

FALL 2001

THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

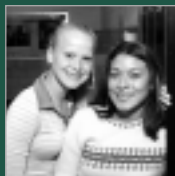


LINING UP FOR LEARNING

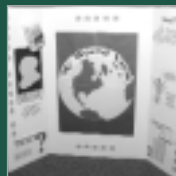
INSIDE



Coping with Tragedy
PAGE 2



Enrollment Reaches 1,000
PAGE 4



Wrestling with Worldviews
PAGE 7



Alumni News
PAGE 14



Observing Christian Education at Work after September 11

by GILBERT P. KITCHEN, SUPERINTENDENT

T*he tragic events of September 11th have changed our lives forever. It was so hard to believe, as I looked out my office window on that beautiful Tuesday morning, that New York City was under attack. Little did we know at the time that over 5,000 lives would be lost in the World Trade Center, and Eastern Christian would be touched by the loss of one of those lives.*



AN EC PARENT GIVES HIS LIFE TO HELP **Bruce Van Hine**, the father of two of our high school students and New York City fireman, responded with his men after the first plane crashed into the towers. When the tower collapsed, Bruce was ushered into the presence of his Lord. A memorial service to celebrate Bruce's life was held at the Maranatha Church of the Nazarene in Paramus, New Jersey on Saturday, September 29. According to the church's web site, "...over 1,000 mourners filled the sanctuary and three closed circuit video overflow areas.... Hundreds more stood outside to honor Bruce and his family."

VAN HINE SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED In cooperation with the Van Hine's church, ECSA has responded by establishing a scholarship in Bruce's memory to meet the tuition needs of his two daughters, Emily, a 12th grader and Meghan, a 9th grader. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make your checks payable to the Eastern Christian School Association and designate it for the *Bruce Van Hine Scholarship Fund*. The mailing address is: 50 Oakwood Ave., Attn: Development Office, North Haledon, NJ 07508.

OBSERVING THE BLESSINGS On that terrible Tuesday and the days following, I had the opportunity to once again observe the blessings of a Christian education. I watched on Tuesday as our high school students gathered in a huge circle in the front yard and openly prayed to our wonderful God. At a high school chapel on Thursday, the faculty gave Biblical answers to the questions on many of our students' minds. The middle school held a chapel on Friday, and all the students, faculty, and parents broke into small groups where everyone prayed. ☺ In this issue of *The Herald* you can also read other EC faculty members' perspectives on the role of Christ-centered education during the days and weeks after September 11. High School Principal **Jan Lucas** has tried to capture the experience as a series of "video clips" in order to give you as readers "*a glimpse into all of the positive faith-directed and faith-motivated activities of the time period.*" ECMS Bible teacher **Valerie Shafer's** article focuses on the Scriptural comfort shared with students on that Tuesday and the Christian support offered on a daily basis since the events took place.

ANSWERING HARD QUESTIONS Many people have been asking, "*Why did God allow this to happen?*" One of the central doctrines of our Reformed Faith is "Total Depravity." In this tragedy we have witnessed this doctrine in action. Paul wrote in Romans 1:28, "*Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*" This was not the work of God, but the work of the Evil One, who seeks to devour whomever he may. ☺ Let us never forget that **the sovereign God of creation is still in control**, and "*in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" (Romans 8:28)





Contents

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ON SEPT. 11 **2 ~ 4**

Coping with Tragedy



5 ~ 7 ECHS NEWS

Wrestling with Worldviews

EC SPORTS **8**

Alumni Soccer Games



9 ~ 10 ECMS NEWS

Living & Learning in Love



ECES NEWS **11 ~ 12**

School Theme is "1HK"



13 ECSA NEWS

New Board of Directors



ALUMNI NEWS **14 ~ 16**

Class News & Reunions



17 ~ 18 DESIGNATED GIFTS

In Memory & In Honor

THE *Herald*

FALL 2001

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ABOUT THE COVER

Lining Up at ECES

(Front to Back) Joey Trent, Emily Giresi, Jenna Doller, Jacob Pruiksma, Jamie Pepper, and Abby Hartog wait in line with their 2nd grade classmates.

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Christian Education in Action on Sept. 11

Reflections of an ECMS Teacher about the Day of the WTC Attacks | by VALERI SHAFER

Tuesday, September 11, began as a beautiful day. That day began as any other does in our Middle School...only there was added excitement in the air due to the fact that the *MNK Mixer* (Meet the New Kids Mixer) was to take place that morning. Our homeroom had made a video introducing all of the new fifth graders, and we were struggling to edit the copy for the assembly. Finally, we headed to the church where the presentations were being made.

Once there, a friend told me of the surreal events of the morning, having watched a plane hit the second tower of the World Trade Center on television. It seemed unfathomable to me! For many, New York City is a place to visit, a national museum of lights, plays, and operas; but for those of us who live here, this city is our backyard. I remember walking away from the conversation with two thoughts, which remain with me still today: **One, pray for the President right away; and two, even amidst, and in fact despite all of this chaos, God is still in control!**

Principal Mrs. **Nieuwenhuis**, shared the news with our children at the end of our assembly... the unthinkable, the unimaginable had occurred. It was difficult to watch the facial expressions of children

who have never known disaster, war, or hostility of this fashion. They were not sure how to react. Fortunately, our principal did. She asked that we pray together immediately. Bible teacher **Mrs. Tyvoll** suggested that students consider praying on their knees. What an amazing sight to see almost 300 students, teachers and visiting parents kneel before the Lord, our Protector! The entire assembly stormed the Throne of Grace in prayer for our neighbors and our country.

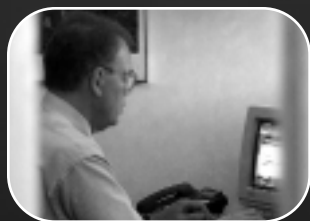
After this season of prayer, students were dismissed to their homerooms, where teachers could counsel them in a smaller group. The school day would continue as planned, in order to maintain as normal a routine as possible. That particular Tuesday I was scheduled to teach Bible. As my students came into my room, I could sense from their faces that they



ECMS teachers and students gather to pray around the flag pole.

September 11 Video Clips

NOT PICKED UP BY THE NETWORKS | by ECHS PRINCIPAL JAN LUCAS



Video Clip #1: AN INTERVIEW IN THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

(Camera 1 MC shot of Mr. Lucas & Camera 2 W angle shot of front office)

"School was off to a confident and productive beginning this year. The energy and enthusiasm of 43 new high school

students, 9 new teachers and a new office manager was blending well with the experienced scholarly community members returning after a summer's hiatus." As the video crew made its way back into the high school office several faculty members commented that "It just feels good this year!" Observers felt uplifted, sensing a prevailing climate of cooperation and anticipation of accomplishment as the school day started on September 11.



Video Clip #2: THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE

(Camera 1 - hand held - Following messengers delivering first notices to classes)

As early information about the World Trade Center disaster arrives, the feeling of joyful celebration ends abruptly. In an instant

the mood changes to one of disbelief and fear. The community of 400 students and staff members needs to be informed of these tragic events and then cared for as they react to such disturbing news. An announcement is quickly delivered to each classroom teacher with a brief summary of the news (at this point the WTC buildings were still standing and news from the Pentagon had not reached us) and ending with the following: During times when we feel safe and secure it is easy to say we trust God's care for us. Now, during a tragic event like this, we are challenged to trust completely in the saving power of Jesus Christ. Let us pray that we may feel calmed by the peace of God's Spirit.

were beginning to wonder and worry about family, friends, parents, etc. In class, teachers all began to face anxieties and fears that the students expressed, either verbally or as emotions etched on their faces. School was not in session the Wednesday immediately following the attack, but the next school day was spent talking, sharing, and praying. During my classes, I assured my students that God is STILL in control, and that the government He had placed over us had safety measures to provide extra security for our nation.

One of the first assignments I asked the students to do was to write in their Bible Journals. They could write down anything they wanted to, from questions to sad information, from poems to songs, from heartaches to fears. After this time of introspection, I called on students who wanted to share what they had written. One student, **Stephanie Jacobs**, wrote a poem, which ended with the phrases, *“Help this person to know... That Jesus is the way to go!”*

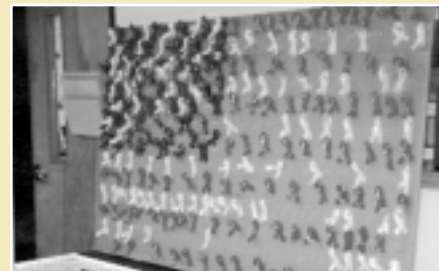
Another student shared similar thoughts, but at the end of his reading, he looked up at the class, a tremor in his voice, and said, *“I’m scared.”* I quickly polled the class by asking, *“How many of you are scared?”* Almost every hand timidly went up. I asked them to turn to II Timothy 1:7, which says, *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (“fear”), but a spirit of power, of love, and self-discipline (a “sound mind” in some translations).”*

I said it is okay to be scared... that it is a normal and a natural human feeling when we feel threatened or alone. Even Christ felt this as He hung on the cross. However, what we do with that scared feeling is vital. I shared with the students that it is important that we not be overcome with fear and worry, but rather that we cry out to God, as Christ did, and go to the Lord in prayer. (*Ps. 46:1-3; Matt. 6:25-34*).

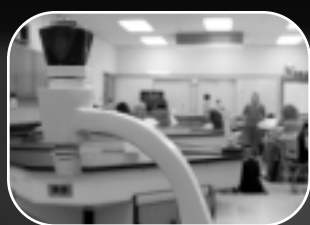
Healing has been slow, but God has been good. We continually draw our concerns back to the Scriptures and prayer. God doesn’t promise that, as Christians, we will not go through the fire – in fact, He promises just the opposite – but that we will come out shining like gold, and that He is with us, *“even to the end of the age...”*

Concert of Prayer Service

On September 14, three days after the attacks on the U.S., the ECMS student body had a special chapel led by **Pastor Kevin Jonas**. Groups of 3 – 4 students sat all around the sanctuary in Faith Community CRC, praying for our country, its leaders and its citizens. The service ended with each student coming forward with a red, white or blue ribbon and placing it on a blank board. The ribbons represented each student’s potential to make this world a better place. After everyone had gone forward with his/her ribbon, we saw that the board bore the image of the American flag. We closed by singing ‘God Bless America.’ After participating in the service, a new 6th grade student shared: *“The prayer service touched my heart. It made me feel happy and joyful. I want to let the light of Jesus shine on.”*



Students create a flag of ribbons and commit themselves to making the world a better place.

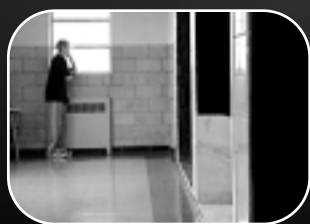


Video Clip #3: VARIOUS BLOCK 1 CLASSROOMS

(Cameras 1 & 2 pan several classes, stop and zoom on groups of student reactions)

A variety of learning activities seem frozen in time. Productive classroom noise, which usually accompanies learning activities, disappears.

Teachers and students begin to pray fervently for God’s intervention and protection. It is only the second week of school, but intimate small group bonding between teacher and students in Block 1 classes has already begun.



Video Clip #4: HALLWAYS DURING TIME BETWEEN CLASSES

(Camera 2 – shots of students in halls. No close ups!)

Small groups of students attempt to support and console individuals who have relatives or friends working at the Twin Towers.

Faculty members seek out troubled students, providing emotional support and spiritual encouragement. The entire office staff continues to deliver

messages and take calls from various family members, attempting to account for everyone and ensure their well-being. Some students are visibly shaken but respond appreciatively to the gentle encouragement of their peers.

Video Clip #5: VARIOUS BLOCK 2 CLASSROOMS

(Camera 1 establishing shot of H.S. from flagpole. Cut to Camera 2 in classrooms)

TV screens are blank as teachers are encouraged to talk with students about the events which are unfolding. Additional information concerning the Pentagon spreads rapidly as does speculation and rumor. A few educational activities are attempted, but most of the 85-minute block is devoted to discussion and continued praying.



Video Clip #6: THE FRONT LAWN DURING LUNCH

(Camera 1 – Get reactions of students outside)

Small groups of students find comfortable spots near the brook or under a tree to hold hands and pray together before eating their lunches. The conversations seem

to be very serious and reserved. A circle of students begins to form, starting

continued on page 4

ECHS New Students

GRADE 9

Ashley Anderson	Matthew O'Koren
Jillian Berry	Tae-Eun Park
Michael Biele	John Perna
Megan Biswurm	Michael Postma
Justin Boling	Benjamin Rhoads
Kelli Bollen	Michael Robinson
Daniel Danza	Xiomara Robinson
Sara Davidson	Jerell Rollins
Sam Dykstra	Stephanie Siegel
Christine Engelsdorfer	Ryan Sloomaker
David Kim	Stephen Stewart
Annette Kuperus	Robert Struck
Yong Hwan Kwon	Sean Tanner
Jennifer Lynch	Olga Vallejo
Taylor Maneri	Meghan Van Hine
Kate McDonnell	Ashley Westra

GRADE 10

Eun Bee Cho	Seung Hyop Lee
Elizabeth Engelsdorfer	Reid Parker
Rebecca Keller	Elizabeth Vervoordt
Kathleen Kuever	Kelvin Wangombe

GRADE 11

Jeffrey Karingithi	Joyce Markowicz
Christiann LeFevre	Megan Weber

E C S A

Enrollment Reaches 1,000

by ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR JANYCE BANDSTRA

We praise God for the growth that we have again experienced at Eastern Christian. The 2001 – 2002 school year began with 1,000 students! Some entered as three or four-year-olds into our exciting Preschool, and 59 five- or six-year-olds lined up for their first day in our kindergarten class.

Ninety-four students transferred to EC from other schools. Our new students come from 84 different churches, with about half of these families attending Christian Reformed or Reformed churches. Admission meetings were held with each parent and applicant. These meetings are held to establish relationships between our school community and the new families, and to talk about the goals and strengths of a Christian education.

We have reached the maximum number of students in our 8th grade class. We have again seen growth at the high school, with our freshman and sophomore classes numbering 99 each. The thirty-two new freshman students are making friends with their sixty-seven classmates who graduated from our Middle School in June. They are finding their new high school challenging and rewarding.



Freshmen at ECCHS: Jenny Muigai (left) and Susana Lopez (right)



Kindergarteners in Mrs. Donna Holly's All Day K class, showing their reactions to the story being read.

SEPTEMBER 11 VIDEO CLIPS *continued from page 3*

with members of the soccer team and continues to grow with the inclusion of many more students. Finally 40 – 50 students stand with arms around one another's shoulders, praying for the entire lunch period. As the bell rings ending lunch, the group finishes its prayer, pick up their uneaten lunches and head into the building for Blocks 3 classes. This spontaneous act of faith has a profound effect on adult observers.



Video Clip #7: RETURN TO THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE

(Camera 1 – Close up of phone ringing – short clips of staff handling calls)

The High School Office and Guidance Office staff continue to answer phones, provide up-to-date information to anxious individuals, bring messages to students, and care

for the particular needs of faculty members. They have incredible devotion to attending to the needs of others. Their personal agendas are put on hold.



Video Clip #8: VARIOUS BLOCK 3 CLASSROOMS

(Camera 2 – Close up of teacher reading announcement. Camera 1 – W angle of classroom)

An updated announcement is delivered for teachers to read to their students: We

are continuing to receive information that the events of this day are overwhelmingly tragic. As faculty and students, we share a common trust that even the most devastating of circumstances are not beyond the Lordship of Jesus Christ. That is the assurance that we will continue to share with each other in our classrooms throughout this day. The prayer response by students in classrooms, in the halls, and on the front lawn during lunch, presents a powerful witness to the presence of God's Spirit here at our school during this chaotic time. We will continue in block 4 classes to pray and support one another, and possibly engage in some learning activities if it feels right, and share our solidarity for trust in Jesus Christ our Savior. Students who are overwhelmed with concerns may come to the Media Center to be part of a small group with an adult counselor. If you need a smaller more intimate group please see your block 4 teacher for a pass to the Media Center. Several youth pastors from area churches showed up at school and offered to help!

E C H S

Introducing Eight New ECHS Staff Members

Mary Louise Crawford: *Media Specialist*

Education: West Virginia Wesleyan – B.A., William Paterson U – M.Ed., Cincinnati Conservatory of Music – M.M.

When asked to comment on teaching at EC, Mary-Louise replied, “*Since I am only here 2 days per week, it’s difficult to have an opinion as yet; but I was very impressed by the mature way the crisis of the World Trade Center was handled.*” She lists her hobbies as music, drama, travel, photography, gardening and grandchildren.

Adam Culp: *Health / Physical Education*

Education: Messiah College – B.A., Phys. Ed./Health

Adam came to Eastern Christian as a student in the 7th grade and graduated in 1997. Now, as a teacher, Adam shared this perspective: “*The faculty has been great, and my parents have been tremendously supportive. It is important to counter the one-sided views presented by culture and media with Christian truths that provide answers to life’s difficult questions and situations.*” Adam’s hobbies include guitar, tennis and youth ministry.

Patricia Fish: *Biblical Theology*

Education: U of MD – B.A., Comparative Literature, New Brunswick Theological Seminary – M. Div.

When asked how she became acquainted with EC, Pat comments: “*During my seminary training I had a casual conversation with friend and fellow teacher, Jane Okma, expressing my desire to teach Bible someday. By ‘coincidence’ a position in the Bible Dept.*” *continued on page 6*

New ECHS Students Share Their Perspective

Q What experiences have been memorable so far?

A “...the most memorable...was on Sept. 11 when the student body bonded together and prayed for our nation.”

“I love Timothy Groups.”

“I appreciated the way my teachers and fellow students welcomed me.”

Q What challenges have you faced?

A “...the biggest challenge...was getting used to a larger student body...”

“A challenge was to be myself when I came here – to be accepted for who I am.”

“I’m new here and also I’m new in America so I don’t have many American friends.”

Q Do you have other comments?

A “I was surprised there were smaller classes than in [my previous school].”

“I love E.C. It’s the best! I never had so many friends.”

“EC is giving me a great education and I look forward to the 4 years that I will spend here.”

Video Clip #9: THE FACULTY ROOM ON WEDNESDAY A.M., SEPTEMBER 12

(Cameras 1&2 – Close ups of faculty and staff sharing reactions. W angle of the group praying. Finish with shot of empty classroom)

Psalm 66 is read and the faculty spends over an hour, reflecting on the events of September 11 and sharing their insights and perspectives. There is deep concern for friends and relatives of students who are not accounted for. Joy is expressed for the mature faith demonstrated by specific students during the unfolding of this crisis. Plans are discussed for a chapel on Thursday morning after prayer time in individual Block 1 classes. “What questions will students be asking as they return to school?” The following seem to be the most likely to be expressed:

Why did God allow this to happen?

Is it OK to be angry with God?

How can people do this to others?

Is this a sign of the end times?

How can I help someone who has lost a loved one?

A dozen teachers share their favorite passages from the Bible, which speak to these issues and provide Christian perspective. All twelve volunteer to participate in Thursday’s chapel, sharing scripture and giving their personal testimony.

Video Clip #10: INTERVIEWING ECHS PARENTS ON SEPTEMBER 21 – AFTER BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

(Cameras 1&2 – Shots of Back to School Night conversations and teacher presentations)

“As parents of a senior, we knew that last evening would be our final “Back to School” night. We had spent the prior ten days like many other families across our great nation. We felt emotionally spent and exhausted. Last evening we left Eastern Christian feeling rejuvenated and uplifted. The stories of the students’ prayer requests and concerns were so heart warming and inspiring.”



Video Clip #11: PRINCIPAL JAN LUCAS’ PARTING THOUGHTS

“The challenges of September 11 are being met by the spiritual maturity of EC students and faculty. The ‘checkups’ that we as staff do regularly during the school day only have limited reliability. When the actual test comes – such as coping with this tragedy – then we can be certain that Christ-centered learning is authentic.”

NEW HIGH SCHOOL STAFF *continued from page 5*

opened just as I was graduating! It is a privilege and joy to work at a place and among colleagues of such academic excellence and spiritual depth. There is no more important endeavor than teaching young people the integration of all of life and faith." In Pat's free time she enjoys music, theater and movies, art, gardening, hospitality and reading.

Claudia Freire: *Spanish 3 & 4*

Education: Nyack College – B.A., Psychology, Alliance Graduate School of Counseling – M.A.
 "So far [teaching at EC] has been great – wonderful!" exclaimed Claudia. "Teaching brings great joy in my life and wonderful, fun-filled blessings." She adds, "We should never separate teaching from Christianity, but incorporate teaching into Christianity." In her spare time, Claudia likes to sing, type, coordinate activities, do counseling, lead workshops & conferences, and perform cultural dances.

Lynda Pasqueretta: *Office Manager*

Education: Hope College – B.A., Psychology and Sociology
 Lynda previously worked in the main office of Eisenhower Middle School in Wyckoff where she loved working with the faculty and students. She adds, "When the opportunity presented itself to work at ECHS, I was very happy to accept! In the past month, the inclusion of faith in a school setting has made all of the difference. This school is outstanding! The faculty is very kind and genuinely caring for the students, as well as for each other." Lynda finds time to run her own stationery business. She and her husband, Tom, enjoy spending time with their three children.

Meghann Persenaire: *Choral Music* (See ECMS New Teachers)

Timothy Steen: *Intro. to Technology; Computer Science*

Education: Calvin College – B.A., Telecommunications
 University of Georgia – M.A., Journalism
 Regarding his past work experiences, Tim writes: "After working in the field of Internet Development and managing software design for 5 years, I felt God calling me to teach it! It's an incredible blessing to be able to pray together with students and faculty on a daily basis



ECHS New Staff: Front Row (Seated): Meghann Persenaire and Claudia Freire. Back Row (Standing L to R): Patricia Fish, Janine Tokarski, Linda Pasqueretta, Sharon Augsburger (teaching Instrumental Music at ECHS and ECMS this year), Adam Culp, and Kristin Willis. (Not pictured: Timothy Steen and Mary-Louise Crawford.)

at EC. Learning and teaching here are spiritual activities." In his free time, Tim enjoys making his own apple cider and playing board games.

Janine Tokarski: *Social Studies*

Education: Southeastern College – B.A., Secondary Education
 When asked what brought her to EC, Janine replied, "My parents loved EC after sending my two siblings here. God opened the doors – starting with the interview[and] leading to the job!" She adds, "Teaching is a lot of hard work, but it's worth it! I'm having so much fun." Janine enjoys reading, swimming, traveling and journaling.

Kristin Willis: *English / Math*

Education: Springfield College (MA) – B.A., Education
 Kristin was introduced to EC through her father Dick Van Yperen who is the principal at ECES. Kristin has accepted the challenge of teaching courses in two departments, English and Mathematics, to meet our increased enrollment needs. She comments, "EC is a unique school and the staff has made my transition much easier. They have all been very supportive and caring." She lists her hobbies as running, hiking and reading.



The Boyz of Summer: (L to R) Jeff Dekker, Jared Kitchen, Steve Sikkema, Paul Laauwe, Paul Cusack, Walter Pinto and Dave Joustra.

Teamwork Makes It Happen!

The Main Office at Eastern Christian High School received a much-needed facelift this summer, thanks to magnificent teamwork on the part of our Principal Jan Lucas, our office staff members Lynda Pasqueretta and Cathy Lagerveld, and our "Boyz of Summer," the hard-working and much appreciated maintenance and custodial staff. These gentlemen moved furniture from one side of the room and back again and into the hallway, then back into the room in 110-degree heat without one complaint!

E C H S

Thank You, Fellowship Homes!

Thanks to a grant from Fellowship Homes, Inc., a charitable organization founded by Peter De Korte in 1983, ECHS was made handicap accessible over the summer. Handi-Lift Inc. installed five lifts, making it possible for a wheelchair-bound person to get to every room except the art and music rooms in the basement. (*These rooms are accessible via an outside entrance, however.*) Ninth-grader, Ben Rhodes, is able to continue his education at EC because of this grant. This gift also made it possible for a parent to attend the Back to School Night for the first time. We would like to express our thanks to the Board of Directors of Fellowship Homes, Inc. for helping us with this very important project.

E C H S

What Glasses Do You Wear?

Focusing on Worldviews in Humanities Classes | by PAUL BEVERLY

It seems to me that the main reason for the existence of Eastern Christian is to challenge young people “to put on glasses.” I am not referring to corrective lenses purchased for the presbyopics among us, but rather I am referring to the “glasses of faith.” When students graduate from Eastern Christian, whether they have been attending since EC Preschool or just in ECHS, they should be able to articulate a Christian worldview. This is no small challenge – all teachers at all grade levels and subject matter courses participate in this process of “lens-crafting.”

At the beginning of Grade 9, we challenge all students to think about and then create a project in which they start to articulate their worldview. How do we do that? We ask kids to think about what is central to their lives. What is it that affects their decisions and behavior? These are not easy questions. Most students struggle with this assignment (*I wonder how the parents would do with it.*) Many of the projects the students create reflect this struggle – the tension between what they believe the world to be, and what the world is as they experience it. We ask these questions of them as we launch into our study of history and literature. We want our students to be able to discern what motivated the leaders in different civilizations, or the authors from a variety of time periods and cultures. Asking students to begin to articulate their own worldview, therefore, seems to be a logical starting point.

But that’s not the end of it. Throughout their years in high school, our students are continuously challenged to think with the “mind of Christ” (as difficult as that is for our human minds). And then, at the end of their senior year, students are once again required to create a project in which they show their worldview – after 4 years of “lens-crafting.”

This is an exciting project. This is a challenging project. In the final analysis, this is the essence of education at Eastern Christian.



Jared Van Denend displays his “Worldview Web.”

The World’s “Largest” Periodic Table

Every semester, students in the Freshman introductory science class *Chem Com* make posters of the elements on the Periodic Table. Students include important information on each poster, such as the element’s atomic number, atomic mass, its atomic make-up, and the scientist credited with its discovery. Then they are given the assignment to take their posters, along with those of their classmates, and make a large model of the Periodic Table of Elements covering the floor of the High School gym. Students take only their individual posters and are asked to build the whole table from memory, working together as a class.

During this hour-long activity, Science Teacher **Mary Ruth Hambrick** takes no active part in the creation of the table. She sees her role as a facilitator, probing to question the group’s rationale for their sequence. Her goal is to help students see why the Periodic Table is set up the way it is. The hardest aspect of this project is getting started. The first row of the Periodic Table contains a sequence of elements and spaces; therefore, trying to determine the placement of the first few elements is difficult. Another challenging aspect is to work together as a whole class, rather than in groups of 3 or 4. Two or three students need to step out from the group and take a leadership role in order for the project to be accomplished. Others need to be willing to position the posters and question or justify the placement. This process accomplishes another goal of teaching the students how to work together within a large group to solve problems and create a final result that is accurate.

Putting together the Periodic Table in this visual hands-on way is one example of how teachers strive to make learning authentic for students with diverse learning styles.



Christie Tenewitz discusses the placement of an element poster with classmates.

Sports Highlights

ALUMNI SOCCER GAMES RAISE FUNDS & BRING BACK MEMORIES

The First Annual **Alumni Womens' Soccer** game took place on September 6 as a scrimmage against the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team. A total of 20 Alumni came out to play. Several members of the alumni team represented the Classes of 1993, 1997 and 2000; and **Darla (Wisse) Bertollo** was a member of the 1st Varsity Girls' Soccer Team fielded by EC 20 years ago. Thank you to all the alumni and fans that came out to cheer for both teams.

The Annual **Alumni Mens' Soccer** game took place on Saturday, September 28 at the North Haledon field. This game was prior to a Boys' Varsity game under the lights vs. Hawthorne. Sixteen alumni took part in the Alumni game. Funds raised during the game will go towards the purchase of a much-needed storage shed for the EC Athletic teams. Thank you to all the alumni and fans that came out to support Eastern Christian!



The **2001 Girls Tennis Team** enjoyed a great season. According to Coach **Adam Culp**, "The tennis team came sprinting out of the gates as they won their first 9 matches this fall. It's a pleasure to coach when every member steps forward to help carry the team at different points in the season. This year's team members are:
Front Row (L to R): Ashley Westra, Christina Ahn, Rebecca Lindemulder, Kim Urquhart;
Back Row: Samantha Sietsma, Jessica Dykstra, Jessica Oppelaar, Erin Krenitski, Laura Dickey, Betsy Ratcliffe-Lee



2001 Alumni Women's Team: Front Row (Kneeling L to R): Melanie Simcox ('97), Laura Veenstra ('00), Alison (Veenstra) Faasse ('97), Sue (Alsum) Atteberry ('93), Joanna Kugler ('93), Trella Allen ('00), Robyn Unrath ('97), Debbie Vander Plaat ('97); Back Row (L to R): Sandi King ('98), Martha (Griswold) Quijano ('89), Wendy Dyksen ('97), Karen Ten Kate ('98), Carly Van Dolan ('00), Laura King ('00), Darla (Wisse) Bertollo ('83), Kathy (Decker) Wielenga ('93), Kristin Vander Plaat ('93), Susanna Kugler ('93), Jessica Izurieta ('93), Coach Barry Veenstra

EC is Disqualification Free for the 10th Year

Eastern Christian High School Athletics was recognized by the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association for being disqualification free for the 2000 – 2001 school year. The Athletic Department also received a letter of congratulations from the State for being 1 of 9 schools out of over 400 high schools in New Jersey who have been disqualification free since 1991. Congratulations to the athletic administration, coaches and players on their continued display of outstanding sportsmanship.



2001 Alumni Men's Team: Front Row (Kneeling L to R): Mark Van Denend, Roger Van Valkenburgh ('73), Dave Van Harken ('74), Doug Everett ('00), Dave Stokes ('86), Dave Dykman ('88), Jake Valkema ('86); Back Row: Korky Vander Ploeg ('75), Jerry De Jong ('78), Bruce Borduin ('82), Dennis Kuiken ('74), Barry Veenstra ('75), Jeff Miller ('84), Bob Algera ('75), Chris Duffy ('92), Miles Kuperus ('85)

ECMS THEME FOR 2001 – 2002
Living and Learning in Love

SCRIPTURE TEXT: MARK 12:30,31B

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”
 “Love your neighbor as yourself.”*



ECMS students loading their donations for the American Red Cross.

In a letter to the ECMS parents, Principal Florence Nieuwenhuis stated: “A wonderful way to live and learn in love is to serve others. At ECMS service is an ongoing expectation of Christian students. This year we are implementing a new program requiring each student to document 5 hours of Christian Service to be completed inside or outside of school by the end of April. Some examples of In-School Service are: working in the school store, or assisting a teacher or staff members with a special project. Some Out-of-School examples are: helping a shut-in or volunteering for a specific charity or organization. Perhaps your church has a day care center or a homeless program to which your child can give of his/her time.”

As a student body, ECMS has already worked on one important service project. After the events of September 11, the ECMS Student Council organized a collection for the American Red Cross. They collected \$315.00 and many boxes of items, which were delivered along with a beautiful “God Bless America” poster signed by the students.

E C M S

Welcome New Staff Members

Alisa Engelhard: *Academic Support*

Education: Calvin College – B.A. Montclair State University – M.A.

Alisa previously taught Kindergarten part-time at ECES from 1994 – 2000. She also taught Art part-time from 1995 – 1997. She and her husband moved to NJ due to her husband’s job transfer back in 1994. Alisa comments, “We love being here because of our church family at Madison Ave CRC in Paterson. I have always appreciated the Christian environment and support.” One importance aspect of Christian education for Alisa is “sharing my personal faith through the day and through subjects taught.”

Cynthia Flim: *7th and 8th Gr. Math*

Education: Calvin College – B.A.

Cindy is an EC grad (*Cl. of ’82*) and also EC parent of four children: Rebecca (7th Gr.), Rachel (6th Gr.), Michael (4th Gr) and Hannah (Kindergarten). On the importance of Christian education, Cindy shared, “Like many subjects, students need to see that math is also a gift from God. God didn’t just create our world randomly, but orderly and purposefully. For example, when reviewing patterns, I brought in a pineapple to show that the leaves grow in a special

continued on page 10

**Quotes from
 New Middle Students**

Q What were some reasons why you came to EC?

A “I chose EC because...it offered more academic opportunities.”

“My sister attended ECMS and she liked it.”

Q What experiences have been memorable so far?

A “Being so nervous the first day of school and walking into the wrong classroom.”

“Soccer and getting to know everyone have been very memorable.”

“Cross Country [Team] has helped me adjust. We have not won every time but we are getting better.”

“Learning to play the drums!”

Q In what Friday “Activity” options are you participating?

A “I’m in Rocketry Club...building rockets [to] launch on the big soccer field.”

“I am in Computer Club. We are doing a math game.”

“Paper Arts! We are making writing paper.”

“I’m in Scrapbooking. We put pictures into books and decorate them.”

“Student Council – learning leadership and how to help the school.”

Q What challenges have you faced?

A “Meeting new friends and changing classes. I now have the hang of it.”

“My English is not good.”

– **New Asian Student**

“My only challenge is the differences of how things are taught... I am learning & adapting quickly.”



New ECMS Teachers: (L to R): Alisa Engelhard, Cynthia Flim, Brenda Leentjes, and Meghann Persenaire.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF *continued from page 9*

pattern. I emphasize the fact that God is so awesome! He is interested in the smallest detail.” Cindy enjoys playing the piano, camping, and doing things as a family.

Brenda Leentjes: *Art*

Education: Calvin College and Kendall College of Art & Design – BFA, Interior Design

Brenda, EC grad (Cl. of ’84), loves working at ECMS. She explained, “Everyone is so caring. It’s like coming home. Christian education is

something I grew up with, and not till my late 20’s did I realize what a gift I was given. Now with God’s help, I can be a part of that gift to many children.” When asked her impressions on teaching, she adds, “Teaching is hard work, but I enjoy it immensely.” During her free time, Brenda enjoys gardening, playing the piano and painting.

Meghann Persenaire: *Choral Music Gr. 5 – 12*

Education: Dordt College – B.A.

When asked “What brought you to Eastern Christian?” Meghann replied, “I had never heard of Eastern Christian until I spoke with Mrs. Nieuwenhuis. I visited, interviewed, signed a contract, and drove 3000 miles from my home in CA. God opened doors the whole way – now I’m here and I love it!” When asked about the importance of Christian education, Meghann stated, “Christian education ‘happens’ when the students see God in every aspect of our classroom community. We, as teachers, have the awesome task of preparing students for service in Christ’s kingdom.” In her spare time, she enjoys water-skiing, snow-skiing, hiking, basketball and exploring New York City.

ECMS New Students

GRADE 5

Arrielle Dreher	Jean McMurray	Taylor Ocot
Carolina Gonzalez		

GRADE 6

Jeremy Boling	Gregory Dunlap	Eric Postma
Kristin Czerminski	Emily Engelsdorfer	Eric Scholts
Andrew Davidson	Francesca Gravinese	Michael Silbernagel

GRADE 7

Amanda Buccola	Stacy Foschini	Martin Smith
Jessica Callis	Da-In Ji	Rachel Suffern
Woang Kee Chae	Do-Yoon Kim	Jonathan Van Dyk
Kieran Fleming	Jonathan Muzikowski	Breslin White

GRADE 8

Kevin Aughey	Lauren Czerminski	Courtney Mitchiner
Jacquelyn Carelis	Julie Heale	Brielle Ocot
Susie Chang	Patrick Hickey	Sang-Eun Park



New Middle School Students: Front Row (L to R): Susie Chang, Amanda Buccola, Stacy Foschini, Eric Scholts, Kieran Fleming; 2nd Row: Dan In Ji, Jeremy Boling, Michael Silbernagel, Jonathan Van Dyk, Breslin White, Jonathan Muzikowski; 3rd Row: Martin Smith, Sang Eun Park, Carolina Gonzalez, Arrielle Dreher, Francesca Gravinese, Gregory Dunlap, Eric Postma, Andrew Davidson, Rachel Suffern; Back Row: Taylor Ocot, Emily Engelsdorfer, Brielle Ocot, Jacquelyn Carelis, Kristin Czerminski, Lauren Czerminski. Not Pictured: Jessica Callis, Woang Kee Chae, Do Yoon Kim, Kevin Aughey, Julie Heale, Patrick Hickey, Courtney Mitchiner

E C M S

Horizons Program Expands

Judy Elzinga, Horizons Director at ECES for the past 5 years, is now beginning her 6th year by implementing a similar program at the Middle School with students who have been identified as “academically talented.” These are students who are performing above grade level and need to receive assignments more challenging to them.

The Elementary School program is a “pull-out” program where students leave the classroom. The Middle School is instead incorporating *Horizon* curriculum material into the regular classroom. As one example, the 7th Grade Language Arts class had Horizon students design a vocabulary game to help the entire class learn their list of assigned vocabulary words. In addition, an 8th Grade Language Arts class had Horizon students write original skits extending the story of a class book that they had read. The students then presented these skits to the class.

Approximately 30 students at ECMS are participating in *Horizons*. The program will be gradually implemented in Language Arts, Social Studies and Bible classes. As the *Horizons* teacher, Mrs. Elzinga meets with classroom teachers regularly to plan projects and assignments. With this addition to the curriculum, ECMS is working to meet the educational needs of more students, challenging them to expand their learning in new and exciting ways.

E C E S

School Theme is "1HK"

Eastern Christian Elementary School has adopted "First His Kingdom" from Matthew 6:33 as the school's theme for the year. Teachers will be planning morning devotions with this theme in mind. "1HK" has been adopted as the school symbol for this theme.

In addition to providing illustrations that reiterate the theme in Wednesday chapel times, **Principal Dick Van Yperen** has been reading aloud chapters from a children's adaptation of *Pilgrim's Progress* monthly. Also, guest speakers are invited at least once a month to round out our chapel programs. Parents and grandparents are also encouraged to reinforce this theme at home. Often weekly home bulletins to parents include a paragraph about the focus of the chapel time each week.

With "First His Kingdom" as the foundation this year ECES school goals are the following:

At ECES we:

- Seek first His Kingdom
- Are devoted to encouraging one another
- Are committed to high quality, dynamic curriculum and instruction for each child.



Joey Trent, Jacob Pruiksma and Casey Dykman are ready to "Seek First His Kingdom."



ECES Disaster Relief Drive: Donations of bottled water, work gloves, and dog food for the search & rescue dogs were collected in response to the Salvation Army's request to assist the volunteers working at "Ground Zero."

E C E S

Parents Come Back to School

Every year, after the first two weeks of school, Elementary students enjoy bringing their parents "Back to School" on a Thursday evening from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This year emonade, coffee, tea and abundant sweets provided by the ECES PTO welcomed a large crowd as they walked in the door. Students then took parents on a personalized tour of their school, introducing them to all their teachers.

Surprisingly, this year an impromptu fire drill occurred sometime after 7:00pm when a fire alarm was triggered! Thankfully everyone exited the building in an orderly way, and shortly thereafter the alarm was reset.

At 8:00pm parents were invited to the gymnasium. ECES Principal Dick Van Yperen shared this school year's theme – "First His Kingdom" – and the school goals for the year. ECES PTO President Linda Vander Wiele spoke, asking for maximum involvement of parents. Sheila Smith followed with a presentation of "Moms in Touch," inviting mothers to their weekly prayer time.

This special evening was part of a continuing education for students and parents. It is our hope that it will also be the beginning of a community working toward the same Christ-centered goals for our children during this school year.

ECES New Student List

GRADE 1

Kathleen Burton	Julia Piemonte
Parvensul Kim	Ashley Roman
Heidi Lineweaver	Daniel Vivolo

GRADE 2

Joshua Davidson	Luke Everson
Morgan De Marco	Gianna Gravinese

GRADE 3

Joseph De Marco	Eun-Soo Koh
Susan Goehring	David Van Dyk

GRADE 4

Matthew Engelsdorfer	Eun-Jeong Koh
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(Preschool & Kindergarteners will be listed in future issues)

Preschool Theme: "Fruits of the Spirit"

The Preschool and Jr. Kindergarten classes have chosen "Fruits of the Spirit" as their theme for the school year, based on Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..."

The children will learn these fruits of the Spirit through activities, songs and stories. All of the children will make a poster each month and will have a complete set by the end of the year. The four and five-year-olds will be learning appropriate Bible verses with this theme as well. Teacher Marilyn Bushman is making a banner for us to display at the Preschool.

"Moms in Touch": Scriptural Prayers

"Moms in Touch" groups meet each week to pray for the children through scripture. The following is an example of a scriptural prayer that you can pray. When you pray, insert your child's name into the blanks, and know that God promises that His Word will not return empty. Pray Galatians 6:9: "Don't let _____ become weary in doing good. Let _____ know that at the proper time, _____ will reap a harvest if he/she does not give up."

New Faces in the Classroom

ECES Adds 5 New Instructional Aides



ECES New Staff Front: Sue Boonstra, Linda Vander Wiele, Debra Lewis. Back: Donna Hoogerhyde, Rebecca Lewis, Kathleen Woods, Marcia Heerema, Lisa Hartensveld

Eastern Christian Elementary School has added five new instructional aides to the staff this year. With the addition of these aides each kindergarten class and each grade level has an instructional aide serving with our teachers. Both half-day kindergartens as well as our full-day kindergarten have an aide to help our students. Grade-level instructional aides work from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day. According to Principal Dick Van Yperen, instructional aides help us implement an important part of our school's goal to provide "high-quality, dynamic curriculum and instruction for each child."

In addition to **Lori Groenewal** and **Lynn Veenstra**, who have served as Kindergarten aides in previous years, the following people have been added to the staff as instructional aides this year:

Sue Boonstra: PM Kindergarten

Sue (*Cl. of '81*) is also the mother of EC students Matthew (Gr. 5), Amanda (Gr. 3) and Luke (Gr. 1). In addition to her job as an aide, she also drives an EC bus every morning and two afternoons a week. On weekends Sue enjoys working with flowers and creating arrangements for parties and weddings. Sue comments, "Of all my jobs, Kindergarten aide is the most fun. The kids are great and the time goes by so quickly."

Linda Vander Wiele: Grade 1

Linda's two youngest sons are 1st and 3rd graders at EC. She comments, "I love working with the students and getting to know them individually. The ECES staff is the best! I feel that Christian education completes the circle of Home – School – Church." Linda is also the ECES PTO President this year. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, and spending time with her husband and five children. She also likes to watch the Calvin College Cross Country Team, since her son is on the team.

Kathleen Woods: Grade 2

Kathleen is the mother of EC students Jacqueline (Gr. 4), Jennifer (Gr. 2) and 2-yr-old Leah at home. Kathleen comments, "I was a class volunteer

for Mrs. Struck two years ago and I'm glad to be back as an aide. I thoroughly enjoy it!" In her spare time Kathleen enjoys working on crafts.

Rebecca Lewis: Grade 3

Rebecca learned about Eastern Christian from a family she worked for. She comments, "It is such a privilege to work in a school where we can talk about the Lord. The kids' smiles and hugs are so encouraging. I am so blessed by the kids and teachers every day!"

Marcia Heerema: Grade 4

Marcia taught 4th grade at EC in 1968 and 5th grade in 1971 and 1972. She has served in many other capacities at EC throughout the years, such as team teacher, instructional aide and substitute teacher. Marcia writes, "Besides the importance of integrating our faith with learning and life, I was so thankful that we could pray with the children during the recent national tragedy, and we could reassure them of God's love, control and care of His world. I am impressed again with the excellence and dedication of the staff at EC and also how much they integrate their faith into their teaching." Marcia enjoys the "Mom to Mom" program in her church and mentoring mothers with young children.

New Teachers Join Elementary Staff

In addition to **Lisa Hartensveld**, who came from ECMS to teach elementary art, we welcome two new teachers:

Donna Hoogerhyde: 3rd Grade

Education: Calvin College – B.A., Elementary Ed.
Donna (*Cl. of '78*) is also an EC parent of Joan (Gr. 7) and Jessica (Gr. 3). Donna comments, "My teaching career included six years experience in the fourth grade after I finished college. Since that time I have been a stay-at-home mother, taking care of our two daughters. This past school year I filled an immediate need in the Middle School for a Language Arts teacher for the second semester. It was during that time that I decided to recommit myself to full-time teaching. I have a deep love for teaching and am strongly committed to Christian education and the opportunities that ECSA has to offer all of our children." Donna's hobbies are photography and singing.

Debra Lewis: 4th Grade

Education: William Paterson U. – B.A.
Princeton Theological Seminary – M.A.
WPU Masters Program – Counseling
Debra writes, "After teaching in other schools, I longed to be where I started – in a Christian school. God opened a door for me to fulfill my calling and minister to His Children at EC." So far at EC, Debra enjoys "a supportive and encouraging principal and faculty/staff."

E C S A

New Staff in the Administration Offices

Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee: *Financial Secretary, Development Office*

Education: UCLA – B.A., Fairleigh Dickinson – MBA

In response to a new staff questionnaire, Pat writes: “Three of my children currently attend EC (Gr. 7, 9 and 11) and the 4th is an EC grad (Cl. of 2000). Everyone [at EC] is polite and kind and shows respect toward others.” Pat shares her perspective on Christian education: “It provides a necessary framework within which a child can safely grow into a contributing member of our society.” Reading, cooking, and driving children to their activities occupy Pat’s free time.

Kathy Vriesema: *T.R.I.P. Coordinator*

Kathy (Cl. of ‘81) is also the parent of three EC students: Emily (Gr. 6), Andrew (Gr. 4), Allison (Gr. 3) and 4-yr-old Michael at home. Kathy has been involved with the TRIP program for the past 5 years. She has enjoyed seeing the program grow over the years and looks forward to helping TRIP to expand even more! Kathy will be in the TRIP office on Mondays and Fridays. She enjoys spending the rest of her time with her family.



Kathy Vriesema (left) and Pat Ratcliffe-Lee (right)

E C S A

Decline in Annual Fund & Budget Receipts

For the first time in over five years, we have seen a decline in our Annual Fund giving. The Board budgeted \$685,000 for the 2000 – 2001 Annual Fund Drive; however, we received about **\$625,000** by the end of the budget year in August. As a result of this budget shortfall and increased spending for utilities, we ended the year with an ECSA budget deficit of approximately **\$100,000**. Our Annual Fund goal for the 2001 – 2002 school year is again \$685,000. As of early October, we have received approximately **\$92,000** in pledge payments and cash gifts. We continue to need the faithful support of our EC community, especially as we conduct our Business Drive and solicit donations through our Yearend Appeal. Please prayerfully consider how you can support Christian education in your giving this year.

2001 – 2002 ECSA Board of Directors
Front Row (L to R):

Craig Hoogstra (2002), Recording Secretary Lois Schuurman (2003), Nancy Bruining (2004), Corresponding Secretary Janice Englishmen (2004);

Back Row: Austin Fischer (2003), Bruce Jacobs (2004), Glenn Sietsma (2004), President David Simcox (2003), Treasurer Roy Bushoven (2002), Richard Kuder (2002), Vice President Korky Vander Ploeg (2002)



T.R.I.P. Store Opens on Fridays

Did you forget to order your TRIP this week? You can now stop by the Development Office, located in the blue house behind the High School, on Fridays from 9am – 1pm and purchase *grocery store* certificates.

The Endowment Fund Yields 9%

The news reports have been featuring articles on the steep decline in interest rates recently. Long-term government bonds are yielding approximately 5.00%, while short-term and money market rates are even less. The Endowment Fund has been able to resist this trend and is turning in yields of approximately 9.00%. The income from this fund is comprised of interest, dividends and capital gains.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

- ❖ Between July 2000 and June 2001, 828 individual donations to the Endowment Fund were made, totaling \$135,914.
- ❖ All income earned is turned over to the School for operational purposes.
- ❖ Bequests that were made to the Endowment Fund many years ago are still providing income for the operation of our schools.
- ❖ In the last two fiscal years alone, the Endowment and Stringer Funds have contributed over \$750,000 to the Association Budget.
- ❖ Every gift, of any size, is put to work immediately earning for Christina education.
- ❖ You can provide for the Christian education of future generations of children by making a gift to the Endowment Fund as:

***a memorial to a loved one,
an honorarium to someone you respect
a celebration in honor of a special occasion,
or a gift for any reason.***

Alumni News

CLASS OF '23

We recently received word that **Annette (Walkotten) Bos**, one of the last living members of EC's 1st graduating class, passed away. Our sympathies go out to her family and relatives.

CLASS OF '51

Reunion Contacts:
Ray & Julie (Faber) Martin
E-mail: rayjul@juno.com

This class commemorated the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Eastern Academy on Thursday, **October 4, 2001** at The Brownstone Restaurant in Paterson. Details about the evening and a reunion photo will appear in the winter issue. Thank you to all the committee members who worked to make the event a success.

CLASS OF '52

Class Rep Needed

Fred De Ruiter, former Mayor of Prospect Park, e-mailed this update: "*Greetings from Waxhaw, NC! In our retirement, we serve at the JAARS center (Jungle Aviation and Radio*

Service), which is a support group of Wycliffe Bible Translators. I am involved in the telephone repair, installation and computer work. My wife Joanne (Bruxvoort) '54 has been hostess to 150 people – personnel on furlough and others that come for conferences – in our home. We see Albert Huizing '56 and his wife Elizabeth as they pass through from time to time working in the transportation service for JAARS. In their retirement they drive an 18-wheeler all over the US and Canada. We have also worked with Adrian and Ruth (Van Eck) Visbeen '55 on a building project here. If you have any questions about how you could get involved, e-mail us at fdr37@juno.com. We are looking forward to seeing many of our classmates at our 50th reunion in 2002."

CLASS OF '71

Class Rep: Gail (Bakker) Beverly
 20 Wendt Lane, Wayne, NJ 07470-6440
 A 30-year reunion was held at the Regency House on July 28, 2001. The following are a few excerpts from this class' reunion booklet:

Nancy Dykstra-Powers is the Branch Director of Bethany Christian Services, supervising the NJ and NY staff. She writes, "*I find my work very rewarding, and I have placed many infants into the homes of EC graduates. While attending EC, I was very quiet. Now I give speeches in front of hundreds of people! I feel blessed to have my husband, family and friends as well as a rewarding job in a meaningful ministry.*"

Walt Sybesma has been working for the past 16 years as a package car driver for United Parcel Service. He writes, "*We presently are members of Grand Rapids First Assembly of God Church. Over the past 15 years God has done some awesome things at our church. We are very excited to see how he is going to use us to touch this city for Christ. I am part of the prayer partner teams that meet people at the altar after the service, to pray with them or lead them to Christ. It has been a privilege to be used this way and look forward to more personal ministry.*"



Class of 1971 Holds 30th Year Reunion: (Pictured left to right) Front Row: Barbara (Meyer) Heersink, Marge Bush, Debra (Abma) Algera, Karen (Jonkman) Breur, Sharon (Breen) Mondelli, Doris Rietveld, Beth (Roukema) Tarus; Row 2: Arlene (Fredericks) Soltis, Carol (Van Dongen) Hoeksema, Marilyn (Sisco) Siepert, Kathy (Knyfd) Kooistra, Lisa (Reid) Cooke, Brenda (Van Halsema) Friedman, Mary (Van Someren) Cok, Alice (Lesterhuis) Vander Plaats, David Bruinooge; Row 3: Bob Kuiken, Gordon Sluis, Marlo Kooistra, Paul Beverly, Jim Hengeveld, Bill Reitsma, Craig Sonderfan, Roger Dykstra, Kathy (Ten Kate) Sonderfan, Carol (Vander Meulen) Ten Brink, Jackie (Kruithof) Hayes, Paul Ten Brink, Barbara (Jones) Siegfried, Keith Vander Wiele, Nancy Dykstra-Powers; Back Row: Rich Schipper, George Smith, Gail (Bakker) Beverly, Joan (Baker) Rozema, Kathy (Cooper) Drapac, Linda (Nawyn) Algera, Bob Van Dyke

CLASS OF '72

Class Rep: Lois (Mierop) Belle
102 Royal Oak Ct, Greer, Sc 29650

Class Rep **Lois Belle** wrote to the Development Office wanting to “keep in touch” and wondering about coordinating a class reunion for 2002. Contact Lois with your ideas at the address above.

CLASS OF '76

Class Rep: Tom Henion

159 Haledon Ave, Paterson NJ 07522-1271

A 25-year reunion was held June 22, 2001 at Portobello's in Oakland, where alumni had a great time of fun and fellowship. Here are a few excerpts from their reunion booklet:

(See photo in this issue)

David Valle writes, “My biggest adventure was a mission trip to Nairobi, Kenya and East Africa. I spent 4 weeks there without my family, working on an office building for Wycliffe Bible Translators. It was an incredible experience. While I was there I saw **Keith Bakker '73** – which was kind of strange to meet an EC graduate in Africa.” Dave and his family recently moved to Winthrop, Maine.

Margaret Spoelstra works for the Autism Society of Ontario as an Executive Director and shared: “I have had the privilege of serving as a board member for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. In that capacity I have visited Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala to learn from the people there what it means to work in partnership in the work of international relief and development. Thanks to **Miss Chilton** for hard-wiring a rudimentary knowledge of Espanol in me. Her teaching still provides me with basic conversation skills 25 years later! Now, if only I had taken French, too!”

CLASS OF '78

Class Rep: Judy (Fridsma) Vriesema
3075 Kissing Rock Lane
Lowell, MI 49331-9521

A West Michigan Reunion on held on Saturday, July 21 at the home of **Wayne Visbeen** in Gowen, MI. **Judy (Fridsma) Vriesema** reports: “Although Wayne and Marcia’s cottage is on a lake, no one went swimming! We talked and talked, getting caught up on each other and finding out who

keeps in touch with who. Our potluck supper went way part dessert time! There are 16 of us here in Western Michigan, so we hope to do a mini-reunion again at a time when it doesn’t conflict with summer vacations.”



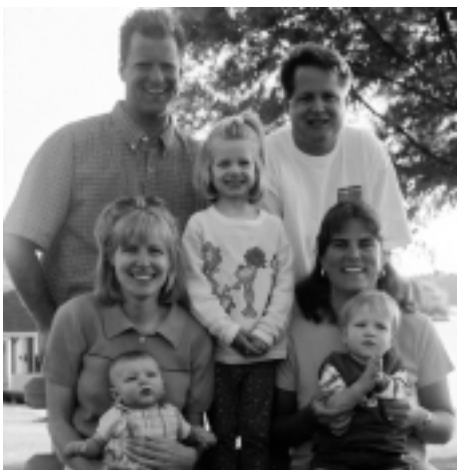
Class of 1978 Front: Karen Bandstra, Sue (Terpstra) Van Putten, Judy (Fridsma) Vriesema, Faye (Van Hook) Ritsema; Back: Jim Baum, Bill Vriesema, Wayne Visbeen, Jim Bush.

CLASS OF '83

Class Rep Needed

Tom Boardman & Renee (Borduin)

Boardman '88 live in Columbia, MD, where Tom is the only entomologist at the Pentagon. Renee is at home with a full schedule of activities and a leadership role in a MOPS group.



Craig & Diane (Boardman) De Vries (Cl. of '87) with **Jordan and Tom & Renee (Borduin) Boardman (Cl. of '88)** with **Hannah & Micah**

CLASS OF '85

Class Rep: Laura (Golden) Gorter
112 Oakwood Ave
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2400

Keith Davis and his wife Betty announce the birth of their daughter, Claire Jeannine. Claire was born on July 26, 2001 and weighed 7lbs. 6 oz. Congratulations!

CLASS OF '87

Class Rep: Laura (Faber-Struyk) Terrizzi
64 Suncrest Ave
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2445

James Apple and his wife Jill announce the birth of their daughter, Rebekah Jody. James e-mailed, “We didn’t think we were going to make it to the hospital on time! Rebekah joins our 2 year-old son, Jacob and our 3 year-old daughter, Rachel.”

CLASS OF '90

Class Rep: Julie (Frens) Stinton
2634 Almont Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507-3908

Class Rep **Julie Stinton** sent in the following “baby” update on several classmates: **Darlene (Dykstra) Viering** had a baby girl, Brianna Lenore, on 1/27/01. Darlene works at Nextel Communications as a Sr. Manager of Customer Operations. **Kristin (Leentjes) Milko** had a baby boy, Zackary, in December. **Christine (Pontier) Collins** also had a baby boy, Sean, in December.

Garry Vermaas sent this update: “Since graduating from ECHS, I attended Lehigh University where I graduated in 1994 with a BS in civil engineering. I continued at Lehigh on scholarship and graduated in 1996 with an MS in civil engineering. After finishing my course work, I worked for a year as a bridge rehabilitation structural engineer in NYC. In the fall of 1996 I took a new job working for the NYC Church of Christ as a minister. At the same time, I also enrolled at Columbia University under a full scholarship to study for a Ph.D. in civil engineering. In May 2001, I graduated from Columbia with a Master of Philosophy and Ph.D. degree in civil engineering. In 1997 I was married to Jodi Douglas, and currently I am working for the NYC Church of Christ, leading the Mid Manhattan Region of the church. I am also working as an engineering consultant on some larger bridge rehabilitation projects, such as the Williamsburg Bridge and the San Francisco Bay Bridge. My wife Jodi and I currently live in New York City.”

continued on page 16



Class of 1976 – 25 Year Reunion: Row 1 (Seated) (L to R): Wendy (Oostdyk) Montanye, Kathy (Schuurman) Sikkema, Bonnie (Nawyn) Rodenburgh, Jeanne (Steenstra) Bushoven, Sandy (Vermeulen) Wunderink, Lori (Atema) Groenewal, Judy (Veenstra) Bruinooge, Marge (Veenstra) Kuperus, Ruth (Van Harken) Woudenberg, Debi (Zeeuw) Ackerman, Margaret (Buis) Kuiken, Susan (Veenstra) Vanden Brink, Beth (Gerritsen) McKee. **Row 2 (Seated):** Cheryl Geveke, Linda Wendelaar, Betty (Sybesma) Blair, Dawn Van Hook, Janice (Borduyn) Lonagan, Marge (Dansen) Sietsma, Debbie (Sanders) Stevens, Anne (Vosteen) Vander Veen, Phyllis (Breen) Englishman, Judy Hartog, Nancy (Knyfd) Hemrick, Ruth (Dykstra) Henion. **Row 3 (Standing):** Janice (Veenstra) Englishmen, Carol (Burnham) Steyling, Mary (Richmond) Kruithof, Ellen (Cooper) Natoli, Cheryl (Jellema) Boot, Nancy (Bogertman) Van Harken, Judi (Zuidema) Dedio, Bev (Baker) Smith, Linda (Pruiksma) Oppelaar, Leslie (Douma) De Jong, Wanda (De Roo) Vogel, Susan (Schuurman) Martin, Olga (Casabona) Vallejo, Dave Valle **Row 4 (Standing):** Kevin Englishman, Bob Van Staalduinen, Roy Okma, Bob Hoogstra, Mark Stockman, John Bruinooge, Rich Quadrel, Joel Niewenhuis, Bob Naumann, John Quackenbush, Bob Veenema, Russ Van Buiten, Doug Woudenberg, Tom Henion. **Row 5 (Standing):** Paul Van Grouw, Roger Ackerman, Chuck Kuperus, Tom Dykhouse, Dave Lyman, Mark Joustra, Randy Hagedoorn, Neil Tanis, Larry Belle, Ron Sikkema.

CLASS OF '91

Class Rep: Susanne (Balkema) Wynbeek
454 Manchester Ave
North Haledon, NJ 07508

The Class of '91 had their 10-year reunion October 5, 2001 at The Tides Restaurant in North Haledon. **Supriya Jost-Denissov** wrote a summary of the event, which will appear in the next issue along with a reunion photo.

CLASS OF '93

Class Rep: Jennifer (Meyer) Ross
165 N. 12th St
Prospect Park, NJ 07508-1903
E-mail: jaysotherhalf@aol.com

Lori Bushoven recently became engaged to Christopher Kolk. Lori works at Parisi's Sports Club in Midland Park; Christopher is an accountant at Radics & Co. in Pine Brook. A September 2002 wedding is planned.

Kristine (Vogel) Minnich e-mailed the Development Office, "wanting to update my classmates on what's been going on. On July 14, I was married to Terry Minnich. We bought a house and will be living in Glendale Heights, IL."

CLASS OF '95

Class Rep: Elizabeth Hoogmoed
134 Kingston, Hawthorne NJ 07506-1106
Tim De Boer was married to Carolyn Eadie on July 20, 2001 at The Second Reformed Church in Wyckoff. After their honeymoon, they will be residing in San Diego, CA.

Donna Huntington married Juddson Herr on June 23, 2001 in Skinners Falls, NY. They had an outside wedding and reception. Donna writes, "...the weather was a miracle. It rained all morning until I began to walk down the aisle when the heavens opened up and the sun began to shine." They are now residing in Ottsville, PA. Judd is a Staff III geologist for Langan Engineering and Environmental Services and Donna works for MEECO, Inc.

CLASS OF '96

Class Rep: Rebecca (Aupperlee) Lapinsky
89 Struyk Ave, Prospect Park, NJ 07508-2252
E-mail: Rebeccajoy89@hotmail.com
Marcella Vander Eems e-mailed: "Just wanted to let everyone know about our baby girl. Tim & I were blessed with Cassidy Gwendalyn on July 25, 2001. She weighed 5lbs 12 oz." Congratulations!

CLASS OF '98

Class Rep: Sandi King
25 Ballentine Dr, North Haledon, NJ 07508
E-mail: alustri@aol.com
Note correction

Katie Steiginga has become engaged to Jeffrey Sonnema. A March 2003 wedding is planned.

Joel Spoelstra graduated from Bergen Community College with an Associate degree in Criminal Justice. He has started his career with the NYPD as an officer. His e-mail address is BOWLMPFD@aol.com, and he lives in Chestnut Ridge, NY.

CLASS OF '99

Class Rep: Jennifer Van Der Heide
24 Gemeinhardt Pl
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2730

Adam Choka has been named to the dean's honor list at American University in Washington DC for the spring semester of 2001. In addition, Adam is a member of the Golden Key Honor Society and was individually honored during a campus ceremony. The Golden Key National Honor Society is a non-profit, academic honors organization which has more than 300 chapters around the world. Membership is by invitation only to the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields. Adam is majoring in law and society as well as philosophy.

Designated Gifts

JULY 1, 2001 ~ OCTOBER 5, 2001

Gifts received after October 5 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Herald. During this time period, 229 gifts were received in honor/memory of a loved one or friend. The total amount received was \$10,115.00. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

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