to other education institutions as well. He served on building committees for College Mennonite Church, Goshen College, and Oaklawn Psychiatric Center. He served on the board of Choice Books, a bookrack evangelism ministry of the Mennonite church. He also helped found the first Parent-Teacher Association at Waterford Elementary School.

The Bulging Barn

Middle School Anticipates New Classrooms

Nearly 50 years ago Annas and Ursula Miller donated land, and the existing barn on it, to support a new venture in Christian education: the building of Bethany Christian High School. Strong advocates of Christian education, they no doubt took great pleasure in seeing the barn renovated for many educational uses: among others as a cafeteria, chapel, shop, art room, and most recently middle school classrooms.

Since the inception of the middle school in 1996, three classrooms have been housed on the second floor of the renovated barn. And as enrollment, currently 108, has more than doubled since that first year, three more classrooms have been located in nearby portable modulars. While the barn

Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN
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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The Bulging Barn

has served Bethany well for 49 years—and especially the middle school during the last 7—new facilities are needed to handle this growth in enrollment. New classrooms will enhance the learning environment by being specifically *designed for* middle school education.

This fall Bethany announced the formation of a Campaign Cabinet to coordinate raising funds to expand both the middle school and high school to serve increased enrollment. Part of the plan is to build permanent middle school classrooms that, in addition to being designed for middle school education, will also provide additional storage, alleviate crowded classrooms, and enhance safety.

Design

Parents and teachers alike have appreciated the greater opportunities for hands-on cooperative learning at Bethany because of the relatively small class sizes (on average 18). However, lack of running water in the portable classrooms and other design limitations make learning opportunities challenging and difficult.

Storage

A related problem is the lack of storage space in the current middle school. Portable science equipment is borrowed from the high school science labs since little storage space is available. Sixth grade teacher Ruth Ann Wittrig notes that despite careful planning, sometimes she and her students need to disturb the other grade 6 class since the only storage closet for the two grade 6 classrooms is located in the other classroom.

Classrooms at Capacity

Though the number of students per class is relatively small, the lack of storage space creates space problems not only in the classrooms, but in the narrow hallways of the retrofitted barn. As enrollment has dramatically increased, virtually every nook has been used for lockers and shelves for grade 7 and 8 students, while grade 6 students store their bags and coats on hooks and shelves in their self-contained classrooms. In between classes, hallways become difficult to negotiate.



Middle school science teacher Cheryl Kaufman Mast helps grade 7 students with a science experiment at their desks.

Safety

With the middle school buildings physically separated from the high school building, students must cross the parking lot for access to the library, computer lab, consumer science room, chapel, cafeteria, gym, and music room. To minimize risk of injury, the school has installed speed bumps and traffic/pedestrian markings. Teachers assist with safety precautions. However, fully-connected facilities would make Bethany much safer for students and teachers alike.

Fully-connected facilities would also eliminate the health risk and inconvenience of walking outdoors, especially during winter and inclement weather. In addition to moving between classrooms, students in the portable classrooms must use restroom facilities in the "barn."



Middle school classrooms are located in the two portable modulars and the "barn."

BCMS Advocates

BCMS Advocates

Christian education is a Roth family priority

Even before John and Ruth Miller Roth became parents to four daughters, they already knew providing Christian education for them would be a family priority.



"As Christian parents our primary responsibility is to instill moral values and faith in our children," says Ruth. John adds, "I want an education for our children that is rooted in convictions about how the world fits together, and I want there to be a bias—a Christian bias."

John continues, "Since school-aged children spend twice as many waking hours with people other than their parents, the question is: who do we want that to be?" So, as their oldest child, Sarah, neared middle school age, the Roths felt compelled to strongly advocate for establishing a Christian middle school at Bethany.

Advocating for a Middle School

When a marketing consultant agreed with a survey that a Christian middle school was needed in Goshen but advised Bethany's board that the timing was not right, Ruth helped organize a group of parents to petition the board to reconsider. She says, "We only get one chance to raise our children; waiting would not have been in the best interest of our children."

A group of parents and supporters presented the petition to the board at its April 20, 1995, meeting. Reasons for supporting a Christian alternative included dissatisfaction with large public schools, issues of safety and friendship networks, and a desire for Christian nurture.

As a result, the board decided to proceed with planning and classes opened in the fall of 1996. Ruth recalls, "I remember how intently the board listened to our statements. It's still a mystery to me what it was that turned the *no* to *yes*—I think it was another example of God at work in the church."

Six Years Later

As parents who now have had students at Bethany's middle school for six years and the high school for four years, the Roths remain strong advocates for Bethany. As educators themselves (at the elementary and college levels) they have valued the strong academics at Bethany. However, John says, "Academic excellence is not why we send our children to Bethany; it matters, but not as much as the nurturing."

Community

"We can't raise our children by ourselves; we need help from others," says John. He points out that Mennonites' emphasis on community has long challenged society's notion that the nuclear family is where children grow up before they are sent out into society. However, as Mennonites have moved away from tight-knit agrarian communities where children had regular contact with others of similar values and faith, the pressure to become isolated families/individuals is powerful. He says, "A Christian school like Bethany helps provide what the church community did in the past."

Mentoring

The strength of this community is the mentoring role of its teachers. "Our children are nurtured by people who have a love for Jesus Christ and similar life-shaping values and views on issues such as materialism, the environment, respect for others, the church, peace, and service. It is comforting to talk to teachers in church or at school and realize how deeply they know and care for my children," says John.

Different World View

The Roths find it ironic that some people perceive Bethany as a closed or sheltered place. Ruth says, "Bethany pushes students to acquire a bigger world view that is not me-centered. Students learn to respect diversity and there seems to be a wider breadth of who is *cool* and a different sense of what it means to be popular. Being able to talk about issues and faith and discuss how to respond to society is critical during these formative years, and I see students at Bethany being nudged to look outward rather than just inward."

Leadership and Opportunities

The Roths note that the small size of the school and the attitude of the faculty provide ample opportunities for student involvement and leadership. Ruth says, "We appreciate that Bethany faculty are nurturing students' gifts in lots of different areas. Coaches and teachers recognize the value of a diverse program and are not overprotective of their areas of special interest." Bethany's intimate size has allowed the Roths' daughters to be involved in athletics, music, chapel planning, Interterm, and many other activities beyond the classroom.

"These leadership opportunities are available to everyone, not just a few select students," Ruth commented, citing as an example the high school's semi-annual fish fry. "The experience of learning to plan, coordinate, and work together is invaluable and helps students discover unrealized gifts or see classmates in new ways. It is amazing that students run such a production successfully."

Financing Christian Education

While providing Christian education for four daughters is not cheap, the Roths don't feel the cost is prohibitive. Ruth says, "Basically it comes down to choosing priorities. When our girls were younger it was a priority for me to stay at home to nurture them. Now I am teaching again to help make it possible for others to assist in nurturing our children. Fortunately, we are not alone in that our church and family are also committed to Christian education and have helped us financially. The intersection between family, church, and school is important to me. Being able to send all four girls to Bethany each morning is a pure gift."

Investing in Bethany

John points out that institutions such as Bethany survive only because of the ongoing sense that their mission is important. In that vein the Roths plan to be lifetime supporters of Christian institutions like Bethany. John says, "By the time our last daughter, Mary, leaves Bethany, we will have invested 12 years into the school and have an interest in seeing that continue for others. Furthermore, since we believe in the mission of the school, we will support it whether or not our children are there."

"I want an education for our children that is rooted in convictions about how the world fits together, and I want there to be a bias—a Christian bias."

—John Roth



The Roths' daughters performing together as a gospel quartet.

Student Leaders

Developing Leaders

Equipping Students for Leadership

A circle of ten students, with three teachers sprinkled among them, intently discusses the issue of the day: how should the traditional Workday be reshaped this year? One student asks where the idea of combining service and fundraising originated anyway. A teacher answers that the Student Body Association (SBA) decided upon this new approach more than a year ago. These students are engaged in shaping Pledge-and-Serve Day, but more importantly they are learning to lead!



A chapel committee member introduces guest chapel speaker James Krabill ('69).

Since their beginnings, Mennonite schools have equipped students for leadership in the church and community—for instance, by sending choirs and worship teams to lead congregations in worship. It was no surprise, therefore, when the Mennonite High School Project (1997-98) confirmed that one important opportunity Mennonite schools afford their students is the opportunity to explore their leadership gifts and develop the skills needed to lead effectively.

Last spring Bethany Christian High School's faculty decided to initiate, during the coming year, a special focus on equipping students for leadership. One of the first steps was to invite SBA executive members, senior class officers, and their faculty sponsors to participate in Y-LEAD (Youth Leadership Education and Development), a four-day conference jointly sponsored by Mennonite high schools and colleges to prepare students for leadership. Students participated in workshops on subjects such as planning an agenda for and chairing a meeting, fostering an inclusive student body, and effectively communicating plans and goals to their community.

At Bethany this fall, teachers have sharpened the focus to five specific goals for strengthening leadership training this year. One of these follows up Y-LEAD preparation by assisting SBA and senior class officers in preparing for meetings and activities in a systematic and timely manner—for instance by preparing written agendas for meetings and reviewing these with sponsors at least a day before each meeting, bringing a calendar to meetings, testing written versions of oral announcements with sponsors at least a day before presenting them, and consulting with the students whom they represent and reporting back to them.

A second faculty goal for strengthening leadership training this year involves identifying and training students for leadership roles in chapel—introducing guests, praying, and leading singing. While students have done such things before, what is new is that faculty sponsors on the Chapel Committee are instructing students on each leadership task, giving them opportunity to practice it before carrying it out in public, and then offering feedback and counsel after the public tasks have been completed.

The faculty set three additional goals: 1) to assign a mentor to each incoming student in grades 10-12 who requests one, 2) to identify suitable tutors and assign them to tutor students who would benefit from occasional tutorial help, and 3) to utilize a centralized data bank listing students' current leadership roles as a tool for spreading opportunities for leadership among as many students as possible without, however, restricting students with many gifts.

While Mennonite schools have always equipped students to lead, this year's special faculty initiative marks a renewed commitment in cultivating students' leadership gifts, an effort that is essential if the church is to enjoy a continuing infusion of youthful energy in congregational life.

Campus News

New Employees



Brenda Daugherty fills in as receptionist for Amy (Birky, '88) Mounsithiraj who is on maternity leave during second semester. Previously Brenda served as a secretary at a bank and Taylor University, owner-director of a pre-school, and events coordinator for Gaither Family Resources. She and husband Stan, basketball coach at Goshen College, have three adult children and their youngest child, Trevor, is a Bethany eighth-grader. They attend River Oaks Community Fellowship in Elkhart.



David Kurtz joins Bethany as a custodian. He previously taught art for 26 years in Goshen Community Schools and more recently worked as an ambulance driver. He and wife Betty, who have three adult children, attend Plymouth United Church of Christ in Goshen, where David sings in the choir and serves as deacon. An outgoing individual, David looks forward to relating daily with students and faculty.

Calendar

February

20-21, 23 HS Drama: *Play On!* (see p. 11)
25-28 Spiritual Life Week

March

21-22 Spring Fun Fest (see page 8)
21-24 MSEC Regional Orchestra Festival at Iowa Mennonite School

April

7-11 Spring break (offices closed)
11-13 Bethany hosts MSEC Choir Festival
25 Fish Fry

MCC Health Kits Collected

Spurred by feelings of generosity and gratefulness as well as a desire for peace, Bethany students participated in a Mennonite Central Committee effort in November to collect health kits for the people of Iraq.

Following a devotional in choir that focused on looking for ways to serve others, some seniors were inspired to start a Key Club project to collect relief kits for Iraq. When Frosh Alex Caskey heard about the effort, he sought a way to participate without providing an entire kit (ca. $40).



Two frosh assemble a MCC relief kit. Bethany's two *Health* classes each filled 2 kits and the Key Club collected items for another 14. Assisting the larger church by collecting these 18 kits provided another way for Bethany students to put their faith in action.

Caskey says, "I've helped my mom shop to support church-sponsored relief efforts and I thought this would be a good way to help people who are suffering from actions I don't agree with." So he asked fellow *Health* students to donate supplies.

Classmate Micki Kaufman volunteered to donate towels for the kits since the project fit well with a previous commitment. Following a Sunday school lesson on helping others, Micki committed to not buying new clothes for a year and instead is giving 70% of her allowance each month to MCC projects. She says, "This health kit project allowed me to help not only people less fortunate than myself, but also people who are suffering from the effects of war."

Admissions Calendar

Visitors' Days: for prospective students (preregistration required):

February 3, 17 and March 10, 28

Drop-in Open Houses: for prospective students and their parents:

Middle School: January 28, 7-9 p.m.
High School: February 11, 7-9 p.m.

Early Application Deadline: March 17

Alumni News

Spring Fun Fest

Tenth annual fundraiser to support tuition assistance

Although it's three months away, parents are already busy planning for the tenth annual spring Fun Fest on March 21 and 22. The Fun Fest is a school fundraiser for tuition assistance. The Fun Fest committee hopes to meet or exceed last year's record proceeds of $77,000.

Friday evening activities include auctions, a chicken barbeque, a bake sale, and a carnival for children. A pancake and sausage breakfast will take place in the gym Saturday morning.

Auction items (quilts, new and used items, silent auction) will be published in a catalogue available prior to the Fun Fest.

Plan now to participate in this fundraising event as a donor or buyer—everyone is welcome. Donations needed include baked goods, auction items, money to cover expenses, and volunteer labor.

SPRING FUN FEST

Friday and Saturday
March 21-22, 2003
in the school gym



Bethany Spanish teacher Marcelo Warkentin works with a community volunteer on a quilt for Fun Fest's auction.

Deaths

Wanda (Mast, '59) Frey, Shipshewana, Ind., on December 1. She is survived by her husband **Clifford Frey ('56)**.

Annas Miller (Bd '53-71), Goshen, on October 25. His roles on the board included treasurer (1953-54 and 1962-67), vice president (1954-56), and president (1968-71). For more information see page 2.

Births

Starla Graber ('81) and Harley Yoder, Elkhart, Ind., a daughter, AnaMabel, on October 6.

Brad Lehman ('82) and wife Gloria Rhodes, Dayton, Va., a daughter, Afton Elisabeth, on November 27. Pictures and an audio of Afton's Lullaby, written by Brad and Gloria, are available online at http://www.vaix.net/~bpl/afton.htm.

Christine Matsuda ('83) and husband Paul Bast, Kitchener, Ont., a daughter, Callie Rumiko, on April 10, 2001.

Rebecca Conrad ('84) and husband Bruce Whitehead, Hesperus, Colo., a daughter, Risa Olivia, on September 12, 2001.

Randy R. Miller ('84) and wife Barb, Goshen, a daughter, Chelsea Shaye, on December 1.

Frances (Barkman '89) Webb and husband David, Grapevine, Texas, a daughter, Larissa Scarlett, on September 28.

Jered Liechty ('89), Elkhart, Ind., a daughter, E'Lexeca Mable Bently, on June 26, 2001.

Calvin Swartzendruber ('89) and wife Karen, Goshen, a daughter, Michaela Lynn, on October 21.

Carla (Chupp '90) Johnson and husband Ryan, Mishawaka, Ind., a son, Kaleb Jefferson, on September 22.

Shelley (Heatwole, '92) Kirkendall and husband Brad, Indianapolis, Ind., a son, Braden Daniel, on November 22.

Audrey (Schultz, '92) Bollinger and husband Ben, a daughter, Allison Paige, on November 27.

Amber Maust (93), Goshen, a daughter, Genisis Shiri, on September 22.

Rachel (Yoder, '93) LaPorta and husband Matt, Harrisonburg, Va., a son, Joshua Jared, on November 6.

Jeff ('94) and Beth (Kanagy, '95) Miller, a son, Tyson Lee, on November 12.

Alumni News

Marriages

Titus King ('64) and Joy Kauffman, Grass Lake, Mich., on September 14 at Oxbow Park in Elkhart.

Rose (Hershberger, N'78) Herschberger and Mike Groff, Millersburg, Ind., on September 22.

Miriam Voran ('79) and Andrew Faunce, at Beaver Meadow Chapel, Norwich, Vt., on August 10.

Robin (Miller, '87) Kilmer and Timothy Jacobs, Plymouth, Ind., on August 3.

Kent Steiner ('87) and Joanne Zimmerly, Chicago, Ill., on November 30.

Doug Yoder ('90) and Amber Collins, Goshen, on August 20.

Tori Bontreger ('94) and Brad Blossser, Goshen, on November 16.

Jim Neff ('96) and Kelly Sauder, Archbold, Ohio, on June 1 at Sauder Village.

Notes

Mary Ellen (Kaufman, '57) and Marvin Miller ('56), Sarasota, Fla., have three sons (Mark, Marcel and Myron) and two granddaughters. "Being grandparents has given us much joy in our mature years. We also had the privilege within the past ten years to teach middle and high school in Nairobi, Kenya for a three-year term. Marvin taught music while Mary Ellen started a home ec department, teaching nutrition and clothing construction.

Rachel (Bixler, '57) Guedea, Goshen, taught kindergarten for 14 years in the Bilingual Department of South Bend Community Schools. She has three granddaughters and in her retirement enjoys taking care of the newest (born in February 2002).

Galen Eash ('57), Fargo, N.D., is retired after 35 years of practicing family medicine. He and his wife **Marlene (Grabill, '56)** are enjoying their time together traveling and in church and family activities.

Rebecca (Miller, '57) Fast, London, Ont., retired in March 2000 after 25 years as a social worker. She has since served with Ten Thousand Villages in Akron, Pa., Habitat for Humanity in Jamaica, and Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron, West Bank.

Treva (Gunden, '57) Ritthaler, Groveland, Ill., works 20 hours per week in a variety store. She and husband Richard have been married for 37 years.

Joan (Martin, '57) Jantzi, Shipshewana, Ind., worked as a quality controller at Carriage for nearly 19 years. Her husband Jim is a self-employed painter. Their four children all live in the Shipshewana area. They have nine grandchildren.

Duane Snyder ('63), Borger, Texas, became grandfather on September 30 to quadruplets: three girls and a boy born to daughter Carla.

Jennie (Morningstar, '63) Kauffman, Goshen, is office manager for Mennonite Education Agency.

Anna Marie (Van Veen, '66) Hooley, Elkhart, Ind., became a U.S. citizen ten years ago and has traveled back to her home country several times. She would love to hear from classmates—where they are and what they are doing.

Stephen Dintaman ('69) and his wife Betsy have accepted a three-year appointment with Mennonite Mission Network teaching theology at Lithuania Christian College in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Brenda (Hostetler '75) Meyer was ordained at Benton Mennonite Church, Goshen, on October 6.

Joleen (Miller, '84) Myers, Harrisonburg, Va., is a mostly stay-at-home mom for Lorien (4), Corin (2), and Maira (1). She also works as a nurse every other weekend. Husband Gary is self-employed with Myers Building Contractors.

Barbara Yoder Stutzman ('85) and husband Rod, Littleton, Colo., began a 3-4 year term as Mennonite Central Committee country reps in Tanzania. They have two children: Jenae (5) and Trevor (2).

Leo Akins ('88) and his wife Lisa, Goshen, recently purchased a home through LaCasa of Goshen's Home Ownership Center, which assists qualified applicants by providing information, counsel, and some loans/grants. The Akins have three children: Lyndon, Leighton, and Luke.

Stacy (Schmucker, '89) Stoltzfus, Enola, Pa., makes gourmet lunches at Cornerstone Coffeehouse, which has won Harrisburg area and state awards each of the last five years. She also serves with her husband Jeremy as volunteer youth and young adult leaders at Slate Hill Mennonite Church.

Tonya (Hunsberger, '92) Gaby and her husband Chris recently moved into a home they built in rural White Pigeon, Mich. They continue to own and operate Hollinger Bicycles in Goshen.

Justin J. Weaver ('92), Hesston, Kan., and his wife Lyz are enrolled in Hesston College's Pastoral Ministries Program pursuing a call to youth ministry.

Heather (Graber, '93) Potsander and husband Jason have accepted a two-year term as Service Adventure leaders in Anchorage, Alaska, under Mennonite Mission Network.

Josh Kanagy ('93), is executive director of the Elkhart Association of River Neighborhoods, a development organization involved in renovating homes and demolishing substandard structures.

Alumni:

Have you checked out Bethany's website for current news? See www.bethanycs.net.

Alumni News

Austin Kaufmann ('94) and his wife Victoria Solomon began a 27-month term in October serving as volunteer English teachers with the U.S. Peace Corps in the Central Asian country of Kyrgyzstan.

Michelle Norman ('95), Elkhart, Ind., serves with EnviroCorps, a program of the nationally-based Americorps, that focuses on the environmental needs of the city of Elkhart.

Rafael H. Barahona ('97), Goshen, plays in a band, *Radiant*, that includes his sister Anita as lead vocalist and her husband David Oliver. They play a fusion of South American, Caribbean, and Spanish folk music in both English and Spanish.

Alyssa Kreider ('98), Seattle, Wash., works for the Washington Trails Association as part of a voluntary service assignment.

Katrina Diener (N'02) is participating in the inaugural year of Mennonite Mission Network's Discipleship Encounter Outreach program. She recently completed two months of intensive discipling and Bible study and is now in Denver, Colo., for a seven-month cross-cultural service experience.

Bethany to Celebrate 50 Years

A 50th Anniversary Committee is planning a weekend celebration on June 11-13, 2004, around the theme "Building On a Foundation of Faith." The weekend will culminate anniversary activities occuring throughout the 2003-04 school year.



50th Anniversary Committee: Doug Kaufman ('85); Jeff Kauffman ('76); Sharon (Yoder, '68) Heatwole, chair; Jim Buller ('71), ex-officio; Marvin Yoder ('57), Susan Gingerich, ex-officio. Not pictured: Lisa Miller ('93).

Events will begin Friday evening and end with a choir concert on Sunday afternoon. The weekend will include a drama, banquet and program, athletic contests, late night music ensembles, displays, and class reunions. Children's activities will be available during some of the weekend events. Eight alumni sub-committees are planning the logistics and activities.

The committee's goal is to provide times to laugh, reminisce, celebrate, and learn more about Bethany today. Alumni, parents, friends, and current students, faculty, and staff are asked to note the date and plan to participate.

Alum Run in Marathon

Bethany alumni **Michael Bodiker ('92)** and **Wes Schrock ('95)** competed in the 26.2-mile Chicago Marathon this fall. Michael, who ran 18 minutes faster than last year, was hoping to qualify for the Boston Marathon, but would have needed to trim an additional 20 seconds per mile off his time to meet the three-hour and ten-minute qualifying mark. Wes, who finished the race in just over four hours, said that he ran just to see if he could do it.

Additional Business Donors

We apologize for inadvertently omitting the following businesses as fiscal year contributors in the 2001-02 annual report.

Adventure Travel
Anderson Automotive
Bontrager/Hardies Realty, Inc.
Bullard Farms Market
C & L Electric Motor Repair, Inc.
The Commodore Corporation
Community Church of Waterford
Creative Memories
Culver Construction
Evangel Press
1st Source Bank
Honeyville Metal, Inc.
Investment & Insurance Services
J&R Cleaning
Maust, Martin & Associates
Menno Insurance Service
Mennonite Aid Association
Michiana Tire
Miller's Building Supply
Oaklawn
PrimeCare Physician Network
Prudential One Realty
Reliance Insurance
Sharing Services Agency, Inc.
Stauffer & Company, LLC
St. Johns the Evangelist Catholic School
Stutzman Motor Sales
Subway
Veada Industries, Inc.
Weaver Realty
Yoder-Culp Funeral Home

Alumni News



The class of '57 met for its 45-year reunion on October 19 at the Blue Gate Restaurant in Shipshewana, Ind. Following a meal the group went to Evelyn (Birkey) Yoder's home in Middlebury, Ind., to look at photos and other memorabilia. Attendees pictured above: (front) Betty (Miller) Yoder, Janet (Troyer) Weaver, Helen Good, Rachel (Bixler) Guedea, Verba (Stutzman) Wilson, Dale Schlabach, Marvin Yoder; (back) Charlene (Weaver) Farmwald, Shirley (Crilow) Albrecht, Evelyn (Birkey) Yoder, Don Newcomer, Galen Eash, and class sponsor J. Marvin Nafziger. Planners for the 50-year class reunion in fall 2007 are Dale Schlabach, Helen Good, Eveyln Yoder, Rachel Guedea, and Charlene Farmwald.

Upcoming Class Reunions

The Class of '73 will meet on Saturday, June 28, 2003, for a noon barbeque at Joyce (Yoder) and Richard Bontrager's home near Millersburg, Ind. A morning tour of Bethany is tentatively planned. For more information contact Marcia (Mumaw) Jantz at stoneyholler@juno.com or 417 469-2421.

Play On!

Feb. 20-21, 7:30 p.m. • Feb. 23, 3 p.m.
Adults: $6.50 • Students: $4
Reservations begin Feb. 3; call 534-2567

In this play-within-a-play, a cast of community actors, in preparation for their opening night, forget lines, bicker, and hastily try to learn parts rewritten by a local, and not very talented, playwright. The disastrous rehearsals are humorous enough, but the play culminates in a hilariously catastrophic opening night full of physical trips, slips of the tongue, and nervous ad libbing.

Mass Concert

Nearly 60% of the high school was on stage as the orchestra and choirs combined for a finale to its Christmas concert at Goshen College's new Sauder Concert Hall (see photo below).

Thanks to Goshen College's generous donation of the use of the facility, nearly 1,000 people were able to attend the concert.

One person who had not attended a Bethany concert for many years shared in his congregation how this concert helped prepare him for Christmas.



From the Principal

Allan Dueck



December 8 marked the opening of a new chapter in Mennonite education as the Mennonite Church installed and commissioned members of the new Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) and incoming executive director, Carlos Romero, during a Sunday morning service at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church. A significant dimension of the new agency is its commitment to support the entire range of Mennonite education, from kindergarten through seminary (K-S).

In recent years, the wider church has become increasingly concerned about the looming shortage of persons with the gifts, vision, commitment, and skills to lead the Mennonite Church. While this impending shortage is most visible in the area of pastoral leadership, it is also apparent in the drift of young people away from the Mennonite Church to other denominations or out of church life altogether.

In this regard, Mennonite schools at all levels have a vital role to play, in that participation in Mennonite schooling is a strong indicator of future participation in and leadership of the church. While the developmental tasks differ at each level of Mennonite schooling, Mennonite schools at all levels share the common mission of inviting students to commit themselves to following Christ—to being Christ's hands and feet in the church and world.

For young people of all ages to be taught by mentors who recognize Christ as Lord and integrate faith and life is an invaluable benefit to the church. But the service Mennonite schools of all levels offer beyond that is to give young people meaningful opportunities to practice leading and thereby develop their leadership skills.

Over my years in Mennonite education, I've encountered those who believe that Mennonite schooling for youth at a single level—for instance, college or elementary school—is all that is important. However, we live in a world that seeks to convince us that God and faith are, at best, relegated to Sunday morning and, at worst, have no bearing on life. Therefore, the reality is that in such a world fostering faith among youth from early childhood through young adulthood is essential if the church is to flourish.

In its commitment to K-S Mennonite education, the new MEA asserts this important reality and holds forth the possibility of new depth and cooperation among the different levels of Mennonite schooling. This coordinated effort holds significant promise for equipping a new generation of Christian leaders for the church and world.

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