

Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN



**Groundbreaking
February 18, 2004**



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Donors see value of Bethany in shaping students' lives

Although John and Jolene Bollinger had known about Bethany for many years, their knowledge about Bethany expanded when Jolene's grandson, Bryce Barwick ('03), began attending Bethany. Though one of Bryce's goals was to play varsity basketball at Bethany, John told Bryce that more importantly he would become a better person attending Bethany.

Bryce achieved his goal, playing two years of varsity basketball. However, during his senior year, he shared prior to his baptism at Waterford Mennonite Church that attending Bethany was the best decision he had ever made—not because he got to play basketball, but because he was challenged to change the direction of his life.

The Bollingers have also seen growth in their son Tim's spiritual life since he became involved at Bethany. Now in his second year of coaching girls basketball at Bethany, Tim not only provides leadership on the court, but leads the team in prayer before games.

After seeing what Bethany has done for their family over the past several years, John and Jolene have become involved not only in watching Bethany's home basketball games, but in contributing funds to the school. They believe their grandchildren (currently three in middle school and one in high school) receive a superior education in a good environment at Bethany. They cite not only Bethany's excellent test scores as an example, but also the dedication and quality of the teachers. "Teachers are committed to teaching at Bethany," notes John, "even though they earn less than what they could in public schools."

"One can't put a price tag on Bethany's education," says Jolene. "Our grandchildren are better off at Bethany than in the public school." The smaller school size and favorable teacher-to-student ratio means that students receive more individualized



attention from teachers than in schools with large classes.

When John learned about Bethany's Capital Campaign, he was excited. "It was apparent that new facilities were needed for the middle school. I couldn't believe that the *barn* was a middle school building. With growing enrollment, I wondered, 'where was Bethany going to put them.'"

He has been very impressed at the response and generosity of donors for the Capital Campaign. "I've never heard of raising 90 percent of the money before a building plan was designed." While he definitely saw the need, he also had faith in the planners overseeing the project. He, like the many donors who have pledged to the campaign, believed enough in the cause to give without seeing floor plans.

Jolene feels the new facilities will enhance students' education in that all classes will meet in the same building and program equipment will be updated. Students and parents expect their school to keep up with technology and improved facilities as they observe the public school facilities from which they've come.

Though the Bollingers' initial interest in Bethany was sparked by their grandchildren attending Bethany, they feel that their interest will continue even after their grandchildren have graduated. They believe in Bethany's mission. They have seen the results.

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Oldest alumnus still values and supports Bethany

Though living on a limited income, Lowell Hoover ('55), Bethany's oldest alumnus at age 79, and his wife Velorous, still value the opportunity to support Bethany in its annual operation and now in its Capital Campaign. "We have many warm memories of Lowell's days at Bethany and we want to give back by continuing to help others attend Bethany," says Velorous.

Lowell, who was a part of Bethany's first graduating class, was not a typical Bethany student. Having attended two years of high school locally at Millersburg, he began boarding at Eastern Mennonite High School in Harrisonburg, Va., for what he thought would be his last two years of high school. However, with the U.S. entering World War II in December 1941, his senior year was cut short. After returning home to New Paris to work on the family farm, Lowell received a farm deferment as an alternative to military service. He farmed with his father for the next 17 years.

When Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference established Bethany in fall 1954, Lowell took the opportunity to finish high school and enrolled second semester. At age 30, with a wife and three young children, he became the oldest student to attend and graduate from Bethany!

Being an older student provided Lowell with some atypical experiences. Velorous remembers fondly the times that she and the children would visit Lowell at school. Lowell recalls that many of his classmates looked to him as a father figure, and one even called him Dad.

For the senior class trip to Washington, D.C., Lowell and Velorous, along with principal John Steiner and his wife Mildred, acted as chaperones. During the trip Lowell needed to assist with disciplining some of his classmates. During the trip Velorous discovered she was pregnant with their fourth

child when she began experiencing nausea at the sight of food.

The Hoovers also helped other students attend Bethany during those first years. They hosted several boarding students, including Suzanne Stutzman (attended 1955-57), Ron Wireman ('56), Leonard Ropp ('57), Richard Hershberger ('57), Emerson Ropp ('58), Elson Sommers ('58), and Larry Vardaman ('60).

When Lowell's father sold the family farm in the early 60s, the Hoovers moved to Imlay City, Michigan. While living there their daughter Phyllis ('66) and son Richard ('69) attended Bethany, boarding with grandparents and an uncle. Phyllis was the first second generation student to graduate from Bethany.

When the Mennonite congregation in Imlay City closed, Lowell left his job as a die setter in a factory and the Hoovers retired to Goshen in July 1991. As the result of a stroke in February 2000, Lowell has aphasia, a language impairment that affects his speech and ability to communicate.

Now in their 59th year of marriage, the Hoovers choose to continue supporting Bethany because of its mission and high academic standards. Lowell especially appreciates the opportunity Bethany has to incorporate scripture into its curriculum.

Though on a limited income, the Hoovers still make supporting Bethany a priority. They find budgeting for a smaller donation each month more manageable than making an annual contribution. And, they have found that giving monthly allows them to contribute more dollars over the course of the year.

Capital Campaign



LOWELL HOOVER

Above: senior photo.

Below: Lowell and Velorous Hoover in March 2004.



Capital Campaign

Groundbreaking

On February 18 Bethany Christian Schools broke ground for its \$4.48 million building project. The entire student body and faculty joined invited guests in the gym for a service of dedication and then moved outside for the groundbreaking (see photo).

The service of dedication focused on thanksgiving: for God's blessing on the project and the mission of school and for donors and volunteers who have helped achieve success in the Capital Campaign. In the ceremony outside, the Bethany community invited God's continued presence and blessing on the project.

The centerpiece of the building project is a new middle school "wing" with six classrooms. A new state-of-the-art media center will provide a wonderful setting for student study and research and a more visible and attractive face for Bethany to State Road 15. A centralized new entrance to the campus will enhance traffic flow and safety.

Additional components of the project include an auxiliary gymnasium, expansion and renovation of the cafeteria, a new orchestra room, renovated high school

science classrooms, and two new high school classrooms. Administrative offices will be located front and center, between the high school and middle school wings, creating a welcoming place for students and guests.

Actual construction is scheduled to begin the fourth week of March with completion of new facilities expected by the end of this calendar year. All renovation work should be completed by August 2005.

Capital Campaign Update

With more than \$4.2 million raised to date for the \$4.48 million project—an increase of \$130,000 due to increased cost of construction materials and the addition of the media center—the Capital Campaign should be completed by June. Development Director Susan Gingerich says, "It is unusual to have such a high percentage of funds pledged before building actually begins. For this we are thankful to the many people who are committed to Christian education in our community and have supported this project financially."

The success of the Campaign has been the result of 772 donors, whose contributions range from \$5 to \$1 million. Whether the donations have been large or small, many donors have given sacrificially.

Though the Campaign is nearing completion, additional funds are still needed. The inserted envelope provides you an opportunity to join other supporters in helping to see Bethany's mission for a quality Christian education continue in improved facilities. All donors will be recognized in the school's annual report with those giving \$500 or more listed on an honor roll. In addition, donors giving \$10,000 or more will be included on a recognition plaque near the new entrance.

One Last Chance

If you haven't made a pledge or contribution to the building campaign, you may use the envelope inserted into this issue of the *Bulletin*. Join the other 700+ donors who are helping with this project.



Groundbreaking participants: Peter Shetler, construction manager; Adam Weesner, The Moake Park Group; Duane Stutzman, Building Committee chair; Steve Park, The Moake Park Group; Mitchell Hawkins, middle school student council co-president; Doug Wogoman, DJ Construction; Barbara and Bob Steury, Capital Campaign Cabinet co-chairs; Allan Dueck, principal; Matt Yoder, high school student council co-president; Susan Gingerich, development director; and Mayor Allan Kauffman, City of Goshen.



50th Anniversary Celebration

Plan to attend Bethany's 50th anniversary celebrations, June 11-13. A brochure that lists activities for the weekend and includes a registration form is available at www.bethanycs.net. For more information, see page 7 or call the school at 574 534-2567. History book orders can be included on your registration form (or use the form below).

Bethany Christian Middle School
presents

Things My Mother Said

by Evie Nafziger

A coming-of-age drama about middle schoolers seeking their independence amid the humor and confusion of life at school—awkwardly doing their best to fit in, fend off gossip, and handle relationships as they prepare for a school lock-in.

April 30 and May 1 at 7 p.m.
Adults: \$4 • Students: \$2
call 574 534-2567

Calendar

April

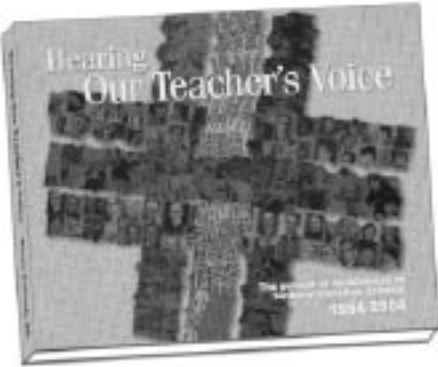
15-19 MSEC Choir Festival at Eastern Mennonite, Harrisonburg, Va.
23 Fish Fry, 4:30-8:00 p.m.
26-30 Interterm/Senior Trip

May

6 SBA Service Day
14-15 HS Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m.
18 MS New Student Night, 5:30 p.m.
20 MS Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
27 Grade 8 Recognition, 7 p.m.
30 HS Commencement, 3 p.m.

50th Anniversary History Book

- Chapters.** Six narrative chapters
- 1 *Bethany's Vigorous Birth 1945-54* by Leonard Gross
 - 2 *A Strong Start 1954-63* by Wilmer Hollinger
 - 3 *A Struggle for Identity 1963-74* by Becky Bontrager Horst
 - 4 *A Vision Renewed 1974-80* by Sally Weaver Glick
 - 5 *How Firm a Foundation 1980-93* by Bryan and Anita Kehr
 - 6 *Building for the Future on the Past 1993-2004* by James Krabill



Vignettes. Stories in the margins include: Betsy the music hearse, the "barn" fire, High Aim, Remember Aubbeenaubbee, senior trip stories

Appendices. Includes 45 pages of lists such as commencement locations and speakers, school plays/musicals, National Merit finalists, senior athletes of the year, and names of board members, employees and their roles, and alumni with notations designating class officers and fish heads.

... and many Photos.

Pre-Publication Orders

The history book is scheduled to be ready for Bethany's 50th Anniversary celebration, June 11-13, 2004. A special price of \$14.95 is available for pre-publication orders received by May 28, 2004, after which the price will be \$17.95.

To order the book, complete the form (right) and return with payment to: **Bethany Christian Schools**, 2904 South Main Street, Goshen, IN 46526-5499. For orders that will not be picked up at the 50th Anniversary Celebration, add shipping charges as listed at right.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

No. of books _____ x \$14.95 = \$ _____

\$3 for shipping/handling for 1 book = \$ _____

\$1 for s/h for each additional book = \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Check enclosed payable to **Bethany Christian Schools**

Charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard

Number: - -

expiration date _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____

Births

Sharla (Miller '81) Meyer and husband Chris, Goshen, a son, Chase Christopher, on December 6.

Denise (Clemens '86) Murphy and husband Michael, Mishawka, Ind., a daughter, Megan Renee, on December 12.

Starla (Miller '86) Borrer and husband Randall, Durham, N.C., a son, Luke Josiah, on January 13.

Lois Hochstetler ('87) and husband Kent Fisher, Columbus, Ohio, a son, Coyote Daniel, on June 27.

Carl Friesen ('88) and wife Elaine, Chicago, Ill., a daughter, Genevieve Esther, on August 15.

Carrie Hochstetler ('88) and Travis Krehbiel, Moundridge, Kans., a son, Jasper Elijah, on February 6.

Carla D. (Miller '88) Thompson and husband Tim, Goshen, a daughter, Haile Nicole, on December 31.

Rafael Santos ('88) and wife Martita, Aibonito, P.R., a son, Diego Rafael, on December 9.

Ric Troyer ('85) and Emily Headings, Seattle, Wash., a daughter, Zoe, on February 5.

Lauren J. Penner ('90) and wife Hillary, Del Ray, Fla., a daughter, Thea Irma, on January 30.

Lesley (Rutt '90) Dyck and husband Ted, Elkhart, Ind., a son, Matthew Steven, on January 20.

Matthew Smith ('90) and wife Sonya, Portland, Ore., a daughter, Ella Mae, on March 1.

Luke Lefever ('91) and wife Jennifer, Elkhart, Ind., a son, Alexander Clavin, on April 10.

David Moyer-Diener ('91) and wife Joanna, Ann Arbor, Mich., a son, Christian Phillip, on October 5.

Rebecca Thut-Witmer ('91) and husband Douglas, Philadelphia, Pa., adopted a daughter, Salena, on October 10, born October 3.

Kim Kaufman ('98), Goshen, a daughter, Morgan Victoria, on January 16.

Rebekah Arbuckle ('01ng) and Jonathan Suddarth, Shippshewana, a son, Caden Daniel, on January 19.

Sherry Kauffman (F'94-96) and husband Dave, Columbus, Ohio, adopted a daughter, Tara Sang, from Changsha, China, in November 2003. She was born May 26, 2002.

Deaths

Arthur Troyer ('56), Chicago, Ill., on January 18.

Sharon (Miller '60) Koelzer, Joplin, Mo. on January 16.

Sam Ovando ('73), Evanston, Ill, on December 23.

Marriages

Tom Graber ('66) and Melissa Foster, Goshen, on December 12 in Cancun, Mexico.

Chrisine Reimer ('84) and Michael Collins, Vancouver, B.C., on December 21.

Justin Mast ('95ng) and Jessica Johns, Aurora, Colo., on January 11 at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.

Sandrina Berkau ('98) and Peter Soltau, Giessen, Germany, on October 3. They both are studying pastoral ministry.

Ulrike Voigt ('99ng) and Andreas Gerhardt, Jena, Germany, on March 15, 2003. They spent March 2004 in Goshen where Andreas interned in a medical office. Ulrike is a graduate student in psychology.

Seth Yoder ('01) and **Sarah Yoder ('01)**, Goshen, on December 27.

Notes

Richard Cender ('59) and wife Irene, Phoenix, Ariz., have two married sons and three grandchildren. He has served as an ordained pastor, staff chaplain for the sheriff's department, and pastor on-call 24/7. He and Irene minister and counsel at their church and are in charge of a 24/7 crisis prayer line ministry for the church and community.

Inez (Miller '64) Edwards, Eureka, Ill., still enjoys teaching, especially visual arts. She and husband Larry have three step-great-grandchildren.

Marilyn (Miller '70) Riegsecker was licensed and installed as minister of Christian nurture at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church, Goshen, on February 8.

Lola (Albrecht '71) Gingerich, Milford, Ind., directs two homeschool choirs in the Goshen community.



Three Bethany alumni affiliated with Goshen College participated in a fair trade coffee delegation to El Salvador in January: junior Joel Fath ('00); Rachel Lapp ('91), director of public relations; and senior Anna Newburn ('01). Joel says, "My desire of seeking justice in my own life leads me to question how my purchasing power affects the lives of others—even those I cannot see."

Alumni Needed for Anniversary Drama

Bethany is looking for three actors to perform in the 50th anniversary production of *Attics*: two females between the ages of 20 and 40, and one male in his 30's. If you are interested in auditioning for one of these roles, please call the director, Elaine Ehrlich, at 574 536-5013.

Jim Maust ('89), Middlebury, Ind., coached a high school Science Olympiad team that placed second at the Goshen College regional on February 14.

Bekki Fahrner ('90), Goshen, a manager of an area hotel, serves as vice president of the Great Lakes Discipleship Center board and youth and worship arts director at Tri-Lakes Community Church.

Megan Ramer ('94) served two weeks with Christian Peacemaker Teams in the Middle East in November.

Jim Strouse ('95), New York, wrote a screenplay, "Lonesome Jim," that is being turned into a Steve Buscemi-directed movie starring Casey Affleck and Liv Tyler. Plans are to film the movie in Goshen, beginning in March. **Julian Kauffmann ('94)** is involved in the production.

Mandy Yoder ('95) was licensed and installed as associate pastor at First Mennonite Church of Indianapolis, Ind., on February 29.

Rachel Koontz ('98), published a book through Goshen College's Pinchpenny Press this year. *Mending the Mind* is an autobiographical account of her healing from depression.

Tim Nafziger ('99) is a research assistant and web designer for Anabaptist Network in London, Eng.

Ben Friesen ('01), Goshen College junior, received second prize in the 2003 Arthur and Greta DeLong Writing Awards for his essay "The Playground of War," in which he compared the rules of current U.S. foreign policy and the rules of school playground behavior.

Maegan Schmidt ('03) serves in Egypt for Youth with a Mission.

Randy Clouse (F'95-) received a plaque from the Goshen City Council in recognition of his 14 years of service on the city's Plan Commission.

Memories

Planners of the 50th Anniversary banquet are seeking memories to include in the program. Send your memories to info@bethanycs.net or schtrng@aol.com.



50th Anniversary Celebration

Building on a Foundation of Faith

Join alumni and friends to celebrate Bethany's 50 years on June 11-13

Registration Information: Pre-register by May 1 to assist in planning. A donation of \$10 per adult is suggested. Registration and fees for specific events are listed below. A brochure with registration form is available at www.bethanycs.net or call 574 534-2567.

Banquet: A Saturday evening banquet with fifty years of Bethany history depicted through stories, music, and pictures. Registration required (\$10 per person).

Class Reunions: Class reunions held on June 12, include: 1955, 1959, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1994, 1999. For contact info, see the alumni reunion page at www.bethanycs.net or call the Alumni Office at 574 537-9100.

Drama: In *Attics*, written by Judy (Clemens '87) Smucker, three siblings reflect on their past in the attic of their mother's home prior to it being sold after fifty years in the family. Three performances. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.



Late Night Music: Alumni perform various music styles at a come-and-go coffee house.

Athletic Events: Register as a twosome, foursome, or individual for a 7:30 a.m. Saturday shot-gun start golf scramble. An entry fee of \$50 per person covers all related costs. Participate in a 3 p.m. Saturday alumni soccer game on Bethany's soccer field.

Concert: An alumni choir will perform works conducted by past directors and premiere a work composed by James Clemens ('83). The choir will rehearse Saturday morning, afternoon, and prior to the Sunday concert.



Children's Programs: Childcare and activities for infants through grade 6 is available for selected events. Registration required. Costs are available on the brochure.

History Book: Book will be released this weekend. See page 5 for ordering information.

From
the
Principal
Allan Dueck



While excellent teaching is the primary ingredient in effective education, adequate facilities can do much to enhance the educational process. We stand at the threshold of the largest expansion and improvement of facilities in Bethany's history—some 33,000 square feet of new facilities will be added to the existing 70,000+ square feet, much of which will be renovated and upgraded. The project promises to significantly improve the environment for learning at Bethany.

This \$4.48 million project will provide a new home for the middle school, which has used makeshift space since its inception in 1996. Six new classrooms, two for each of grades 6-8, will provide a spacious, warm learning environment. One of these classrooms will be equipped as a science lab for hands-on, experimental science appropriate to Bethany's exploratory emphasis in middle school education.

Other parts of the new construction, while occasioned by addition of the middle school, will serve all students. The addition of a new auxiliary gymnasium will ensure ample space for grades 6-12 physical education classes and co-curricular athletic programs as well as for community events such as *Fun Fest*. Similarly, the new orches-

tra room will provide a wonderful rehearsal setting for instrumental music instruction for students in all grades. The state-of-the-art media center, an eye-catching new face for the school, will invite students to read in comfortable, well-lit surroundings and to utilize the latest technological resources for research and study.

Expanding and renovating the high school science labs will provide safe, up-to-date facilities for science students—and installing computers will diversify options for study and experimentation. The current library will become home to the relocated instructional computer lab as well as a multipurpose room, also equipped with computers, available to middle school and high school classes for learning activities that require flexible space.

Furthermore, the project will see expansion and renovation of the cafeteria, a new school entrance and office area, a new driveway to improve traffic flow and safety, attractive landscaping, and a new school sign. Thanks to the generous support of many, these expanded and improved facilities will enhance the environment for learning at Bethany and enable teachers to continue the tradition of excellence in Christian education.

Bethany Christian Schools

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Notice to parents:

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