

THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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WALKING BY FAITH

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS *at* EASTERN CHRISTIAN

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT EC:

A Student's Thoughts



ECHS Freshman Amy Rice

Amy Rice, ECMS student last year and ECHS freshman this year, shared the following thoughts at the *Volunteer Thank-You Event* held this past May for all of our faithful volunteers:

"Lots of people I know can say that they remember a specific date on which they asked Christ into their lives. But for me it was a gradual decision. Of course there have been times at which my faith has been at its strongest and I have asked God to renew himself within me. But I cannot put a date on when my faith began. With a Christian upbringing, the seeds of the word were planted in my heart, and I found myself growing up loving God."

I have moved a lot in my life, but up until now I always attended public schools. Some of these schools didn't encourage us to refer to Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter, rather Winter and Spring breaks. I didn't like this, and I wanted to freely talk about my faith.

I was born in Wales in the United Kingdom, and at the age of three I moved to Germany. After that I moved back to Wales. Then again I moved to Scotland at age five. After living in Scotland for six years, my father was offered a job in New York City. He accepted and for the fourth time in my life we moved. We bought a house in Suffern, New York, and I attended the public school for my sixth grade year. Out of the three previous schools I had attended I found this the hardest to adjust to. I was homesick and tried hard to fit into the new culture. I also found the educational system very different from what I was used to.

The next year we moved back to Scotland so my sister could take the British exams. She found the American educational system was too different to what she had already been taught. We attended a public school for the year and after my sister had completed her exams, we returned to New York.

Wanting to find an alternative to the public school, my parents looked into Christian schooling. Our pastors recommended Eastern Christian because their son attended the High School and liked it a lot. I applied and I was accepted and I came for my eighth grade year.

*At first I struggled adjusting into the U.S. educational system, but once I had adjusted I liked it. Good teaching has helped me excel in many of my subjects. Eastern Christian has given me the freedom to express my love of God to those around me. It provides a loving, welcoming environment and I enjoy the daily prayer and devotions in homeroom. I have found great friends who all love the Lord. **Eastern Christian is helping me everyday to experience and share the love of God wherever I go.**"*

"What does it mean to be marked by EC?"

WE are constantly being bombarded with the statement that Eastern Christian High School is not just a high school, it is a community. But how often have we actually considered what this means for us? It means we are here for a particular reason. We all fit in Eastern Christian as a piece of a puzzle, and without each piece, the puzzle remains incomplete. The structure of the puzzle and the shapes of the pieces can be found nowhere else – they are solely EC." -2006 ECHS Yearbook Theme



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ABOUT THE COVER

Pictured on the cover are the students from Ms. Karyn Baitzel's First Grade Class. They are gathering on the rug to hear the story of Abraham's journey of faith and discuss how they can "walk by faith" in their words and actions each day.

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“ONE WEEK”: A Teacher’s Perspective

Meeting Students’ Spiritual Needs | by ADAM CULP, ECHS BIBLE TEACHER

When the morning bell rang at 8:20 in the halls of the high school on Monday, September 25, every classroom was empty. All of the students and teachers were gathered in the auditorium to kick off what would be a very different week. The words, “*Today, when we hear His voice, we won’t harden our hearts,*” sung by the high school choir, were a fitting introduction to the first “Spiritual Emphasis Week” planned by the students in ECHS’ Bible and Worship Class.

Only eight hours earlier, hosts John and Karen Breur were returning from La Guardia airport with Dawn Geschiere, the week’s speaker, whose flight had been delayed several hours. As the words of the praise songs ended, Dawn jumped out of her seat and began what was her third consecutive week leading spiritual focus workshops at high schools in different parts of the U.S. If she were tired from the previous two weeks or from her flight’s delay, no one in that room would have guessed it. Without waiting for any introduction, Dawn simply sprang into action. After all, an introduction would both take up valuable time and draw attention to Dawn’s extensive resume – neither of which she would tolerate.

“ONEWEEK” is a week-long program sponsored by *Youth Unlimited*, designed to help schools meet the spiritual needs of students. The *Youth Unlimited* theme for the week is: “**That they may be one.**” Each morning began in similar fashion. From 8:20 to 9:45, the school gathered for morning worship (with the exception of Thursday which had a normal chapel schedule). General feedback from students was that they found it refreshing to begin each day gathered as a school for worship before classes began.



ECHS Junior **Michael Dykhouse** accompanies on guitar during a time of praise and worship.

For Dawn, speaking at each morning’s worship time was just the beginning of a long day of spiritually focused activities. During the day, she visited classrooms, met with students, ate lunch in the cafeteria, and attended sporting events. Even her nights were spent meeting with youth leaders from Covenant Church, and speaking openly at an evening forum organized especially for parents about the challenges that face this generation of young people. Her greatest strength was seen in ability to connect with students on a deep personal level, and to remember their names – hundreds of names!

The week was also filled with “break-out session” in which students had a number of opportunities to sign up for discussion groups dealing with a variety of topics. Some sessions were hosted by teachers, and others by guests from various walks of life. Students appreciated the opportunity

to interact in smaller groups, in contrast to the format of typical chapels.

The last school-wide event of the week was a forty-minute session in which the school was divided by gender. Dawn spoke with the girls in the cafeteria about issues related to dating and sexual purity. Similarly, guest speaker and hip-hop artist, **Lionel King**, spoke to the guys about challenges that face young men. Inevitably, the question, “*What did you guys talk about?*” shared between members of the opposite sex came up in many of the ensuing classes.

This was a week that provided the high school community with some building blocks to continue to pursue holy living. Dawn served tirelessly to this end before she was finally able to return to her family. She will host “ONEWEEK” at 12 different schools throughout this year. We are thankful for the week she spent with us!

“What does it mean to be marked by God?”

AS Christians, we are an important part of the world. However, that does not mean we must be of this world. God has given us specific and unique objectives we are to fulfill as His children. But he has not outlined a way in which this must be done. We have the freedom to act as we please, but if we are marked by God, it will be evident in our actions. We are branded with His mission for us.” -2006 ECHS Yearbook Theme



Chapel Speaker & Hip-Hop Artist **Lionel King** also participated in Spiritual Emphasis Week.

Seeking God Together

“ONE WEEK” – A Leader’s Perspective

BY DAWN GESCHIERE, PROGRAM & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR YOUTH UNLIMITED,
AN AGENCY OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

As a speaker I head into many Christian schools and spend time serving the staff, students, church leaders and parents. When I joined Eastern Christian for their “ONE WEEK” of spiritual renewal, I arrived with the mindset to join your community and to serve alongside you. Both students and staff welcomed me, and many students participated in worship and discussions—some were very honest with their questions and about their searches for God.

During every one of these spiritual emphasis weeks *Youth Unlimited* invites pastors and youth leaders to join us throughout the week. We always hope that the church leaders will come into the school and spend time in hearing the messages and in worshiping with the students. On Tuesday, September 26, Pastor Brian came into the school and we prayed together for his ministry and for ECHS. On Thursday night some of the youth leaders attended the Parent’s Encouragement Night. They came as both parents and youth leaders in order to receive encouragement within their ministries. At Friday’s chapel—



Dawn Geschiere, Guest Leader during “ONE WEEK”

the last worship time within the week—a few more youth leaders joined in the worship. It’s always wonderful to see parents and church leaders partnering with a school and focusing on partnership with each other.

None of the events, prayers, classrooms, conversations and group discussions took place without God’s leading. *Youth Unlimited* had been praying for all of you before the week began, and we’ll continue to pray for you long after this week. We have now become partners with Eastern Christian High School and your surrounding churches.

Most of us came away with a few highlights or favorite moments from the week. One of my favorite moments came from chapel times where I watched students really engaged in the worship—they chose a different prayer posture or they sang out during the songs. I also loved watching the student worship team lead even as some of them were hurting and struggling with loss and grief. They lived the Word for each other that week as we all saw them praising God even through their own suffering.

I continue to pray for ECHS and your church communities, and I recall moments when each of you showed me more about the amazing God that we serve together. Thank you for your hospitality and for allowing God to move in your lives through a different structure for that week. I’d love to hear more of your God-stories and how to pray specifically for you. My email address is dawn@youthunlimited.org.



Cara Poalillo and Chelsea Vierling signing during chapel.



Listening intently are: Andrew Hulsebos, Tyler Litland, Michael Bongiovanni and Douglas Wessel

“Signs of Love” Make Their Mark!

BY ECHS OFFICE MANAGER LYNDA PASQUERETTA

Eastern Christian High School students, **Cara Poalillo** and **Chelsea Vierling**, placed 4th in the Sign Language Group category (out of 82 entries) at the National Fine Arts Festival in Orlando, Florida in August 2006. Cara and Chelsea, under the name “*Signs of Love*,” interpreted the song “*Abundantly*.” This year, 80,000 students took part in their state-wide competitions in over 60 categories with 10,000 advancing to the Nationals. Cara was also entered in the Sign Language Solo category (160 participants) interpreting the song, “*Jesus*.” She scored in the top 25%, advancing her to the final round.

Cara and Chelsea have generously shared their sign-language gifts with the Eastern Christian family by performing in weekly chapel services at the high school, at Back-to-School Night for our parents and faculty; and most recently, they performed in a special “Spiritual Emphasis Week” chapel service.

A Special Week & A Permanent Commitment:

“ONE WEEK” – A Principal’s Perspective

BY JAN A. LUCAS, ECHS PRINCIPAL

SPRINGTIME PLANNING

Back in the spring of this year the Bible and Worship Class, encouraged by teachers **Jena Cooksey Fisher** and **Adam Culp**, put the dates on the ECHS calendar. September 25-29, 2006 was blocked in for “Spiritual Emphasis Week” led by **Dawn Geschiere** from *Youth Unlimited*. The class did lots of investigation and brainstorming before the week’s plans were fleshed out and the speaker was engaged. There was eager anticipation considering that the Harvey Cedars all-school retreat would be followed by this special week of spiritual emphasis at the start of school in September.



EC Parent and Kicker for the New York Giants football team **Jay Feely** led one of the “break out” discussion sessions.

However, the event had been scheduled well in advance; I had enthusiastically supported the week’s plans, and I had even agreed to provide the necessary financial support. “Spiritual Emphasis Week” was definitely going to happen!

FALL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

On Monday, September 25 we all began the day in the auditorium for a chapel service instead of reporting to first block classes, and we started right on time. It was obvious that there was Spiritual energy as we entered this new week of school. Dawn Geschiere, our guest “spiritual consultant,” met us on our “walk” and encouraged

us to be intentional about developing our spiritual sense. She did not come with an agenda that we all needed to plug into, but rather a challenge to meet God’s Spirit and develop our spiritual awareness.

In addition to daily corporate worship in chapel we also sought the Spirit’s presence in a variety of workshops and discussion groups as follows:

- ◆ “Visual Art and Christianity”
- ◆ “Mission Trips”
- ◆ “Why Young Adults Leave the Church”
- ◆ “Music Rocks”
- ◆ “NY Giant Fans, Anyone?”
- ◆ “Why Christianity?”
- ◆ “Your Body, Your Image, Your God”
- ◆ “Music Lyrics”
- ◆ “Science and the Bible”
- ◆ A session for Boy’s Only
- ◆ A session for Girl’s only
- ◆ “One God”
- ◆ “Good Ways to Die”

All students had an opportunity to sign up for 2 of these optional discussion groups which were scheduled throughout the week.

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SUMMER THOUGHTS

Summer vacation for students and faculty provides principals with time for reflection. On a July afternoon I found my thoughts about this upcoming event begin to wander. As I glanced at September’s calendar working out the school logistics for this event the title, “Spiritual Emphasis Week,” began to evoke some skepticism on my part. The logic of my thoughts challenged the need for a whole week attending to spiritual matters. Those thoughts focused on these facts:

- ◆ The faculty at ECHS thoroughly integrates faith and learning through out every school day in every class.
- ◆ Students and faculty attend to the presence of God’s Spirit every day of school through our individual and corporate prayers.
- ◆ Every week that school is in session is intentionally another week of spiritual emphasis at Eastern Christian High School.
- ◆ Yes the entire school will gather for chapel every morning during Spiritual Emphasis Week but corporate worship will preempt the small group prayer time that all first block teachers share with students.
- ◆ The faculty has spiritual depth and spiritual vitality why do we need a consultant on spiritual matters from Youth Unlimited?



“We need to view our lives as works of art that need to glorify and fulfill the purposes of Our Creator.”

– ECHS Art Teacher Donna Aceino

Welcome To All New ECHS Students!

NAME	GRADE	NAME	GRADE	NAME	GRADE	NAME	GRADE	NAME	GRADE
Isabella Aguilera	9	Felipe Faria	9	Ha Eun Lee	9	Nicholas Saile	9	Hannah Jensen	10
Chelsea Baratta	9	Kate Garcia	9	Michelle MacWilliam	9	Jessica Stiles	9	Ryan Keavney	10
Alex Bertsch	9	Jacob Gorter	9	Jenna Maffei	9	Kerith Sunden	9	Trevor Brennan	11
Hannah Brauning	9	Brian Gregson	9	Jaquelyn S. Mendez	9	Mark Tirondola	9	Emily Gerritsen	11
Timothy Byrd	9	Eui Jun Ha	9	Colt Morgan	9	Julian Torres	9	Jonathan Hsieh	11
Francesca Cacciola	9	Jafet Hernandez	9	Matthew O'Donnell	9	Benjamin Van Eck	9	Daniel Thompson	11
Alyssa Cestaro	9	Nayi Kim	9	Jordan Paulino	9	Amanda Catrillo	10	Jee Young You	11
Joseph Di Giorgio	9	Ye Ji Kwon	9	Jennifer Pellegrino	9	Stefano Cosini	10	Rebecca Brauning	12
Brittany Faber	9	Joseph Lang	9	David Rainville	9	Andrew Flores	10		
Daniel Faria	9	Ga-yeon (Ellen) Lee	9	Anderson Rodriguez	9	Sarah Galo	10		



A SPECIAL WEEK *continued from page 4*

GOD'S SPIRIT LEADS IN ALL SEASONS

But the most significant affirmation for "Spiritual Emphasis Week" came, as God's Spirit often does, when spirits are low and hurting abounds. Who would have been able to know, except the Holy Spirit, that the EC community was to deal with the tragic death of a parent during this week of Spiritual focus. In the midst of pain and sorrowful grieving God attends to our deepest needs! We are blessed through our most painful experiences.

This special week focused on the development of our spiritual awareness has served to reinforce our deep commitment to pursue the integration of faith and learning throughout this school year and the power to "Transform the World."



Engaged in the topic of Spiritual Emphasis are: **Christopher Beggs** and **Chris Milkamp** (foreground) with **Matthew Leegwater** and **Steven Knorr** (background)

Wendy's High School Heisman Award Nominees



Dominic Rivera and Rebecca Flim

Dominic Rivera and Rebecca Flim have been honored with a nomination for the prestigious Wendy's High School Heisman Award. The program, awarded in conjunction with the collegiate Heisman, celebrates the achievements of the nation's top high school seniors – both in and out of the classroom. Following notification of eligibility and selection by the High School's Scholarship Committee, Principal Jan Lucas nominated these two promising leaders for their academic aptitude, athletic talent and exceptional commitment to their school and communities.

Created in 1994, the Wendy's High School Heisman program, has been celebrating youth excellence for 13 years. The program consists of five phases – Nomination, State Finalists, State Winners, National Finalists and National Winners. Entries are initially evaluated by ACT Assessment during the State Finalist and State Winner phases and then passed on to a distinguished panel of judges. Twelve National Finalists are invited to participate in the Heisman weekend festivities during an all-expense paid trip to New York City from Dec. 8–10. TV Channel ESPN2 will feature all 12 National Finalists during the Wendy's High School Heisman Awards Ceremony that is scheduled to air on Dec. 10, 2006.

TECHNOLOGY DELIVERED IN NEW WAY: EC Deploys Two Wireless Laptop Carts With Brotherton Foundation Grant

BY CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR KURT KABOTH



Pictured are: Ben de Waal Malefyt, Craig Doller, Sara Bushman, Joseph Di Giorgio and TJ Westra.

How do we deliver affordable, yet cutting edge technology to students when they need it? Do we buy more workstations? Do we provide laptops for everyone? Or, do we add more network wiring? After much research and discussion, EC faculty chose a better way—wireless laptops serviced through mobile technology carts that are equipped with printers and projectors. Thanks to a generous grant from the **Brotherton Foundation**, EC has purchased and installed two “COWS” (computers on wheels).

Eastern Christian provides an excellent academic education with a Christian worldview. How do we make it better? We're accredited by Middle States, and through their accreditation process, our faculty saw the need to put more technology in more students' hands throughout the day. But the traditional solutions didn't meet our needs or were cost prohibitive. Putting computers on every desk or making students buy laptops just didn't fit our program.

So EC purchased two “COWs.” These two mobile carts each have 24 wireless laptops and a shared printer and projector. They can quickly be deployed to any classroom anywhere in the High School, and then quickly be moved again to another class for the next block. In addition to our two computer labs and the workstations in the Media Center, our new “COWs” greatly expanded the availability of technology to our students.

This advance in technology is part of a larger overhaul and upgrade to the technology system at the High School. The laptops are “thin client” workstations where students access their programs and data from our servers, making them lighter, more versatile, and secure. Programs can be added more rapidly and efficiently. Thin client laptops have very little computing capacity or memory storage and therefore last longer and are easier to maintain.

Eastern Christian is blessed to have generous donors like the Brotherton Foundation help us improve the tools our students need to get to the cutting edge of their academic experience. We greatly appreciate their support for Christian education. If you would like to join them in helping our students, please call Kurt Kaboth at 973-427-6244 for more information.

2006 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES



See all of the NHS members along with family members online at www.easternchristian.org.

ECHS Welcomes Eight New Staff Members

New staff members were asked to fill out a questionnaire in order to share their educational perspectives on Christian education with our readers. The following are their replies to our survey:

Donna Aceino - Art

Educational Background: B.A. Fine Arts Education K-12, Kean University

"I taught at Brookdale Christian School for over 20 years. My son Matthew graduated from ECHS last year. I have had the highest regard for the ministry at EC both as a parent and as a Christian educator. The 'creative' spirit overflows at ECHS!

I am thoroughly enjoying being a part of our students creative process. My goal is to open the eyes of our students to the art of God and to the creative abilities with which He has gifted them. We are made in the image of God and are called upon to have creativity. I hope to encourage our students to increase their artistic skills and to apply their talent to their Christian lives. We need to view our lives as works of art that need to glorify and fulfill the purposes of Our Creator."

Heather Barr - English, Writing Workshop, Psychology

Educational Background: BA and Certification in Education - Trinity University and William Paterson University



Pictured (L to R): Claudia Cortes, Christine White, Christina Bucci, Donna Aceino, Katherine Kim.

"God's leading brought me to ECHS through a teacher I know at the Elementary School. I love being in a Christian environment. The

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CHCC CEO Doug Struyk visited ECHS on another day and students showed him some of their work on the new laptops being used in classrooms this year. Pictured (L to R) are: Seated: Jafet Hernandez, Sara Schoenig, Jamie Van Buiten and Ryan Dykstra; Standing: ECHS teacher Sue Noyes, Doug Struyk, EC CSO Kurt Kaboth, and ECHS teacher Katherine Kim.

The first session, held October 12th at the CHCC, was an explanation of the different careers of the staff at the CHCC. This was followed by small group meetings with different groups of departmental leaders who answered questions and provided our students with career information. In the future our students will have an opportunity to look more closely at one of 32 careers, such as Chief Financial Officer, Nursing Supervisor, Dietician, and Facilities Operations Manager, when they return as volunteers in an area of interest to them.

This is not a career-planning program, but rather a broad exposure to the many possibilities open to our students with regard to possible life work and how they might respond to God's call to them. We thank CEO Doug Struyk and his team at the Christian Health Care Center for their participation in this educational program.

IDS Adds Career Component: Freshmen Jump Into the Work World

New EC students will learn about career choices this year in addition to learning study skills in their Interdisciplinary Seminar (IDS). Eastern Christian School has partnered with the Christian Health Care Center to provide first-year students with a taste of the work world. This fall the professional staff members at the CHCC have generously donated their time to talk about and walk our first-year students through many career possibilities.

This program is part of our new IDS course outlined in the last issue of *The Herald* (Winter/Spring 2006). IDS helps freshmen not only feel at home in their new community, but also assists them in honing skills necessary to meet the academic and interpersonal challenges of High School. Student learning takes place through a variety of projects, from lab report writing to designing presentations with software programs, and now exposing them to the world of work.

Favorite Bible Verses of New ECHS Staff

ISAIAH 40:31

“God has a purpose for each of our lives. Our journey can at times be challenged with difficulties and disappointments. When we place our hope and trust in Him alone, He promises to carry us through. I love the imagery of soaring with Him under the protection of His arms.” Donna Aceino

ISAIAH 58:11

“It is so hard for me to choose one verse as my favorite. God’s Word refreshes me in an incredible way. Every time I read it He brings something new alive in me. I love putting my name in scripture such as Isaiah 58:11 and meditating on God’s promises for me. Nothing compares to His refreshing presence and peace which comes when we believe in His promises.” Christine White

LUKE 6:31

“Luke 6:31 is my favorite verse, because it touches an important issue not only in our multicultural relationships, also in our regular friendships, and in the home, with our families. Another favorite verse is Phil. 4:6&7 – because it is refreshing to know we have a father who is taking care of us wherever we are and we respond by being grateful to Him.” Claudia Cortes

ROMANS 8:28

“I like this verse because God will use all things for good. We can rest in the knowledge that even when evil comes into our lives, it too will some how be used for good.” Ruth Kuder

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

“I live for God’s glory, and He will give me the strength to do what God has called me to do.” Heather Barr

HEBREWS 13:5

“We live in a culture that values material wealth. Advertisements entice us to purchase more ‘stuff.’ Yet we know, deep in our soul, that the pleasure we get from our possessions is fleeting. They eventually rust, wear out, and even sooner, become

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ECHS WELCOMES *continued from page 7*

students are such a blessing. I have enjoyed teaching them and learning from them. The literature we focus on concerns the concept of worldview perspective. This year the students will try to discover their ‘voice’; wrestling with the question “How are we to act as Christians in the world?”

In a learning community, everyone plays a role in the learning process. This year my goal is to help students take ownership of what they learn. One way we create a learning community is by working in cooperative groups. Each student has a special talent to offer the learning community, and these talents can be realized by working in small groups. We are the body of Christ and a body of learners.”



Pictured (L to R): **Nancy Tartini, Heather Barr, Lindsay Koskinen** (Not pictured: **Ruth Kuder**)

work hard for their grades. Through every chapter in every class I continue to saturate the life and lessons of Christ’s example into our themes in math.

Without a collaboration of parent, teachers and students working toward the same goal, success is difficult. Communication between each party must be continuous and honest. To develop our learning community, I will keep everyone involved and knowledgeable of the success or hardships in the classroom. The goal is to help a student to rejoice in their strengths and attack their hardships. Parents will know of their child’s accomplishments and also the areas to work on. With God’s strength and the Christian community working toward ‘Training up a child in the way they should go,’ everyone will succeed.”

Claudia Cortes - Spanish

Educational Background: University of Valparaiso, Chile & PEPP, Chile MA BA, Product Design, Family Counseling

When asked, “What brought you to EC?” Claudia answered, “Missionary work with the Christian Hispanic community in the area, connecting cultures. I value the fact I can integrate Christian life naturally in class here. I would like to challenge the mind and nurture the spirit through learning and respecting other cultures and language, but the same spirit and same Lord. Working together in cultural projects and interacting with the Christian Hispanic community in a voluntary ‘Faith and Action’ program are important to build our Learning Community. I am also developing multisensorial and group projects, such as our ‘cooking days,’ weekend stories, videos, guests and field trips to restaurant or museums, in order to practice language, understand culture and the Christian life.”

Katherine Kim - Freshman Chemistry and International Student Coordinator

Educational Background: M.A., B.S., Wheaton College

“My first daughter went to Preschool at EC and ever since then we have sent all our four children here. EC students are truly kind-hearted and respectful. I plan to help students

understand the Christian life in our learning by trying to live it out in the classroom each day. Being a new faculty member, I have truly experienced a community spirit in the faculty, administration and with the students.”

Lindsay Koskinen - Director of Guidance

Educational Background: MSW, Columbia University

“I came to EC with a desire to combine administrative and clinical skills within a Christian community. The students’ genuine faith and commitment is uplifting. They are fun to be with. I intend to empower students to develop their gifts by sharing information about options available to them as they make their educational plans.”

Ruth Kuder - Freshman Dean, Spanish

Educational Background: B.A. English/History, Wheaton

“I have taught here in the past and loved it. I like the student’s great attitude towards learning and their desire to live out their faith.”

Christine White - 411 Resource Room/Study Skills

Educational Background: B.A. Psychology, Cornell University

“After working in the public school system for 3 years, God opened the door for me to work at EC. It is incredibly refreshing to work in a faith-based school. I love the students’ energy and their interest in God. They amaze me in their wisdom and cohesiveness. Every weekday morning I look forward to coming to work with them. I must add, I have a fantastic co-teacher in Deb Kitchen. It is a privilege to attend a faith-centered school, so I hope to encourage students not to take this opportunity for granted. The Bible says, ‘Two is better than one!’ I believe that this Biblical truth extends into the classroom. Collaborative lessons and parent/teacher communication are key to developing learning communities and a thirst for knowledge.”

FAVORITE VERSES *continued from page 8*

boring. That which really excites us and impacts our lives has to do with those chance encounters, quiet conversations, looks of appreciation from people we have helped. The part of life that is scariest for me...is the worry of what may happen to me or to my loved ones or to our world. When I repeat the verse, ‘I will never leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you,’ it calms me. I wish I could say I’ve got all my worries under control, but this verse helps to keep me headed in the right direction.” Lindsay Koskinen

JAMES 1:2-4

“This verse reminds me of the constant battle we go through daily. If my faith is not being tested, then I must not be doing something right.” Christina Bucci

Learning to Depend on God at BCT

BY REBECCA FLIM, ECHS SENIOR

This summer I spent my entire vacation learning how to become a soldier when I joined the NJ Army National Guard. I began my expedition on June 15 when I checked in at MEPS, the Military Entrance Processing Station, to be checked out one last time before I left for Basic Combat Training (BCT) the next day. After that final examination, I was bussed to a hotel for the night and left early the next morning for Fort Jackson, South Carolina. During the night I realized how much I would have to depend on God this summer for help. I sat on the bed realizing that this was going to be the longest time I had been away from my parents and that this was going to be the hardest and toughest time of my life. Upon arriving at Fort Jackson, my first experience on the base was a drill sergeant coming on the bus and screaming at us to get off and then line up against the wall. As I stood up to leave the bus I remember thinking, “What did I get myself into, God? Get me out!” This thought came up many times over the next ten weeks of BCT.



Rebecca Flim

RECEPTION WEEK

My first week was not actual BCT but something called “Reception.” That week was especially difficult for two reasons. First, we were required to go to bed at 9pm. and then wake up at 4am. For the entire day we sat on benches sitting straight up, not crossing our legs, or falling asleep while reading a boring book about the military and being issued everything we might need for BCT. Secondly, since we had so much free time, I thought of my family a lot. We were given two five-minute phone calls that week to tell our parents that we were alive and well, and then “Happy Father’s Day” to our fathers. This just made me miss my parents more because I did not know what was happening back home. However, with all the free time given, I had many opportunities to talk about my faith with other soldiers. I was able to discuss and defend my views of God and how my relationship with God was. I also had the opportunity to hear other people’s views on God and why they believed what they believed. These

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LEARNING *continued from page 9*

types of discussions occurred many times throughout reception and BCT, not just with soldiers but with drill sergeants also.

BCT – THE PHYSICAL CHALLENGE

Upon arriving at BCT after Reception, I remember thinking that I might not make it to graduation. The first three weeks we were required to do so many push-ups, sit-ups, and flutter kicks that I thought my legs and arms were going to fall off. The purpose of those first three weeks of BCT was to break the soldiers down both physically and mentally, and then slowly build them up to work together and become one team. I relied on God so much during those weeks, praying that he would help me accomplish all the tasks our drill sergeants made us do in order that I would not have them screaming in my face. During those weeks our platoon became close very quickly because we found out fast the consequences if we did not work together as one team – more flutter-kicks, sit-ups, push-ups and over-hand arm claps. One lesson that especially drew us close occurred when our drill sergeant pulled in another drill sergeant from a different company to punish us. My platoon of 55 soldiers was in our tiny classroom after a tiring day. The drill sergeant told us that he was not going to leave the room until we had the walls sweating. I thought to God, *“Please just get me through this.”* We started with the over-hand arm clap. All I remember is when I hit 100, I was praying so hard because my arms were so heavy I could hardly lift them any more. By the end, I had been able to accomplish 224 more of those over-hand arm claps. In the end it took over 400 over-hand arm claps, 100 flutter kicks, and 140 sit-ups to have the walls dripping in sweat.



THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH AND PRAYER

Church at BCT was the most important event of every week. In fact we counted the number of Sundays we had left until the end of BCT. We looked forward to going to church each week, not only because all we had to do was clean, but because we got to worship freely and get away from the drill sergeants. The church I attended had about 400 soldiers each Sunday. Our church service had three main parts to it. During the first twenty minutes our chaplain would give us pointers for our small groups, made announcements, and allowed small talent shows such as singing and giving speeches about anything the Lord placed on our hearts. The second part lasted about an hour and was a time of singing. Every other week we had a band come in and would lead us in worship. On the off weeks we would have a “praise group” who led us in singing songs that the chaplain had on his iPod. The third and final part was the sermon. The sermon covered a variety of topics relevant to our situation such as swearing, something that all of us were exposed to 24/7, and praying and relying on God. All of the chaplain’s sermons somehow connected with what many of the soldiers would be experiencing in the coming week or what they had done in the previous week. The service was an amazing time of worship and lasted around two and half hours long. I enjoyed every minute of it!

One of my fondest memories of BCT happened during my second week after church in the lunch line. My drill sergeant was making his way up the line asking each soldier whether they had attended church or not. When he got to me he asked the same question. I replied that I had and then he asked if I had prayed for him. I had to think quickly because you never lie to a drill sergeant because they know when you lie to them. I replied, *“No, drill sergeant. I forgot but I will remember next week.”* The next week as I was signing out for church, I saw my drill sergeant and told him I would pray for him that morning. When I returned from church that day and was signing back in, he asked if I had remembered to pray for him or not. When I told him that I did remember, he asked what I had prayed for. I told him that I had asked God to give him patience so that he would be able to teach us everything we needed, even though we were slow and needed a lot of practice. I also told him that I had asked God to give him more free time so that he would be able to relax and be re-energized to teach us all throughout the week. When I told him this, he laughed and told me that I had earned a five-minute phone call.

GOD’S BLESSINGS

As I waited on line to make my phone call, I realized that I should be thanking God every day for these drill sergeants. They put up with around fifty 17-20 year-olds for 2 ½ months and were with us almost the entire time. My drill sergeant continued to ask me every week whether or not I had prayed for him that Sunday, and we ended up having some good, in-depth conversations about religion. By the end of BCT, he actually came to a service.

God also granted me the best drill sergeants of the entire company. Unlike other drill sergeants whose methods of teaching included yelling, screaming, and constant push-ups, my drill sergeants believed that if they treated us civilly or more so than the other platoons, that we would learn quicker and understand what to do more easily. God truly blessed me with those drill sergeants. Because every morning I began my day with God, my days were always fun and enjoyable. My drill sergeants noticed that I was always energetic, happy, and motivated. Because of that they gave me the honor of carrying the phase banner for graduation, truly a great honor!

LEARNING TO LEAN ON HIM

This summer has definitely changed me for the better. I learned how dependent I am on God and how he carried me through both the good and bad times. This experience has made me a better person. My drill sergeants instilled in me the army values which are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. These values will help me to finish up my senior year, keeping me disciplined to make all my deadlines and do my homework to the best of my ability. It will also keep me from slacking off during my senior year and push me to do my best until my graduation.

Sports Highlights

FALL ATHLETICS REPORT | BY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR STEVE KING

The **Girls' Varsity Soccer Team** under Coach **Barry Veenstra** finished the season by capturing the League title in the Carpenter Division with a perfect 11-0 record, finishing the regular season with a 16-4 record. Several of the key games during the season included a 3-2 overtime win over Glen Rock, and a two-game sweep of rival Pompton Lakes. The team also received the number one seed in the State Tournament.

In the State Tournament the Eagles captured the Parochial North State Sectional Championship. In the first round they beat Newark Academy 2-1 in an exciting home game. They then took on Villa Walsh in the championship, winning 1-0 on a goal by **Brooke Veenstra**. In the overall state championship the team played very well against the then #2 team in the state, Bishop Eustace, losing 2-1. Playing in a state final was a first for an EC girls' soccer team; and despite losing, they played an excellent game against a strong opponent. The team finished with an overall 18-5 record. Congratulations!

The **Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer Team** coached by EC alumnus **Ryan Kuiken** finished with a record of 7-7-1. The team started off at 3-0 and was competitive in every game. Of the seven losses, four were by a 1-0 final



Boys JV Soccer Team member **Matt Engelsdorfer**



Girls JV Soccer Team member **Jenna Maffei**



Boys Varsity Soccer Team members **Dominic Rivera** (left) and **Tyler Litland** (center)

score. Each team member improved in her individual skills to prepare for a possible move up to varsity next year.

First-year Coach **TC De Geyter** led the **Boys' Varsity Soccer Team** to a regular season record of 12-7-3. They placed 3rd in the League and were seeded 4th

in the County Tournament. During the season they were able to register seven shutouts on defense, and had ten players who scored a total of 44 goals. In division play, this team's record was 4-1-3. The team played exceptionally well in the County Tournament by beating Kennedy 4-0 in the first round and Wayne Hills 2-1 in the second round. They eventually lost to Clifton in the semi-finals.

Under Coach **Aaron Berger**, the **Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer Team**

completed an undefeated season at 16-0-1. After beginning the season with a 0-0 tie with Pompton Lakes, the Junior Eagles won the next 16 games. The team posted 13 shutouts and outscored their opponents 48-4. No opponent ever scored more than one goal in a game. Team balance was a key with 12 different players scoring at least one goal.

The **Cross Country Team** coached by **Joel Apol** enjoyed a very competitive season. The Men's Team ended the year at 8-2 overall and 6-2 in the

League, while the Women's Team finished with a 5-6 overall record and 3-6 in the League. The Men's Team captured first place in the Brett Taylor Invitational and also finished a very strong 4th in the County Championships. They took 2nd in the League while the Women's Team took 3rd in the League. At the EC Invitational the Boys' captured 1st Place. Congratulations to **Dan Sietsma** on his fine showing in the Parochial State Meet and on qualifying for the State Meet of Champions.

Members of the **Girls' Varsity Tennis Team** under Coach **Adam Culp** worked hard to be competitors while playing a tough League schedule. With the leadership of Senior **Kirstin Lane** (first singles), and the experience of Freshman **Rachel Soodsma** (second singles), the team managed four more wins than last year's team and their yearend record was 5-11-1. An injury to Junior **Rebecca Ydo** crippled the team for the first several weeks, but her return gave a much needed boost. First doubles players **Daria Burachek** and **Schuyler Sietsma** found a great chemistry and hit their stride halfway through the season. Their first win was a close third set tie-breaker to lift the team over Immaculate Conception. **Katerine Halim** and **Dottie Rhoads** worked hard at second doubles and



Girls Varsity Soccer Team members **Shannon Martin** (foreground) and **Joanna Switzer** (background)



Cross Country Team member **Justin Vierling**

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EC Middle School Fall Highlights

The **Boys' Middle School Soccer Team** finished with a record of 2-11. The team consisted of nine 8th graders and seven 7th graders. Their two wins came against Saddle Brook, but the team also had many close games during the season. Because of the team's hard work and dedication, this proved to be a good season. The team learned from Coach **Jeff Botbyl** and gained experience playing together. The Boys' Team finished the year with a father-son game and came away with a sudden death, shoot-out victory!

The **Girls' Middle School Soccer Team** ended its season with a 8-2-3 record. The team consisted of eleven 8th graders and ten 7th graders, who worked very hard under Coach **Laura King**. The highlight of the season was the game versus Midland Park, where EC came from behind in the second half to win by a score of 5-3. Other big games included wins over Hawthorne, Hawthorne Christian, and Saddle Brook.

Under Coach **Terry Allen**, members of the **Middle School Cross Country Team** showed tremendous growth as individuals from the first practice to the final invitational. The Boys' Team finished with a 6-5 dual meet record, and the Girls' Team finished with an 8-1 dual meet record. In the final Glen Rock Invitational the boys finished 5th while the girls finished 2nd. In that invitational **Craig Jacobs** took the gold in the boys' race and **Kristen Traub** took the gold in the girls' race. Thank you to former EC runner **Brad Jacobs** for serving as Coach Allen's assistant this year, and thank you to the very supportive parents who attended the meets and cheered on the runners.

FALL HIGHLIGHTS *continued from page 11*

improved every match. Their season ended with a great win in a third set tie-breaker against PCT.

Coach **Paola Morici** led the **Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team** to finish with a 7-16 record. This was a young team with only two senior starters, and most of the team was comprised of sophomores. This year seven players had to learn new positions, and the team also transitioned into the use of the "libero player." As the season continued, the team improved in their play and ended the season sweeping both Immaculate and Paterson Catholic. The Varsity Team is looking forward to future years as the volleyball program continues to improve.

The **Girls' Junior Varsity Volleyball Team**, coached by EC alumna **Heather Ydo** and **Holly Goodman**, finished with a 5-17 record. The season began without a coach but once that was solved, the team began to learn the skills needed. The majority of the players were freshmen, many of whom had never played orga-

nized volleyball. Many games were taken to a third set, and they had a very low score differential. With the experience gained this season, the team can look forward to an exciting volleyball season next year.



Varsity Volleyball Team member **Joan Hoogerhyde #12**



JV Volleyball Team member **Taylor Ocot**



Tennis Team member
Daria Burachek



Cross Country Team member **Nicole MacWilliam**

A 1965 Alumnus Recalls Special Moment in EC Baseball History

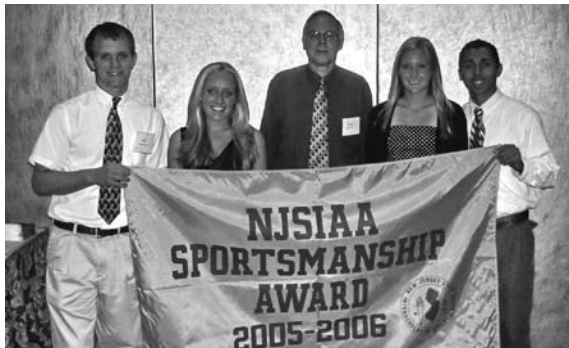
Bill Kamp ('65) sent in the following EC Baseball memory: "One afternoon in 1964 we played the best baseball team in the area, Don Bosco. They had some huge guys on their team, like their catcher, Mario Gilleo, who could really wallop the ball. Their ace pitcher Bart Iurado was on the mound that day. He threw so fast we couldn't even see the ball. Needless to say, Bart was throwing smoke and mowing us EC boys down. Bart threw a no-hitter against us that day; but we managed to scratch out a run on a walk, bunt sacrifice, stolen base and an error. So we were leading 1-0. Our pitcher that day, lefty **John Zuidema**, also threw a no-hitter – he was in the groove. I was playing centerfield, just like my hero, Mickey Mantle, that day. Up stepped the mighty Mario and Zuidema grooved one right in his wheelhouse. Mario swung and hit a massive shot – back, back, back, back I went. It seemed like I was running forever. At the last split second I jumped up and snagged the ball out of the air and made the most spectacular catch of my career! I looked at the ball in my mitt and it was sticking half out of the very top of my mitt, an ice cream cone catch as they say. As I ran in (it was the third out) Mario, was lying face down in disbelief on second base, the crowd was cheering, and I never felt better in all my life! As I neared the dugout, from the crowd, my old buddy **Johnny King** yelled out, 'Tip your hat Kampy!' And I did! John Zuidema masterfully pitched a no-hitter that day too, and we finally beat our arch-rivals from across town, the mighty Don Bosco."

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Eastern Christian Athletics on being recognized for their efforts relative to Sportsmanship during the 2005-2006 school year. The Bergen Passaic Scholastic League honored Eastern Christian as the top school in Sportsmanship in the League. Eastern Christian was also honored by the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association for being disqualification free during the year. There are over 430 high schools in the NJSIAA.

Eastern Christian is now 1 of 7 high schools in the State of New Jersey that has been disqualification free since the program began in 1991. Of the 7 schools, Eastern Christian is the only school offering a full coed athletic program. Eastern Christian was honored at the Sportsmanship Summit held in September where they received a banner for this accomplishment. Attending this Summit were: **Athletic Director Steve King**, Girls' Soccer Captains **Bridget Soodsma** and **Brooke Veenstra**, and Boys' Soccer Captains **Dominic Rivera** and **Joe Everett**.

Congratulations to Athletic Director Steve King on being chosen "**Athletic Director of the Year**" by the Passaic County Coaches Association. Steve has been involved in athletics at Eastern Christian for 33 years and has served as Athletic Director for 24 years. He was recognized for his leadership in the NJSIAA, the Passaic County Coaches Association, and the Bergen Passaic Scholastic League. The coaches association honored Steve at an awards dinner in October. At that dinner **Cross Country Coach Joel Apol** was also honored by the county for his teams' accomplishments during the 2005-2006 school year. During that season, the women's team was 12-0 and the men's team was 11-0.



Pictured (L to R): Joe Everett, Brooke Veenstra, Athletic Director Steve King, Bridget Soodsma, Dominic Rivera



The 1965 Baseball Team – Can you find Bill Kamp and Johnny King?

FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

CROSS COUNTRY

- Dan Sietsma**
First Team All League
First Team All County
- Steven Bosloper**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Erica Lotz**
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- AJ Panzica**
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Ken Malnati**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Emily Karr**
Second Team All League
- Joshua Van Eck**
Second Team All League
- Joshua Tanis**
Second Team All League
- Tim Rudd**
Second Team All League
- Kerith Sunden**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Steve Sagona**
Honorable Mention All League

BOYS' SOCCER

- Dominic Rivera**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Keith Spoelstra**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Joe Everett**
Second Team All League
Second Team All County
- Eric Postma**
Second Team All League
Second Team All County
- Tyler Litland**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Ricky Granholm**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Dan Rainville**
Honorable Mention All League

TENNIS

- Kirstin Lane**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Rebecca Ydo**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

GIRLS' SOCCER

- Nicole Struyk**
First Team All League
First Team All County
- Joanne Switzer**
First Team All League
First Team All County
- Shannon Martin**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Bridget Soodsma**
First Team All League
Second Team All County
- Laura Kuiken**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Brooke Veenstra**
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- Nicole Brello**
Second Team All League
- Rebecca Flim**
Second Team All League
- Kelsey Spoelstra**
Honorable Mention All League

- Rachel Soodsma**
Honorable Mention All County

VOLLEYBALL

- Joan Hoogerhyde**
First Team All League
- Rachel Kuder**
Second Team All League
- Cara Poalillo**
Second Team All League
- Madisan Shattuck**
Honorable Mention All League

New and Familiar Faces Added to ECMS Staff

This year seven people joined the ECMS staff – some moved from other positions, some returned to EC this year and others are new to the EC community. We asked them to share some facts about themselves and offer their perspective on Christian education at EC and this year’s focus on “Learning Communities.”

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Richard Van Yperen - *Preschool -8th Grade Principal*



Educational Background: Degree – MAT English; Taylor University, Fairleigh Dickinson University

“When I moved back to NJ from serving as a dorm parent, teacher and administrator at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya, surprisingly to me I sensed the call to become the Principal of Eastern Christian Elementary School. Six years later, I am even more surprised to find myself serving as principal of the Middle School as well. The greatest joy I get as

Principal is seeing students discover their God-given strengths. This year I am looking forward to the challenges of speaking in Chapel, helping direct small groups, and encouraging the concept of ‘learning communities’ through weekly collaborative sessions for teachers.” [Editor’s Note: See also the feature article in *The Herald’s* Winter/Spring 2006 issue]

Meghann Persenaire - *Dean of Students*

Educational Background: BA, Dordt College; MA, Teachers College – Columbia University

“Eastern Christian was my first teaching position after graduating from college, and it is where I continued to teach for four years. In the spring of 2005, I pursued a new challenge and accepted a teaching and leadership role at East Harlem Village Academy. It was an excellent year, while also being the new challenge I anticipated. The role of Dean of Students and the opportunity to return to EC presented itself the following spring. I had learned so much in my first four years at EC and valued my relationships. I know I will continue to be challenged in this role.

EC students approach learning with an open mind and represent a broad range of individual strengths. They embrace their education and possess an enthusiasm for learning, learning that occurs in and outside the classroom. It is this enthusiasm that I embrace and hope to develop. In the role of Dean of Students, I will encourage students to ‘keep in step with the Spirit’ in several settings. An understanding of the theme will develop through small groups and chapel. I plan to create a small group and chapel environment that explores all angles of this theme and facilitates students to live our theme.

The Middle School will emphasize a learning community paradigm this year. Building community around learning requires cooperation and collaboration between adults and students. It begins each day with

devotions and prayer in the eleven ‘Advisory’ rooms (homerooms). As each day proceeds, our Master Schedule enables each grade to form a larger learning community working together on service projects, interdisciplinary projects, and class activities. It is our hope that students will discover their strengths, learning how to use and develop them as they live, serve and learn in community.”

Gloria Tenewitz - *Office Manager*



“Several years ago after my children transferred to EC, the Elementary School office manager position opened and I felt God leading me to apply for that position. This is my first year at the Middle School. Having transferred over to the Middle School from the Elementary School has really been a great learning experience for me. Middle School students are very different in the way you interact with them, respond to them, ‘read’ them, etc.

I really miss the younger ones, but I look forward to having them again when they get to middle school. It is really amazing to see the young people I knew as little ones on their way growing into adulthood and it gave me such a wonderful feeling when they showed their excitement at seeing me again!

As the adult facilitator of a small group of students led by an eighth grader, we are talking about how to ‘keep in step with the Spirit’ every other Tuesday after lunch. We are reading scripture and discussing those scripture verses, and exploring how they apply to our everyday lives.”

FACULTY CHANGES

Liesl Botbyl - *7th & 8th Grade Science*



Educational Background: Degree in Psychology and Elementary Education, William Paterson University

“EC is not a new place for me, having grown up in EC and then teaching 3rd grade for several years. I spent the last 4 years raising my two daughters and working at Bridgeway Community Church. I’m thrilled to be back in the classroom again!

I love being able to pray with my students at any time during the day and also love

knowing that their families are praying for me. We know that God has blessed us each with different gifts and abilities—in my classroom we work hard at using our individual strengths to help others. I pray that I can be a role model to my students showing what it means to ‘keep in step with the Spirit’ in a world that offers so many temptations and distractions.”

Cathy Clark - Middle School Orchestra, Grades 2-4 Violin, Preschool General Music



Educational Background: Degree – BA in Performance, Montclair State

“I am an EC Graduate, and send my children to Eastern Christian. I was looking for a career to use the gifts God gave me and still be able to be a mom. At EC I’m always greeted with a smile, wave and an excited ‘Hi, Mrs. Clark!’

I love to see the sparkle in students’ eyes and the smile on their faces when they really understand something for the

first time. An orchestra is a community where we learn from each other. I want to show each student how to listen to everyone around them to hear how their piece of the puzzle fits into the whole musical picture.”

Ruth Rudd - Media Center Specialist

Educational Background: BS in Science/Math, Houghton College

“Back when my son Nate started Kindergarten there was a need for bus drivers so I became a driver. More recently – I love teaching/technology/books and the perfect job for that opened up at ECMS. I felt strongly that God wanted me to take this position.

I value students’ fresh perspective on all of life. I hope to help our students live out our school’s theme first of all by modeling it myself. Everyone matters to God and everything they do matters, so it is easy to show them how ‘keeping in step with the Spirit’ fits into their attitudes and actions (including study skills). We are always learning – but what exactly are we learning? Helping students to ask ‘why’ about things (even the things they say) will help them to learn and encourage community.”



Deb Vandenberg - 5th & 6th Grade Math



Educational Background: BA, Dordt College

“I attended EC from Kindergarten to 12th grade, practice taught here while in college, and returned after graduation to a job opening here. The students’ enthusiasm for learning, their smiles, their love and care for each other in learning and in social interactions is what I like most about working with EC students. Through our morning devotion time together and other advisory times, we share and discuss issues., We challenge each other to keep ‘in step with the Spirit.’ Obviously every classroom is a learning community, but also to be a learning community there must be respect, security/safety

for that learning to happen. Structure and discipline help that happen here at EC.”

2006-07 ECMS Theme Verse:

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:25

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES OF NEW ECMS STAFF

PROVERBS 3:5 & 6

“This verse is a daily wonderful reminder of how I need to give my all to God.”

Dick VanYperen

“It reminds me that my ‘understanding’ is insufficient and that I need to trust God with all understanding. **Romans 11: 34-36** is a very close second favorite, reminding me that everything comes from God, through His power and provision and is ultimately for His glory.”

Ruth Rudd

“I am trusting in Him to do my best, using the gifts He gave me, and to develop & nurture a love of music in each student.”

Cathy Clark

ISAIAH 40:28-31

“It’s what gets me through all the activities of every day and what gives me strength to face the next one.”

Deb Vandenberg

JEREMIAH 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you...? That’s all I need to know.”

Meghann Persenaire

“Being focused on that verse keeps me from excess worry and fear about the things in life we cannot change. It reminds me that my best is what God has in store for me.”

Gloria Tenewitz

“This verse reminds me that no matter how much I try to plan my life it is all in God’s hands.”

Liesl Botbyl

New Structure for Spiritual Growth

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN, ECMS PRINCIPAL

We are alternating all-school worship with small group follow-up discussions at ECMS this year. Our biweekly worship and small group times are our primary stimuli for how we want to become aware of God's design for each of us to "keep in step with the Spirit" as we learn and live together in community.

ALL-SCHOOL WORSHIP

In order to describe this new approach, I'd like to share the following example from an October chapel held in Faith Community CRC's sanctuary. After our guest worship leaders from Cornerstone Church in Wyckoff had led a time of dynamic praise, I spoke briefly about Paul's words from Colossians 3:12 where he says, "***Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.***" My desire was to talk to our students about how we are to be intentional each day with our attitudes, just as we are intentional each morning with our choice of clothing for school. I mentioned the "Act as if..." principle in life. This principle, if practiced consistently, has amazing results. If a student acts as if they are an excellent student, often the follow through is excellence. If I act as if I have patience, often the product is increased patience. Just as clothing influences our behavior – if we dress



Andrew Kuder connects with his small group through an activity.

up we act accordingly or if we dress in a team uniform, we feel a part of a team – intentionally putting on each day the attitudes of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience will influence our behavior. I emphasized that clothing is different than spiritual "fruit," however. We have control over our clothing, but we do not have control over our "fruit" in the same way. The fruit of the Spirit grows as a product of our "keeping in step" with the Holy Spirit.

SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSIONS

Every Thursday we meet with our Small Group student leaders to prepare for their small group discussions, so that they have two training times for every one small group meeting. On the Tuesday after this chapel service, our small group leaders explored this chapel message with further discussion about **how our intentional acts influence the quantity and quality of fruit in our lives.** We also shared the important points of this discussion with our parents by describing the following in our weekly Home Bulletin:

*"In Small groups this week 8th Grade student leaders read a letter, ostensibly written by Mr. Van Yperen, announcing that uniforms would be required next year. The discussion that followed was lively and animated, and everyone was relieved when they were told it was **not true**. Students, 8th grade leaders and adult facilitators then discussed Colossians 3:12 and the qualities – compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience – God wants to see each one of us clothe ourselves with daily, just like our favorite clothes we put on each morning. Small Groups ended with students being challenged to try choosing the attitudes in verse 12 every morning for the next two weeks, after which the results would be discussed at our next meeting."*

We are hoping that by rotating chapel worship with small group discussions, we will all grow deeper in our understanding of our spiritual theme this year: "**Keep in Step with the Spirit.**" Col. 3:16



Welcome to New ECMS Students! – **Front Row:** Andrea Greco, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Matthew Van Eck, Tyler Albies, Mark Brauning, Ben Zacaroli, Shawn Kukol, Matthew Hartensveld; **Middle Row:** Madison Wells, Zoraida Kareivis, Bethany Van Eck, Jessica Smith, Kathy Seo, Noah Teshome, Cleveland McDaniel; **Back Row:** Daniel Kim, Lexi Malleo, Lyke Teshome

New Code of Conduct

BY MEGHANN PERSENAIRE,
ECMS DEAN OF STUDENTS

Students lend each other pencils, clean microwaves, and open doors for their classmates and teachers. One student helps another student when he or she drops everything in a rush. **What is motivating these caring actions?** This year ECMS 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grade students are holding each other accountable and developing class community. They are contributing to a positive and safe school community as ECMS implements a new *Code of Conduct*. This new discipline system is structured to award both merits and demerits in ways that build better learning communities at the Middle School.

A **merit** is gained for character or behavior deserving special recognition or approval. It *cannot* be requested, nor can a student act with the intention of receiving a merit. An individual teacher awards a merit when he or she observes a student going above and beyond *to “keep in step with the Spirit”* (Galatians 5:25), or when he or she sees evidence of character or behavior that is “above and beyond,” thus deserving special recognition or approval. A student who receives a merit receives private recognition that is communicated to his or her family. In addition, the class of which the student is a part is awarded points.

A **demerit** is for an unacceptable behavior that negatively affects the individual, classroom, and/or school community. A demerit is a warning, and it allows the student to make a positive change, correcting the specific behavior for which he or she received a demerit. The accumulation of three demerits in one disciplinary category leads to an appropriate non-disciplinary or disciplinary action. For example, a student who receives three demerits for homework participates in a “Homework Workshop.” The student then learns strategies for improvement in this area and is allowed extra time to do his or her homework. Likewise, a student who receives three demerits for preparation participates in a “Preparation Workshop.” The student then learns strategies for improvement in this area, such as locker or binder organization.

Each class is **awarded points** when a member of their class receives a merit, and points are subtracted when a member of their class receives a demerit. The points go toward a 10-Day competition, and every 10 days their slates are wiped clean. As a result, students hold each other accountable and push each other to do well.

The implementation of the *Code of Conduct* provides teachers with data to discuss during their collaboration time. For example, grade level teachers noticed a rise in homework demerits and then discussed how they could help students in this area. Graphs tracking merits and demerits are shared with teachers each week and they are used as springboards for improvement.

The **positive outcomes** of our new discipline system are many. In the first 10-Day rotation, a student was late to class eight times. A member of his class, wanting to help the class and the student, became his accountability partner. In the second rotation, the student was never late to class. A student who received six preparation demerits during the first rotation took part in a “Preparation Workshop” and what the student learned was reinforced by Mrs. Rudd, the Media Center specialist. Through locker organization, the student did not receive a preparation demerit for twenty days. Overall, demerits in all categories were down by 20% following the third 10-Day rotation, and merits were up by 100%!



New Dean of Students
Meghann Persenaire

Learning How to Learn in Learning Lab

BY RUTH RUDD,
ECMS MEDIA CENTER COORDINATOR

In 5th Grade math classes students learn how to divide larger numbers using long division. A 5th grader will have better success with this and other math skills if she can quickly locate her pencil and textbook in her locker and get to math class on time. An organized binder will help a sixth grader find the Social Studies section quickly so he can take notes. If the Temple project assignment for Bible is written down in a 7th grader’s agenda, she can hand it in on time. An 8th grader will need to study effectively to do well on his vocabulary test in Language Arts.

These are examples where using “how to learn” skills are key to the learning process for a student. In each subject, skills such as:

- first-rate locker organization,
- good binder organization,
- keeping an updated agenda,
- active listening, and
- effective note-taking,

as well as many other study skills necessary for students to learn and do well. **Where can they learn these skills? The answer is – in Learning Lab!**

In Learning Lab, 5th and 6th graders learned that going beyond just having a neat locker to the practice of placing their books in order with period numbers on the spine, can make finding their books a snap. They evaluated and cleaned up their binders and learned how best to use their agendas. Every 7th and 8th grader also evaluated their notebooks, and learned how best to use their agendas. They discovered their “Personal Preferred Learning Style” so that they can study **smarter**, not **harder**. Each grade level will continue to look at more “Keys to Success in School” each week and practice better ways to learn how to learn.

Celebrating Church Week at EC Preschool

BY PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
KATHY FAASSE

EC Preschool and Jr. Kindergarten students and teachers recently celebrated Church Week. **Pastor Andrew Chun** of Covenant Christian Reformed Church in North Haledon visited the morning Preschool classes where his daughter is a student this year. Pastor Chun spoke with the children about being a pastor and about the importance of doing what God wants them to do.

The Jr. Kindergarten class visited Faith Community Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff during Church Week. **Pastor Wes Van Dyk** gave the children a tour of his church and showed them that many things in church are reminders of God's special love. The children know that church and school are great places to be!

Essential Questions and Big Ideas For Two Campuses

BY ECMS & ECES PRINCIPAL RICHARD VAN YPEREN

As a part of our ongoing curriculum work, ECES teachers began to explore the potential of essential questions in organizing curriculum and focusing instruction last year. When essential questions become the heart of the curriculum, they are the essence of what we believe students should examine and know. Essential questions differ from leading questions in that essential answers are not self-evidently true. Essential questions encourage investigation, and inquiry which lead to the big ideas relevant to God's creation and sovereignty.

At the end of our last school year, we tested the power of essential questioning by asking our students to answer the question, "Why did God make us with differences?" Students responded with remarkably sophisticated answers after allowing them a short time to investigate and discuss various answers.

Consequently, for this school year we have established one year-long essential question for the EC Elementary School students and another one for the Middle School students, based on our spiritual themes. At ECES we are posing the question, "How does living by faith make a difference in life?" And at ECMS we are asking, "What does it mean to keep in step with the Spirit?"

After exploring potential responses throughout the year in chapel and classrooms, we hope to give our students an opportunity in the springtime to give their responses from digging deeply for the big ideas. We hope to observe deeper understandings of God's truth as a result of analysis and evaluations our students conduct in response to these essential questions.



Nico is showing his classmates how he traveled from his home in Chile, across the Atlantic Ocean to his new home in the United States.



Pictured with the "Heroes of Faith" timeline are (L to R): Maggie Albies, Caitlin Shurminsky, Rachael Tanis, and Christian Santiago

Learning "By Faith"

BY SANDY BOTTGE, ECES ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Each year at Eastern Christian Elementary School we have a school-wide, Biblical theme that is integrated into the classroom learning and chapel. This year's theme is "By Faith" taken from Hebrews: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen ... And without faith it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Hebrews 11:1 & 6

FIRST GRADE BIBLE STORY

Students in **Karyn Baitzel's** First Grade class heard the story of Abraham who demonstrated his faith in God by leaving his country and moving to a new land. In her dramatic telling of the story, Miss Baitzel compared Abraham's move to her student **Nicolas "Nico" Cortes**, who had moved to the United States from Chile a few years ago. The class was able to relate to their friend Nico's travels, and better understand what it means to "walk by faith."

THIRD GRADE TIMELINE

Third Grade students study the "Heroes of Faith" as part of their Bible curriculum. Teachers **Donna Hoogerhyde, Rhonda Klein** and **Beverly Peters** are working with their students on a year-long timeline that connects their Bible stories to Hebrews 11. The timeline will include the character's name and how he/she lived out his/her faith. This will be a visual reminder of "walking by faith."

Dealing with Life's Complexities "By Faith"

BY RICHARD VAN YPEREN, ECES PRINCIPAL

Even in elementary school, life "happens." At ECES our desire is to integrate faith with learning as we communicate that God wants us to be a part of His redemptive plan for our world. We approach our instruction and correction looking for opportunities to model and practice faith.

Using our spiritual theme – "By Faith" – we are continually asking how faith makes the difference in learning. Our teachers instruct from a faith perspective as they encourage students to articulate ideas, comprehend literature, apply math, study the world, discover God's design in creation, and memorize facts. As our students find their God-given learning styles and strengths, they will naturally encounter mistakes and experience failures. Then, as they face potential discouragement, our teachers are there modeling and communicating God's unconditional love.

For our students, "doing life together" on the playground offers a practical laboratory about God's redemptive plan for a fallen world. Daily, we react to and work through conflicts, unfairness, jealousy, unkindness, and other realities of our world. When we correct these behaviors, we have the opportunity to set God's pattern for restoration. Our students naturally and quickly apologize when confronted with a wrong. We build on that good desire to make things right as an opportunity to ask our students to confess the wrong they did instead of simply saying "I'm sorry." And when the offended student replies, "That's alright," we ask for her to consider offering forgiveness instead. This gives us an opportunity to talk about what forgiveness means. Students are learning to genuinely confess and forgive, and following this biblical pattern has allowed for true reconciliation between our students.

I continue to be impressed with how our Preschool– 4th grade students process and deal with the complexities of doing life together in a world desperate for redemption. They really are grounded in God's words, and readily recognize the truth. Sooner than you think, your child will be an adult challenging the world with the message of redemption. I know because it seems that just last year I had three children in elementary school. (This year they are each married and employed!)



Enjoying recess on the playground are (top to bottom): **Morgan Ritsema, Paige Kuipers, Nicole Martin, Adrian Brown, and Christina Poliandro.**

... elementary school. (This year they are each married and employed!)

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

3 John 4



The new rock climbing wall was purchased with a donation by the ECES PTO. Fourth Graders pictured are (L to R): **Taylor Herman, Stephanie Avila, Jolie Wolyniec, Morgan Herman, Andrew De Block, Caleb Becker, Joshua Touw, and Bobby Piluso.** Fourth grader **Jayna VanBuiten** loves the rock climbing wall because "It rocks!"



To view *Back to School* photos, check out our website!



Read about the 2006 Drama Team online.



Drama coach **Yvonne Vitale** works with drama team members (clockwise) **Chloe Whealan, Corey Abma, Kaytlynn Knyfd, Brian Vivolo, Nate Ocot and Jolie Wolyniec.** In this picture, they are learning about working as a team by practicing how to make eye contact with the person they hope will catch the ball.

New Staff and New Assignments

We surveyed the following individuals who are working at ECES in new positions this year. We asked about their background, their impressions of our students and their perspective on building faith and learning at the Elementary School this year. Here are their responses:



Front row: **Mary-Kate Hagedorn** and **Linda Vander Wiele**; Back row: **Sandra Bottge**, **Linda Van Grouw**, and **Brenda Leentjes**

Sandra Bottge

Assistant Principal

Educational Background: B.S. in Elementary Education, Messiah College; Associate Degree - Media Specialist, Montclair State University
"I attended here as a student and remember being in Kindergarten thinking I'd like to be a teacher here someday! I'm now in my 17th year. I love the students at EC. They are excited about learning, they love Jesus and they are kind to each other. I'm enjoying getting to know the students this year on a deeper, personal level. I talk to them formally in chapel and informally in class and on the playground about walking 'By Faith.'

The one thing I've always appreciated about Eastern Christian is the sense of community. We pull together as a community to offer support, love and encouragement. My goal is to make sure we continue to be a community of learners. We learn not only in the classroom but also on the playground as we play together and work out our differences, we learn as we meet together as adults for conferences and child study team meetings, and this year we will learn more about what it means to walk by faith."

Favorite Bible Verses of New ECES Staff

PROVERBS 3:5&6 *"Last year's school theme of 'Trust in the Lord' really touched me. Everything in life boils down to trusting God."*
 Sandy Bottge

ISAIAH 40:31 *"As a mother of young children, the business of life often causes me to relect and recite this verse."*
 Mary-Kate Hagedorn

JEREMIAH 29:11 *"It reminds me that even though I might not see it clearly as I go thru life, God has plans for my future. Awesome plans!"*
 Linda Vander Wiele

ROMANS 8:38-39 *"This is my favorite verse because it reminds me that no matter what I do or where I go, God loves me and is there for me."*
 Nancy Martin

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5 *"These words remind me of how I should live my life."*
 Linda Van Grouw

Mary-Kate Hagedorn

Media Center – Library and 3rd & 4th Grade Computer Instructor

Educational Background: B.S. in Elem. Education, Messiah College
"I became acquainted with EC through my family & alumni. I heard about its excellent school & administration. ECES students are excited to learn and fun to be with. To show students that 'faith' is a constant act of serving God and is rewarded through blessings in your life is my goal in building our learning community."

Nancy Martin

4th Grade Instructional Aide, ECMS After School Program Teacher

Educational Background: B.S., Gordon College
"I am an EC alumna and parent. When the opportunity to work with the After School program and as an aide came about, I was happy to accept the positions. After working with students in a public school setting, it is refreshing to be in a Christ-centered school."

I hope to help students realize that God has an overall plan for them and to have faith that God will help them along the path of that plan, even though they don't know where it will lead them. As an aide, I hope to help the teachers I work with in their challenge of shaping the young minds of their students in any way that I can. At the After School program in the Middle School, I hope to make it an environment where the students can do homework and have some great enrichment opportunities while their parents are at work."

Linda Vander Wiele

1st Grade Instructional Aide, PM Office Manager

Educational Background: Ramapo High School Graduate
"My 2 youngest children have attended EC since preschool and I have worked as an instructional aide in 1st grade for the past 5 years. God has shown me again and again that we are uniquely created for His purpose. It is satisfying to watch our students as they follow God's plans for them."

The Elementary School's theme this year is 'by Faith' based on Hebrews 11. Our God is faithful. He fulfills all His promises, completes all his commitments. In return, I want to be faithful to Him. I want to be obedient to His word and I can also be faithful to God if others can depend on me. The EC first grade students know they can depend on me in the classroom and on the playground to encourage them and help them. I will bring this

EC's After School Program is Expanding

BY DIRECTOR WENDY POST



Pictured with ECMS After School Program school students is new teacher Nancy Martin.

Seven years ago the After School Program began in the basement of what was then EC's Preschool located in Irving Park CRC. Today the After School Program is located at two EC campuses.

EC students Preschool through 4th grade enjoy the traditional After School Program at the Elementary School. Director **Wendy Post** and her helpers spend the afternoon with students, doing a wide variety

of activities that include homework, snack, games, arts and crafts, piano lessons, etc. Each day is different and fun! Students may sign up to come on a regular basis, or they may occasionally "drop in" for an afternoon. The cost is \$5.00 per hour with a cap of \$7.00 per hour per family.

New this year is the After School program at EC Middle School. Certified teacher **Nancy Martin**, who is an EC graduate, EC parent, as well as an ECES 4th Grade teachers' aide, is running this new program. Mrs. Martin and her aides welcome all Middle School students who would like to attend. Every afternoon the students have ample opportunity to complete homework, and then Mrs. Martin and the students have fun doing different activities. Some favorites include cooking, indoor and outdoor games and learning about science with "Gizmos and Gadgets." The ECMS After School Program also has a Chess Club every Friday, and beginning in November students can take Spanish lessons for a small additional fee.

The cost, the convenient hours (3pm to 6pm), and the option to come regularly or "drop in" are the same for both campuses' programs. Continuity between both campuses gives the After school Program the ability to better suit the students' needs. Students are in a familiar place where they are comfortable. Best of all, the daily activities are geared toward age-appropriate interests and abilities. You are welcome to come and find out about all the wonderful things that are happening! For more information, contact either the Elementary or the Middle School office.

NEW STAFF *continued from page 22*

same dependability to my job in our school office, trying always to respond to staff and students alike with a cheerful, helpful attitude."

Linda Van Grouw

AM Office Manager

Educational Background: Berdan Institute Graduate

"I am an EC graduate. Working in the office I really don't see too many students, but it is nice to see some of them and help them out whenever they have a problem – like forgetting their lunch, backpacks, transportation changes, etc. The only thing that I can add is that I feel very blessed to work here at ECES. It is a great place to work!"

New Landscaping Donated

BY SANDY BOTTGE,
ECES ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



The scenery outside the front windows of the Elementary School has changed dramatically over the last several months. Former PTO President **Jen Wolyniec** and current President **Dana Doehler** organized a major landscaping renovation which greatly improved the look of the Elementary School. New bushes, shrubs and flowers were planted along the front of the building and around the flagpole. Trees were trimmed around the flagpole, allowing us to fly our beautiful, new American flag. An irrigation system was installed to keep the plants well-watered. The front sidewalk was replaced by a winding pathway of pavers. Parents had the opportunity to purchase pavers engraved in honor or memory of loved ones.

Jen and Dana worked with several landscapers from the EC community who provided free or reduced priced plantings and services. **Audrey Kuiken** provided the landscape design, **Glenn Sietsma** served as the general organizer and provided the irrigation system, **Ken Steenstra**, **Dave Bushman** and **Bill Bushman** installed the plantings. **Bill Sytsma** provided tree trimming services.

In addition to the generous gifts of the landscapers, the project was funded by Entertainment Book and cheesecake fundraisers and individual donations which covered the cost of engraved pavers. Thank you to everyone who made this project a great success!

Betty Davis Runs the NYC Marathon and EC Benefits



Betty Davis, EC parent and avid runner, contacted our Development Office to share her desire to raise funds for our school by asking her friends, family, church and community members for pledges to support her as a first-time runner in the annual New York City Marathon on November 5. Her note stated:

"It's been a dream of mine since before I moved to this country from France to run the NYC Marathon. Finally, after several attempts to get in, I have the opportunity to run the Marathon on November 5, 2006.

In preparing for this event, I have had a lot of time to think and wanted to make this more than a milestone in my life, so I decided to use this as an opportunity to raise money for Eastern Christian School.

Why Eastern Christian? My three children, Justin, Matthieu, and Claire attend EC; and, coming from a different background, I see this school as a wonderful blessing in my children's lives. Our family on my husband's side has a long history at Eastern Christian School. My husband Keith graduated in 1985. My mother-in-law Barbara Davis graduated in 1956 (she just had her 50th yr. class reunion). Before that, her father Ed Kuiken attended Eastern Academy. Raising money for EC seemed like a natural conclusion.

I am really thankful for my health and the health of my family. I feel blessed that I am able to train physically for something I am passionate about and, at the same time, raise money for such an outstanding organization. I also feel very blessed to now be part of the Eastern Christian community. So I ask for your financial support as I get ready to run the 26.2 miles of the NYC Marathon."

Enthusiasm began to build, and financial contributions grew as Race Day drew closer. Many donations included notes with **"Go, Betty, go!"** The weather was clear and bright on November 5 when the mass of runners heard the signal to start. Betty crossed the finish line with a time of 4 hours, 16 minutes and 5 seconds! She felt very tired but glad that she had reached her goal. She finished as number 17,032 out of 37,000 runners, 684 in her age group and 3662 among the women who ran. In her email to us the next day, she said,

"Thank you for your support and prayers. It was a great experience with wild crowds, great weather, and 37,000 other runners! ... I ran great until mile 21; then I hit my wall but, at that point, I was back into Manhattan and the high energy of the crowd spurred me on. I have to say that all the wonderful support and encouragement I have gotten from my friends, family and EC community was an inspiration especially as I reached those last grueling miles."

The total raised from this fundraiser was **\$ 6,644.40** as of November 8, 2006, with more donations still coming in. On behalf of Betty and EC, we thank all contributors for their great expression of support!

Dressing Up for a Unique Fundraiser

Toni Steenstra recently hosted "An Old Fashioned Garden Luncheon" at her home. Each guest was asked to wear a dress with hat and gloves. Ladies were seated at four tables of four with cloth tablecloths and napkins, beautiful centerpieces, and old dishes and tableware. The menu included hors d'oeuvres, salads, sandwiches and special desserts. Musical entertainment was provided by EC Parents **Kathy and Brian ('77) Hanse** and family.

This luncheon was an item available to bid on at Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church's Service Auction, an event whose proceeds were donated to Eastern Christian School.



Some of the guests at the Garden Luncheon were: Front Row (L to R): Gert Vande Wende, Rena Martens, Coby Hilberts, Charlotte Elzinga, Mrs. Vander Valk; Row 2: Joan Besemer, Toni Steenstra, Taffy Falkema, Janet Poth.

Give a Gift From Your IRA!

As a service to the Christian Reformed Church, its agencies and our 190 member organizations, Barnabas Foundation is pleased to inform you of a new charitable gift opportunity.

The recently enacted Pension Protection Act of 2006 makes it possible to provide tax-free gifts from your IRA to ministries close to your heart. This giving opportunity may be right for you or someone you know who is age 70 1/2 or older.

If you have questions and would like assistance completing your gift, call Barnabas Foundation toll-free at 1.888.448.3040.

You can request a Fact Sheet with details about this IRA gift opportunity by calling us or visiting our website at www.barnabasfoundation.com.

NOTE: Provisions of this Act do not allow gifts to the Barnabas Foundation Stewards Fund or other donor-advised funds to qualify as tax-free gifts.

Toll Free: (888) 448-3040
www.barnabasfoundation.com



Barnabas Foundation is available to assist you because of the support of CRCNA and the other 190 member organizations.

Alumni News

Please note: The Alumni News we print was either received via a written note, e-mail or was noted from media sources. Alumni are encouraged to e-mail their news to: Alumni@easternchristian.org. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions. Now you can go to our website (www.easternchristian.org) and fill out a 5-minute survey so you can keep informed about EC. You can also submit your story or give your testimonial about your EC education. Check it out!

FORMER STAFF

As reported in the *Grand Rapids Press*, "Acts of God kept them apart. And acts of God brought them together. That's the only way that **Tom Holwerda** and **Jan Hekman** of Grand Rapids can explain the fact that they're about to celebrate one remarkable year of marriage. Tom and Jan, both 64 were classmates in the early 1960s at Calvin College. ...they dated off and on the better part of four years, until both graduated in 1963...[and] both went their separate ways." Tom came to Eastern Christian after graduation and was a teacher and High School principal. According to the article, Tom's wife died in 2002 of a malignant spinal tumor, and Jan's husband also passed away. While attending her 40th class reunion at Calvin, Jan found out Tom had been widowed. Jan contacted Tom, and they were married in November 2005. Congratulations, Principal Holwerda!

Former North 4th St 1st Grade teacher, **Rena Jane (Walkotten) Van Hoff** ('36) passed away Oct. 17, 2006. We offer our sympathy to Rena's family and friends.

HERITAGE YEARS

Agnes (Veenstra) Bangma, ('33) passed away on July 12, 2006. Agnes graduated from Calvin College in 1937 and received professional training in dietetics from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. She worked as a dietician at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City prior to her marriage. In 1952, Agnes contracted polio and walked with crutches and a brace. *The Record*



Meeting for lunch in Grand Rapids, MI, EA classmates from the Class of 1939 pictured are (L to R): **Bea (Soodsma) Van Pernis, Clarice (Vande Kreft) Ribbens, Verna Mae Verblaauw Belanus, and George Belanus.**



1938 GRADUATION CLASS - PINE ST. CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, PASSAIC, NJ

1st Row: Ada Wisse, Carolyn Spoelhof, Marion Klapmust, Anna Mae Hornstra, Alida Lyman, Edith Wynbeek; **2nd Row:** Adrian Van Hook, Howard Bowens, George Bos (Principal), Herbert Houseward, Sidney Cooper (?); **3rd Row:** John Wispelwey, Ed De Boer, Ralph Prins, Ed Nyland, John A. Van Genderen, Herbert Bush

Did you Order a 2006 EC Alumni Directory?

Thank you to all of you who filled out and returned your 2006 Alumni Directory Project questionnaires! EC will now have your

up-to-date information for *The Herald*, reunions

and other communications from your *alma mater*.

Thank you also to those who supported the program by purchasing a directory from University Publishing. A limited number of directories are still available for the cost of \$29.00. Send your request with your check (payable to: *ECSA Alumni Directory Program*) and

mail directly to: Eastern Christian School, c/o Directory Program Headquarters, PO Box 1311, Bloomington, IN 47402-1311. Distribution of the published directories is scheduled for late December 2006 or early in January 2007. Contact the EC Development Office (development@easternchristian.org or 973-427-9294) if you have any questions.





1953 alumnus **Dr. Robert Halma** drew this cartoon featuring classmate **Jay Bruinooge** in his retirement years. The cartoon was originally done in color and sent to Jay when Bob learned that he had to retire from his career as a lobster fisherman due to illness. Jay pursued his love of carving and painting duck and shorebird decoys instead. He died in February, 2006 after a long battle with a staph infection.

newspaper stated: "Throughout her life, she was an inspiration to everyone who knew her."

Eastern Academy classmates from the **Class of 1939** met recently for lunch at **Bea (Soodsma) Van Pernis'** home in Grand Rapids. See the photo in this issue.

CLASS OF 1943

Class Rep: Elsie (Stokes) Leesman
71 Cornell Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506-1159
Garret Balanus sent in a class picture of 2nd and 3rd graders from 1934 for the EC archives. Gary adds, "I am hoping and praying a number of my former classmates are still kicking and will write or phone me – I promise a happy reply." Gary's address is 1616 W. Washington Ave., Artesia, NM 88210.

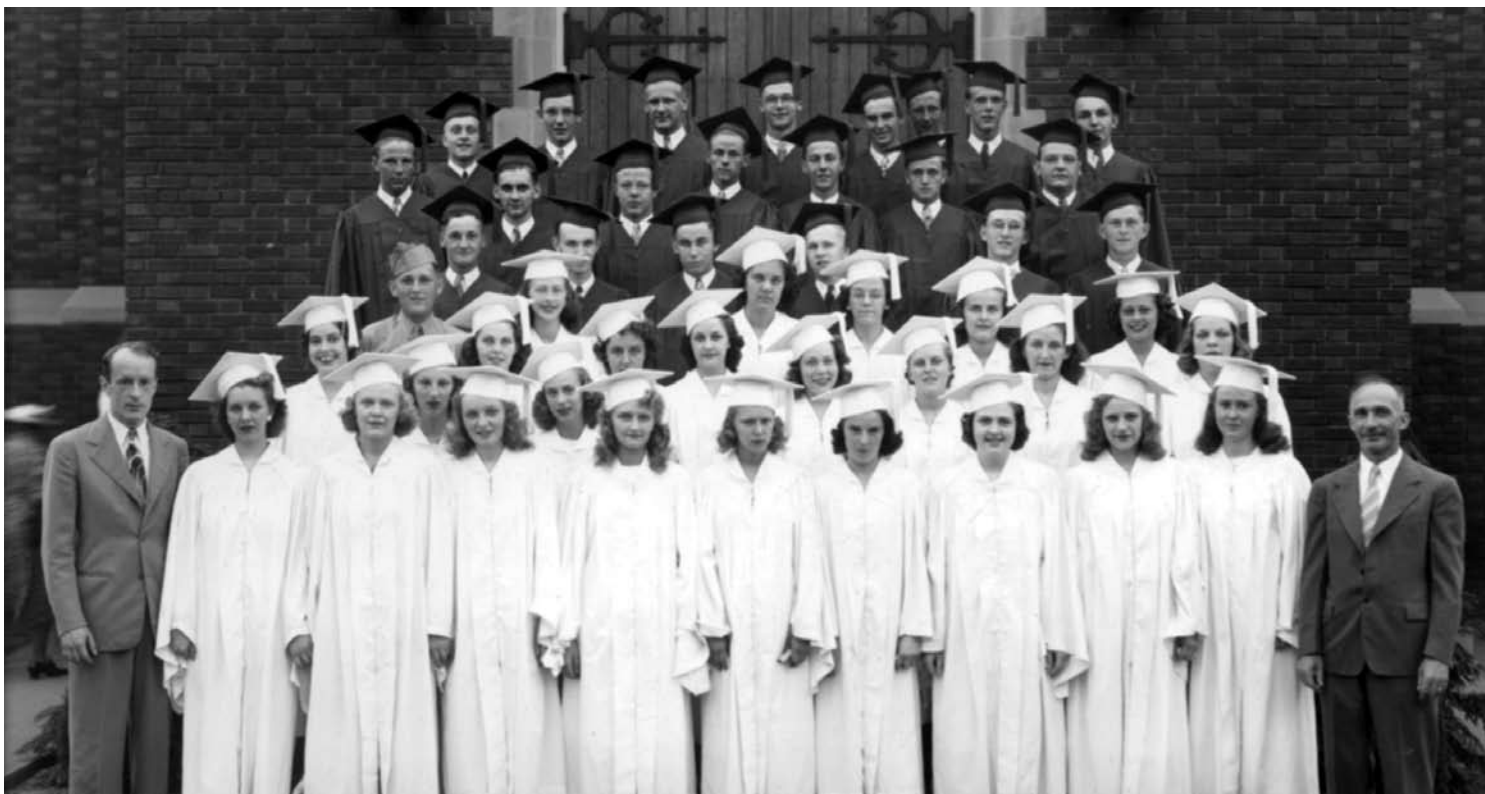
CLASS OF 1953

Class Rep: Phyllis (De Ruiter) Schuurman
54 Park Ave, Garfield, NJ 07026-1431
E-Mail: rschuur435@cs.com

Class Rep **Phyllis Schuurman** sent in the following information about classmate, **Bob Halma**. "Bob Halma is pleased to announce the publication of a Revised and Expanded Version of his earlier co-authored book, *The Poconos – An Illustrated natural History Guide* (Rutgers University Press 1988, 2006). Bob also illustrated the book with numerous pen and ink drawings. Copies will be available through many chain and local bookstores, and the publisher." [See also one of Bob's cartoons of the late **Jay Bruinooge** in this issue.]

CLASS OF 1957

Class Rep: Richard Leentjes
28 Schuler Ave, Waldwick, NJ 07463-1313
Classmates: Can you imagine that in June, 2007 it will be 50 years since we graduated from ECHS? Who is interested in a Class Reunion? Would you be willing to help in planning this event? Your response is needed so that we can begin. Contact **Joe** and **Willy**



1943 EA Graduating Class – Row 1: Kathleen Van Dyk, Anna Jean Teitsma, Marie Broekhuizen, Lois Yeskoo, Marie De Boer, Ruth E. Tanis, Catherine Klopman, Hilda Tuit, Doris G. Vander Plaat, Ruth Bos Boer, Margaret Pontier, John R. Bos (Principal); **Row 2:** Jessie Mae Malefyt, Jemima De Jonge, Marguerite Vander Werf, Margretta Brons, Claire Rienstra, Tina Hartog, Alma Brower, Jeanette Sytsma; **Row 3:** John Van Genderen, Elsie Stokes, Matilda Fridsma, Alice Borduin, Marjorie Drost, Mildred Sisco; **Row 4:** James Veenstra, Albert Postma, Garret M. Belanus, Gerard Van Halsema, Richard P. Meyers Jr., Richard Zuidema; **Row 5:** Henry Rozema, Leonard Dykstra, Richard Rozendale, Garret Voorman, Richard P. Schuurman, Theodore Minnema, Calvin Jones; **Row 6:** Henry Rozema, Nicholas K. Monsma, Gerald John Artsma, Arnold Peter Van Dyk, Richard Butyn, Bernard Haven, William Meines, Theodore H. Monsma

Editor's Note: Thank you to **John Van Genderen** for identifying the members of this class!

Wallendal at jwallendal@earthlink.net or Rich Leentjes at rlnts@aol.com.

CLASS OF 1961

Class Rep: Jerry Hoogerheide

8911 Lake Dr Unit A-201, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920-4260

E-Mail: jrhoog@juno.com

Sheryl (Dykhouse) Borst died peacefully on Friday, October 6, 2006 at her home in Midland Park. Sheryl lived in Midland Park for the past 22 years and worked for Genesis Realty Association in Midland Park as a Realtor for the past 18 years. She was a member of the Hawthorne Gospel Church. As reported in *The Record*, "Surviving is her loving husband of 43 years **H. John Borst, Jr.** ('61), and children: **Jeff H. Borst, Lisa M. Tanis, and Pamela A. Schluter** ('89), and her seven adoring grandchildren."

CLASS OF 1965

Class Rep Needed

Read the article in the Sports Highlights section of this issue about **Bill Kamp's** memories of a "Great Day" in EC baseball history.

CLASS OF 1966

Class Rep: Case De Haan

243 Browning Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07208-1022

E-Mail: nddehaan@aol.com

Class Rep **Case De Haan** sent in the following reunion update: "Class of 1966 has gone digital! You can access updates about many of our classmates at our web site (www.echs1966.org). This Internet site has been developed by our classmate, **Brian Lokker**, whose design studio, *The Antigravity Design*, in Montclair, NJ specializes in web design. The web site includes pictures from our elementary school days, copies of 'The Envoy' in our senior year, pictures and stories from across the USA, and news of our **Reunion on November 11, 2006**. Using the web site, e-mails and cell phones has truly helped to make 2006, the 40th Anniversary of our high school graduation, a lot of fun. It has been a year filled with wonderful memories and a chance to share what God has done in our lives."



The ECHS School Song that was sung after moving to the North Haledon campus.

CLASS OF 1968

Class Rep: Pat (Borduin) Steinginga

11 East Prospect St, Hawthorne, NJ 07506-3758

E-Mail: meamama71@aol.com

Pat Steinginga sent in the following news: "Class of '68 NASCAR fans, take note! This past August, **Rich Sybesma** had an opportunity to be trained and drive a NASCAR at Richmond Motor Speedway. As a rookie with Richard Petty Driver

Training in place, he was able to race around the track at 106mph... not bad for a rookie! For all train buffs, **John Borduin** was licensed for a day to engineer an actual steam locomotive in Essex, CT. His speed was a little lower at 25mph! Both of these experiences were wonderful gifts from their families. Pictures are available if you happen to see these fellows. I'm waiting to hear from more class members about their adventures!"

CLASS OF 1969

Class Rep Needed

Classmate **Jacalyn "Lynn" (Borduin) Faber** passed way on Oct. 1, 2006 after a valiant struggle with cancer. Classmates **Marilyn (Beverluis) De Luccia** and **Linda (De Vries) Vogel** were at the home along with her family members on the Sunday afternoon she passed away. As reported in *The Record*, "Lynn will always be remembered as a person who loved to give parties, enjoyed Bunko, travel and reading. Her generosity, sense of humor and loving spirit will be missed... Beloved wife of thirty-six years to **Jake Faber ('67)**. Mother of **Darlene (Faber) Gillespie ('88)** and **Jacalyn D. Faber ('90)**... daughter of **Helen (Van Abbema) Borduin ('45)** and the late **William Borduin**." Our sympathies are sent to Lynn's family and friends.

CLASS OF 1978

Class Rep: Judy (Fridsma) Vriesema

3075 Kissing Rock Lane, Lowell, MI 49331-9521
E-Mail: jvriesema@calvin.edu

Mercy Godoy sent in the following update to Class Rep **Judy Vriesema**: "Hello Judy - This is Mercy Godoy... I was surfing the net and the Lord brought me to the ECHS website. So many memories!! I just wanted to write you so that you can please add me to your distribution list for future mailings. Also wanted to say hello. I have been living in Miami, FL for the last 17 years. I am happily married and have a 15 1/2 year old son. I work at IBM Corporation and am very happy assisting a VP of this awesome company. We love traveling and thank God we get to do it a lot."

CLASS OF 1979

Class Rep Needed

Diane (Wisse) Greenfield went home to Our Lord on September 27, 2006. As reported in *The Record*, she was "a loving friend, caring neighbor and dedicated nurse to many. Beloved wife of **Russell Greenfield ('79)**. Loving mother of **Kelley ('05)**, **Jenna**, **Rachel** and **Jesse**. Daughter of **Ethel** and **Rev. Donald Wisse ('48)**." We offer our sympathy to Diane's family and friends.

CLASS OF 1982

Class Rep: Patricia (Elzinga) Moschella
3 Mountain Ave, Byram, NJ 07874-3237

E-mail: moschella@juno.com

Reunion Rep: Lisa (Atema) Soodsma

E-Mail: LSoodsma@aol.com

Reunion Rep **Lisa (Atema) Soodsma** reports: "Our 25-year Reunion is being planned for **November 23, 2007**, which is the Friday after Thanksgiving next year. If you are a classmate who has not received an invitation or you have not responded, please contact me by calling 201-447-9372 or e-mail me at the address above as soon as possible."

CLASS OF 1990

Class Rep: Julie (Frens) Stinton

2634 Almont Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507-3908

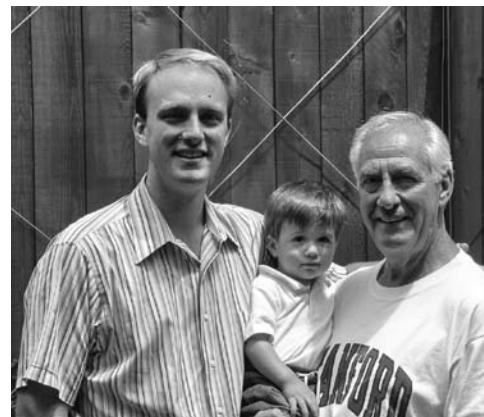
E-Mail: STINTMJ726@aol.com

Sue (Van Heemst) Schulster sent in this update: "Our life as a clergy family is turning into quite a transitory adventure! After spending the last 5 years in Hilltown, PA where my husband, Don Schulster, served as Rector of Good Shepherd Church, we have uprooted once again! Recently Don accepted a call to serve as Associate Priest in Charge of Outreach, Newcomers, and Evangelism (or something like that) at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli, PA. We packed up our two kids, Aidan (4) and Grace (1), and our dog Jack, and moved into the Rectory early in July. Once again I have had to say good-bye to a fantastic job (tour guide at Fonthill Museum in Doylestown, PA), but in the meantime my days are spent taking care of my kids and unpacking, two tasks that are quite never-ending! Interestingly, Don and I both attended "Good Sam" while attending Eastern College (now Eastern University), and they supported us in seminary, so this truly feels like a homecoming for us. Thus begins the next chapter in the Exciting Adventures of the Schulster Family!"

CLASS OF 1992

Class Rep Needed

Parents **Bill** and **Jean Borduin** sent in a family update: "**Wayne Borduin** is with Chevron/Texaco. Since joining Chevron, he and his family have been assigned to work in Singapore, Rio De Janeiro, Texas and now California. You have to be young to make all of these moves!!! We are thankful for Wayne, his wonderful wife Stacie and their



1992 grad **Wayne Borduin** with son **William** and father **William (Bill) Borduin**.

three children. Our entire family continues to be very thankful for ECSA. [Our children] **Renee (Borduin) Boardman ('88)** and **Wayne** have both been blessed by the faculty, the administration and the faithful board. ECSA has prepared our children to meet academic, spiritual and emotional challenges that face each one of us."

CLASS OF 1994

Class Rep: Julie (Bowers) Tilson

9741 East Paseo Del Tornasol Tucson, AZ 85747
E-Mail: Gjtilson@cox.net

Tennille Coba was married on August 26, 2006 to **Bill Rudolph** at Redeeming Love Christian Center in Nanuet, NY. Tennille is a Human Resources Payroll Professional at Crum & Forster Ins. Inc. For more information, visit their wedding webpage www.theknot.com and don't forget to sign their guest book!

CLASS OF 1995

Class Rep: Elizabeth Hoogmoed

100 Pierson Miller Dr Unit E-24, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-1050
E-Mail: ejh810@optonline.net

Rebecca (Dykhouse) Teusink e-mailed, "We welcomed our daughter **Anna Ruth** on Aug. 8, 2006. She joins big brother **Henry** who is 3."

CLASS OF 1996

Class Rep: Rebecca (Aupperlee) Lapinsky
45 N. 16th St, Prospect Park, NJ 07508-2252
E-Mail: Lapinsky@msn.com

Reunion Chair **Marcella (Simon) Vander Eems** sent in this update: The reunion will be held on Saturday, November 25th at Lina's in

Bloomingtondale. Doors open at 6:30pm, cost is \$35 for first person and \$30 for spouse/guest. Any questions, please contact Marcella at: mrstim6_3_00@hotmail.com.

CLASS OF 1997

Class Rep: James Pyrich

Home Page: www.97cc.com

Class Rep **James Pyrich** sent in this e-mail: "Greetings, Class of 1997: Our 10-year reunion is coming up, and we need your input! Please visit the website at <http://www.97cc.com/2007reunion.shtml> or e-mail **James Pyrich** at james@pyrich.com and/or **John King** at johnekingjr@netscape.com."

Jim Mader writes, "Hanneke and I are happy to announce the birth of our second daughter, Julianna Petronella Emma...on March 25, 2006."

Matthew D. Stephan graduated from Westminster Seminary with an M.Div. this past spring. Currently his wife Evie and he are serving as short term missionaries in India. He is also pursuing ordination in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Matt adds, "Classmates can e-mail us at: MattandEvie@funnote.net."



John King is calling all 1997 classmates to contact him or James Pyrich about a possible reunion.

CLASS OF 2000

Class Rep: Janelle (Klaassen) Peters

E-Mail: Bella8262@aol.com

Hyunsun "Sunny" Han is an architect, working at Mistry Design which is a small residential and commercial design firm in Netcong, NJ.

CLASS OF 2001

Class Reps:

Gina Marocco

25 Weldon Ct., Totowa, NJ 07512

Yvonne Wisse

33 Cogswell Ave. Apt. 11, Cambridge, MA 02140

E-Mail: yjwisse@hotmail.com

Congratulations to Christopher and **Kristen (Jacobs) Coakley**, who were married on June 10, 2006 at Faith Community CRC in Wyckoff, NJ. Kristen is the 7th Grade Language Arts teacher at Eastern Christian Middle School. The newlyweds reside in Oak Ridge, NJ.



Mrs. Janet Braen awards the Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship to Deidra Ramoz-Perez for 2006.

on at home, so drop him a note at: tomcat170@optonline.net.

Deidre Ramos-Perez was awarded the Sam Braen Memorial Scholarship for 2006. This award was given by Mrs. Janet Braen and is a scholarship for students who will be attending a 4-year college. *Congratulations!*

Editor's Note: On behalf of the staff of *The Herald*, we offer our apologies to two 2006 graduates, **Hyun-Il Lee** and **Tracey Lattanzio**, whose photos appeared in the summer issue with an incorrect name caption. They are pictured here with the correct names positioned under their photos.

CLASS OF 2002

Class Reps:

Peter Russo

7 Knolls Rd, Bloomingtondale, NJ 07403-1511

E-Mail: Pete779@hotmail.com

Joshua Castano

E-Mail: Joshua.castano@oberlin.edu

Peter De Jong graduated Rutgers University with a BA in political science. On Sept. 8, 2006 he also completed the ROTC program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the US Army. On Oct. 1 Peter started his training as a Chemical Warfare Officer in Ft. Benning, GA. After that he will go to Ft. Lenardwood, MI for Chemical Officer Basic Training.

CLASS OF 2004

Class Rep Needed

Nick Lindemulder is serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. He would love to hear from his classmates. You can write to Nick at: S.A. Nick Lindemulder, 259 High St., South Portland, ME 04106-2028.



Hyun-Il Lee

CLASS OF 2006

Class Rep Needed

Matthew Bouwense recently completed six weeks of Plebe Summer at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. As reported in the NJ newspaper, *Wayne Today*, "This demanding orientation begins four years of preparation for commissioning as Navy or Marine Corps officers. During Plebe Summer, midshipmen assimilate basic skills in seamanship, navigation, infantry drill, shooting, and sailing and also includes a rigorous physical conditioning program." Matt loves to hear what is going



Tracey Marie Lattanzio

Designated Gifts

JUNE 21, 2006 – NOVEMBER 1, 2006

Gifts received after November 1, 2006 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Herald. During this time period, 250 gifts were received or pledged in honor/memory of a loved one or friend. The total amount of these gifts in honor /memory of a loved one or friend was \$14,737.14. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

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& other loved ones**
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(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Irene & Nick Groenewal

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(40th Wedding Anniversary)
PSEG Matching Gift

Laura Carey
(8th Birthday)
The Shurminskys

Jeanette & William Faber
(60th Wedding Anniversary)
Jack & Shirley Faber
Charlotte & Andy Elzinga
Edna & John Christensen
Edna R. Thomas

Frank Fisher
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Kristin & John Sellers
Fisher, Holland & Ryder Sellers
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PSEG Matching Gift

Joan Houskamp
(70th Birthday)
William Allman
Corene De Graaf

Margaret Keyser
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Lois M. Veenstra

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Wilma Dykhouse
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William & Jessie Martin
John & Doris Dyk
Marie Meenen
Irene & Nick Groenewal
Mel & Marilyn Veenema

Richard & Carol Kuiken
(40th Wedding Anniversary)
PSEG Matching Gift

Jay & Marty Kuiper
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Irene & Nick Groenewal
Ken & Ruth Tanis

J. Arthur Larson
(90th Birthday)
A Friend

Richard & Ann Meyer
(60th Wedding Anniversary)
John & Doris Dyk
Betty Jean Meyer Kacos

Diane Monterisi
(50th Birthday)
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Jacob & Betty Tolsma

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(95th Birthday)
Corene De Graaf

Mel & Marilyn Veenema
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Paul & Alberta De Blaey
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Albert & Janet Visbeen

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