

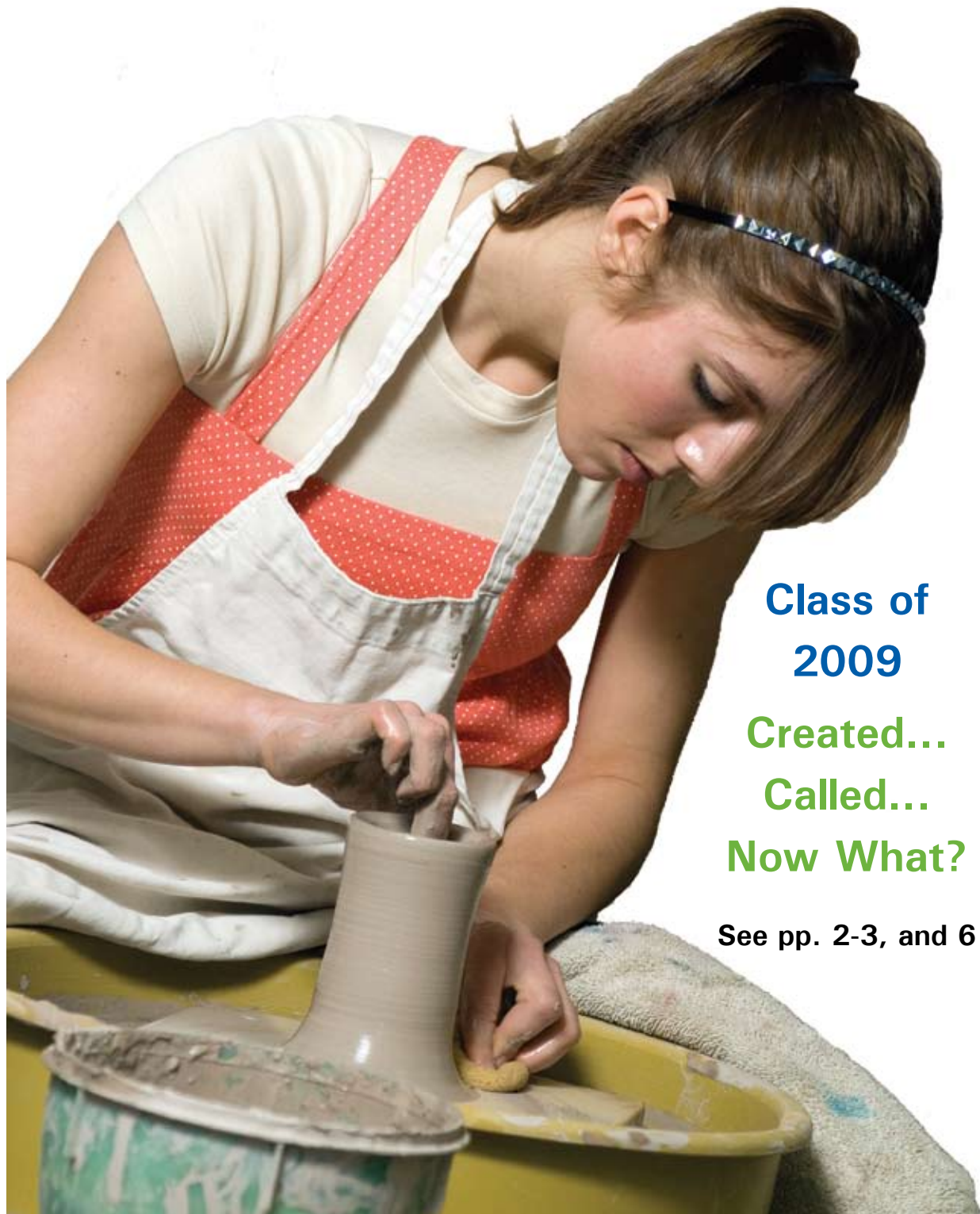
Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN



Summer 2009

Vol. 54 No. 4

www.bethanycs.net



**Class of
2009**

**Created...
Called...
Now What?**

See pp. 2-3, and 6

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**Innovative
Academic Programs
for 2009-10**

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Seniors Share Faith

Cover: Senior Chelsea Noble creates a ceramic piece in an art class.

Student Sermons

In a new effort to increase the ways that Bethany trains students to participate in and contribute to congregational worship, all senior Bible students learned to preach an expository sermon this year.

Students were randomly assigned Scripture verses from throughout the Bible and asked to do the following: base sermons on their assigned scripture, explain the context of the verse, apply the main point to high school life, type it as a manuscript, and stay within three minutes in length.

The goal was not to become experienced and polished preachers, but to learn the primary components of an expository sermon through doing and hearing sermons so that students could evaluate others' sermons and have some experience to draw upon if asked to preach in the future.

Following are excerpts from two students' sermons:

Matt Vander Werf

Scripture: Daniel 2:5-6 in which King Nebuchadnezzar demands his astrologers tell and interpret his dream.



In applying the message to high school life, Matt said, "We may at times face seemingly impossible situations; situations that we don't have the wisdom or strength or resources to resolve on our own. But through God working, we are able to achieve the impossible. We must be diligent seekers of truth and not just seek counsel from people who will tell us what we want to hear, but people who will tell us what we need to hear."

Matt, son of Bruce and Rachel (Hochstetler '81) Vander Werf, received the 2009 Marlin Miller Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a senior displaying gifts and strong interest in preparing for Christian leadership and service in the church.

Elyse Morgan



Scripture: Ezra 3:6 in which Jews exiled from Israel return and, despite their fear of the peoples around them, build altars to sacrifice burnt offerings to God.

Elyse said, "In a society that is as judgmental as ours, it seems necessary to guard our opinions. But we need to get past the fear of judgment and say what we think is right. Teachers and parents tell us we need to define ourselves and ask our positions on war, peace, justice, money, and alcohol. It may be annoying, but they are right. We need to speak up and show others what we believe."

Elyse, daughter of Tim and Sandy Morgan, plans to study psychology at Butler University.

Senior Faith Statements

Each year each senior's final Bible assignment is to share his or her faith journey, present beliefs, and future dreams/plans in chapel, class, or a group setting outside school. Following are excerpts from presentations by several students who shared in chapel and one who shared in class.

Will Troyer



In his senior Bible faith statement presentation in class, Will Troyer symbolized his faith with a sponge. He dipped the sponge into a bucket of water to illustrate his faith nurturing up to this point—soaking in what the church, parents, and school have taught him over the past 18 years. Then he took the sponge and washed the table to illustrate how he would like to use his faith as he departs Bethany—to serve others with the faith that he has grown in over the past 18 years.

Will, son of Don and Beth Troyer, plans to attend Goshen College to study business information systems.

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Casey Snyder

Attending Bethany has very much influenced my faith walk. Since I take the Bible literally, I ask the same question that [Spiritual Life Week speaker] Shane Claiborne did, “What if God was serious about feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting the prisoners?” Thus, I have been on a search for consistency that has forced me to rethink my actions and beliefs.



Since I didn’t grow up around Mennonites, I was never against war. But as I have looked deeper into the teachings of Jesus, I find no support of war. Deciding that I am a pacifist was hard. I did not want to be a pacifist, or a Mennonite for that matter. I am a believer in Christ, who is trying my best to be a follower of Christ.

Casey, daughter of Jeff and Debra Snyder, plans to attend Taylor University to study graphic design or art education.

Erin Helmuth

I have struggled to accept grace and forgiveness and have only rationalized it as God’s incomprehensible love. As a Christian I am called to demonstrate this great love as well: to see the face of God in everyone and treat them as if they are God’s children.



My view of resources is also transformed by this call to love. When I view what I have as God’s, I am free to be generous and share with others. Yet I struggle to know how to live this out in my life. What does a life of faithful stewardship really look like in the world today? How should I change my lifestyle? Until I figure it out, I will do what I can to lessen my impact on the earth and be generous with those around me.

Erin, daughter of Ray ('80) and Sonja Gyori-Helmuth, plans to attend Goshen College to pursue teaching or physical therapy.

Hannah Grieser

Growing up in a close-knit Mennonite community has given me a solid foundation for my faith. Without the Bible, there would be no foundation to my understanding of Christianity. Therefore, stories of the Bible and teachings of Jesus have an impact on the way I want to live.



Prayer has been significant to my journey. Prayer serves as a time for reflection and meditation. Yet listening for God can be challenging, which makes believing in the invisible extremely difficult.

I have questioned the existence of God. Questions force me to make the journey toward my own answers rather than simply accepting traditional values. Yet I am continually drawn back to the belief that there is a God. Choosing faith is taking a risk.

Hannah, daughter of Mike and Beth (F'99-), plans to attend Goshen College to play volleyball and study art education.

Service/Job Shadowing

Each year seniors participate in service assignments throughout the semester and in a day of job shadowing as ways to explore their faith and career interests.

Lynelle Yoder (left in photo) shadowed first-grade teacher Ruth Roth who emailed Bible teacher Dale Shenk: “Lynelle would make a good teacher with young children. Your job shadowing program is an excellent way for students to explore their interests and develop their gifts.”

In her senior faith statement Lynelle describes the joy she has had working with young children and says, “God has nudged me toward pursuing elementary education. People who have seen me working with children have mentioned that I should consider that as a vocation.”



Academic Program Plan

Innovative Academic Programs for 2009-10

During the past three years, many Bethany stakeholders participated in *Validating the Vision*, a thorough self-study and assessment of Bethany's programs and activities. This work culminated in a five-year action plan for improvement in programming, professional development, finances, and church and community relations. During the 2008-09 school year, Bethany's administration, faculty, and board focused particularly on the first priority and are ready to implement some major program innovations in 2009-10 to enhance students' engagement and learning and equip them with skills to succeed in college and work in the 21st century. (For a comprehensive 34-page report, see www.bethanycs.net/app09-10.)

Mentor Program

A close community with strong teacher-student relationships has long been a distinctive value at Bethany. Building on that strength, a new mentoring program will pair each student with a faculty member for guidance and support needed to navigate middle and high school successfully.

Mentor-mentee pairs will meet bi-weekly during a scheduled time slot in the school day. The primary focus will be for faculty to provide academic support in helping students set goals, monitor and encourage progress, and guide students in exploring curricular and co-curricular opportunities that fit with their interests and skills. NWEA tests and KUDER career planning materials will aid this process.

Additionally, mentors can be good listeners and friends, assist in problem solving, and provide an honest perspective on life,

dreams, and personal gifts. Through these relationships, students can grow in their academic responsibility and spiritual, social, and emotional development. A distinct bond between student and mentor should develop as a result of this individualized attention.

Technology Scope-and-Sequence

To equip students with technology skills for the 21st century, Bethany, in conjunction with college professors, has identified skills students should master by the end of high school—from basic word processing skills to appropriate internet use and personal information management.

Technology skills will not be separated from the rest of the curriculum, but will be integrated into all courses with a focus on experiential learning. Bethany has identified specific grade levels and courses for each skill and measurable standards to assess learning. For example, students will learn digital mapping in conjunction with middle school social studies.

Music Program Revised

A revamped music program will offer greater choice for students, equal opportunity for vocal and instrumental music, and new course offerings.

Grade 6 students will continue to take an introductory music course, while students in grades 7-9 can fulfill their music requirement by taking either vocal or instrumental music. Although music courses are optional for students in grades 10-12, they may continue to participate in instrumental music or audition for Advanced Chorus or the new Musical Theater course. Interested students may participate in both vocal and instrumental courses (easier in a new nine-period timetable).

Students will continue to have the opportunity to participate in large music festivals and small ensembles and to share their gifts in school, church, and community venues.



AP Calculus teacher Renae Yoder and class of 2009 co-valedictorian Erin Helmuth celebrate Erin's graduation.

J-term

Over the past three decades, Interterm—one-week experiential-learning courses—has been a highlight for many high school students. Now it is getting even better! Middle school students will participate for the first time, and with the expansion and placement of these courses into the first two weeks of January, the new format will be called J-term.

With more than 70 hours of class time, J-term courses will qualify for 1 credit. This allows students the option of taking a required course to provide more flexibility during the other two semesters, or to enrich their course of study by choosing innovative elective courses in areas of special interest.

During the first week all classes will take place on campus 8:00-3:30. To broaden the opportunities available, high school courses may travel off-campus (and overnight) during the second week of January, or during the summer. Seniors will explore career interests through job shadowing during the first week of J-term and spend the second week on a class trip.

Senior Job Shadowing

Over the last several years senior Bible students have spent one day shadowing an adult on their job to gain insight into career interests as they prepare to enter the work force or consider college studies. While this has been helpful, many have desired a longer time to more meaningfully engage and explore prospective vocations. Incorporating job-shadowing, along with senior trip, into J-term will provide a natural capstone activity for seniors with age-appropriate experiential learning. While many will choose to job shadow locally, some may choose to do so elsewhere. Students will have specific objectives and requirements and can earn .5 credit.

AP and Dual-Credit Courses

To provide gifted students more challenging learning opportunities, better equip

students to excel in college, and provide opportunity for students to shorten their time in college, Bethany is increasing its advanced placement offerings and planning to offer some courses in which students can earn dual high school/college credit.

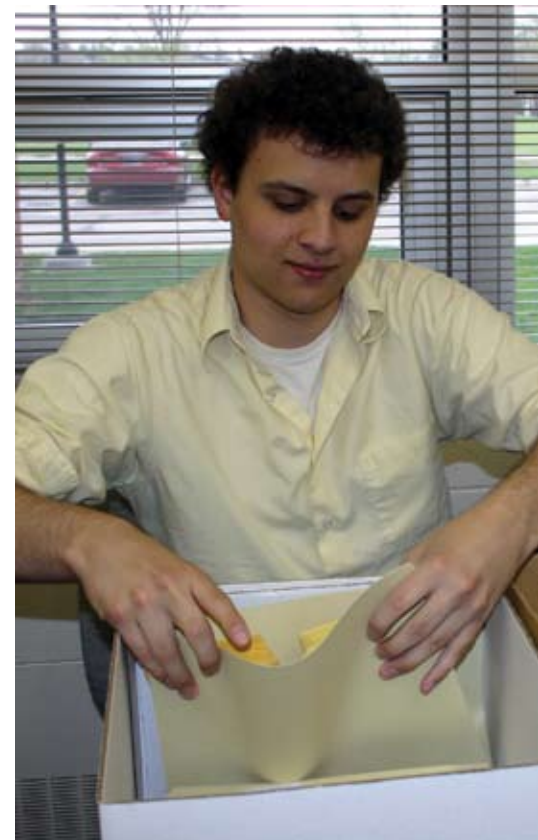
Bethany currently offers *AP Calculus*, will again offer *AP English* (following a one-year absence), and is exploring other AP offerings for fall 2010. Colleges use end-of-course tests in advanced placement courses to determine college credit. Bethany is also in conversation with Mennonite colleges regarding dual-credit courses.

Middle School Program of Studies

To enhance students' learning and better integrate technology into classes at each middle school grade level, Bethany is implementing an interdisciplinary approach to instruction. Enrichment courses, instead of being self-contained, will be integrated into existing core courses. For example, *World Languages* will be incorporated into social studies and health will be taught in conjunction with phys ed and science.

Timetable

Some of these changes have also made it easier to design a new timetable in which the middle and high school will run on the same daily schedule. This will provide better access to computer labs and other shared facilities, eliminate conflicts for teachers with classes in both middle and high school, incorporate music classes inside the regular school day (previously orchestra met after school), and provide a consistent ending time each day. Most classes will still operate on a modified block schedule (meet four times per week), though a few classes will meet every day.



Senior Andrew Shenk explored a job interest while volunteering at the Mennonite Church USA Archives.

Created...Called...Now What?



Symbolizing the creativity of the 47-member class of 2009, art teacher Eric Kaufmann created an earthen vessel during the 55th commencement ceremony on May 31, and then each

graduate received a unique ceramic piece with a purposeful flaw made by Kaufmann.

Hannah Grieser in her student address said, "Everyone is formed by God; created

with unique personalities. Although we are created with varying characteristics, we are all vessels that God uses for bringing goodness and a positive influence to our world."

Lewis Caskey invited classmates to thank parents and faculty, saying, "Let's not forget what all this place has done for us, and let us remember what we can do for it."

For additional photos and highlights, see www.bethanycs.net/graduation_2009.



Graduates with the highest academic standing: (front) Mary Roth, •Casey Snyder, Lynelle Yoder, Elyse Morgan, •Sierra Germeyan; (back) Hannah Grieser, Luke Hostetter, Jonny Shenk, •Elias Kehr, •Erin Helmuth.
•co-valedicotiran

2008-09 Awards

Teacher-of-the-Year

Brent Reinhardt

See www.bethanycs.net/Teacher_2009

Leadership Awards:

Lewis Caskey, Casey Snyder, Lynelle Yoder

Outstanding Senior Athletes:

Jenae Rupp and Jordan Weaver

Cup of Kindness:

Alisha Snyder

Outstanding Senior Vocalists:

Elyse Morgan and Luke Slagel

Outstanding Senior Instrumentalists:

Daniel Buschert and Lynelle Yoder

All high school awards listed at

www.bethanycs.net/HS-Awards_2009

News at bethanycs.net

Academic Superbowl: Three teams in top five at state. See [/Academic_Superbowl_09](http://www.bethanycs.net/Academic_Superbowl_09).

Spring Sports: Baseball is sectional runner up, Emma Gerig (girls track) advances to regionals, and Chelsea Noble (cover) sets softball records. For spring awards and highlights see [/spring_sectionals_2009](http://www.bethanycs.net/spring_sectionals_2009).

Trusting Christ: Two students step out and learn to lead. See [/leadership_Rotary_09](http://www.bethanycs.net/leadership_Rotary_09).

Walking with Jesus: Music students reflect on their church neighborhoods. For story see [/walk_with_jesus](http://www.bethanycs.net/walk_with_jesus).

If I Were Mayor: Colin Samuel ('15) places second in city essay contest. Read his essay at [/Mayor-Essay_2009](http://www.bethanycs.net/Mayor-Essay_2009).

Students Learn to Fly: Story and photos of Private Pilot Ground School and other interterms at [/interterm/2009_flight](http://www.bethanycs.net/interterm/2009_flight).

Bethany on PBS-TV: Watch/read story on church aid in Elkhart at [/PBS_090419](http://www.bethanycs.net/PBS_090419).

Service Days: Students give back to community and help Feed the Children. For photos and story see [/service_day_09](http://www.bethanycs.net/service_day_09).

Bike to School Day: Parking lot was sparse, but bike racks overflowing. For story see [/bike-to-school_09](http://www.bethanycs.net/bike-to-school_09).

Special Scholarships

Marlin E. Miller Memorial Scholarship to a senior planning to prepare for Christian leadership or service: Matt Vander Werf.

Heidi Claassen Memorial Scholarship to the top-ranked senior planning to attend a Mennonite college and who has earned the Indiana Academic Honors diploma and taken either *Calculus* or *Physics*: Erin Helmuth.

Beth Berry Peace and Justice Award for involvement in promoting peace and justice in the school and community: Jon Mark.

Hoosier Heroes® for essay on Sarah Thompson ('02) and her significant contributions to society: Erin Helmuth. See essay at www.bethanycs.net/Hoosier_Hero_2009.

Births

Rafael ('88) and Martita Santos, Aibonita, P.R., daughter Monica Isabel, July 1, 2008.

Christopher ('88) and Miriam Huebert-Stauffer, Canton, Kan., daughter Saphire Diana, Apr. 23.

Audrey (Schultz '92) and David Buenrostro, Fort Wayne, Ind., son Mateo Guadalupe, March 5. Grandparents are Al and Bonnie (Kaufman '67) Schultz.

Jason ('93) and Heather Birky, Elkhart, Ind., son Blaine Jared, March 11.

Deb (Miller '95) and Matt Hickman, Normal, Ill., daughter Laineigh, adopted May 4, born July 9, 2007.

Heidi (Miller '96) and Chris Mast, Shipshewana, Ind., daughter Maggie Louise, May 5.

Sarah (Wenger '97) and Jeff Short, Atlanta, Ga., son Alexander Taylor, March 27. Grandparents are Dave and Esther (Bontrager '65) Wenger.

Wendy (Yoder '97) and Kevin ('96) Nice, Goshen, son Orion Steffen, May 29. Grandparents are Wes ('68) and Ruthie (S'88-) Yoder and LeRoy and Marilyn (S'92-) Nice.

Aaron Graber ('97) and Sarah Bontrager, Middlebury, Ind., daughter Adelyn Jae, Sept. 3, 2008.

Josh ('98) and Alexis Nice, Goshen, daughter Ellianna Elizabeth, Apr. 2.

Reid ('99) and Grace Brown Kaufmann, Newton, Kan., daughter Madeleine Josie, Dec. 19. Grandparents are Jim and Lois (Johns '66) Kaufmann, and great-grandfather is Galen Johns (F'68-70).

Rachel ('98) and Eric Paulovich Sartori, Phoenix, Ariz., daughter Eliana Anisa, Dec. 20. Grandparents are Dave and Cheryl (Beachy '69) Paulovich.

Jen (Gingerich '00) and Fred Yoder, Goshen, daughter Raelyn Noelle, March 26. Grandparents are Merrill ('71) and Lola (Albrecht '71) Gingerich.

Jill (Graber '00) and Alex Mast, Middlebury, Ind., daughter Catherine Joy, Oct. 27, 2007, and son Brett Alex, Jan. 1, 2009. Grandparents are Stan and Cathy (Miller '77) Graber and great-grandmother is Eunice (Troyer Miller '59) Chupp.

Jeff ('01) and Mariko (Miyama '01) Claassen, Goshen, son Ethan James, May 30.

Deaths

Delta (Byler '56) Basile, Akron, Ohio, Feb. 5.

Tyron Pasley ('70), Elkhart, Ind., March 15.

Mark Gerber ('85), Leesburg, Ind., Apr. 11. He is survived by his parents, former spouse Colleen (Schleining '88) Guengerich and their three children, and siblings Jon ('85), Joe ('88), and Susannah ('90) Gerber-Lepley.

Marriages

Joy Maust ('86) and Rodney Holmes, Middlebury, Ind., June 20.

Ami (Steiner '91) Damer and Rich Schlamersdorf, Goshen, June 13.

Jenna Liechty ('03) and Peter Martin, Bluffton, Ohio, April 25.

Mark Bowman ('04) and Mikki Saltzman, Goshen, June 6.

Ben Barwick ('05) and Kaely Miller, Mishawaka, Ind., June 6.

Leah Selman ('05) and Gabe Wilfong, West Lafayette, Ind., May 23.

Notes

Lola (Albrecht '71) Gingerich, Milford, Ind., has been helping plan the Mennonite Youth Choir Festival in Goshen since its inception in 1992. Her daughters **Jen ('00)** and **Angela ('04)** also participated in the planning this year. See news article in March-April issue of *Gospel Evangel* (www.im.mennonite.net).

Joanna Shenk ('01), Elkhart, graduated in May from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary with an M.A. in theological studies. She will work for Mennonite Church USA as an InterChurch Relations and Communications Writer/Research associate.

Elizabeth Nachtigall ('03), Hopedale, Ill., has been serving as a Mennonite Mission Network intern in Argentina since August 2008.

Upcoming Reunions

Class of '59:
Sept. 26-27 at Bethany and Essenhaus Conference Center, Middlebury, Ind.

Class of '04:
Sept. 25-26 at Bethany.

Reunions in process of being planned include 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004. For updated information and class contacts, see www.bethanycs.net/reunions or email saricher@bethanycs.net.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Saturday, Sept. 26:
6:30 p.m. girls soccer vs. Westview

Friday, Dec. 11:
7:30 p.m. High School Christmas Concert at Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Join students, faculty, and alumni for a reception following the concert.

Saturday, Dec. 12:
1 p.m. girls basketball vs. Canterbury, and 6 p.m. boys basketball vs. Lakeland with 5:00-6:30 p.m. community chili supper fundraiser.



The class of '88 met March 14 at Bethany for its 20th/21st-year reunion: (front) John Troyer, Carl Friesen, Sharon (Brugger) Norton, Tammy (Beck) Bass, Jane (Moore) Wilson; (back) Rick Yoder, Mark Claassen, Ly-Ly (Beane) Gerard, Kenton Hostetler.

Return Service Requested

Notice to parents:

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

*From
the
Principal*
Allan Dueck



During the visioning process in 2006-08, several themes came up repeatedly as board members, parents, faculty and staff members, pastors, alumni and friends talked about the school they would like Bethany to become. High on the list was the desire to prepare students for meaningful Christian living and equip them with skills for the church and world of the 21st century. The exciting innovations described on pages 4-5 of this Bulletin to be implemented during the coming school year are breathing life into these hopes.

Focus groups often talked about the unique opportunities of small schools such as Bethany to prepare students in these ways. The heart of these opportunities resides within the caring and supportive relationships between teachers and students.

Of next year's new directions in academic programming, one Bethany is uniquely positioned to implement because of its size and mission is the new mentoring program. Each teacher will be assigned several students to mentor, each student staying with the same teacher throughout middle school and then again throughout high school.

Next year's new schedule builds in time for teachers to meet with each mentee for 15 minutes every two weeks. A central

subject of their conversations will be the student's academic performance. In light of test information and performance in classes, teachers will invite mentees to identify personal goals for academic growth and join students in monitoring them as the year progresses. When a student struggles, the teacher may need to encourage; when he or she flourishes, the teacher will celebrate.

Mentoring meetings will, of course, encompass much more than academic support. They will provide opportunity for teachers to mentor students in various areas—social development, athletics, the fine arts, and faith issues. The new KUDER career planning resources will assist teachers in exploring career possibilities with students. The mentoring interactions will provide accountability, safety, encouragement, affirmation, and celebration.

In today's educational scene where large schools predominate, close mentoring relationships between teachers and students are not typical. In contrast, Bethany's new mentoring program promises to strengthen student-teacher relationships and enhance students' preparation for life and work in the 21st century. Bethany is committed to equipping students with "Learning that lasts. Faith that lives."