Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN

A Caring Community



"The sense of community that comes from valuing the faith-shaping process as well as the educational process makes Bethany incredibly unique in what it offers by way of caring for each other."

—Wes Bontreger ('77)

CHURCH • HOME • SCHOOL IN PARTNERSHIP

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Cover Photo

Alyssa Jarvis ('08), daughter of Elaine (Helmuth, '75) Jarvis, and Collette Weaver, daughter of Shanda (Blosser, '86) Weaver.

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Wes Bontreger ('77)

Alum finds spiritual healing, caring community

"You can't play the second half." These simple words spoken to Wes Bontreger by his father during halftime of his first scholastic soccer match at Bethany were crushing. He knew life as a *normal* teen had just ended—again.

Two years earlier, Wes had been diagnosed with leukemia—a medical death sentence in 1971. However, after nearly two years of brutal experimental treatment, Wes thought his miraculous recovery from leukemia was over and he was beginning life anew as a frosh at Bethany: new health, new school, new friends, new opportunities to play sports. But it was not yet to be.

A member of Bethany's soccer team, Wes had been practicing intensively for five weeks before that fateful September day when his father informed him that recent X-rays showed a white cloud over his lungs. Diagnosed with a form of pneumonia, he later learned that he could have passed out and died at any moment on the soccer field because of a 75% loss in lung capacity. Yet ironically the five weeks of preseason conditioning, which had strengthened the rest of his body, probably saved his life during the weeks ahead.

Although he had little chance for survival, doctors performed an emergency biopsy—without the use of general anesthesia due to Wes's weakened lungs. He recalls lying on the operating table full of fear and anxiety from two years of pent up feelings and denying he could die. Lying there he finally realized he could do nothing to control the situation, and he uttered the most important prayer of his life: "God, help me."

The nurse mentioned to the doctor, "Something is going on with him." Wes recalls seeing an indescribable bright light at the end of his bed. Instantly all fear and anxiety were gone. He says, "While I had a strong desire to live, I instantly, for the first time, felt at peace and was ready to die. My fear of dying had kept me from living. Unlike my physical healing, this spiritual healing was instantaneous and permanent. From that day, I began to live again."

Several times during the next two weeks, doctors told Wes's family he would not survive but they finally admitted that something more powerful than their efforts was at work. By December Wes was playing on Bethany's basketball team, and he played three sports the rest of his prep career.

While Wes is appreciative of his physical healing, he is glad that it was not immediate. "It was through my physical battles that I learned to rely on God. My whole life opened up and I began to talk to friends and share freely."

As a result of his experience, Wes began sharing more deeply with people—speaking to groups and assuming an informal counseling role at Bethany. People would come to him and talk about their problems—relationships with parents or other teens—and after a while he began to look for those opportunities. He says, "I always enjoyed helping people and now I had a perspective on life and death that almost none of my peers shared—I could see with a perspective much broader than the immediate."

In a sense Wes saw himself as a peacemaker—he tried to bring people together who were different, who didn't get along. After two years of chemotherapy during middle school, he had come to know what it was like to feel unaccepted, to be looked down on, to be a minority. Yet at Bethany he learned acceptance. "Bethany helped me learn that there is always room for somebody else."

Wes, who currently pastors at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church in rural Goshen, credits Bethany as the place where his call to ministry emerged. "As a pastor's kid I knew all the faith stories, but Bethany

represents for me where the foundation of my faith began to really be laid. My calling to ministry was a direct result of leadership and counseling opportunities at Bethany and the resulting affirmation I received from students and teachers."

In fact his pastoral style of visitation—the importance of presence—was shaped by his experience of several Bethany students visiting him in the hospital. Telling a humorous story from school, one of them said, "We laughed until we *died*." Realizing what had been said, his friends immediately fell silent. But Wes roared with laughter. "It didn't matter what they said. I knew by their presence that they cared about me."

That visit was very significant for Wes, and those students were very special to him throughout high school. When he returned to school, he also was amazed at the support from teachers and students. "Bethany was such a blessing for me. The atmosphere was wonderful," he says.

Wes, who has been involved with Bethany for most of his life—first as a younger sibling of Bethany students, then as a student himself, and later as a board member—believes the most dramatic thing about Bethany is its atmosphere: "the way we weave the values of Christian community into both the educational process and the spiritual nurture. The sense of community that comes from this valuing of the faith-shaping process as well as the educational process makes Bethany incredibly unique in what it offers by way of caring for each other and students who choose to come."



That atmosphere nurtures friendship even with teachers. Wes says, "Bod was a significant mentor to me. Though he was my coach, now he is a friend and peer. That is amazing to me."

Wes concludes, "Our understanding of community as the members of one body who all need each other, teachers and students alike, informs the way in which people relate to each other in classes and the hallways. The value of that over four years creates an incredible environment where people can feel they are valued and surrounded with love."

"Bethany helped me learn that there is always room for somebody else."

Counsel from Wes for relating to people with significant illness

Presence. The art of visitation is not in what you do or what you say, but it is in the fact that you are there and are present with the other person. People facing death don't usually care whether or not you say the right thing, so don't sweat figuring out the perfect thing to say or not say.

Talk/Listen. Don't be afraid to talk about the situation the person is facing. Sometimes ill people really don't want to talk about their situation, but usually they don't want to talk about it only because it is obvious that the listener is uncomfortable.

Don't be afraid of tears or of not knowing what to say. Just say how you feel, that you care but don't know how to express it. But don't be afraid to talk about what the person is facing. Obviously some sensitivity is needed for the person's willingness and timing, but don't be afraid to invite it.

Heidi Claassen

Heidi Claassen ('03)

Finding blessing in suffering

"Good things can come from suffering," says Heidi Claassen, who was diagnosed with leukemia in April 2000. "Because I had no clue about my future, I had to learn to trust God."

In 1995 Heidi's mother received a T-shirt for raising money door-to-door for the Leukemia Society of America. It reads: "Reaching Our Goal—Cure 2000." Little did the Claassens know then, that in 2000 Heidi would be diagnosed with leukemia. They took this shirt as a sign of promise and hope.

Treatment, which included chemotherapy and radiation, has been successful as Heidi is now in remission. Currently she is nearing the end of maintenance treatment, which involves taking periodic oral and IV chemo.

Heidi Claassen poses with the quilt made for her by a church friend.

Because of side effects like extreme tiredness, as well as the need for frequent trips to the hospital for treatment, Heidi was unable to participate regularly in classes during the 2000-01 school year. However, with the special help teachers provided, she was able to take a full load by completing designated assignments.

Heidi's parents, Mel and Lorna, credit guidance counselor Jim Buller with mapping out a successful plan and being a crucial link to the teachers. Even seemingly simple ideas like allowing Heidi to have two sets of books—one for home and one for school—made things easier for her. Lorna, who wrote frequent memos to teachers to keep them updated on both Heidi's schoolwork and health, adds, "Bethany's teachers provided individual care that created extra work for them, but I never never felt that they were unwilling to provide that care."

Students too were a blessing to Heidi and her family. Her entire class made a paper chain with notes on each link for her while she was hospitalized. Close friends as well as other students—including some from Bethany's middle school—sent cards, emails, and flowers, phoned her, and visited her during the summer months. And a church friend made a quilt for Heidi with signatures and encouraging messages from friends.

Mel notes that the care provided extended beyond Heidi to the entire family. While Mel and Lorna were with Heidi at the hospital in Indianapolis, others immediately began caring for their son Jeff ('01). One teacher brought over food during those first days and another frequently mentioned that he was thinking of Jeff as well as Heidi. Mel says, "It was comforting to know that he was being cared for, even though he may not have needed it."

As for Heidi, she suddenly had different priorities and decided during her initial three-hour ride to Indianapolis that she wasn't going to blame God. She says, "I don't think God wanted me to get cancer, yet God allowed it. I don't understand why, but that is okay."

Music has been an important way for Heidi to relate to God, whether listening to Christian artists, playing violin, or playing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" on the piano before leaving for her initial trip to the hospital.

She does recognize that through her physical suffering God got her attention. "I needed to learn to rely on God," she says. As she returns back to a normal, healthy life, she works at not putting God on the back burner: "My challenge is to trust in God all the time, not just when things aren't going well."

Joyce Graber ('03)

Student finds faith community a gift from God

"At school people I don't even know very well say 'hi, I'm praying for you.' It is amazing to think of the entire school caring for me," says Joyce Graber, who was diagnosed in July 2001 with a malignant brain tumor.

Joyce is thankful for this close, caring Bethany community and that she is a part of it. She says, "As I approached ninth grade, I found it difficult to decide whether to attend Bethany or stay in public school, but for some reason I felt God pushing me here. Now I know why. I don't think I would have experienced the same faith support in a public school."

During the past school year, Joyce has been undergoing two types of chemotherapy treatment for the tumor. Though treatments are incomplete, initial signs provide hope since the tumor was reduced 80% after radiation and has continued to decrease at subsequent check-ups.

Because of side effects such as fatigue and weakness, Joyce has carried a limited academic load at Bethany this year. Since she often is unable to attend class, teachers have worked with her one-on-one.

Joyce's parents, Millard and Sheila (Koch, '78), too have been thankful for the care and creative accommodation that teachers have provided—though a personal tutor would have been helpful as well. Sheila says, "Teachers have been very flexible, yet have made sure Joyce is doing what is necessary to earn credit. It is moving to see them email that they are praying for her. While I'm sure many public school teachers would have been supportive as well, it is encouraging to know all the teachers and staff believe that praying for Joyce makes a difference."

Joyce is especially appreciative of the support she has received from friends in both church and school. While some friends meet with Joyce for weekly Bible study, others send cards or email, and others stop in to visit. Joyce says, "It's hard for me to keep up with a social life since I get tired so easily, but my friends have been supportive of my limits and have arranged get-togethers I can attend. Sometimes I wish I could see them more, but I know they are praying for and thinking of me."



Throughout this health crisis, Joyce feels her faith in God has grown. "While I attended church regularly before, I didn't feel particularly close to God. But now attending church or chapel has much more meaning for me."

She recalls how she and her family, along with friends, spent a lot of time praying during her initial week in the hospital and feeling a tremendous sense of peace that she had never experienced before. She remembers that at one very discouraging point she felt God tell her, "*we* will get through this."

While Joyce at times has questioned why this has happened to her, she now believes it happened to show God's glory and power. She says, "I do believe God will heal me and that I will be able to use my experience to help other people."

"I don't think I would have experienced the same faith support in a public school."

Justin Yoder

Justin Yoder ('05)

Frosh surprised by caring classmates

"Bethany sure did a lot—I didn't expect anyone to come visit me," said Bethany frosh Justin Yoder, following his return home from a six-week stay at the Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

While adults (church members and friends of his parents) made the three-hour trek to visit him and his family, what Justin desired most was contact with people his own age.



Justin Yoder (lower left) participates in get-acquainted, team-building activities with classmates Melissa Gingerich and Nolan Miller on *Frosh Day Away* at the beginning of the school year.

Since previous schools had never organized visits to Justin, born with spina bifida, during his first 35 stays in the hospital, he expected that Bethany would be no different—especially since he was new to Bethany and just developing friendships. But to his surprise, it was.

In late October Justin was anticipating a week of fun and learning in Cleveland with nine other students on Bethany's Interterm. However, several days before the group left, Justin began experiencing partial paralysis in his face and stayed home for treatment that eventually resulted in an extensive stay in the hospital.

Doctors knew the problem was caused by a malfunctioning shunt designed to regulate fluid in Justin's brain and necessary for his survival. However, rectifying the problem, exacerbated by Justin's weakened physical condition, was not simple.

Justin describes this stay as the second worst in his life. In addition to pain and near-death experiences, he felt bored, depressed, and cut off from his friends. "I received many cards—some I kept—and that was great, but most of all I just wanted to see young people who weren't sick," he said.

His first surprise came when two teachers brought six classmates to visit him. "That visit was the best time I had in the hospital," says Justin. While he had earlier begun forming friendships with five of these students, the sixth was just a friend of a friend. "I was really surprised to see him since I didn't know him well, but he has since become one of my closest friends."

Justin's second surprise was a video these friends brought, which included segments of a day at Bethany as well as individuals and groups speaking their greetings and wishing him well. "That was so cool," said Justin, "and I could watch it over and over."

In addition to the care that Justin has received from students at Bethany, he has enjoyed the school small size and friendly people. "Bethany is less cliqueish than in public school. I even have learned to know upperclass students and have better relationships with my teachers. I like that a lot," he says.

Justin's parents, Myron ('73) and Sheila, too have been very appreciative of the ways Bethany has responded to Justin, especially in his physical needs since he uses a wheelchair for mobility. During the summer, the school retrofitted the building—by doing such things as adding automatic door openers—to make it easier for Justin to function. Teachers too have adapted activities and found ways to include him, even though it may take extra time, whether it be canoeing in *Environmental Science* or participating in phys ed.

Contrary to some experiences elsewhere, the Yoders have appreciated the inclusiveness of the Bethany community. Sheila says, "Not once have we heard an administrator or teacher at Bethany say: 'Justin can't do that.' The underlying assumption

See **Justin** on page 7

Sophomore Dies in Auto Accident

Rochelle Wyse

Rochelle Wyse, a sophomore at Bethany Christian Schools, died on Sunday, June 2, as the result of an auto accident. She was on her way home from church when she ran head on into a tree while trying to avoid another vehicle that had veered into her lane.

Born in Wauseon, Ohio, on March 6, 1986, Rochelle is survived by her parents Sam and June Wyse of Goshen, brother Matt ('97) of Dayton, Ohio, and sister Alyssa Ray ('98) of Raleigh, N.C. Memorials may be directed to Bethany Christian Schools for student scholarships.

A student at Bethany since entering sixth grade in 1997, Rochelle was active in music, drama, and athletics. During middle school she performed in the middle school production of *Alice in Wonderland* and in the high school production of the *Sound of Music*. During the past two years she participated in JV volleyball and earned varsity letters in cheerleading and softball.

A member of Waterford Mennonite Church, Rochelle was active in the youth group and served on the youth council.

At her memorial service on June 7, Rochelle was remembered as living life to the fullest. Her joyful smiles were uplifting and encouraging. She was a model student who, according to teacher Marisa Yoder, "realized there was value in learning with others, not alone." Teacher Kathy Koop noted how Rochelle's faith in God helped her to be joyful, even in difficult times: "She has shown us in a very plain way what it means to live in the presence of God."



Death is never easy, but it often seems more difficult to understand when it comes unexpectedly to a young person like Rochelle. In a society that expects life to exceed 70 years, Rochelle's death is a harsh reminder to our limited human understanding that life is not fair. Yet for Christians her death is also a reminder that each day of life is really a gift from God. Thank you God for the 5,871 days you gave us the gift we knew as Rochelle.

Justin (continued from page 6)

we have experienced is: 'We'll figure out how to make it work.'"

When Justin did finally return home in January, he found that to be depressing too, at first. He realized that he had missed exciting events like Interterm and Spring Arts Day or just a general awareness of what had happened at school. "I felt out of the loop, big time. It was like starting the year over. I couldn't even relate to the assignments my friends were talking about," he says.

While Justin sometimes gets frustrated and angry about his situation, he has come to accept the way things are. He says, "When I was younger I questioned God, 'Why me?' But now each stay in the hospital reinforces my favorite Bible verse, Romans 8:28: 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'"

"If none of this would have happened, I wouldn't be famous," he says, referring to a Disney movie, *Miracle in Lane 2* (premiered in May 2000), based on Justin's desire to win a sport trophy, which he did in soap box derby racing. Occasionally Justin shows the movie and answers questions to Mennonite, spina bifida, or soap box derby groups. He says, "It's fun to have people look up to a 15-year-old kid who lives in the boonies and attends a small high school."

Campus News

Commencement 2002

Vic Koop, professor of psychology at Goshen College and father of senior Greg, challenged graduates to "pursue happiness not through temporal pursuits, but because you seek the answers to your many questions through faith in Christ."

Koop suggested that a good education does not result in gaining answers, but in "gaining an ever growing set of questions." He continued, "And although there are many questions and few answers, Bethany has been explicit about pointing you in a direction. We send you out now, not as finished products, but as seekers and builders."

Senior speakers Krista Bergey and Ted McFarlane emphasized their class's theme of diversity by listing a trait or memory typical of each classmate. They noted how four years ago they had "walked through the doors of Bethany, unconnected with each other, uncertain and unaware of how they would fit together and who they would become." Yet four years later they now "hold a piece of each other's pasts and because of this, a piece of each other's futures."

As a symbol of their appreciation for Bethany, the class donated money to improve the sound system in the chapel and provide a scholarship for a student of color at Bethany next year.

As a parting gift from the school, each of the 51 graduates received a vase made by art teacher Eric Good Kaufmann.



Eleven seniors graduated with honors, including co-valedictorians Austin Scharf and Sarah Dick. Holding Jacob Stucky are (left to right) Libby Short, Laurel Yoder, Melanie Histand, Austin Scharf, Jordan Buller (son of Jim ('71) and Jane Stoltzfus ('71) Buller), Krista Bergey, Abby Nafziger, Sarah Thompson (daughter of Karen Diener ('65) Thompson), Hannah Eash, and Sarah Dick.



2001-02 Awards

(clockwise from top left)

Cup of Kindness: Erin Richard

Marlin Miller Memorial Scholarship
(for a student entering service/ministry study):
Ted McFarlane

Art Purchase: Zac Albrecht

Outstanding Senior Male Athlete:
Jordan Buller
(son of Jim ('71) and Jane Stoltzfus ('71) Buller)

Teacher of the Year: J. D. Smucker

Outstanding Senior Female Athlete:
Sarah Thompson
(daughter of Karen Diener ('65) Thompson)

Campus News

Academic Superbowl

Academic Superbowl teams from Bethany had unprecedented success in spring 2002 by qualifying five teams (out of six possible categories) for state competition. The success continued at the state contest as all five teams finished in the top two spots: the science and interdisciplinary teams first and the language arts, social studies, and fine arts teams second.

This is the sixth consecutive year that Bethany has won at least one state championship in class IV (based on school size). However, it is the first time Bethany has qualified more than two teams since 1987 when Bethany qualified four teams (and won three championships).

Since beginning participation in 1987, Bethany has qualified at least one team for the state competition each year with the exception of 1996. Five teams in each division's subject area qualify for state competition.



Academic Superbowl 2002 State Champions:

Interdisciplinary (top): Hannah Eash, Daniel Rodgers, Sarah Roth, and Hannah Kehr (daughter of Bryan ('78) and Anita Yoder ('78) Kehr).

Science (right): Austin Scharf, David Glick, Jon Meyer, and faculty sponsor Marisa Yoder.



State Poetry Champion



Melanie Histand ('02), with her poem entitled "Grandpa," placed first in the state portion of the 2002 Manningham student poetry contest sponsored by the Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs.

Classmates Hannah Eash and Kyle Reinford's poems, "Unusual Peace" and "Naturally Uncomfortable," received honorable mention by placing in the top ten. All three poems, written for a *Creative Writing* assignment, qualified for the national competition.

Last year five Bethany students placed in the top ten at the state level with Bethany Lehman ('01) later placing fifth in the national competition.

Grandpa

by Melanie Histand ('02)

Balloons on patrol beside your bed
had three-inch bold letters that shouted
at you to get well. We couldn't find room
for the flowers we'd brought.

Grandma talked about the view of the yard
from your new room, but all I saw
was your bald head
and your gray skin
and the way you couldn't even turn your head
to look at me.

I held Mom's hand as she talked to you and
smoothed your covers the way she always did for me
at night before I went to sleep.

I saved those balloons, kept them long
after we buried you,
as if you weren't really gone until they ran out of air
and became empty shells of their former selves
like the way you once looked on those white sheets.

Alumni News

Area Code Change

Reminder that north central Indiana, including Goshen, now has a new area code: 574. Bethany's number is now 574 534-2567.

Births

Lisa (Herr, '74) Lederach and husband Phil, Goshen, a daughter, Grace Helen Chin-Yu, adopted from Taiwan, on April 1. Grace joins siblings **Sara ('99)**, Noah, Isaac, Phoebe, Esther, and Elijah.

Sam Burkholder ('76) and Christine Wirkkala, Alexandria, Va., a son, Hans, on September 5. Sam joined the Washington, D.C. office of Morgan, Lewis and Bockius in late 2001, concentrating on the creation and protection of intellectual property rights—primarily patents.

Kim (Miller, '84) Judy and husband Gregory, Goshen, a daughter, Emily Kay, and son, Kile Franklin, on March 19.

Darrell Gascho ('85) and Julie Hertzler, Goshen, a son, Simon James, on June 17.

David Jeschke ('85) and Kim Rush, Seattle, Wash., a son, Nicholas, on November 30.

Lonna Stoltzfus ('85) and Myron Gingrich, Madison, Wis., a daughter, Hannah, on June 12.

Chris Stauffer ('88) and wife Miriam, Canton, Kan., a son, Jade Henry, on May 8. Chris works as an auditor and tax accountant in Newton.

Angela (Wenger, '88) Nord and husband Chris, Albany, Ore., a son, Logan Matthew, on April 16.

Eric Landes Beck ('89) and wife Susan, Vandalia, Mich., a daughter, Hannah, on May 15.

Darrin Eichorn ('92) and wife Megan, Goshen, a daughter, Zoe Ann, on May 26.

Kent Myers ('92) and wife Kathy, Goshen, a daughter, Anna Elizabeth, on April 11.

Rod Kiogima ('94) and wife Amber Levengood, Fisher, Ill, a daughter, Kyleigh Renae, on May 20.

Eliza Jacoby Stoltzfus (F'96-01) and husband Chad, Goshen, twin sons, Carter Jacoby and Clayton Chadwick, on April 24.

Marriages

Donna Minter ('76) and Bruce Brunner, at Excelsiar, Minn., on June 1. Donna works as a pediatric neuropsychologist in Frederic, Wis.

Robert Newcomer ('87) and Candace Bontrager, Wakarusa, Ind., on June 15. Robert is a self-employed farmer near Wakarusa.

Frances Barkman ('89) and David Webb, Poolville, Tex., on April 6. She is photo imaging editor in Fort Worth.

Eric Miller ('94) and Angela Vandenburg, Goshen, on May 18. They reside in South Bend where they are doing residencies at St. Joseph's Medical Center.

Patty Borntrager ('96) and Romel Chico, Chicago, Ill., on June 2.

Justin Shank (N'96) and Brooke Roth, Goshen, on June 8.

Josh Sohar ('96) and Jeannie Allen, Elkhart, Ind., on April 7.

Maria Gnagey ('97) and Sam Woelk, Wakarusa, Ind., on June 8.

Daniel Mast ('98) and Tina Bontrager, Goshen, on April 6.

Derrick Ramer ('98) and Michelle Wall, in California, on May 18.

Cecilia Lambright ('99) and Jeremy Nuzum, on June 15 in Shipshewana, Ind. Cecilia attends Bluffton (Ohio) College.

Chris Kingsley ('00) and **Gretchen Miller ('00)**, Elkhart, Ind., on June 15.

Notes

Mary (Kauffman, '65) Hershberger and husband Paul moved to Murfreesboro, Tenn., in August after living in the Middlebury/Goshen area for 52 years and serving for the past twenty as assistant pastors at Elkhart (Ind.) Christian Center.

Bruce Campbell-Janz ('84) began managing international disaster responses in May for Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) in Burlington, Ont. He and wife Ann have two children: Isaac (4) and Madeleine (2).

Lisa Stauffer ('87), Ft. Collins, Colo., is pursuing further studies in natural resources (environmental education and interpretation). She works as a plant technician for Green Thumb and as an educator for The Butterfly Pavilion. In her limited spare time she enjoys hiking in the mountains, biking, and roller-blading.

Calvin Swartzendruber ('89) received an M.S. in chemistry from Purdue University in May. He teaches chemistry and physics at Central High School in Elkhart, Ind., and is a certified chemical hygiene officer for Goshen College.

Dan Thut ('90), **Rebecca Thut Witmer ('91)**, and **Amy Thut ('95)** opened the Green Line Cafe in west Philadelphia.

Lenora Hirschler ('92) graduated in May from Indiana University Medical School and received a scholarship named for a Bethany-IUMS grad. The Mary Jean Yoder ('56) Award honors a graduating senior who exhibits high moral character, academic excellence, and dedication of service to others. Lenora will join a medical group in Tacoma, Wash.

Emily (Burkhalter, '93) Blosser graduated with a master's in social work from the University of Kansas in May. She and husband Chris have moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he will be in residency in internal medicine.

Andrew Burkhalter ('97) is in a one year Mennonite Voluntary Service assignment in Seattle, Wash., working for an agency that provides computer support for environmental non-profit agencies.

Alison Dick ('99) was second runner-up in the 2002 Miss Elkhart County Scholarship Program.

Jill Graber ('00), a sophomore at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Ind., was named a National Collegiate Award winner in nursing by the United States Achievement Academy.

Betsy Leinbach ('00) is an intern at Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Mich., as part of the Camping Inquiry Program through Goshen College.

Janice Miller ('00) is an intern at Shore Mennonite Church, Shipshewana, Ind., with the Ministry Inquiry Program through Goshen College.

Jonathan Fridley ('01) is serving with Service Adventure's Alaska unit through Mennonite Mission Network. Fridley's assignment includes working with Habit for Humanity as a carpenter.

Thanks

Mary (Kauffman, '65) Hershberger recently wrote to share how Bethany has impacted her and her family (see Notes column also).

"Bethany helped shape me in a positive way as it played a major part in some of the choices that I have made, which have affected my life now and will continue to do so in the future," she says. "I am so thankful for my Christian parents who felt it was very important that my two sisters and I attend Bethany—they knew it would help build and reinforce a strong foundation for us."

In 1966 Mary married Paul Hershberger. She notes that her father, John Kauffman, and her pastor, Bethany principal John Steiner, were instrumental in leading Paul to the Lord. She thanks God too that their three adult children and their spouses are also serving the Lord. She says, "The four years I spent at Bethany had an impact on my life, and on the lives of my family as well."

2002 Reunions

Class of 1957: October 19 at the Blue Gate Restaurant in Shipshewana. Contact Charlene Farmwald at 574 533-5411 or email dcfarm@mapletronics.com.

Class of 1962: No date set yet. Contact Carol Birky at 574 534-3527 or email carol.birky@mma-online.org.

Class of 1967: September 14 at Nelson's Golden Glow, Wakarusa, Ind., at 6:30 p.m. Contact Rosie Miller at 574 533-9728 or email rrmiller100@msn.com.

Class of 1972: August 3 dinner at Bread and Chocolate, 4:30 – 10 p.m. Contact Gail Kaufman Brumbaugh at 574 862-1092 or email Gailb701@aol.com.

Class of 1977: July 13 from 4-9 p.m. at Keith Miller's house (10715 CR 10, Middlebury); BCS gym and lobby in event of rain. Contact Deb Hershberger at 574 533-4805 or email dhersh@maplenet.net.

Class of 1982: July 27 for 10 a.m. brunch at Das Essenhaus and afternoon activities at New Paris Park with games, cook-out, Les/Gwen Gustafson-Zook entertainment. Contact Cheryl Beachey at 574 831-5975 or email beachey@bnin.net.

Class of 1987: July 20 for 3 p.m. tour of Bethany and ice cream for families, dinner in evening at Bread & Chocolate for adults. Contact Marlis Chupp at 574 831-6748 or email marjoy@maplenet.net.

Class of 1992: September 27-28. Friday: Bethany home soccer game vs. Westview, Relief Sale; Saturday evening at Goshen Farmer's Market. Contact Chad Smoker or Britt Kaufmann at 574 289-8575 or email cesmoker@hotmail.com.

Class of 1997: July 27 at 2 p.m. in BCS chapel. Contact Wendy Nice at 317 484-1751 or email kwnice@hotmail.com.

Register in Alumni Locator

Alumni are encouraged to register in the Alumni Locator at www.bethanycs.net

Alumni News

50th Anniversary

The 2003-04 school year will mark the 50th year for Bethany Christian Schools. A celebrative weekend is planned for June 11-13, 2004, to culminate the 50th anniversary year. Alumni and friends are asked to note the date and plan to participate in a variety of activities beginning Friday evening and running through Sunday afternoon. A committee of alumni and school personnel is planning the weekend and will release more specific plans later.

From the Principal

Allan Dueck



The significance of our lives and our faith often becomes clearest in moments of transition—times of loss, change, or new life. This school year Bethany experienced a poignant last week when, on the Sunday before commencement, sophomore Rochelle Wyse died in a car accident on her way home from church. The week that followed was the time traditionally reserved for celebrating graduation from high school—year-end luncheons, open houses, and commencement.

In classes, special memorial services, and quiet conversations, students and teachers struggled with pain and loss. As we talked and prayed and sang, students and teachers commented on the strong sense of togetherness and community we felt. As the week progressed, sadness mingled with appreciation for Rochelle's life, thanksgiving to God for sharing Rochelle with us, and hope in the promise of resurrection.

A poignant week such as this one brings into sharp focus one of the five key words many people use to describe Bethany Christian Schools: *community*. In times of crisis and change we need each other; in such times we readily focus on our common center, Jesus Christ.

Having that common center freed us to celebrate with the seniors at their open houses and commencement amid the loss and pain that colored the week. Commencement speaker Vic Koop, psychology professor at Goshen College and parent of graduate Greg Koop, noted that this graduating class's senior year was bookended by the anguish of September 11 on one hand and the pain of a schoolmate's death on the other. In this context Koop encouraged students to keep asking questions in the face of life's biggest challenges and unexplainable experiences. From the perspective of faith in Christ, he suggested, life can be lived vibrantly and joyfully despite the pain and loss we all experience.

What better place than a church school such as Bethany for students to learn how to live meaningfully, to live in the face of life's intractable questions, and to commit themselves to follow Christ? The answer is apparent in Bethany's rich experience as a community of faith during this year's unforgettable commencement week.

Bethany Christian Schools
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