



# THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

WINTER/SPRING  
VOL. 45 - ISSUE 1



## TAKING TIME TO COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

THE BLESSINGS OF DEDICATED TEACHERS ✦ ENGAGING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES  
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OTHERS ✦ A DIVERSE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY



ECHS News  
PAGE 6



EC Sports  
PAGE 11



ECMS News  
PAGE 12



ECES News  
PAGE 15

# Blessings

TAKING TIME TO COUNT

## It's a Blessing to be a Teacher at EC

By June Roukema Oosting, ECMS Spec. Ed. Teacher



Counting our Blessings" – This is a topic that we should continuously reflect upon throughout our lives. When we are young we sing the refrain, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, and see what God has done."

One of the blessings that God has bestowed upon me is the opportunity to work as a Special Education Teacher at Eastern Christian Middle School. As an employee of Bergen County Special Services the role that I serve at ECMS is varied. At present, I meet with 78 students per week in small groups. My students have a variety of needs. Some students receive basic skill instruction determined on the basis of classroom performance, or the result of standardized testing in reading, writing and math. Other students receive support instruction according to their learning needs/differences. I also meet with English as a Second Language students for individual evaluation for small group instruction in listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Can I count my blessings? To start with, I can name 78 individual students, each of whom is a blessing to me, plus the staff at Bergen County Special Services and ECMS. In addition, I would count my family as well as my community as blessings and the list could go on and on.... But ultimately all of these blessings begin and end with our God – He is faithful. In His divine providence He has blessed me with the unique privilege (as an employee of Bergen County Special Services) to serve the students of ECMS. I am still singing that song!

## The Blessings and Challenges of a Diverse Community

During January and February this year, many learning experiences and assemblies focused on engaging students in studying the past to better understand diversity in our culture and how to act in the present to improve that understanding.

Students in EC Elementary School participated in several chapels to celebrate "Black History Month." (See the ECES articles in this issue.) Students in EC Middle and High Schools were privileged to watch the performance of a group of women called "Seven Quilts for Seven Sisters" who shared their heritage and religious beliefs through folklore, skits, quilts and songs. They showed the students how their stories were stitched into patterns on quilts to pass on their history to future generations. According to one of the sisters, Phyllis Walker, they came to share with students "the joys of sisterhood but the sorrows of slavery and its influence in the art of quilt making" as they took them "back to the time of their cultured ancestors" in the presentations of "A Stitch in Time."



## ECES Chapels are a Source of Blessing

Excerpts from Principal Richard Van Yperen's "Notes" in two issues of the EC Elementary "Home Bulletin" distributed each Friday



Each weekly Home Bulletin message I write has its origin in a deep sense of thankfulness for the high calling I feel for the mission of Christian Education in Eastern Christian Schools. Daily, my spirit thrills as I see God blessing students and staff. ECES is a great school because we value truth and the joy which accompanies it, because parents are honored as full partners in the education and growth of every student, and because students are instilled with a sense of confidence which comes from understanding that each person is uniquely gifted in the image of God.

This week's inspiring chapel [honoring veterans] affirms that the partnership we have with great parents truly is about shaping values. It is a blessing to worship with your child each week in our Wednesday chapel.

"I am convinced that great parenting is all about influence. It is more about shaping values than it is about setting boundaries."  
-- Erwin Raphael McManus, *Seizing Your Divine Moment*, pg. 121





# Contents

THE *Herald*

WINTER/SPRING 2005  
VOL. 45 ~ ISSUE 1

**EDITOR**

Gail B. Beverly

**BOARD PRESIDENT**

Richard Kuder

**HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Jan A. Lucas

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Florence Nieuwenhuis

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Richard Van Yperen

**ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR**

Janyce Bandstra

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Mark Lucas

**WRITER/EDITOR'S ASSISTANT**

Beth Milkamp

**DESIGN**

Yellow House Graphic Design  
www.yellowhousedesign.com

**PRINTER**

Lont & Overkamp  
Prospect Park, NJ

**VALUE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2~5**

*Remembering Teachers*



**6 ~ 10 ECHS NEWS**

*Academic and Creative Opportunities*

**EC SPORTS 11**

*Winter Highlights*



**12 ~ 14 ECMS NEWS**

*Blessings Abound*

**ECES NEWS 15 ~ 16**

*Special Chapels Enhance Learning*



**16 ~ 18 ECSA NEWS**

*Financial Updates and Faithful Supporters*

**ALUMNI NEWS 19 ~ 24**

*Class News and Reunions*



**25 ~ 27 DESIGNATED GIFTS**

*In Honor and In Memory*

**ABOUT THE COVER**

Pictured is a scene from a question and answer session with a special speaker on diversity, **Mr. Clarence Shuler**. He spent time with the 4th grade students and teachers **Carol Byma, Kristin Vander Pyl** and **Holly Turner** after participating in their chapel service. See the article in the ECES section of this issue.

**The Herald** is the magazine for alumni, parents and friends of Eastern Christian School published three times per year. The mailing address for Eastern Christian School Association is: 50 Oakwood Ave, North Haledon, NJ 07508-2449. To reach us by phone, call 973-427-6244 or 973-427-9294. Eastern Christian School's e-mail address for the Development Office is: [development@easternchristian.org](mailto:development@easternchristian.org). Our web site address is: [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org).

Letters, articles, artwork, and color or black & white photos are welcome for possible inclusion in The Herald. Art and photos will be returned when a SASE is included. Send all correspondence regarding publication to: Editor, The Herald at the address listed above.

All Address Changes, Alumni News items, and Memorial or Honor gifts should be sent to the attention of the ECSA Development Office at the address above. Items for Alumni News should be identified by class year.

Eastern Christian School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools and is a member of Christian Schools International. Reproduction of **The Herald** in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

# Some of the Reasons We Send Our Children to Eastern Christian School

PRESENTED BY EC BOARD MEMBER DAVID VISBEEN AT PREAKNESS VALLEY UNITED REF. CHURCH  
ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY, FEB. 27, 2005

I want to thank you for welcoming EC student singers Sarah and Andrew Davidson and me to your worship service today. This congregation has a long history of supporting EC with students, faculty members, and finances. For each of those, we are very grateful.

Today, we are here to celebrate **Christian Education Day**. Some might be expecting me to tell you why all of you should send your children to Christian school, but that would be presumptuous of me. I thought the best thing I could do this morning would be to tell you some of the reasons we send our children to a Christian school.

We live in Midland Park, where our schools have large blue ribbons plastered to the outside of the buildings. Many of our neighbors moved to Midland Park, specifically for the quality education our town can offer their families. And yet we don't send our children to the local schools. We send them to ECSA.

I have a fairly well rounded knowledge of EC. You see, I graduated from ECHS about 30 years ago, I have served on the education committee for 6 years, and I am just finishing my 3rd year on the Board of Directors. My home is next door to the EC Elementary School, my wife has taught in various positions at EC for about 20 years, and I currently have a 10th grader and a 6th grader attending ECSA. I think you could say I have an intimate knowledge of Eastern Christian.

Our children are getting an incredible education, but they could probably get most of those same classes in Midland Park. What they can't get in Midland Park are the *teachers* they have now. During devotions with the EC High School faculty a few months ago, I told them I always thought my wife was "the world's greatest teacher" and one of a kind. But in the 12 years my children have been attending EC, I have met many others just like her. They are:

- **Gifted individuals** who see their work as a calling to ministry in the Kingdom of Christ.
- **Teachers who model Christ** to my children and openly share their love for Him every day in the classroom.



ECHS Teacher Adam Culp (left) coordinates chapels with a focus on student involvement.

- **Teachers who meet together and pray for my children** before school begins.
- **Teachers who are not just teaching reading, math, and history; they are teaching my children that every subject falls under the Lordship of Christ.**

Abraham Kuiper said, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" I believe that he also coined the phrase "Christian world and life view." Providing excellent education with a Christian world and life view isn't just part of the mission statement at EC; it is reality in the classrooms. And my children are getting it! In the best of Reformed tradition, they are beginning to understand that they have a responsibility to take what they are learning and use it to change the world around them -- to transform culture.

Our children are at Eastern Christian School because **EC is not only engaging their minds, but EC is transforming their spirits, and beginning to renew their generation.** I thank God every day that EC is available to my children and to yours. Having our children at EC is a huge commitment, but we don't think of it as an expense. We think of it as an **investment in their future.**

**Celebrating the Blessings of Diversity** While recognizing the challenges of understanding differences of cultural expectations, we celebrate all of the people who gather daily in our building as a unified community of God. The combination of diversity and unity is mirrored in both the ECHS faculty and the student body.



ECHS teachers Spanish teacher Claudia Freire, computer education teacher Ji Young Kim, media center coordinator Damaris Nganga, math teacher Nathan Minchen, Spanish/Psychology teacher Saribel Aguirre, and history teacher Jena Cooksey



ECHS students Esley Tate, Krystle Ajaegbu, Matt Milkamp, Michael Vega, Mie Hea Park, and Alex Ratcliffe-Lee

## Reflecting on Blessings at ECHS

### DAILY FACULTY DEVOTIONS & PRAYERS FOR STUDENTS



ECHS Teacher Pat Fish shares the poem “No Wonder” by Rosie Perera/ThM, with faculty members at daily faculty devotions. The poem was used as the foundation of a devotion urging us to take the time to recognize God’s blessings. One of the significant ways God blesses us is through our students. As a recognition of that blessing, the faculty intentionally prays for each student throughout the school year. Pictured with Mrs. Fish (center) are: art teacher Stacy Wieringa, biology teacher Amanda Mulder, Bible teacher Jack Wilson, and social studies/humanities teacher Paul Beverly.

### STUDENTS LEAD CLASSROOM DEVOTIONS EACH MORNING

Right after the 8:20 AM bell rings to begin the school day, students participate in leadership roles through leading Block One devotions. Students act as spiritual leaders for their block one classes as they regularly share thoughts, prayers, and blessings with their classes and teachers. Teachers frequently acknowledge that often these opportunities provide them with significant personal faith affirmation. Students are blessings to their teachers! Pictured are: Alison Troast, Lauren DeJong, Kristina Barbuto, Sharon Jackson, Suzanne Tarta, Philip Beverly, and Jenna Hulsebos



### FACULTY TEAM MEETINGS FOSTER GROWTH



Weekly faculty team meetings provide small group interaction and opportunities for spiritual and professional growth. Phil Verrengia, team leader, meets weekly with other team leaders and the principal to prioritize components of our Strategic Plan and to determine agendas for the small group meetings. One of the greatest blessings for the group is the opportunity to voice spiritual gifts that they have observed in the Seniors. Pictured are: business teacher Sue Noyes, English/ESL teacher Cyndi Adair, social studies teacher Josh Egedy, English teacher Steve Tuit, Spanish/psychology teacher Saribel Aguirre, Bible teacher Pat Fish, and chemistry/physics teacher Phil Verrengia

### PRINCIPAL’S ADVISORY TEAM IS A BLESSING



The Student Advisory Group (Didi Ramos-Perez, Elisabeth Scarpa, Dominic Rivera, and Kelley Greenfield), a focus group from the Strategic Planning Team, brings a student perspective to development and implementation of the Strategic Plan. The group, which meets biweekly with Middle States Internal Coordinator Marla Stout and

Principal Jan Lucas, is a vital and stimulating blessing to the school.

### STUDENT COMMUNICATORS PLAY A KEY ROLE



One of the evidences of the Student Advisory Group’s efforts is the implementation of third block student communicators. Brielle Ocot, one of the communicators, shares announcements with her Block Three class. Student communicators are more than readers of announcements; they review school rules and procedures, encourage participation in school projects that support others, and connect students to administrative concerns. Pictured are: Communicator Brielle Ocot (standing),

Nathanael Klein, Jay Everett, Peter DeVos, Keith Spoelstra, Jon Muzikowski, and Ray Torbet

## A Modern Expression of Taking Time to Reflect on Our Blessings

SHARED IN FACULTY DEVOTIONS BY  
ECHS BIBLE TEACHER PAT FISH

Editor’s Note from *Et Cetera*, a publication by Regent College: This is a villanelle, a strict poetic form requiring the repeated use of the first and third lines as alternating final lines in subsequent stanzas and then both lines closing the sixth stanza. In this example, the poet achieves surprising layers of meaning through her punctuation.

### No Wonder

No time to notice and thank God I’m blessed.  
No joy, no passion, no desire to pray,  
no wonder. I am always feeling stressed.

My calendar’s too full, and I’m obsessed  
with my to-do list, what I have to buy, ...  
No time to notice and thank God I’m blessed.

To visit all the Internet’s my quest.  
I put chores off that I should do today.  
No wonder I am always feeling stressed!

I know this way of life is not the best,  
that I should really take a Sabbath. *Sigh...*  
*no time.* — To notice and thank God I’m blessed

would lift my heart and give me needed rest,  
and draw me nearer God who waits for me.  
“No wonder? I AM. Always, feeling,” stressed

my all-forgiving Lord, once I’d confessed.  
Shall I keep muddling through life this way?  
No! Time to notice and thank God I’m blessed,  
and wonder: I am always *feeling* (stressed).

by Rosie Perera, ThM 7/27/04

Reprinted with permission

## Tributes to Mr. Bangma Sent by Alumni:

Dear Joy Vanderwerff [daughter] and Fred Lanting [nephew],

My sisters, Lois Turello and Ruth Brain, told me the sad news that Mr. B died on November 24, 2004. I was a member of the class of 1957. I want you and your family to know that Mr. B was the most important and influential teacher in my life during my high school years. He is also someone I considered as a lifelong friend. We continued to correspond intermittently over the years, I have a letter from him as recently as a year or two ago.... (See web click article) – Joseph Brain, Harvard University

### EULOGY FOR SIDNEY BANGMA

Delivered December 13, 2004

BY PHILP VERRENGIA,  
ECHS SCIENCE TEACHER

I would like to thank the family for the opportunity to speak this evening. This is *truly* an honor for me to speak about such a special person, Mr. Bangma. At the same time, it is very humbling experience. In fact, it is one of two very humbling experiences in my life. The first was back in the summer of 1980, when I received my first teaching contract from Eastern Christian High School. The bold print words "Teacher of Chemistry" made me think immediately of Mr. Bangma. I remember thinking, "How can I ever replace Eastern Christian's 'finest teacher'". The second experience occurred two weeks ago when his family asked me to deliver this eulogy. I felt a bit like Moses standing before the burning bush wondering, "Where will I get the words to speak of such an extraordinary person?" But how does one pass up such a great privilege? So this evening, I stand here humbled, but at the same time honored, to speak about our colleague, dear friend, and teacher Sidney Bangma....

## "Mr. B": A Beloved Advocate of Christian Education

BY DAUGHTER JUDI (BANGMA) VOS (CL. OF '66)

On November 24, 2004, ECSA lost one of its greatest advocates. Alumnus of Eastern Academy and long time EC math and science teacher **Sidney Bangma** died at the Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff. He was 92.

Born to Dutch immigrant parents in Passaic, New Jersey, on October 20, 1912, Mr. Bangma finished high school at Eastern Academy in 1930. He continued his education at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, where he completed his undergraduate studies in math and chemistry in 1934. A firm believer that one's education is never over, he enjoyed post-graduate studies at New York University, earning a master's degree in mathematics in 1949. As a recipient of a variety of National Science Foundation summer school scholarships, he continued his lifelong learning at Cornell, Rochester and the University of Minnesota.

In 1930, while at Calvin College, he met Esther Houseman. This led to a lifelong love affair. They were married in June, 1936. Their marriage was blessed with three children: Joy Vanderwerff ('55), Jim ('63), and Judi Vos ('66). Sidney and Esther celebrated 50 years of marriage, and their love for each other was a powerful testimony of God's grace.

In 1938, after working for four years as a chemist, Mr. B. began a 39 year commitment, teaching hundreds of young people science and math and by example, how to walk a loving Christian life. His first extra-curricular task was coaching baseball, the qualifications for which he admittedly learned from his players. Other activities included operating the school bookstore, advising the Stamp Club, the Photography Club, Echoes yearbook sponsor and bagel sales.

Lovingly dubbed Mr. B by his students, his nickname became known even to the driving community around Eastern Christian. In the 1950s, his students pulled strings with Monmouth County officials to obtain a personalized license plate before the era of vanity plates. The black and orange plate read MR 38 B (38 for the year he began at EC). Mr. B later replaced that plate with one that read Mr. B 5 ("5" for his room number at the high school and the number of family members). That plate stayed with the car until he gave up driving in 2001.

Following retirement, he enjoyed traveling with Esther, crossing the country repeatedly to keep up with their family and friends. His other passions included collecting stamps, reading literature of all kinds, doing crossword puzzles, working with wood and whittling. The toys, games, carvings, and household decorations he produced in his basement workshop will remain cherished possessions for the many who received them as gifts. His intercessory prayers were treasured by many. He continued a ministry of letter writing until arthritis prevented it.

As a former student said, he was an inspiration, "teaching formally and informally, how to love and to enjoy life." Students appreciated his ability to make them laugh, writing encouraging notes on tests, inspiring confidence. They saw his patience and his willingness to be available all day to students, including lunch hour, and his enthusiasm for the subjects he taught. A student wrote at the time of his retirement, "God has given him love, and he automatically gives to everyone." Another former student recalled visiting several years after graduating, to get a refresher in chemistry so she could begin a career in nursing. Mr. Bangma took great pleasure in following the lives of former students; conversely, former students returned to him for visits, remaining friends throughout his life. Those visits were especially gratifying during his last years in the Christian Health Care Center.

Mr. B. served Christ faithfully. He dedicated his life to God, his family and the community that is Eastern Christian. He lived to know 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. In all circumstances, he gave testimony to God's great goodness and faithfulness. Even in failing health he gave humble praises to the Source of all blessings, and now he is lifted up in glory to join that great cloud of witnesses.



Go to <http://www.easternchristian.org> to read the full story.



Sidney Bangma (bottom left) pictured with daughter Judi (bottom right) and her family.

The *Blessings* of Dedicated Teachers

# A Tribute To Clarence Rosendale

BY DAUGHTER KATHY (ROSENDALE) TANIS (CL. OF '71)

As my dad, Clarence Rosendale, and I compared notes and memories during the last weeks and days of his life, thoughts of the Eastern Christian Family entered into the discussion many times.



Eastern Christian always played an important part in my dad's life. Even as a teenager attending Eastern Academy, important occasions of his life took place. He described to me how he would arrive at school everyday in the back of a milk truck. It wasn't until his sophomore year that EC purchased their first bus. It was also at Eastern Academy where my dad met my mother, Clara Ackerman. While they knew each other through school, they did not date until after he served in the Army during World War II.

In 1955, my dad began his 30-year teaching career at Eastern Christian High School. His classes included typing, bookkeeping and office practice. Dad described how his first year of teaching was particularly difficult, especially following in the footsteps of a beloved teacher, Mr. Dobbelaar. Dad always remembered that his homeroom students were so loving and caring that they made his first year easier.

During his last days, dad often wondered how many students had learned to type in the classes he had taught. He believed that typing was an important life skill. For a few years he even gave up his prep period so that another class of typing could be put in the schedule. At the time of his teaching, little did dad realize the important role that computers and "keyboarding" would play in our present lives.

Dad also was in charge of the EC Bookstore. Early in the morning, the bookstore became a busy place. Not only could you buy supplies and gym clothes, but also there was socializing, tutoring and free advice, always provided by my father. In the summer dad would inventory the books. After checking their condition, dad would tape and glue the books to repair them so that the books could be used another year or two. True to our Dutch heritage, his goal was always to keep the costs down.

My dad loved teaching at EC. He never complained about working and never once said that he didn't want to go to work, right up to the day he retired. He had a wonderful work ethic – one that we should all adopt if we haven't already done so.

My father thanked God to be blessed with a great life, great students, great colleagues and a job he loved. In return, God made him a blessing to others.

## Survey Responses Celebrate Christian Education's Value

*"[There are] not enough words to describe how much a Christian education has meant to me and how thankful I am that God has enabled us to provide the same education for our children. To be surrounded by God's love every minute of the day and to see God in every subject enables us to live in this world fully equipped to serve Him and others. To see spiritual growth and Christian maturity in our children through home instruction and the influence of Christian teachers is truly a joy.*

*Eastern Christian is not only an institution of learning, but also a community of believers which supports and prays for one another. To be a member of this community has truly been a blessing to our family. We continue to feel the love and prayers from others."* **Beverly Den Hollander, '72**

*"I will be graduating from Oral Roberts University in May 2005. My Christian education has been extremely influential in my daily life and Christian walk."* **Bill Tokarski, '01**

*"We are still reaping the benefits of Christian education, passed on by dedicated Christian staff, as we meet the world's challenges every day."* **Phyllis (De Ruiter) Schuurman, '53**

*"We thank God for our Christian schools, teachers, bus drivers and staff. We are also blessed to have our grandchildren in the system at this time."* **Fred Struyk, EC grandparent**

*"My beautiful wife and I will be graduating from our second year at Word of Life Bible Institute in August 2005. After that we are looking to the Lord's leading for service for Him."* **David Drenth, '67**

*"As parents we are grateful for the blessings of EC. God has blessed our children through their education at EC. I am privileged to serve EC as a substitute teacher. I receive such a blessing from that."* **Sharon (Borduin) Van Der Heide, '75**

*"What a blessing it has been and continues to be for our sons to be taught by such Godly men and women!"* **Judy (Zeeuw) Wilson, '78**

*"It was a wonderful education. I still remember chapels and the Christ centered teachers who helped us through!"* **Lizabeth (Cooper) Corcoran, '80**

*"I have always been thankful my parents sacrificed and sent me to 'EA' and for my children's Christian education."* **Susan (Sonderfan) Schuyler, '49**

*"Three of our children attended ECHS – we were very pleased with their education. We will continue to contribute to EC whenever possible."* **Louis and Thelma Negretti, Past Parents**

*"Christian education is priceless. I can never thank my parents enough for the sacrifices they made for me."* **Patricia (De Graaf) Keifman, '77**

*"As a result of my Christian Education, we are supporting our grandchildren's Christian Education in Kalamazoo, MI. We believe in this Christ centered approach to education."* **Marilyn (Eichhorn) Myers '60**

*"I value Christian Education highly and thank God for the excellent education that I received at EC. My parents, Rev. Charles and Elizabeth Spoelhof, were educated there (Riverside Christian and Amity St. Christian). Our three sons are graduates of EC and now three of our grandchildren are being educated there. Praise be to God!"* **Roberta (Spoelhof) Bruinooge, '46**

*"My education was invaluable!"* **Gay (Garehan) Redcay '66**

# “I Never Saw Another Butterfly”

## ECHS FALL PLAY PROGRAM NOTES



Cast members (Left to Right): Samantha Nathan (Ericka/Eva), Laura Anfang (Gabriela), Deanna Cirino (Raja), and Erin Balkema (Irca/Ruth)

“From 1942-1945 over 15,000 Jewish children passed through Terezin, a former military garrison set up as a ghetto. It soon became a station, a stopping-off place, for hundreds of thousands on their way to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. When Terezin was liberated in May,

1945, only about one hundred children were alive to return to what was left of their lives, their homes and their families. The story of those years at Terezin remains in drawings and poems collected and published in the book, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*.

The appendix to *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* briefly notes the names of the children, the dates of their birth and transportation to Terezin. For most of the children whose work appears in the book, the brief biography ends, perished at Auschwitz.... But one child, *Raja Englanderova*, after the liberation, returned to Prague. This play is an imaginative creation of her story from poems, diaries, letters, journals, drawing and pictures.”



The Cast of “I Never Saw Another Butterfly”



Sam Dykstra (“Bullfrog”) encourages C.J.Barrett (“Ugly”) in a scene from the spring musical.

His Christian Anderson’s classic children’s fable came to life in such a playful and pun-filled way that the audience of children and adults, as well as the cast and crew, all enjoyed several wonderful shows this spring. A total of 52 ECHS students worked together for 2 months to tell this tale of a duckling named “Ugly” (C.J. Barrett) and his search for acceptance for who he was. The cast of characters that he encounters includes his four sister ducklings, “Beaky,” (Laura Anfang) “Fluff” (Brooke Veenstra) “Downy” (Sara Troast) and “Billie” (Sara Davidson), who ignore or ridicule him; his father “Drake” (Stephen Silbernagel) who can’t deal with his different looks; and his mother “Ida,” (Jenna Hulsebos) who stands by his side from birth and goes on a quest to find him when he is lured away by the sinister “Cat” (Matthew O’Koren).

As he tries to find his way home and keep away from schemes of “Cat” to coax him into the frying pan, “Ugly” encounters “Dot” (Erin Balkema) and “Greylag” (Sam Dykstra), the goose general who commands his “troops” to fly on a mission to find the duckyard (without really knowing where he is going), “Queenie” (Deanna Cirino) and “Lowbutt” (Kristina Winters) who never want to venture out beyond the comfort of their sofa, and “Penny” (Taylor Vooy) who recognizes that he is *not* a duck and invites him to fly south with her family.

When “Ugly” starts molting and becomes very discouraged, “Bullfrog” (Sam Dykstra) complains about having a “human in his throat!” but assures him that “out there someone’s gonna love ya, warts and all.” Just when mother “Ida” has almost lost all hope of rescuing “Ugly” in the midst of a twirling snowstorm of snowflake dancers, “Ugly” suddenly revives and breaks out of the snow as a full-grown swan (in an all-white tuxedo!). He is reunited with his family and the other duckyard animals who now see him for who he really is. The most beautiful duck on the pond, “Grace” (Sharon Jackson), crowns him “King of the Pond” with a signet (cygnet!) ring of ribbon, as the orchestra and cast musically dance to the moral of the story that makes the point: “It is what’s inside that counts!”

## Collages

done by ECHS Seniors were based on the collage style art of **Romare Bearden** (an African-American artist in the 20th century). Students visited an exhibit of his work at the Whitney Museum of American Art in conjunction with their study of the 20th century. The collages students created represented Biblical themes, social justice themes, literary themes, etc.



“Wild Fire” by Jenna Schwartz: This collage shows the tension during the 60’s between African Americans, who were fighting for their rights, and people of Caucasian descent who were content with things as they were, paying little attention to the needs of African Americans.



“In the Beginning” by Jenna Hulsebos: This collage displays a variety of God’s beautiful creations. It is a picture of the world on the seventh day, when God saw all that he had made and decided it was very good.

The *Blessing* of Serving Others

# ECHS Students Raise Over \$10,000 for Tsunami Relief

BY ECHS SENIOR MIKE POSTMA

*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

1 John 3:17-18

The earthquake and tsunamis that hit Southeast Asia have left so much damage that it's hard to comprehend. When I originally heard about the disaster and heard how many people were initially killed I was stunned. My first reaction was that I heard the number wrong. The estimated number of people killed the first day was staggering and hard to grasp. As the days went on and the numbers grew it never lost its shock effect.



National Honor Society Team Leaders: Ka-Young Kim, Stephanie Siegel, Deanna Cirino, Brielle Ocot, and Erin Balkema with ECHS Principal Jan Lucas. (Not pictured: Mike Postma)

As Americans, we are some of the wealthiest people in the world and have been blessed with so much. After seeing the destruction caused by the tsunami and the horrible conditions left for those people, several EC students felt it was important to do a service project. The six small group leaders in National Honor Society met with supervisors Mr. Beverly and Miss Schuurman the first week after Christmas break. We decided that it would be awesome to have a pledge drive to raise money for the tsunami victims. After looking into several organizations collecting money we chose to donate the money to *Samaritan's Purse*. They were giving 100% of all monies donated directly to the tsunami relief efforts. We set a high, yet what we considered an attainable goal for our school: **\$10,000**. Posters were put up around school and announcements made about the start of the pledge drive.

We started collecting money on Tuesday, January 11. Students and faculty could come to the table set up at lunch and either donate or pledge money, which they would bring in at a later date. Hanging outside the cafeteria on the wall was a "Thermometer," which recorded the daily amounts collected. Many students got involved and helped raise a good deal of money. But after a week, at the rate we were going, there was no way we were going to reach our goal.

Then something really exciting happened! An Eastern Christian student was discussing our pledge drive with someone that this student knew. The student was told that if the high school could raise \$1,000 in one day (Friday, January 21), this person would double it and donate \$2,000. We made an announcement about the big upcoming day while in chapel to inform the entire student body of this exciting new opportunity. In the preceding eight days of the pledge drive we had raised approximately \$3000. Lunchtime on Friday was an exciting time. Many, many students and teachers came to donate money. In our thirty-minute lunch period we were able to raise over \$2900! The anonymous donor decided to donate \$3000 instead of \$2000, making our total collection that day nearly \$6000! In the few days following, the school was able to reach and exceed our goal by raising a total of **\$10,120**.

Throughout the Bible, God tells us He can use any gift given with a grateful and cheerful heart for his will. I believe that God will use the money raised to help the work of *Samaritan's Purse* over in Southeast Asia. Thanks to all the students, faculty, and parents who willingly gave up their money to benefit those who are less fortunate than we are. May we continue to pray for those people hurt by the tsunamis, as well as for the relief workers over there.

## Christmas Festival – An Opportunity to Serve Our Community

BY ECHS SENIOR JENNA HULSEBOS

The hallways of Eastern Christian High School were filled with smiles and excitement as students from School 16 arrived at our school on December 3, 2004. About 160 first and second grade students from School 16 in Paterson visited our school for a day of holiday celebration, which everyone in the high school has come to know as the Christmas Festival.

This day has become a tradition for high school students and faculty to start off the Christmas season in a spirit of giving. We all joined together to decorate the school and organize fun activities for the children, including an exciting assembly, face painting, and cookie decorating. A majority of the high school students were paired with students from Paterson to have lunch together and accompany them to the various planned activities.

At the end of the day, every first or second grader was given a Christmas gift from an EC student, which some of them would not have received at home. It was a lot of fun to walk through the hallways while students gave their presents and see the joy in the faces of both the younger children and the EC students as well. I could tell that many of them were having a great time enjoying the gift with their child, whether it was having a football pass in the hallway or racing their new remote control cars. As a result, I think many of the students and faculty at Eastern Christian realized the meaning of how it is more blessed to give than receive.

The Christmas Festival was truly a blessing to not only those from School 16, but also to those of us at ECHS who had the opportunity to share a small portion of our time and money to reach out to others in our community. We hope that through our service to those at School 16, we were able to show the true meaning of Christmas and reflect the joy that Christ's birth brings to us.



Science Teacher Amanda Mulder entertains a group of School #16 students.



Coordinators of this year's Festival (L to R): Juniors Mary Tolsma and Lauren Bruins with Seniors Annette Kuperus and Jenna Hulsebos.

# Professional Growth: Working Toward Middle States Goals in Communication and Technology

## Teachers Share Portfolios to Encourage Learning



In small group team meeting and informal discussions, teachers review one another's portfolios. This review encourages development of learning strategies for students, suggests new academic approaches for both the originator and the reader of the portfolio, and presents a time to celebrate teaching gifts. Throughout people's careers, they find it helpful to reflect upon accomplishments and professional practice in order to ensure that they are making progress toward their goals. Teachers also find such reflection helpful. In the photo Stacy Wieringa (center) shares her portfolio with Paul Beverly and Jack Wilson.

## "Best Practice" Portfolios Record Challenges and Successes for Teachers



## National Writing Consultant Provides Inspiration

Mary Ellen Ledbetter, a national writing consultant, presented a stimulating day's in-service for teachers. Faculty members left the in-service with writing prompts, ideas and opportunities for all disciplines.

## Teacher Explains Writing Standards to Students



Rubrics are used to produce consistent standards as we target our communication goals. English teacher Agnes Fisher explains the writing rubric to students (L to R) Ian Dykstra, Alex Ratcliffe-Lee and Ashleigh Patterson and encourages them to use the rubric as a tool for revising their papers.



## Teachers Help Teachers Tackle Technology

After ECHS teacher Meghann Persenaire (right) instructs the full faculty in the intricacies of using an electronic grade book, first-year teacher Josh Egedy (standing) explains the complexities of the Easy Grade Pro software to veteran teacher Joel Apol (center). He then is able to help another veteran teacher, Manny Lindemulder (left), electronically process her progress reports.

# Special Summer Programs Expand Learning



Pictured (L to R) are: *Xiomara Robinson, Philomena Mazza-Hilway, and Ashley Anderson*

*In order to encourage other students to think about participating in these exciting opportunities, three ECHS students offered the following comments about their learning experiences last summer.*

## CALVIN COLLEGE ENTRADA SCHOLARS PROGRAM:

*“Calvin College’s Entrada program (Spanish for “gateway”) is an exceptional summer academic achievement program designed to give high school juniors and seniors real college experience while they earn college credit. This program is available to North American ethnic minority students who are serious about their academics. Entrada provides the opportunity to take college courses with current students, coached by a mentor who assists them in their transition to living and learning. Weekend and evening programs throughout the four weeks also allow students to develop personally, spiritually, and socially.”* (Quoted from Calvin College’s informational letter about *Entrada*)

### What was the best thing about your experience?

**Xiomara Robinson:** I was able to meet a lot of new people. The best thing about being in *Entrada* was being out of the state and being able to experience what it would be like to go to college.

**Ashley Anderson:** Getting to know people from a variety of backgrounds was my favorite part of the *Entrada* program.

### Did you learn anything about yourself that surprised you?

**Xiomara:** I learned that I was more outgoing than I thought I was. In the *Entrada* program, I only went with one of my friends, so I learned that I can make good friends in a short time.

**Ashley:** Yes, I learned that I am able to handle being on my own (away from my parents). I also learned how to stay on task and order my priorities.

### Would you recommend this experience to other EC students?

**Xiomara:** I would recommend the *Entrada* program to all minority students because it is just a wonderful experience and does change your life.

**Ashley:** I recommend *Entrada* because the whole experience was fun. You learn a lot in a college level class, which is rewarding. You also come away with a bunch of new friends from different backgrounds.

## RAMAPO COLLEGE “LEARN ABOUT BUSINESS” PROGRAM:

*“This program also allows students to live the college experience while participating in an enjoyable and eye-opening three day seminar in market economics. Hosted by Ramapo College [NJ], the ‘Learn About Business’ program is intended for students who will become leaders in their careers and communities through business. The seminar covers a wide range of business topics that are presented by leading economists through a dynamic lecture/discussion format.”* (Quoted from the “Learn About Business” brochure)

*continued on page 28*

## My Experience as a Congressional Page

BY ECHS SENIOR MICHAEL BIELE



*Mike presents a special flag to Principal Lucas.*

This past summer I had the privilege of serving in the Congressional Page Program. This is a tremendous opportunity where 72 sixteen-year-old juniors serve the Congressmen of the United States House of Representatives. Every year, thousands of students like myself apply to their Congressman, asking to be nominated for this wonderful opportunity. Each Representative is only allowed to nominate one student for the program, and Scott Garrett, a Republican from New Jersey, chose to nominate me!

All 435 Representatives then write a letter of recommendation for the student they had nominated and send it to the Speaker of the House, J. Dennis Hastert. Finally, Speaker Hastert selects the 72 applicants that he feels would be best for the program. Those students then become Pages of the United States Representatives. I consider myself truly blessed to have been one of those seventy-two who were ultimately accepted into the program.

The moment I was sworn in as an employee of the House of Representatives, I became a member of an institution of the Government dating back to the Continental Congress in 1776. Living in dormitories just a couple blocks away from the Capitol building, we would work directly from the floor of the House of Representatives every weekday. Our responsibilities included delivering interoffice mail and flags to the offices of the representatives, ringing the bells to announce a vote on the floor of the House, and even having the honor of raising and lowering the flag flying over the dome of the Capitol building! When we were not busy working, we often got to talk about anything and everything with Representatives that lingered on the House floor. It was an incredible feeling to have conversations about important issues with the Congressmen. These were the people who had the power to make things better in America, and they gladly spent some of the time talking to us pages.

As Christians, I believe that it is our obligation to work to impact the world for God. The US Government is the most powerful body on the planet, and we would be negligent if we, as Christians, did not try to work within our government to further the coming of God’s kingdom here on earth. As for myself, I love the political arena, and would take a career in Government in a second if I could. I do not know what my future holds for me, but I do know that the Lord has a plan for my life, and that is a very comforting thought.

# Striving to Understand Our Past & Our Present Culture

## Local Newspaper Honors ECHS Student



North Jersey Scholar Ashley Westra with Math Teacher Deb Andrews

*Editor's Note: The following is a reprint of the December 4, 2005 newspaper article featuring ECHS Senior Ashley Westra:*

### THE RECORD NORTH JERSEY SCHOLAR – ASHLEY WESTRA

**Eastern Christian High School, North Haledon**  
**Year of graduation: 2005**

**Achievements:**

- Class rank: Top 5 percent
- Grade-point average: 4.3
- SAT score: 1,400

**Awards:** First Team All County and First Team All League for tennis.

**Activities:** National Honor Society  
 Varsity tennis team captain  
 Concert Band flutist  
 Math Club  
 Peer Tutoring co-coordinator.

**Next stop:** College, to study math.

**Ashley, of Sussex:** *"I have always felt that my goal was to pursue math in the future. When I was in middle school, I won first place in a math competition against many other schools, motivating me further. In high school, I have come to appreciate and enjoy many other subjects, but I still turn to the precise and definite answers found in math. I believe that mathematics is the key to all types of problem-solving in this world, and by studying it further in college, I hope to build a strong basis for whatever career I later choose."*

**Deb Andrews, Math Teacher:** *"Ashley is by far one of the brightest math students I have ever taught. What I appreciate most about Ashley is the fact that she so willingly helps others in and out of class. She has creative ways to solve problems."*



▲ Robert Aisi, the Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, visited EC.



▲ Mrs. Peggy Fisher and Mrs. Alice Middleton (Senior Xiomara Robinson's grandmother) talked with the US History 2 classes about their memories of the civil rights movement in America.



◀ English teacher Marla Stout invited her friend and fellow church member Ambassador Aisi to speak with the American Studies class about the role of the United Nations in the world today.

## Congratulations!

At a March 16 dinner hosted by the Passaic County Coaches Association, the Eastern Christian Athletic Department honored Transportation Coordinator **Deb Vandenberg**. Each school is encouraged to honor someone who has been involved in high school athletics in a significant way. Deb Vandenberg was honored for her significant contribution to the EC Athletic Program.

Deb has been employed at Eastern Christian for 22 years. She spent the first 16 years in the classroom as a math teacher. She has also served as the Middle School Athletic Director, as a coach for ECMS sports, and as an EC High School JV Girls' Basketball and JV Softball coach. Six years ago Deb left the classroom to become involved in the Transportation Department of Eastern Christian. For the last 3 years she has served as the Transportation Coordinator. In this position she schedules and troubleshoots the bussing needs for all of the EC athletic teams.



Deb Vandenberg with Athletic Director Steve King

We are very proud of Deb and all she does for Eastern Christian and for our Athletic Program!

# Sports Highlights

## WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

**Boys' Varsity Basketball** (Record: 17-8) – After a 2-4 start, which included two losses in the Garfield Christmas Tournament, the Eagles went on an 11-game winning streak. This streak included two big wins over traditional rival Hawthorne Christian, one in the first round of the County Tournament. Other wins in the streak were over Hawthorne, Midland Park and Glen Rock. Three of the team's losses came at the hands of powerful Paterson Catholic. The EC Varsity Boys team qualified for the State Tournament for the 3rd time in 5 years.

**Boys' JV Basketball** (Record: 9-7) – This year's team was comprised of sophomores and juniors. Highlights of the season included a 13-point loss to powerhouse Paterson Catholic, as well as wins over Midland Park, Waldwick, and Saddle Brook.

**Boys' Freshmen Basketball** (Record: 10-6) – This young group included many first-time players. The team showed an ability to win many close games, winning all but one of the games by 10 points or less. Several key wins were recorded against Midland Park, Saddle Brook, and Manchester.

**Girls' Varsity Basketball** (Record: 5-17) – This was a significant season of rebuilding and maturing, compared to many in the past. The team was extremely young with one senior and no juniors, but several sophomores and freshmen stepped in to play key roles. The team's record did not fully indicate the growth they experienced as a team. They recorded victories over Hawthorne Christian, Garfield, and Elmwood Park.

**Girls' JV Basketball** (Record: 4-13) – This also was a very young team, but the players improved tremendously over the course of the season. With key wins over Garfield and Hawthorne Christian, the girls ended the season on a strong note.

**Bowling** (Record: 6-12) – The Bowling Team took third in the BPSL Division play, and four members received All League awards.

**Middle School Basketball** – Both girls and boys teams completed their respective seasons highlighted by demonstrating fine basketball skills, personal growth, and team spirit. The girls' final record was 2-13, while the boys finished at 12-3. Each coach reported vast improvement in individual and team skills as the season progressed.



#12 Brad Tanis takes the shot for EC in a game vs. Hawthorne Christian.

## Winter Athletic Awards

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

**Melanie Susen**  
First Team All League  
Second Team All County

**Nicole Brello**  
Second Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Randi Lynn Veenstra**  
Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

**Daryl Leegwater**  
First Team All League  
Second Team All County

**Mike Alsum**  
First Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Ben Kuiken**  
Second Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Mike Malefy**  
Second Team All League

**Paul Siljee**  
Second Team All League

**Josh Wisse**  
Honorable Mention All League

### BOWLING

**Andrew Post**  
First Team All League

**Brian Vogel**  
Second Team All League

**Harrison Bruining**  
Second Team All League

**Ian Dykstra**  
Second Team All League

## Three AEDs Purchased for ECHS

"Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can happen anywhere, anytime, to people of all ages." This is one of the health facts that propelled several of the high school staff to begin discussions last summer on the need for an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the high school building.

ECHS parent **Karen Beggs** assisted us in providing information to aid in our research. The important facts that we learned included the following: "Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) ... is usually caused by an electrical malfunction that makes the heart quiver ineffectively in an abnormal rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). It is sometimes triggered by a heart attack, but can also happen even without any blockage of blood flow to the heart. A lifesaving pulse of electricity must be delivered quickly to restore the heart's normal rhythm and pump blood throughout the body. Defibrillation is the only effective treatment for sudden cardiac arrest caused by ventricular fibrillation.

Time is of the essence. Typically, only 5 to 10 percent of people struck down by SCA survive. But if people in VF get the lifesaving AED shock within 3 minutes of collapsing, the survival rate can increase to 74 percent." (Taken from the Medtronic brochure on the AED Implementation Program)

At the Back to School Night on September 23, Athletic Director Steve King presented this need to the parents. Our goal was to purchase at least one AED, with the hope of funding a second for the opposite end of the building. A third AED would maximize the coverage, but funding it seemed to be a significant challenge.

However, now we can thankfully say that due to the generous support from donors, we have received funds for the purchase of all three AEDs. We have installed one by the Main Office, one by the Auditorium, and will keep one as a portable for off-site events. As of December, six staff members have become certified in the use of this equipment, and at the end of January another eight have become certified.

The total amount received in donations is **\$6,475**. Thank you to all who have supported our efforts to be prepared for SCA emergencies!



ECHS Assistant Principal Michael Alsum, Office Manager Lynda Pasqueretta and Athletic Director Steve King are three of the staff members who have been trained to use the new defibrillators.

ECMS – The Blessings of a Supportive Community

Media Center Blessings

BY MEDIA CENTER COORDINATOR BEVERLY TEN KATE

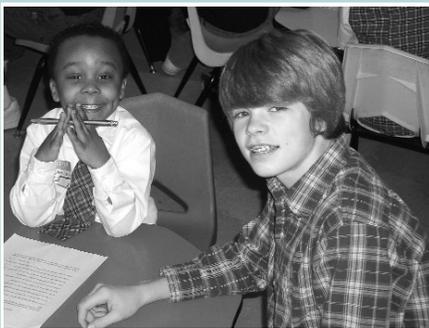
Students in "Sister Schools" Spent a Day Together

BY BETSY TYVOLL, ECMS BIBLE TEACHER

Every winter the 8th Grade Class travels to Dawn Treader Christian School in Paterson to spend an entire day with their students. This year our trip was on Feb. 2. Before we went, our 8th graders planned games for the classes, made bookmarks for their assigned "buddies," and contributed the ingredients for ice cream sundaes.

When we arrived at the school, we spent about an hour in the different classrooms, getting to know each other and playing games we had prepared. We then worshiped together during their weekly chapel service. Our students led the worship with music, skits, and prayer.

We finished the day eating lunch together, enjoying ice cream sundaes, and playing more games. Our students had a great time getting to know fellow Christian school students, many of whom were younger than the EC students were. We look forward to seeing them again in the spring, when we hope to have the Dawn Treader students visit our campus.



Hassan and Steven Bushoven enjoy getting to know each other.



Jaci Woudenberg (center) with Tyeshia (left) and Dymand (right)



Media Center Coordinator Beverly TenKate with ECMS students.

We have experienced numerous blessings at the ECMS Media Center. Parents and friends volunteer on a regular basis and contribute to the daily routines concerning the circulation of materials. The PTO generously supplies books from Christian publishing companies as well as magazines and newspapers. They financially support technology upgrades that help students with their research and with the presentation of the research in various formats.

Students are a blessing, too, when they come into the Media Center for books. They are excited about learning and reading. Often students discuss books with each other. They recommend Accelerated Reader tests be purchased for the books they have read that are not yet on the list. We have many reasons to rejoice in God's goodness. He has truly blessed us with the resources needed!

Volunteers are Unpaid, Not Because They are Worthless, But Because They are Priceless.

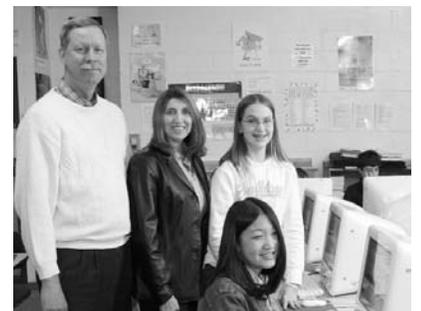
- Anonymous (Submitted by J. Arthur Larson)

Reflecting on One of our Blessings – An Active PTO

BY RALPH HUTTON, ECMS COMPUTER ED. TEACHER

The Middle School continues to be blessed with a very active and supportive PTO. Thanks to their commitment and hard work, ECMS has received the benefits of having up-to-date technology available to the students. Back in the early 1990's the PTO was instrumental in providing the funds for our first server, digital camera, and eventual server upgrade.

"Fast forward" to today, and you'll find they have contributed the funds needed to purchase approximately half of the new eMac's found in the Computer Lab. PTO monies were also used toward the purchase and installation of a new server and upgraded software. These improvements will allow students more flexibility and easier access to projects they are working on at school, and eventually students will even be able to have access to these projects from home. Yes, technology is certainly one way the Middle School has really been blessed by its PTO!



Pictured are Teacher Ralph Hutton, PTO President Kathleen Lane and students Allison Dykstra and Kim Dykhouse.

# A Journey to an Educational “Mt. Everest”



Encouraging Students to be “Able Thinkers”

BY TERRY ALLEN, ECMS HISTORY TEACHER

**T**here is a tendency for events in history to be over determined. That is, they reflect more than one cause. And it is in this sense also true that multiple reasons and causes would factor in to one’s decision to seek an advanced educational degree. In my own case, a journey that literally began 5½ years ago, with the taking of the first classes toward a doctorate in education during the summer of 1999, can also be traced meaningfully to a series of events that occurred 18 years

ago in the Willamette Valley of western Oregon. There, while teaching 6th grade in a Christian school in Salem, I began to work on a Master’s degree at a nearby college, with the sense that my career had begun to plateau and that I had a growing desire to find some further way to encourage the lives of my students.

## HELPING STUDENTS SEE THEMSELVES AS ABLE THINKERS

It was while taking a class that involved using a dialogical and philosophical approach to thinking that I began to value and develop a style of pedagogy that helped me challenge my students intellectually in a new way, and that encouraged them to begin seeing themselves as capable and credible thinkers in their own right. **I had begun to notice that many students, by the time they reach middle school years, had already begun to “categorize” themselves as being unskillful thinkers.** This led to a decrease in effort with regard to schoolwork. **I also had begun to understand that many Christian young people did not actually understand, in a way that they could articulate, the meaning and warrant for their own beliefs.** As people we are often told what to believe but may not have the time and encouragement to work out its meaning and implications for ourselves. We do not own it in a deep way.

With those two ideas in mind, a desire to encourage students to see themselves as able thinkers, and to help young thinkers begin to understand and articulate their own beliefs in a credible way, we prepared to move to New Jersey and to work on a Master’s degree that was led by the very people who had themselves developed a style of pedagogy that encouraged the kind of philosophical inquiry and discussion that would assist me in accomplishing those two goals. And it was this move to New Jersey that brought us into contact with Eastern Christian, where I began teaching in 1990. The school facilitated my pursuit of this earlier degree and gave me the freedom, within the context of Christian commitment and education, to express a style of teaching that emphasizes inquiry, dialogue, and wonder in teaching the subjects to which I was assigned.

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MY STUDIES RELEVANT

The opportunity to work on the doctorate arose when Montclair State University began a program specifically designed for practicing teachers. And while the idea of getting this degree had occurred to me several years ago, the practical issues involved would likely have prevented it. But in this case, I was able to continue teaching at Eastern Christian, while working on the degree itself. In fact, my own classroom involvement and my daily relationship with students has provided the kind of opportunity to make my studies both meaningful and immediately relevant. It was that direct involvement with students that led to the topic of the dissertation written in eventual fulfillment of the requirements for the degree. The dissertation is entitled *Exploring Worldview Perspectives with 8th Grade Students: Criteria-Mapping As a Method of Value Disclosure and Worldview Discovery*, and it details the community of inquiry practice, and the philosophical theory of worldview, in helping students understand and apply discussion and inquiry skills in discovering how and why people believe as they do, including themselves.

## Bible Competition Offers Yearly Challenge

BY JOANN EVERETT, ECMS BIBLE TEACHER

In February, ECMS students competed in a Bible competition of the Northern New Jersey Christian School Association, held at the Hawthorne Gospel Church. The purpose of the competition is to provide an annual event for area Christian school students and teachers to get to know each other socially and to challenge each other in Bible knowledge.

The participants from ECMS were:

- Grade 5: Josh Davidson and Jake Shotmeyer
- Grade 6: Kevin Hull and Jaclyn Jacobs
- Grade 7: Dana Kukol and Peter Rudd
- Grade 8: Stephanie Jacobs and A.J. Panzica

Students were advised that the competition would consist of three parts: a Bible sword drill, general Bible knowledge and specific knowledge of Acts chapters 9 - 18. We were proud of our students’ efforts!



Participants pictured (L to R): A.J. Panzica, Jacob Shotmeyer, Stephanie Jacobs, Josh Davidson, Peter Rudd, Jaclyn Jacobs, Kevin Hull, (not pictured: Dana Kukol)

*continued on page 28*

## Local EC Alumni Raise Funds for Cystic Fibrosis

On February 9, 2005 the 5th Annual Meghan Vander Plaat “Have A Heart” Benefit Dinner & Auction was held at the Brownstone in Paterson, NJ. This inspirational evening raised over \$80,000 for cystic fibrosis through ticket sales, raffles, silent & live auctions. Many EC-related families and businesses participated in this special fundraiser.

The event is named in honor of **Meghan Vander Plaat**, a 6th grader at ECMS who has the disease. Meghan’s parents **Jonathan and Kris (Joustra, Class of ’90) Vander Plaat** and their friends **Patrick and Amy (Douma, Class of ’90) Brooks** launched this event in 2001, and in the past 5 years they have been able to raise almost \$300,000 for cystic fibrosis research and families affected by this disease. The event came about from a strong desire of both couples to do what they can to combat this disease and raise awareness of CF. “Have A Heart” is run in conjunction with the SPUD (Special Projects for Underprivileged & Disabled) Foundation for Children’s Charities, a non-profit organization that was created in 1992 to assist families with children and young adults with terminal illness.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that affects over 30,000 Americans. The disease is marked by chronic infections, clogged airways, and digestive and reproductive problems. This disease, which is not contagious, is usually diagnosed in early childhood. Meghan was just 3 months old when her diag-



Meghan (holding soccer ball) with local area club soccer teammates including some EC classmates.

nosis came. The daily rigors of living with CF are tough on both the children afflicted with the disease and on their families. Fortunately, a combination of drug and physical therapy can help keep the symptoms under control and enhance a child’s quality of life.

The monies raised through “Have A Heart” directly help local (NJ) families affected with cystic fibrosis as well as support ongoing CF research. Another EC student who will also benefit from the ongoing CF research is **Ethan VanderMolen**.

Ethan, who also has CF, attends Eastern Christian’s Kindergarten and is the son of **Jeff and Sarah (Everett, Class of ’90)**.

The Vander Plaat and Brooks families are so grateful and thankful to the many EC families & friends that generously give their support to this event each year and are committed to helping those with cystic fibrosis. They ask that you continue to uphold the children and families dealing with this disease in your prayers.

If you are interested in finding out more information about “Have A Heart” and how you can support our ongoing efforts, you can email Kris at [kjvan@aol.com](mailto:kjvan@aol.com) or Amy at [apabrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:apabrooks@hotmail.com).

**Editor’s Note:** A special thank you to Amy Brooks for submitted this information to *The Herald*.

## Tsunami Relief Project

BY ECMS TEACHER JOYCE DE GROOT



Pictured (left to right): Mrs. de Groot, Rebecca Morris, Andrew Kuder, and Rachel Coba.

Each day our Middle School students watch a 15-minute student news show called “Channel One.” When we returned from Christmas break, the first show we watched showed the graphic images of the Tsunami which had occurred on December 26. As students in Mrs. de Groot’s homeroom saw these images, they began to discuss ways that they could help these people who had lost so much.

The students decided to collect money which would be sent to help Christian schools damaged or destroyed by the flood. They spearheaded a collection throughout the school, and many students responded. They donated their Christmas money, their allowance, money they earned through jobs, or they found other creative ways to collect donations. At the end of this project a total of **\$1,032.00** had been collected.

This donation was sent to *Christian Schools International*, an organization working with *Worldwide Christian Schools* to help small Christian schools in the affected areas. At the end of their fundraiser, ECMS students realized how blessed they are, and that they contributed in a meaningful way to help students in Asia who had lost so much.

### Celebrating Creativity

See these ECMS works of art in color in our website [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org).



# Black History Month: A Special Time of Learning & Celebration

BY FOURTH GRADE TEACHERS CAROL BYMA, HOLLY TURNER, AND KRISTIN VANDER PYL



Mr. Shuler interacts with 4th grade students after chapel.

The month of February was a special time of learning and celebration of Black History month in ECES. Our 4th grade students presented Black History through the ages in three special chapel times. We began planning last summer by organizing our three chapels around the themes – *Trusting In God, Perseverance Through Difficulties* and *Racial Partnership Today*. We also gleaned valuable information from Clarence Shuler’s book, *Winning the Race to Unity*, as well as from his ECES visit in January. Impressed by the 4th Grade students’ knowledge and sensitivity, Mr. Shuler also affirmed our perspective and the chapels we had planned for the month.

Our first chapel on February 2 focused on the Era of Slavery, portraying Harriet Tubman’s life with a multi-media presentation, including reading, songs and a silhouette drama. Under the cruelty of slavery, Harriet Tubman trusted in God while serving others with her whole heart. Students shared information about this important role model while, at the same time, drama of her life was acted out in silhouette behind a lighted sheet by students Amanda Held, Kaitlin Kim, Jillian Martin, Krystal Knyfd, Luke Boonstra and Abraham Kang. Between the scenes, music teacher Esther Alsum led the students in praise songs as well as singing the spiritual “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.”



People of all ethnicities honor Martin Luther King, Jr. (Jeffrey Hill)

The following week’s chapel on February 9 celebrated the achievements of some Black Americans, especially focusing on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the greatest examples of a man who persevered during turbulent times. Displayed in the hallways of our building were drawn illustrations and brief biographies of Black Americans, such as W.E.B. Dubois, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver and Rosa Parks, that each fourth grade student had created. During the chapel, some of our students read a tribute to Dr. Luther King, Jr. as others portrayed a still-frame scene below an on-going video documentary of events of this time.

The third chapel on February 16 focused on Racial Partnership Today. The students, under teacher Debi Veenstra’s guidance, presented a rendition of African-American step dancing. During this stomp, the students chorused 10 words or phrases, such as DIVERSITY, FREEDOM, UNITY, ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE IN CHRIST. Then our guest speaker, Mr. Tom Henion, who serves as Director of Madison Avenue CRC’s Crossroads Community Ministries in Paterson, encouraged the entire student body to pray, to be a friend, and to stand up for racial partnerships. Engaged by his dynamic presence and encouraged by his presentation, our students were challenged to carry out his message.

As we reflect upon these past six months of preparation for these special events, we are grateful for the collaboration with our colleagues who teach Art, Music, Computer, Phys. Ed. and the Horizons classes. We have been blessed by their input, knowledge and willingness to embrace this experience with us. We are also so proud of our students’ accomplishments and all the knowledge they have gained through this whole journey. We eagerly anticipate them using this knowledge as they grow and mature in their education and life experiences. Finally, we are grateful to both Mr. Clarence Shuler and Mr. Tom Henion for their unique perspectives and contributions. *We give God all the praise and glory!*

## Dr. Martin L. King: An Example of “Salt and Light”

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL R. VAN YPEREN

Reprinted from a Jan. 2005 ECES Home Bulletin

Monday’s holiday [Jan. 17] commemorates the contributions Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made to the collective conscience of our nation. His life and words were salt and light in a remarkable time of tumult and conflict. He could not be ignored, and consequently the oppression of minorities as well as the nation’s blind spots about constitutional equality for all became exposed. Dr. King had a pastor’s heart for these matters; his faith in God’s sovereignty empowered his message of a vision and hope for a redeemed world.

In Christian Education, we still have much to learn from the example of Dr. King. He was used of God because he firmly believed that his faith and theology were relevant to daily life. At Eastern Christian we are not just memorizing scripture and learning piety; we are also daily asking how belonging to Jesus Christ influences how we live and talk. We are surrounded by a culture that believes that faith, theology and piety are irrelevant except for the privacy of home and church. That same prejudice attempted to silence and discredit Dr. King.

God’s design for each of us, adult and child alike, is to serve His purposes of salt and light in a sin decaying, dark world the Creator has promised to one day restore. Addressing the need for racial unity is one place where we can make a difference.



Jonathan Capiro as Martin Luther King, Jr.

ECES/ECSA – The Blessings of a Supportive Community

# ES Works of Art: Reflections of God’s Creative Glory

ECES Art teacher **Lisa Hartensveld** wants to challenge her students to understand that all the beauty we find as a result of artistic skills and creativity has its origin in the Creator of the universe. Students are led to discover that works of art are reflections of God’s creative glory. As our elementary students reflect on how art blesses and lights up their surroundings, they are asked to create their own art. Monthly, ECES hallways are transformed into art galleries of current student work.

This year, however, not just our school’s hallways have been beautified with art. Mrs. Hartensveld has extended her lessons about how art can reach out to others by partnering with the Market Street Mission in Morristown, New Jersey to display ECES student art work during Christmas and Easter seasons. During



Elementary School Art Teacher **Lisa Hartensveld** with 3rd and 4th grade students **Carly Veenstra, Ana Melendez, and Daniel Rose** working on their creations in the Art Room.

two weeks at Christmastime student-designed “Sun Catchers” illuminated the mission, which serves the needs of homeless men. During the weeks surrounding Easter, student art depicting the real meaning of this important religious holiday will be displayed.

Earlier in the school year a representative of Market Street Mission visited ECES to thank art students for desiring to beautify and brighten the chapel and hallways of the mission. As our students experience how their learning can practically and specifically bless

others, they grow in their understanding of God’s call to them to use His gifts as a force of redemption in the world.

## Capital Campaign Update: ECHS Heating System

BY DAVID VISBEEN, ECSA BOARD MEMBER AND MEMBER OF FACILITIES COMMITTEE

In 1955 the Eastern Christian High School was built with a state of the art heating system. In those days, fuel was cheap and control systems were basic. Now, 50 years later the boilers are tired, the old steam lines are deteriorating and congested, and we are continually making repairs to keep the system operating.

A year ago, a plan was developed to replace the entire high school heating system with multiple, highly efficient, heating systems. The new systems would provide state-of-the-art controls for specific zones. Multiple systems would mean that, even in the event of a system failure, other systems would allow the building to remain in operation. The big obstacle to completion was the need for **\$400,000.00** to install the system.

However, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, work has begun this year! Today, the cafeteria, art room, music room, and maintenance area are heated by individually-controlled systems. New boilers have been installed that will soon provide heat for the Media Center and two nearby classrooms. Thanks to the generosity of a second donor, the four classrooms closest to the auditorium will be transferred to be serviced by the new boilers as well.

The generosity of our donors has provided for these capital improvements with zero impact on our budget or tuition. The reduced load on the original boilers should extend their performance until additional funds can be found to complete the project. We thank God for once again providing for the needs of ECSA!

This is truly a blessing to celebrate. If you would like to make a donation toward finishing this capital project or would like more

information, please contact the EC Development Office at 973-427-9294 or [development@easternchristian.org](mailto:development@easternchristian.org).

RESERVE THE DATE

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2005  
for



## E.C.'S GOLF OUTING

at GREAT GORGE COUNTRY CLUB

**8 AM Shot-gun Start**  
with Luncheon following at Portobello's in Oakland

*Participant Levels:*

Foursome .....	\$600
Individual .....	\$150
Individual – Seniors (65+) .....	\$140
Student Rate * .....	\$100

*Price Includes: Green fees, Golf cart, food coupon for use between courses, and Buffet Luncheon at Portobello's.*

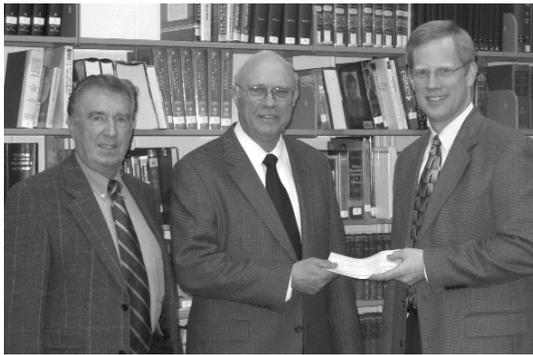
**To Register or for more information, call EC's Development Office at 973-427-9294 ext 211 or visit our website [www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org)**

\* Home from college? Organize a foursome with your classmates from EC!

ECSA – The *Blessings* of a Supportive Community

# “Administering God’s Grace:” The Blessing of Faithful Support by ASB

In the middle of February, ECSA was notified by letter that we would again be one of the recipients of a portion of the 2004 Tithing Program funds being distributed by Atlantic Stewardship Bank. Two representatives from the bank, **Bill Hanse** (*Cl. of '51*) and **John Steen** (*Cl. of '55*), met with our Board of Directors before the annual Association Meeting on February 23 to pray with us, and to share their perspective in support of the work of Eastern Christian School and its alumni. John Steen ended his remarks by presenting Board President Richard Kuder with a check for **\$36,000**.



*Pictured (L to R): ASB Representatives Bill Hanse and John Steen with EC Board President Richard Kuder*

Mr. Kuder acknowledged the blessing of Atlantic Stewardship Bank’s faithful support in a letter which read:

*“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Christian School Association I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$36,000.00. This gift will enable us to continue to share the knowledge of God and his world with the students at Eastern Christian Schools.*

*We praise God for Atlantic Stewardship Bank’s continued support of the school and its work in the community. We value our relationship with you and appreciate the many ways that Atlantic Stewardship helps to make a Christ-centered education at EC possible for all of the families that desire it.*

*May God continue to richly bless the work of Atlantic Stewardship Bank.”*

## 2004-2005 Business Drive Donors

Business Drive contributions and pledges through February 2005 totaled **\$41,205.00**. We appreciate the support of the owners of the following businesses:

- A & B Kitchens & Baths, Inc.
- A-Van Electrical Supply, Inc.
- Abma's Farm
- M. R. Abma, Inc
- Ace Security, Inc.
- Advanced Roofing & Sheet Metal Co.
- Allen Supply & Laundry Service, Inc.
- Atlantic Stewardship Bank
- John Avanzato, Inc.
- B & B Property Maintenance
- B.J.F. Sanitation, Inc.
- Baker & Hoogerhyde LLC
- Borduin Co., Inc.
- Borst Landscape & Design
- Braunius Bros., Inc.
- Jennifer Bushman D.M.D. PC
- Bushoven & Company
- C S Stucco & Plastering Inc.
- Care Chiropractic Center
- Cedar Hill Landscape Contractors
- Columbia Bank
- Crawley & Associates Inc.
- Designer Baths Inc.
- Extel Communications, Inc.
- Factory Direct Furniture
- Genesis Associates Inc.
- George Harms Construction Co.
- Glen Rock Stair Corporation
- Heerema Company
- Home Supply & Lumber Center
- Hook, Smith & Meyer
- James Karr Piano Tuner
- KPMG LLP
- Law Offices of John C. Lane
- Leegwater Electric Inc.
- Mayfair Home Improvement
- Minkema Painting & Decorating
- Needlecraft, Inc.
- Nicholas Kramer & Son
- Nicholas Markets
- Northeast Janitorial Supply, Inc.
- Northwestern Mutual Life Ins.
- Omega Environmental
- On Track Bedding
- Patchett, Grode & Topp
- Pfister Maintenance
- Ray's Mobil Service
- Rigg Associates, P.A.
- Rybiz Properties, LLC
- Sales Consultants of NJ Inc.
- Servicemaster Preferred
- Skyline Greenhouses, Inc.
- Stafford Glass
- Steen Sales, Inc.
- Ken Steenstra Landscaping
- William Sytsma Landscaping
- William Tanis Sr.
- Mark Tironola Contractor
- Troast Vision & Hearing Center
- R. M. Tuit Paving
- Valley National Bank
- Raymond J. Van Grouw, C.P.A.
- Van Harken Builders
- Viking Wood Floors, Inc.
- Vincek & Petrocci Architects
- Visbeen Construction Co.
- Wachovia Insurance Services
- Wallwork Bros.
- Wiegiers, Inc.
- Dr. John Wispelwey

Do **you** want to stay up-to-date on issues like Social Security, Healthcare, Washington D.C. events and other timely information?

Barnabas Foundation in conjunction with Crescendo Interactive offers **GiftLegacy**, a free weekly Newsletter e-Mailed directly to you!

Sign up today at [www.barnabasfoundation.com/giftlegacy](http://www.barnabasfoundation.com/giftlegacy)

Barnabas Foundation - 18601 North Creek Drive, Suite B - Tinley Park, IL 60477-6238  
Toll-Free: 888-448-3040



The Estate Planning services of Barnabas Foundation are funded by the agencies of the Christian Reformed Church & over 180 other Christian organizations including Eastern Christian School

## Meeting the Challenge to Control Tuition Costs

SUBMITTED BY THE ECSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Providing “*excellent academic education within the context of a Christian world and life view*” is not a mission that the Board of Directors of Eastern Christian School Association takes lightly. Along with the administration, faculty, and staff we face numerous obstacles to that mission with regularity. Keeping Christ at the center of all we do requires daily attention. To focus on attracting and keeping gifted Christian faculty members requires tenacious recruiting, and to maintain three campuses with various aging buildings often presents unexpected challenges. **However, no single aspect of ECSA’s operations is more of a challenge than controlling tuition.**

Each year the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors struggle with finding the balance between “*excellent academic education*” and controlling tuition increases. Countless meetings are held and numerous options are considered. We review the costs and benefits of programs like art, music, sports, special education, gifted programs, foreign language, and more. We discuss class size and staffing requirements. And each year we prayerfully consider the impact that rising tuition costs have on the families of our students. We are very sensitive to the responsibility we as a Board of Directors have to keep Christian education available to the families of our community.

Eastern Christian School Association has always been committed to making a Christian education available to all families. One very important way we have been able to meet that

*continued on page 28*

## Value of Christian Education & Giving to the ANNUAL FUND

EC Elementary School Principal  
Richard Van Yperen Shares his Perspective

**Is it Worth the Financial Sacrifice to Give to the ANNUAL FUND?** “*We make choices to commit our resources to our church communities and Christian School communities precisely because they are not about things that lose value over time. In fact, we expect the opposite to happen – we invest now, expecting to see dividends later. In other words, buying things that bring immediate value is on the expense side of our budgets, while committing resources to our church and school is on the investment side of our budgets.*”

**What are the results?** “*One of the dividends of investing in an EC education for the children in our Christian community will be the assurance that there will be a consistent modeling of Christ-like character that values others. One of our goals is for EC graduates to enter the world with a Christian worldview of God’s love for people.*”

### What can I Do to Help Christian Families who want their children to have a Christian Education at EC?

The Eastern Christian community has traditionally stepped up and been extremely generous to the Annual Fund. This year we, along with many other charitable organizations, are facing a potential shortfall in gift receipts. World events, such as the tsunami, have diverted funding that would otherwise have come to ECSA. **Will you prayerfully consider helping us close this gap and balance our budget this year?**

Budgeted Annual Fund	\$700,500.00
Receipts to date (as of Feb. 2005)	\$466,000.00
Additional Anticipated Receipts (to Aug)	<u>\$173,000.00</u>
Projected Shortfall for Fiscal Year	<b>\$ 61,500.00</b>

*Jesus said, “...Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*  
Matthew 6:21



Midland Park CRC, NJ – Eastern Christian Students, Parents, Alumni and Supporters: Christian Education Day – Feb. 27, 2005

## Alumni News

### Former Teachers

In recent months we have been notified that four former EC teachers had passed away. **Sidney Bangma** ('30) passed away on Nov. 24, 2004 at the Christian Health Care Center in NJ. **Clarence Rosendale**, a Holland Christian Home (NJ) resident passed away on Jan. 15, 2005. On Jan. 27, 2005, another Holland Christian Home (NJ) resident, **Martina (Verblauw) Hoogerheide** ('31) passed away. A third Holland Home resident, **Hilda (Yskamp) Van Beveren**, died peacefully on Feb. 24, 2005. Our sympathy is extended to the families and friends of these beloved teachers. [*Editor's Note: See separate articles on Mr. Bangma and Mr. Rosendale printed in this issue. Additional submissions about former teachers may be printed in future issues.*]

#### North 4th St. Christian School

**Nena (Schuil) Chapman** ('30) passed away January 1, 2005 in Kentwood, MI. We offer our sympathy to her family, which includes sisters **G. Aleida (Schuil) Garehan** ('31) of CA and **Emma Cara** (N. 4th St. '35) of PA.

### CLASS OF 1933

**Richard Steensma** of Grand Rapids, MI passed away on Jan. 2, 2005. His obituary noted: "As a creative problem-solver who applied his gifts in industry, advertising, and ministry, he leaves a legacy of being a blessing to those who sought to grow in service for their Lord. A celebration service was held in Tucson, AZ."

### CLASS OF 1937

#### Class Rep Needed

**Elsie (Van Hoff) Gideon** sent an update that she and her husband Henry J. Gideon celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on 2/19/05. She adds that it would be great to "have another ECSA banquet here in Grand Rapids soon. Thank God for ECSA!"

### CLASS OF 1944

**Class Rep: Raeanne (Dyksen) Dykhouse**  
241 Eastview Terr, Wyckoff, NJ 07481-2603  
E-Mail: [gdykhous@bellatlantic.net](mailto:gdykhous@bellatlantic.net)

A mini-reunion of classmates **Millie (Wynbeek) Veenema**, **Hildi (Houseman) Vanderveen**, **June**

Please Note: The Alumni News we print has either been 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](mailto:Alumni@easternchristian.org). The editor reserves the right to edit submissions. Now you can also go to our website ([www.easternchristian.org](http://www.easternchristian.org)) and fill out a 5-minute survey so you can keep informed about EC. Check it out!



Go to <http://www.easternchristian.org> to fill out the survey.



North 4th Street Teachers in 1933: **Top Row:** (L to R) Niela D. Mierop, Gerhardus Bos, Francis Greydanus, David Wondergem, Elsie Frieswyk, Garret Dykstra; **Bottom Row:** Phyllis Fortuin, Gertrude Van Melle, Margaret Borduin, Hilda Yskamp, Gertrude Van Goor.



North 4th Street Christian School Students in 1942 (?) (Some of these students graduated from EA in 1950) **Row 1:** Jack Zuidema, Hartman Bandstra, Bob Zuidema, John Broeils (?), Bill Peters, Don Sweetman; **Row 2:** Della Siegers, Ruth Van Harken, Ann Huizing, Lorraine Witten, Nell Oosthoek, Corinne Stelpstra, Doris Hall, Wilma Steyling, Betty Katje, Eleanor De Vries; **Row 3:** Bob Dykstra, Ron Veneman, Carl Hoogerhyde, Gary Terpstra, Bill Vermeulen, Dow Mulder, Tom Henion, (?) Tanis, Bill Zuidema; **Row 4:** Miss Rena Walkotten, Doris Casole, Hester Algera, Edna De Rose, Betty De Boer, Bertina Bayless, Evelyn Greydanus; **Row 5:** Ralph De Bruin, Robert De Rose, John Minnema, Pete Borduin, Eugene (?) Garret Ruit

continued on page 20

ALUMNI NEWS continued from page 19



Pictured (L to R): Millie, Hildi, June, and Bernie hold a "mini-reunion" of the Cl. of '44.

(De Jonge) Vander Wall and Bernice (Van Halsema) Vanden Berg took place on Sept. 13, 2004 in Hudsonville, MI. (See Photo) Millie adds, "We met for lunch and a real nostalgic time...Hildi lives in Wheaton, IL but has two grown children she was visiting in Zeeland. She became widowed a little more than a year ago, as have Bernie and I...June is the only one left with her husband of 60 years..."

**CLASS OF 1948**

**Class Rep: Bette (Sikkema) King**

1303 Four Seasons Dr, Wayne, NJ 07470-1953  
E-Mail: ekbette@aol.com

Rev. Donald Wisse wrote two letters to the Midland Park CRC congregation this year with details about his new work as a teacher in Africa. The first letter written in January included the following information: "For some



**Graduates of Passaic Christian School, 1946** (Some of these students graduated from EA in 1950) **Row 1:** Richard Van Kluyve, Lena Smith Murphy, Peter Andela, Eleanor Hamstra, Howard Müller, Gladys Jellema and Marinus Troast; **Row 2:** Jessie Van Althuis, Peter Blankman, Helen Van Halsema, Joyce Klapmust, Mr. George Bos, Principal, Adamarie Snoep, Carol Fridsma, James Wisse and Ruth Van Althuis; **Row 3:** Connie Wester, Edward Cooper, Ada Housward, William Hamersma, John Woudenberg, Catherine Wattez, Edward Martin and Muriel Bonnema.

time I had been considering the possibility to do some type of volunteer work....After attending the Back to God Hour board meeting last May, I received an e-mail from Rev. Calvin Bremer, the Executive Director of the Back to God Hour, inviting me to consider teaching at a recently established training school in Lokichoggio, Kenya, about five miles from the southern border of the Sudan. The school is sponsored by the Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) whose Executive Director is the Rev. Victor Atallah, who also serves as the Back to God Hour's Arabic ministry leader. Rev. Atallah wrote to us the following: 'You will be teaching 35-40 Sudanese, Kenyan, Ugandan and Ethiopian pastors and evangelists who love the Lord but have very little Bible or doctrinal knowledge. These people have opportunities to teach, preach and take care of sizeable congregations. You will need to use very simple English and speak clearly and slowly.'

After making further inquiry about this position, and praying to God to make His will clear to us, Ethel and I decided to volunteer to teach. We plan to be in Nairobi, Kenya on January 2...Debbie and Keith Bakker ('73) who work for AIM and are sponsored by our church have been very helpful in arranging lodging for us in Nairobi and informing us what to expect in Kenya....I have been told to expect to lecture four hours each day and two hours on Saturday. That sounds like a heavy schedule so we are going with the confidence that God will give us the ability to do the work as required.... Ethel and I are looking forward to this rather big change in our lives and we pray that we may be a blessing to these wonderful Christians in Africa."

Then in late February, he shared this update: "God has been good! Ethel and I have been in good health and our teaching mission seems to be going well... We have 38 students... There are seven different languages or dialects represented. All of the men have an intense desire to learn more about the Bible and theology." Rev. Wisse also related stories about the

effects of violence, fires and the poverty of many people, including the pastors who had overcome many problems to be present for this training. They visited Kakuma, Kenya where 250,000 refugees are living in a camp with none of the basic necessities that we take for granted. Ethel and Don hope to be back in New Jersey by Easter Sunday, and they are thankful for the prayers and the e-mails that have supported them during this special time of ministry.

**CLASS OF 1950**

**Reunion Contact: Carl Hoogerhyde**

E-mail: carlhoogerhydejr@msn.com

A 55th Reunion is planned for Friday, Oct. 14, 2005 at The Paris Inn in Wayne, NJ. A continental breakfast the next morning at the Faith Community CRC Barn is also planned. If you have not sent in your response yet, please do so or e-mail Carl.

Alyce (Pruiksma) Meines wrote that John and Nancy Broeils (both Cl. of '52) are now living in Colorado Springs. They recently joined Alyce and her husband Clarence (Clix) Meines for dinner and a walk down "Memory Lane."

**CLASS OF 1951**

**Class Rep Needed**

Ruth Brain writes, "I am retired, but do a lot of volunteering and still have some ministries with children – mostly Junior Missionary conferences."

**CLASS OF 1953**

**Class Rep: Phyllis (De Ruiter) Schuurman**

54 Park Ave, Garfield, NJ 07026-1431  
E-Mail: rschuur435@cs.com

In the spring of 2004, Jay Bruinooge suffered a spinal epidural abscess that resulted in the loss of the use of his legs. Jay and his wife Berta sold their lobster business, and their carpenter friends converted their former lobster shed into a woodworking shop. Jay now enjoys carving and painting birds. The local shell fishing community sponsored a benefit dinner in October for Jay to purchase an all-terrain wheelchair. Former classmates, Everett and Janet (Shackleton) Faber, Josie and John Faber, and Arlene Faber ('57) attended this dinner, which raised over \$18,000! Jay enjoys receiving cards and notes. His address is P. O. Box 294, South Wellfleet, MA 02663.

## CLASS OF 1954

### Class Rep: Larry Hoogerhyde

5845 Leisure South Dr SE, Kentwood, MI 49548  
E-Mail: larryh@altelco.net

The Class of 1954 celebrated their 50th reunion at Mark's Village Inn on Oct. 21, 2004. Reunion Representative **Larry Hoogerhyde** writes, "Just received my reunion picture from [EC photographer] Mark Lucas. It reminded me again of the great time we had together that night. For some of us we had not been together for 50 years, for others 40 years. Our last reunion was 10 years after graduation. The sentiment was to do it again in 5 years. Hopefully that will happen. Some regretted not being able to attend, like **Fred Lanting**, who was in China... I would like to request the class members to forward their e-mail addresses to me if they have not already done so... Many have expressed an interest in knowing these addresses to make or keep contact with each other." [Note: Classmates can access EC's online alumni directory @ [www.theclasslist.com/ecsa](http://www.theclasslist.com/ecsa)]

Listed are a few excerpts from the Class of 54's Reunion Booklet:

**Julie Belanus:** After graduation Julie attended and graduated from Rehab College in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Julie also attended other colleges and then began a program of orthopedic surgery to improve her physical condition. Julie's favorite pleasures in life are travel and education. Her hobbies include reading, learning, mastering the computer and belonging to a special bowling league. Julie has received a number of honors which are mounted on the wall in her office. Julie writes, "I will never forget the deep love and helpfulness that surrounded me at EA. I was carried up and down steps; and someone would carry my books to and from the dungeon. It wasn't easy, but God's grace also surrounded me. Yes, I could laugh but my speech was barely understandable. As for the staff, Miss Greydanus, could she ever make an impression on me. I have lived at the Christian Health Care Center for 23 years. Within these years I have grown both emotionally and spiritually and I keep up the good fight, the fight of faith, until I reach my final goal. My body is steadily growing physically weaker although my mental ability is still intact. My love for my Heavenly Father is so overwhelming, and His amazing grace will carry me all the way. My love for the 1954 students is rich and I will never

forget my fellow students and their support."

### Larry Hoogerhyde:

Several teachers made an impression on Larry's life: Bangma, Bontekoe, Dobbelaar and Van Til. "The teacher I now have high regard for is Wilbur De Vries. After spending over thirty years in music, I am always impressed with his ability to play every instrument, including the organ and getting the most from a group of HS students singing in his choirs and playing in his bands."

### John Stellingwerf:

After high school, John served in Korea from '55 - '57. After getting married in 1957, he, his wife and two daughters moved to Warwick NY, and while working in a security positions attended Rutgers at night and earned his BS in Business. He also began training in Martial Arts. He worked in pharmaceutical sales from 1965 and retired in 1994. Having received his 10th black-belt in karate, John was also inducted into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame. John has started several karate schools and gun clubs. He currently owns and operates the Still Run Vernon, NJ Hunting Club and the American Blackbelt Martial Arts. In addition to this, he enjoys fishing and cutting firewood. He met and married his second wife Laura, and they keep busy raising their 16-year-old daughter.

## CLASS OF 1955

### Class Rep: Elsie (Schwier) Golden

265 Monroe St, Wyckoff, NJ 07481-1914  
E-Mail: eljongolden@aol.com

The Class Reunion committee is meeting to discuss the plans for our 50th class reunion. If you have not received your letter of information, kindly contact Elsie. Please state in the subject area of your e-mail "Class of 55 Reunion." We sincerely hope class members will attend this special reunion. We are looking forward to a good response.

**Mae (Bangma) Rienstra** and husband Andy retired in June 2004 and moved to East Stroudsburg, PA. They just celebrated their



**Class of 1955 as 8th Graders in Passaic Christian School Row 1 (front to back):** Pearl Van Til (?), Bill De Young (?), Helen Van Dyk, Charlotte Vander Zee, (?), Jan Van Genderen; **Row 2:** (?), Mae Bangma, (?), Jack Martin, (?); **Row 3:** Margaret Van Loon, (?), Ray Luyendyk, Nick Fridsma, (?), (?)

45th wedding anniversary and are grandparents to 6 great grandkids.

## CLASS OF 1956

### Class Rep: Shirley (Van Til) Faber

78 Konight Ct, Mahwah, NJ 07430-2959

**Elizabeth (Betty) (Kapteyn) Persenaire** writes, "After four hurricanes in Florida, we have moved back to Mountain Home, Arkansas, where we lived for 23 years before retiring to Florida. It's nice to be closer to family although there are many things we miss about Florida."

## CLASS OF 1958

### Class Reps: Garret & Florence (Okkema) Nieuwenhuis

20 Pleasant View Dr,  
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2925

Ralph and **Carol (Beverluis) Honderd** are volunteers for Friendship Ministries, a ministry for persons with cognitive impairments. They will be traveling through NJ next fall and are willing to meet with any persons or churches interested in hearing more about this ministry.

## CLASS OF 1960

### Class Rep: Joyce (Anema) Streefman

8 Courter Rd. Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1813  
E-mail: [pnjoyce@optonline.net](mailto:pnjoyce@optonline.net)

**Ken Schaaf** e-mailed a request for alumni with information about past Art teacher **Richard (Dick) Morris** to contact him. See separate article in this section.

*continued on page 23*



## An EC Ring Returns to its Owner

### Subject: Owner Found!

We found the owner of the 1968 class ring! His name is **Steven Randolph Peters**. He graduated in 1968 and is now married to one of our elementary teachers [Beverly Schaaf Peters, Cl. of '71]. Steve went to college in the Philadelphia area and he and his fraternity brothers took frequent trips to Delaware. Steve remembers losing his ring during those years. What is the best way to get the ring from you? If you would be willing to recap how you found the ring and what happened to bring you to contact us, that would make a great story for us to print. – Gail Beverly

### Subject: Ring Traveling to NJ

Ms. Beverly, I mailed the ring to you, yesterday... here is the beginning of a story for you to consider for your alumni newsletter. – Walter Freeman, Loganville GA

### “THE TALE OF THE EASTERN CHRISTIAN HIGH RING WITH NINE LIVES”

*“I asked my wife, Shirley, where and when she found the ring. She doesn't remember the details anymore, but thinks that she found it about 2000 or 2001 in the metro Wilmington DE area, most probably in a parking lot. The band was cracked and is as you see it now. Though she doesn't remember exactly where the ring caught her eye, it was most probably in a place that would not have a lost and found, as it is our habit to turn found items over to those places, if convenient. And the fact that she thinks it was probably in a parking lot or other outdoor place may help to account for some of the damage to the band. A good jewelry repair or perhaps the company that made the ring will probably be able to do a repair to the band and make it as good as new or close to that condition. At least we hope that this is what Mr. Peters will choose to do.*

*Somehow it was lost, damaged, and then found again. Though you did not say, how long ago Mr. Peters lost his ring, we presume from the information that you supplied that it was sometime after 1968 when he was in college. That would put it into the 1970-72 era. So the ring may have been missing for some 30 years, if this is the correct logic from your story.*

*It looks as if the ring has had a life of its own depending on exactly where and when it was lost. Perhaps it was found by someone and held for a few decades only to be lost again and then found again by my wife. Maybe someone had the ring and then after a mishap, they just tossed it to the side, where*

*it sat for a short time until being found again. ... We shall never know the true adventures of this ring, but its story would be an interesting one indeed and is reminiscent of a note in a bottle that was thrown into the ocean and at sea for many decades.*

*In 2001, we were in the process of moving South and the ring was packed away along with all our worldly household goods. As I recall since we were not familiar with the Eastern Christian School and did not know where the school was located, the ring sat for a while in a kitchen drawer dedicated to the usual household flotsam and jetsam only to be “found” again in the summer of 2004. Many families have such a drawer. So it is with us.*

*With the aid of the Internet, today, many things are possible that were not just a few years ago. This is a good example of that phenomenon for with the Internet and a Google search, we were able to locate your school, find an e-mail address, and communicate that the ring had been found. Otherwise, we would still be puzzled as to how to go about contacting the owner. To think while Mr. Peters was busy with his education, his career, and his marriage, his Eastern Christian High School ring was off to see the world on its own little adventure of perhaps 30 years or more! For now, the owner has been found and all is to be well—unless this ring decides to take another trip that is!*

**Oh, the nine lives in the title?** Well, we count them (so far) as follows: Life #1: When Mr. Peters first got his ring as a Senior, perhaps in the 1967-1968 school year. Life #2: When he lost the ring in the years that followed. Life #3: A dark age of perhaps three decades. Life #4: When the ring was lost for a second time and/or was damaged. Life #5: The time between being lost for the second time and being found again. Life #6: Being packed up with a household that was moving South and again out of sight for three more years. Life #7: Being found again and sent on its way back to its owner along with its story. Life #8: When it is reunited with Mr. Peters once again and perhaps restored to “health” with its cracks and breaks repaired.

*And Life #9? Well, that ring has at least one more life left and maybe more. We would like to think that the ring will have other lives as it is passed down to the future generations, perhaps someday as Great Great Grandpa's Peters' ... [special] ring in the 22nd Century. Who knows?”*

– Shirley and Walter J. Freeman, Ph.D. Loganville GA



The Development Office shares the following saga with our alumni readers who have lost their EC rings over the years. The morale of this story is “Don't give up hope!” You never know when your ring may turn up!

### BACKGROUND HISTORY VIA E-MAILS

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2004 to:  
[Alumni@easternchristian.org](mailto:Alumni@easternchristian.org)

### Subject: Found - 1968 Eastern Christian Class Ring

Some years ago now, we found a 1968 Eastern Christian High School class ring in the Wilmington DE area. The ring is in bad shape, but we would be happy to return it to its owner. Please identify yourself as the rightful owner by the initials on the inside of the ring band. – W. Freeman

### Subject: Thanks from EC – Sept. 2004

Thanks for contacting Eastern Christian School with this information. Although I do not know the rightful owner at this point, I will broadcast your message to the EC 1968 alumni for whom I have an e-mail address and will print your question in our alumni magazine. I will get back to you as soon as I have any new information. I appreciate your help in trying to find the ring's owner. – Gail Beverly, EC Asst. Development Director

### Subject: A Possibility in January, 2005

As editor of our school's alumni magazine, *The Herald*, I included your information in our Fall 2004 issue, which was mailed in early December. Today I got a call from an alumna living in California who is curious to find out whether you have the 1968 class ring she lost when she was living in NJ! She said that the initials inside her ring were “PN”. Do they match up to the initials in the ring you have? This alumna [Pearl Nicoli Hiemstra] is hoping that you found her ring. – Gail Beverly

### Subject: A Disappointment

Unfortunately, the initials inside the ring are “SRP.” Perhaps you could look in your 1968 class list for someone with those initials. Judging from the size of the ring, it is most likely a male, but since the band is badly cracked, I can't be sure of that. – Walter Freeman

**CLASS OF 1961**

**Class Rep: Jerry Hoogerheide**

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

E-Mail: jrhoog@juno.com

**Richard A. Luyendyk** of Charlotte, NC died on October 12, 2004 from cancer at the Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte. Rich was married to **Trudy (Everett) Luyendyk**. Rich and Trudy had transferred to Charlotte from Fair Lawn, NJ three and a half years ago. Rich worked for Maersk-SeaLand for 43 years. They were married for 39 years. Their children, **Steven** ('86) of North Carolina, **Amy Beth** ('89) of Rhode Island and **David** ('91) of North Carolina are all graduates of EC. We extend our condolences to the family.

**CLASS OF 1962**

**Class Rep: Nancy (Hartog) Ruiter**

127 Howell Rd, Freehold, NJ 07728-8884

E-Mail: nruiiter@aol.com

**Otto** ('57) and **Janet (Bush) Buist** have moved to Holland, MI. Otto retired after 42 years with IBM. They are raising a 13-year-old grandson and have children located in NY, WA, SD and MI!

**CLASS OF 1964**

**Class Rep: Ruth Smith Choka**

4804 Tudor Dr, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444-1126

E-Mail: Rchoka@aol.com

**Trudy (Graham) Boogertman** ('60) writes that her sister **Nancy (Graham) Mist** lost her fight with breast cancer on September 18, 2004. The class of '64 sends its sympathy and prayers to Nancy's family.

**Former schoolmates of the classes of 1959, 1960, 1961, and 1962:**

"If you attended ECJH during the mid-50s, you no doubt studied art under artist/designer Dick Morris. While that was so long ago, many of us have been impacted by Morris ever since. If this is true of you, I would like to have your input for a tribute being prepared for a future issue of The Herald. Please pass along your comments/recollections to **Ken Schaaf** ('60) via kscha@loc.gov or 2125 Welchpoole Ct., Dunkirk, MD 20754."

**John Brandes** sent an update that he is semi-retired and still enjoys outdoor sports. In June he will be running in his 59th marathon, which happens to be a few weeks before his 59th birthday! John spends half his time in San Diego and half the year in Montana. When in San Diego, he and **Dave (Woody) Woudenberg** meet on the beach to walk their dogs and go for coffee. Woody is a real estate broker in the beach area and the owner of a vacation rental business. Woody says 'hi' to all the '64 classmates and especially those who were brave enough to ride to school with him in the back of his '63 Chevy. John and Dave are interested in the e-mail addresses of the class. Contact Class Rep **Ruth Choka** for John's e-mail.

**CLASS OF 1972**

**Class Rep Needed**

**Linda (Beverluis) Van Kessler** sent in an update, "My husband passed away unexpectedly. God has graciously brought a wonderful Dutch man (hard to find in Southern California) into my life and we were married on March 2. I have an incredible 16-year-old son."

**David Dykstra** suffered a stroke two years ago, and writes, "I am still in therapy trying to regain use of my left arm."

**CLASS OF 1973**

**Class Rep Needed**

**Susan (Hokke) Vermeulen** writes, "In 1977, I married **Doug Vermeulen**. In 1983 we moved with our two sons to Grand Rapids, MI to attend Reformed Bible College. Upon Doug's graduation, we became houseparents for 1½ years for women released from prison. Then we spent 9 years foster parenting teenaged boys in Rockford, MI. Since May of 2000, we've worked in New Mexico, then at Cal Farley's Boy's Ranch, and are currently certified family-teachers at the Presbyterian Home for Children in Amarillo, TX, where we currently serve as parent-teachers to 7 young men. Whoever would have imagined that I'd be "Mom" to over 175 boys! As they share about their daily troubles in school, I can't help but laugh as I share the stories of my troubled schooldays and remind them that 'This too shall pass. I'm so grateful for my parents' sacrifice so that my siblings and I could all attend Eastern Christian Schools!"

**CLASS OF 1980**

**Class Rep: Bill Vander Meulen**

11 Hillock Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506-3441

Vera D'Alessandro called in December asking for prayers for her daughter, **Darya D'Alessandro**. Darya had "beaten" cancer, but was, at that point, on a ventilator due to surgical complications. Class Rep **Bill Vander Meulen** spoke with Mrs. D'Alessandro and conveyed on behalf of the Class of 1980 their concern and prayers. Contact Bill or the Development Office if you'd like to contact the family.

**CLASS OF 1984**

**Class Rep: Lauran Bell (Hudson) Harrison**

E-Mail: Lauranbell@tbc.net

Reunion Rep **Cheryl (Mabie) Bereksazi** reported on the Class of 1984's 20-year Reunion. It took place on February 18 at the Brownstone in Paterson. She adds, "We had 40 alumni come. It was a great time shared by all. Thanks to all who came as it was great seeing you. We will try to get a picture together for the next issue of The Herald."

**CLASS OF 1985**

**Class Rep: Laura (Golden) Gorter**

112 Oakwood Ave,

North Haledon, NJ 07508-2400

**Reunion Rep: Susan (Dykman) D'ambra**

E-mail: echs1985@msn.com

Plans are in process for a 20th reunion. Contact Susan if you have any questions or suggestions.

**CLASS OF 1986**

**Class Rep Needed**

**Drew Sweetman** will graduate in May 2006 from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI where he is currently a student in the MDiv program. Drew, his wife Becki, and their four children are enjoying living and working in MI.

**CLASS OF 1990**

**Class Rep: Julie (Frens) Stinton**

2634 Almont Ave SE,

Grand Rapids, MI 49507-3908

E-Mail: STINTMJ726@aol.com

**Mark Shaner** married Susan A. Huckings from New Hampton, NH in August 1995. (Also see *Alumni Births* on page 24)

ALUMNI NEWS *continued from page 23*

**John De Groot** released his first solo piano album of original music last October. He hopes to release a second album this fall. John has more information about himself and his music on his website, [www.altitude9.com](http://www.altitude9.com). [*Editor's Note: See his ad in this issue.*]

**CLASS OF 1991**

**Class Rep: Susanne (Balkema) Wynbeek**  
454 Manchester Ave,  
North Haledon, NJ 07506-2788

**Supriya Jost-Denissov** e-mailed a birth announcement, and added: "We'll also be celebrating 9 years of marriage this year.... I love to catch up with all the ECSA news." Supriya's e-mail is [supis@earthlink.net](mailto:supis@earthlink.net) for classmates wanting to catch up!

**CLASS OF 1994**

**Class Rep: Julie (Bowers) Tilson**  
403 West Richwoods Blvd, Peoria, IL 61604-1550  
E-Mail: [Gjtilson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Gjtilson@sbcglobal.net)

**Christian Conlon** married Kelly Lees at the Grace United Methodist Church in Wyckoff on Sept. 5, 2004. Christian is a graduate of Seton Hall University.

**CLASS OF 1995**

**Class Rep: Elizabeth Hoogmoed**  
100 Pierson Miller Dr Unit E-24,  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-1050  
E-Mail: [ejh810@optonline.net](mailto:ejh810@optonline.net)

**Kathleen (Wray) Ramkissoon** was married on November 26, 2004 in Jamaica to Dev Ramkissoon.

**Reminder: The 10-year Class Reunion will be on Saturday, November 26, 2005** at Portobello's Restaurant in Oakland. Contact Elizabeth for more information.

**Looking for Classmates Online?**

You need a password to the EC Alumni Directory located on our affiliated website,

[www.theclaslist.com/ecsa](http://www.theclaslist.com/ecsa).

To get one is simple. The first step is to identify yourself as a valid alumnus by e-mailing us your mailing address and an e-mail address for us to use. Once we verify the information, a password will be e-mailed back to you. You can search for classmates, get their e-mail addresses and also decide which e-mail calendar you wish to receive.

**CLASS OF 1997**

**Class Rep: James Pyrich**  
Home Page: [www.97cc.com](http://www.97cc.com)

**Kimberly (Bandstra) Pitts** has been deployed to Iraq with the Kentucky National Guard Military Police as of November 2004. She is scheduled to be in Iraq for 18 months. Her job is to patrol the streets of Baghdad. Her 3½ year old daughter Katelyn is staying with her parents **Glenn** ('72) and **Mieka (Roza) Bandstra** ('72). She would love to hear from classmates. Cards, notes, packages and prayers can be sent to: Sgt.



*Debbie (Vander Plaat) and Aaron Berger*

Kimberly Pitts,  
617th Military  
Police – 95th  
MPBN, Camp  
Victory, APO, AE  
09342

Aaron and  
**Debbie (Vander  
Plaat) Berger** were  
married on Oct. 30,  
2004 at Covenant  
CRC in NJ. Debbie

writes, "It was the most perfect day – definitely blessed by the Lord! We're currently living in Ogdensburg, NJ and enjoying married life!"

**CLASS OF 1998**

**Class Rep: Sandi (King) Chiera**  
15 E Street, Port Reading, NJ 07064  
E-Mail: [chiera0022@aol.com](mailto:chiera0022@aol.com)

**Hannah Kreil** writes, "I got engaged on August 1, 2004 to my boyfriend of 5 years, Gregg Gusta. We are planning a spring of 2006 or 2007 wedding."

**CLASS OF 1999**

**Class Rep: Jennifer (Van Der Heide) Rysdam**  
1111 Golfcrest Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509  
E-Mail: [jteach19@aol.com](mailto:jteach19@aol.com)

**Douglas Jaarsma** is the Third Mate on the GSF (GLOMAR) Explorer and looking to update his USCG Second Mate Unlimited license in February. He transferred his reserve duty station to the US Coast Guard Command and Control Engineering Facility in Portsmouth, VA. Doug is a liaison to the Navigation Sensors division working on navigational systems. He and his wife live in Chesapeake, VA.

**Alumni Birth Announcements**

*Congratulations to these EC alumni who have recently welcomed a new member to their family!*

**CLASS OF 1982 – Patricia (Zeeuw) and James Sack**, a daughter, Alayne Claire on 11/11/03.

**CLASS OF 1988 – Rachel and Mark De Block**, a son, Nicholas Bernard on 2/17/05.

**CLASS OF 1990 – Susan and Marc Shaner**, a son, David Wayne on 10/11/04.

**CLASS OF 1990 – Jody and Dr. Garry Vermaas**, a daughter, Jolyn Rose on 11/24/04. Jolyn joins brother Garret Douglas (2-1/2).

**CLASS OF 1991 – Albert and Sharon (Schipper) Berry**, a daughter, Hannah Brooke on 2/12/05. Hannah joins a sister, Taylor Paige (3) and a brother, Cole Tyler (1).

**CLASS OF 1991 – Carole and Doug De Visser**, a son, Nathan Douglas on 1/2/05. Nathan joins sister Carly Joy (3).

**CLASS OF 1991 – Serguei and Supriya Jost-Denissov**, a daughter, Anjali MarinaShanti Denissov on 11/15/04.

**CLASS OF 1991 – James and Kathleen (De Jong) Joye**, a daughter, Mackenzie Kaitlyn, on 1/25/05. She joins sister, Megan Hailey (3).

**CLASS OF 1991 – Jodi and Peter Steen**, a daughter, Charlie Elizabeth Steen, on 12/02/04. She joins big brother Harrison Phillip.

**CLASS OF 1992 – Renee and Tim Aupperlee**, twin sons, Calvin Lewis and Peter Bradford on 11/1/04. They join brothers Jacob (5) and Samuel (3).

**CLASS OF 1992 – Brian and Hope (Doss) Conroy**, a daughter, Chloe Noelle on 1/27/05. She joins sister Savannah (10), and brothers Zechariah (6), and Brady (3).

**CLASS OF 1994 – Mark and Vanessa (Vanden Berg) McKinniss**, a son, Elijah Quinn on 7/29/04.

**CLASS OF 1995 – Bethany and Russell Meyer**, a son, Zachary Robert on 7/25/04.

**Alumni are encouraged to submit birth announcements by e-mail or letter to: Editor, The Herald.**

## Designated Gifts

OCTOBER 16, 2004 – FEBRUARY 18, 2005

*Gifts received after February 18, 2005 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Herald. During this time period, 311 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 \$21,034.17. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!*

### ENDOWMENT FUND

*~In Memory Of~*

#### Fanny Amels

Brian and Susan Scheidle  
Jeanette and Clarence Smit  
Brian D. Roper  
Muriel and Reynold Amels  
Carole Roper  
Jeffrey W. Roper  
Garret & Carolyn Vermaas  
George & Carol Bosma  
Ed & Diana Carr  
Wyckoff Town Hall Co-Workers  
Sam & Marion Sybesma  
Dr. George & Nancy Fenners  
Midland Park CRC  
Sr. Crusaders  
Anne Beckman  
Jane Greer  
Doris Smith  
Theda Kissel  
Kathy Clavin  
Ron & Rita Popjes  
Elaine Heerema  
Anne & John Amels  
Ron & Marilyn Stonehouse  
Miles & Anne Kuperus  
Jim & Dot Amels  
Little Diversified Architectural  
Consulting, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Gillespie

#### Otto Beauchamp

Jacoba Beauchamp

#### John Belanus

Garret M. & Carolyn Belanus

#### Ellen Benson

Orlie Benson

#### John & Florence Borduin

Janet & Richard Ritsma

#### Sidney Bruins

Clifton Law Dept.  
Bernard & Marion Memmelaar  
Stuart & Alice Struck  
Genevieve Douma  
Jean & Francis Jellema  
Audrey Wispelwey  
Doug & Marianne Bushoven  
Henry & Grace Lootsma  
Helen Halma  
Jeanette & Clarence Smit  
John & Kay Drukker  
Bernard & Helen Van Heemst  
Senator & Mrs. Henry P.  
McNamara  
Garret & Florence Nieuwenhuis  
Roy Jellema  
Dot Woudenberg  
Corene De Graaf  
Wm. and Marcia Vander Eems  
Gary and Barbara Link  
Adeline Leo  
Harry and Dorothy Westra  
Raymond & Julia Martin  
American Council of Life  
Insurers  
Catherine Veenema  
Rich & Ruth Kuiken  
Rev. Rich & Marge Baukema, Sr.  
Mrs. Henrietta Baukema  
Ronald Andela

#### Nena Schuil Chapman

Emma Cara  
G. Aleida Garehan

#### Jeanette Belanus De Jong

W. Michael Peden & Family  
Kenneth & Rosemarie Hovey

John & Faye Dyksen

The Douma Family  
Neil & Bea Belanus  
Henriette & Clarence Belanus

#### Arthur De Noble

The Davidowitz Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mariniello,  
Jr.  
Richard E. Kniffin  
Michele & James Phibbs  
Robert T. Regan  
Albert & Catherine Algera  
Marilyn & Donald Sporn  
Marilyn & Len De Block  
Ron & Kris Pepper  
Ann & Maurice Ricco  
John & Hester Van Buiten  
Bob & Jackie Pepper  
Bernard & Marion Memmelaar  
Vince De Young  
Vic De Young  
June Vanderwall  
Elsie & John Golden  
Corene De Graaf  
Ted Preusch  
Jeanne Smith

#### Herman de Waal Malefyt

Jane F. de Waal Malefyt

#### Peter Englishman

Wilma & Jack Decker

#### Gerard Fridsma

Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

#### Nicholas & Bertha Fridsma

Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

#### Nicholas B. Fridsma

Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

#### Barney G. Fylstra

Henrietta Fylstra

#### Katherine Hall

Manegold & Portella Family  
Edward & Jeanette Prommel  
William & Janet Prommel  
Roger & Caroline Veenstra  
Herb & Jo Bosloper  
James & Amy Kuiken  
James & Kristen Kuiken  
Andrew, Tess & Claire Kuiken  
Tyson & Emily Diener  
Peter & Ethel Vander Werf  
John & Kay Drukker  
Harriet & Marvin Abma  
Doris & Jake Kuiken  
Marion M. Walter  
Joan & Bob Vogel  
William & Charlene Cook  
David & Karen, Alison,  
Sara & Abigail Troast  
Keith & Kimberly Torrens  
& Family  
Kenneth & Barbara Wisse  
Ruth & Brian LeMon

#### Albertus Hartog

Carolina E. Hartog

#### John T. Hokke

Bill & Gladys Vermeulen

#### Martina Verblauw Hoogerheide

Bert G. & Pat Boer

#### Henriette DeVries Houseward

Bernice Houseward  
& Stephen Pastoor

*continued on page 26*

DESIGNATED GIFTS *continued from page 25*

**Kathryn Miller Houseward**  
Bernice Houseward & Stephen  
Pastoor

**Clarence & Winifred Huizing**  
Rich & Ruth Kuiken

**Edward Hurley**  
Midland Park  
CRC Sr. Crusaders  
Bernard W. Houseward

**Gilbert Jeffer**  
Henrietta Bender

**Alida & Andrew Kuiken**  
Rich & Ruth Kuiken

**Albert Maas, Sr.**  
Fogeline Maas  
Henry & Alice Faasse  
Dennis & Agnes Crean

**Aaron P. Malefyt**  
Bert & Pat Boer  
Doris Villarreal  
Agnes Heerema

**Johanna Midgette**  
Allan, Sheri, Elizabeth,  
Sarah & Emily Mulcock

**Frances Minnaard**  
Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

**John & Carrie Molhoek**  
Naomi Westdyke

**Henry Nienhouse**  
PSEG Matching Gift  
Peter & Tannette Botbyl

**Geraldine Oosting**  
Frank & Lenore Dykstra  
Randy & Karen Hagedoorn  
& Family  
Nick & Norma Hagedoorn  
Barbara Davis  
JustGive.org -  
The Karlis Mateus Family

**Edward John Postma, Sr.**  
Elinor Postma

**Clarence J. Rosendale**  
Corene De Graaf  
Ellen Terpstra  
Bud & Vanda De Vries  
Hilda De Roo  
Katherine Veenstra  
Ernie & June Nienhouse

**Samuel Stapert**  
June Stapert

**Herman C. Steenstra**  
Col. & Mrs. Henry Steenstra

**Dr. Howard Charles Tousley**  
Dr. Kerry Quinn  
Tanglewood Acres  
Adult Home Inc.  
Virginia Schmidt  
Harriet & Donald Fritzschn  
Ed & Wilma Kohere  
Visbeen Construction Company  
Ernest & Linda Bush

Nick & Lynn Veenstra  
John & Eleanor Kooreman  
Bob & Leslie De Jong & Family  
Helen & Abram Van Dyke  
Midland Park  
CRC Senior Crusaders  
Virginia Ripa  
Jane de Waal Malefyt

Jane Decker  
Agnes Heerema  
Gertrude B. Phelps  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Bush, Sr.  
Bernard W. Houseward  
Jacoba Beauchamp  
Lee & Elmer De Ritter  
Arthur Steensma  
Edna Mae Devine  
Clix & Ruth Knyfd  
Bud & Kathy Visbeen  
Marjorie Bush

**Carol A. Van Der Wall**  
Carolina E. Hartog

**John Van Dyk**  
John & Kay Drukker

**Edward & Ida Van Heemst**  
Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

**Jeremy Bernard Van Heemst**  
Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

**Margaret Schaaf Weigel**  
Tom & Doris Van Tassell

**Warren & Jennie Westdyke**  
Naomi Westdyke

**Adrian W. Wisse**  
Peter & Rachel Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Smith  
Tuesday Afternoon Kimball  
Hospital Volunteers

Harold & Alma Wisse  
John & Cornelia Dec  
Mr. & Mrs. David Van Lenten  
Linda Johnson  
Jim & Ruthanne Wisse  
Ann Flaming  
Janice Broek  
Black Dog Builders LLC

**Marinus J. "Rin" Woudenberg**  
Bob & Leslie De Jong & Family  
Patricia M. & Frank G. Locante  
Wayne & Fran David  
Samuel & Madeline Greydanus  
James Dansen  
John & Doris Dyk  
Jeanette & Clarence Smit

Catherine E. Veenema  
Doug & Marianne Bushoven  
Sidney & Rena Bruins  
Ray & Jule Martin  
John & Carolyn Steen  
Herb & Jo Bosloper  
Henry & Grace Lootsma  
Dorothy Udes  
John & Eleanor Kooreman  
Helen & Richard Van Harken  
Kenneth & Ruth Tanis

Corene De Graaf  
Geraldine Monsma  
John & Kay Drukker  
Matthew Woudenberg  
Adeline Leo  
Genevieve Douma  
Dorothy Lodema  
Samuel & Lorraine Steen  
Lynn Mullanaphy

Barney & Heety Steen  
Lambert De Vries  
Ruth & Phil De Jong  
Susan & Charles Snyder  
Catherine E. Veenema

**Elsie Zuidema**  
Peter & Lorraine Hagedoorn

**Richard Zuidema, Jr.**  
Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

*~In Honor Of~*

**Albert & Kay Alger**  
*(60th Wedding Anniversary)*  
Corene De Graaf  
Bern & Marion Memmelaar  
Kenneth & Ruth Tanis  
Gladys Van Goor

**Gerald & Janyce Bandstra**  
*(45th Wedding Anniversary)*  
Samuel & Lorraine Steen

**Clarence Belanus**  
*(80th Birthday)*  
PSEG Matching Gift

**Lorna Bogertman**  
*(50th Birthday)*  
Harold & Barbara Kuipers

**William R. Cook**  
*(70th Birthday)*  
PSEG Matching Gift

**Paul De Blaey**  
*(70th Birthday)*  
Herb & Jean Soodsma

**Corene De Graaf**  
*(75th Birthday)*  
EC Development Office Friends

**Trina De Roo**  
*(75th Birthday)*  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Berry  
Corene De Graaf

**John De Vries**  
*(85th Birthday)*  
Jake & Betty Tolsma

**Gertrude De Waal Malefyt**  
(100th Birthday)  
Ellen Terpstra

**Edward & Dorothy Jaasma**  
(41st Anniversary)  
Edward & Dorothy Jaasma

**Christina Maas**  
(95th Birthday)  
James. & Lois Belle

**Ray & Julia Martin**  
(50th Wedding Anniversary)  
Corene De Graaf

**Mae Moezelaar**  
(85th Birthday)  
Corene De Graaf

**Diane Avogardo Romano**  
(50th Birthday)  
Robert & Nancy Campbell

**Bertha Sikkema**  
(104th Birthday)  
Bertha Warnet

**Jean Soodsma**  
(80th Birthday)  
Henry & Trudy Atema

**Jacob & Betty Tolsma**  
Brant & Nancy Tolsma

**Garret & Joan Van Der Weert**  
(50th Wedding Anniversary)  
Fred & Audrey Sikkema  
Kenn & Sharon Visbeen  
Richard & Lois Leentjes  
Jennie & Leonard Bouwense  
Agnes & John Kuiken

**Judith E. Van Dyke**  
(65th Birthday)  
Helen & Abram Van Dyke  
Raeanna & Garry Dykhous

**Jessie Van Olden**  
(90th Birthday)  
Grace & John Schaus

**Hilda & Ada Wisse**  
Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

**Andy & Sue Ann Woudenberg**  
(50th Wedding Anniversary)  
Betty & Ed Gerritsen  
Henry & Grace Lootsma  
Len & Betty Dykman

*~Direct Gifts~*

Barnabas Foundation –  
Franklin De Haan  
Peter & Mary Boonstra  
& Family  
Lena De Ritter  
Cedar Hill CRC  
Estate of Marinus Ten Hoeve

**RESTRICTED  
ENDOWMENT FUND**

*~In Memory Of~*

**Sidney Bangma**  
(High School Math  
Scholarship Fund)  
Mark & Elaine Vander Weit  
Bert G. and Pat Boer  
Katherine Veenstra  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Roukema  
John & Kay Drukker  
Jake & Marian Heerema  
Al & Jan Visbeen  
Fred & Audrey Sikkema  
Ellen Terpstra  
Laurina & Glen Vanderaa  
Jennie & Leonard Bouwense  
Marilyn & Donald Sporn  
Elsie P. Palmer  
Marilyn Vander Wall Bartholme  
Joan & Don De Bruin  
Robert Scholten  
Ken Scholten  
Mary Ellen & David Minnaar  
Tom & Sally Scholten  
Melanie Scholten &  
A.C. Vander Kolk  
Frank & Betsy Snope  
Janice & Chris Cundey  
Raymond & Julia Martin  
Gail & Ronald Veenema  
Joy Vanderwerff  
Rich & Ruth Kuiken  
Gerald F. Draayer

Susan A. Mosiman  
Fred and Jeanne Lanting  
Agnes Bangma  
Gail Baker  
Grace Shuart  
Harry & Dorothy Westra  
Kevin & Donna Hoogerhyde  
Ada Pontier  
Marilyn (Hagedorn) & John  
Houskamp  
Janet & Stanley Jacobson  
Judi & David Vos  
Joseph & Judith Brain  
Edward & Delores De Vries

**Elise Kathleen Gorter**  
(Elise Kathleen Gorter  
Scholarship Fund)  
ITT Matching Gift  
Greg & Lauren Golden  
Elsie & John Golden  
Wayne Tile Co.  
Ron & Kirsten Barna,  
Jessica & Matthew  
Bill & Joyce Golden

**ANNUAL FUND**

*~In Memory Of~*

**Richard Douglas De Jong**  
Janet Vander Goot

**Loved Ones**  
Agnes Graham

**Elmer & Agnes Stonehouse**  
Ronald & Marilyn Stonehouse

*~In Honor Of~*

**Corene De Graaf**  
(75th Birthday)  
John & Marge Jansen

**James & Robert Mader**  
Eugene Fenn

**Daniel & Beatrice Minkema**  
(55th Wedding Anniversary)  
Richard & Lynn Ver Hage  
Lois & Ron Modelski  
Gary Minkema  
Denise & Tony Sardinas

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
EASTERN CHRISTIAN:**

*Phase II: Gym  
Construction & Beyond*

*~In Honor Of~*

**Janet & Al Visbeen**  
Glenn & Yvonne Visbeen

**RESTRICTED FUND**

*~In Memory Of~*

**Mitchell De Noble**  
Wilma & Richard Tuit

*~In Honor Of~*

**Bernard W. Houseward**  
Bernice Houseward  
& Stephen Pastoor

**Ray & Julia Martin**  
(50th Wedding Anniversary)  
Wilma & Richard Tuit

*~Direct Gifts~*

EA Class of 1954

*NOTE: NOTE: Please mail all endowment, memorial & honor gifts to the attention of the Development Office. Each gift (not the amount) is acknowledged to the appropriate family or individual. The donor also receives an acknowledgment letter. Gifts to these Funds are eligible or matching gifts from companies with a matching gift program.*

SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMS *continued from page 9*

**“LEARNING ABOUT BUSINESS” PROGRAM** *(continued)*

**What was the best thing about your experience?**

**Xiomara Robinson:** I was able to meet a lot of professional people and I learned what it was like to own your own business. I gained confidence about starting my own business.

**Did you learn anything about yourself that surprised you?**

**Xiomara:** I didn’t know anyone at the program, so I learned that I can make good friends in a short time. I also learned that I am more outgoing and funny than I thought I was.

**Would you recommend this experience to other EC students?**

**Xiomara:** I would recommend the “*Learn About Business*” program to those who are very interested in business and have a high patience level, because the seminars are very long....

**NJ GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL:**

The process for acceptance into New Jersey’s Governor’s School is extremely competitive.

Each high school in the state may nominate one student in each field of study; the applications in each county are reviewed by the county superintendent, who selects the top students to become semi-finalists. The top 10-20 students from the state in each category become participants in the program.

**Philomena Mazza-Hilway** was chosen to participate in the Creative Writing program, which is usually limited to a total of 10-12 students from all high schools in New Jersey. The Governor’s School program lasted one month, during which students lived on a college campus and spent their time working with professors and professionals in the field, completing projects and critiquing one another’s work. Philomena recently received a notice that she will be receiving an award for the quality of her work and for her attitude while a participant.

**What was the best thing about your experience?**

**Philomena:** The best thing was definitely the privilege to meet and coexist with so many talented young artists, musicians, actors, etc. Everyone was in awe of what everyone

else could accomplish – it was just such an environment of mutual respect and admiration. We all bonded with each other over the things we loved most in life – the arts – and it was amazing.

**Did you learn anything about yourself that surprised you? What?**

**Philomena:** Probably what stood out the most was how different I felt to be away from home and away from EC, in a completely foreign environment. It wasn’t as easy as I imagined, but I adapted quickly, which definitely surprised me. I thought I held up rather well under the stresses of a demanding experience and managed to stay true to myself, which was great.

**Would you recommend this experience to other EC students?**

**Philomena:** Absolutely! The idea of participating in a lengthy program that includes students from a wide variety of schools, many of which are not Christian, may seem intimidating at first, but it really is an opportunity for major growth. Academically, experience-wise – you learn so much.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE *continued from page 18*

commitment is by regularly expanding our scholarship program. Years ago, individual church Booster Clubs assisted the families in their specific congregations. As our constituency expanded, Booster Club support has not been available to all families. The Tuition Assistance Program (T.A.P.) was established to consider need on a case by case basis for every family that applied.

Today, T.A.P. has become the **Scholarship Fund**. Families wishing to participate in our scholarship program are asked to complete a simple one-page application which is evaluated by an outside company. This company reviews and ranks all applicants, based on financial need. Then, scholarships are awarded by us, based on the company’s analysis and on the amount of dollars ECSA has allotted in the budget. For the current school year, ECSA awarded a total of **\$724,000** to approximately 25% of our EC families.

The Board of Directors remains committed to increasing our annual scholarships and striving to make a Christian education attainable for all members of our community. Our budget for the 2005-2006 school year includes provision for awarding **\$770,000** in scholarships. For more information on donating to the Scholarship Fund, contact the Development Office at 973-427-9294.

JOURNEY TO MT EVEREST *continued from page 13*

**REACHING A SUMMIT AND CONTINUING TO CLIMB**

In some sense the “*Mount Everest syndrome*” has been operative in this journey. “*Because it is there,*” are likely words of those who scale the slopes of that highest peak. It represents the ultimate challenge as a human endeavor. In the same way this Doctorate of Education in Pedagogy (Ed. D.), awarded in January 2005, represents the highest degree available to my profession. It has served to continue the climb of learning above the plateau, so to speak, and



*Teacher Terry Allen*

I am thankful for the encouragement of my family and colleagues. But it also, at a deeper level, has given me an opportunity to study intensely in subjects that have great interest and meaning to me. It is my desire that this has helped to make me a better scholar and teacher. The study I have done provides a new base from which to pursue scholarship and understanding in how and why people think and believe as they do, and in the end it all serves also to help accomplish the two educational and personal aims I have envisioned in my work with students in the classroom.