



THE *Herald*

EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

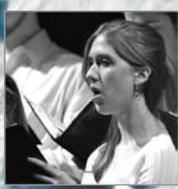
WINTER/SPRING 2007
VOL. 47 - ISSUE 1



Engaging the Mind

EXPERIENCING ACADEMICS FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

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Where Technology, Art, & Information Come Together

Eastern Christian High School's Web Design course is based on the idea that creating a web site is about more than learning the HTML code behind the pages. It's also about learning the importance of writing, graphic creation/manipulation, navigation systems, and design. Anyone can build a web site; but after this class, students will have the tools and ability to build the best." - ECHS CURRICULUM GUIDE

In November of 2006, Eastern Christian High School received an invitation to participate in the second annual Web Design Competition, sponsored by the New Jersey Institute of Technology. According to NJIT's web site, the main purpose of the competition was to "feature the creation of high-quality, well-designed, and original web sites, while seeking to identify and encourage future talent in this area." Upon follow-up communicating with NJIT, ECHS Technology Instructors **Tim Steen** and **Ji Young Kim** both felt that the spirit of the event was very much in line with the philosophy behind the web design classes taught at EC.

In early December, a team of three students was formed to participate in the event. Senior **Jay Van Buiten** and juniors **Gabe Kooreman** and **Peter Okma** had previously demonstrated considerable talent and diligence in the technology courses they had taken; therefore, the decision to have them represent EC was an easy one. The team began meeting together in December and worked together until the end of February to create a web site about high-definition television. The team states that they chose this topic because "it's something that the public hears a lot about but are generally confused about as well."



Screenshot from the HDTV website created by ECHS students.

A great deal of time was spent on designing and coding the web site, using tools such as Photoshop, Flash, Dreamweaver, and HTML-Kit. However, the team also made sure to spend an equal amount of time discussing and refining the content. In the ECHS Web Design course, the idea that "content is king" is stated again and again. Remembering this motto, the team never lost sight of the fact that a web site can be fancy and colorful, but that the content is what ultimately compels individuals to visit frequently. With so much

content, the team also needed to set aside time for proofreading and troubleshooting, not unlike the work done for an extensive research paper. The finished site was submitted during the first week of March.

The ECHS team traveled to the NJIT campus on March 14 to showcase the finished web site and to participate in a variety of other technology-related events and seminars. They also had the chance to interact with a few of the 300 other participants. At the end of the day, the awards were finally announced. While Jay, Gabe, and Peter were fairly confident that they had created a very good web site, it took them by surprise to realize that the words "Eastern Christian" had been spoken when announcing the First Place Team! They accepted their awards, had their pictures taken, and acknowledged the cheers and applause of 300 of their peers. For their first place finish, each student was awarded a cash prize of \$250 as well as a \$3000 scholarship to NJIT. Congratulations, Jay, Gabe, and Peter!

Jay will most likely be attending NJIT next fall, and Gabe and Peter are both considering the school as an option in two years. View their website at "<http://www.ecstudents.net/njit2007/hdvt>".



Winners **Jay Van Buiten**, **Gabe Kooreman** and **Peter Okma**



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ABOUT THE COVER

Recently Arthur Steensma (Class of '36) donated his rock and mineral collection to EC High School to encourage the study of the natural sciences. Pictured on the cover, examining samples from the collection are: (L to R): ECHS Juniors Gabe Kooreman, Rachel Flim, Erica Lotz with Mr. Steensma and teacher Philip Verrengia.

The Herald is the magazine for alumni, parents and friends of Eastern Christian School published three times a 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. Our web site address is: 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 self-addressed, stamped envelope 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.

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Unique Mineral Collection Donated to ECHS

Passing Knowledge and Enthusiasm about God's Creation to the Next Generation of EC Students

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord; Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn..." Isaiah 51:1 (NIV)

EC Alumnus **Arthur Steensma** (*Cl. of '36*) has been an avid collector of rocks and minerals since his youthful days of climbing in the Prospect Park "hayfields" adjacent to the quarry. Colorful and interestingly-shaped crystals always found their way into his pockets somehow while he was playing "Cowboys and Indians" with friends.

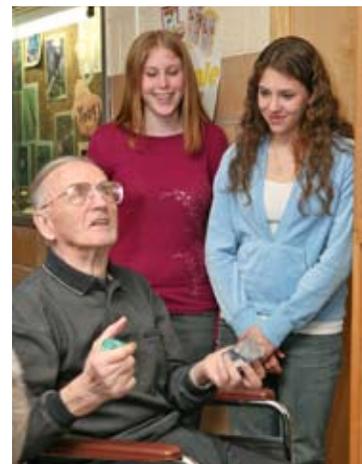
When he attended Christian School, 6th Grade teacher **Gert (Fortuin) Van Dyk** and Eastern Academy [*EC High School's name prior to 1955*] teacher **John De Vries** helped him grow in his knowledge and love for the natural sciences. As he searched for answers to the question of what career path to take, he knew that he wanted to incorporate his hobby into his vocation. He was led to study chemical engineering and worked for the Hoffmann-LaRoche pharmaceutical company for over 40 years until he retired.

Art visited the EC Middle School as a volunteer many times to share his knowledge of minerals with the students in their science classes, and he began to think about donating his collection to inspire students to learn about this facet of God's creation. When he moved from his home in Wyckoff to the Christian Health Care Center

last year, he invited the EC science teachers to review the collection to see how it could best be used in the curriculum. The decision was made to house and study the collection at the EC High School, and Teacher **Philip Verrengia** and Principal **Jan Lucas** boxed and moved the minerals to that campus.

This year a special display case, donated by Mr. Steensma, has been built with lighting, shelves and mirrors that will exhibit groups of minerals and fossils to be examined by students in both Chemistry and Biology classes. Included in the collection are silicates such as quartz and amethyst, carbonates such as dolomite and calcite, halides such as fluorite, geodes (mineral-filled rocks), sulfides like copper and iron pyrite called "fool's gold," and even ores containing silver and gold. Interested students will be able to explore how chemical compositions result in the various colors, hardness and crystal formations of actual mineral samples.

Recently, Art's son Peter Steensma (*Cl. of '65*) brought his father to EC High School to see the new display case and the first sets of minerals placed in the case. The goal is to enhance our instruction in the natural



Rachel Flim and Erica Lotz listen as Mr. Steensma shares a story about his collection.



Amethyst samples in the new display case.

Our Website Has a New Look!

Throughout this issue we will be showing you screenshots for a variety of pages you can explore on our redesigned website. Be sure to put www.easternchristian.org into your Favorites or Bookmarks and visit often.



CULTIVATING A THIRST for KNOWLEDGE IN ALL STUDENTS

sciences by examining actual samples, and students **Gabe Kooreman**, **Erica Lotz** and **Rachel Flim** enjoyed asking questions about the parts of the collection. When asked about the difference between a “rock” and a “mineral,” Art explained that rocks are composed of various minerals. They also learned:

- how some minerals like rhodochrosite are made into jewelry by polishing techniques,
- how the copper ores azurite and malachite are essentially the same chemically, but trace elements cause one to be a deep blue and the other to be bright green in coloring, and
- what a perfectly formed fluorite crystal looks like.

Mr. Verrengia took advantage of the occasion to ask for Art’s help to identify some of the minerals that were more rare or unusual.

Minerals like “eilat stone” from a location in Israel where mining was done during King Solomon’s reign are part of this collection, as well as samples from the local borough of Prospect Park, and some from the Franklin Mine in New Jersey, like franklinite and zincite which glow red and green under a black light. Art commented that, “*God gave New Jersey a great treasure of rocks and minerals.*” When asked about a favorite part of his collection, Art talked about the special quality samples of petrified wood that were given to him by an old family friend who had been working as a missionary on an Indian reservation. They show the grain of the wood and the structure of the bark as well as areas of new growth of quartz crystals.

Recalling his high school days, Art later shared with *The Herald* editor a story about an adventure he had with a friend



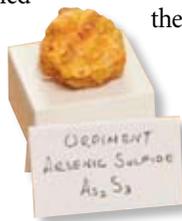
Gabe Kooreman asks about the properties of a particular mineral.

who drove up to Ringwood with him after work hours. As they traipsed around on this collecting trip, they found magnetite (magnetic iron ore) dating back to Revolutionary War times, but had to run away quickly at the sound of local residents who didn’t welcome “rock hounds” in their woods.

Mr. Steensma’s hobby has been a part of his Christian walk as well. He has written some “sermons” that center around the properties of a particular mineral. For example, he has used a fire agate, with its “rusty” interior – iron oxide – surrounded by a layer of quartz, to visualize how man’s sinful nature is totally covered by God’s grace. His hobby has been

an avenue to talk to young and old about God’s creation and the steadfastness of His abiding Truth and Love. It is his wish that this donation be the beginning of continuing work by people in the community to build and fill in the gaps in his collection. He hopes that networking with individuals working in the local Paterson Museum and Franklin Mine will be cultivated as students study geology. Art would like to see others in the EC community, who have their own collections, consider starting a dialog about how they might contribute a unique sample or two to add to this collection’s educational value. His satisfaction comes when he can spark an interest in this hobby or get students of any age to see some of what can be learned about God’s design from minerals, with their unique chemical and physical properties, and how they can be transformed into creations of beauty.

Thank you, Art, on behalf of the EC community, for passing on your knowledge of the physical and the spiritual aspects of your special collection. We look forward to using the display of the collection as a continuing part of the science education at EC.



**Our Website
Has More Information!**

The “Who We Are” section explains our mission, our history, answers general questions and provides links to information for those interested in enrolling at EC.

CULTIVATING A THIRST for KNOWLEDGE IN ALL STUDENTS

Arrgh, Mate!

ECMS Students Compete in a “Pirate Open”

On November 18, 2006, four of our 7th Grade *Horizons* students had the opportunity to compete in the 11th Annual Seton Hall Prep “Pirate Open,” named after Seton Hall University’s athletic teams. This academic competition for 7th and 8th grade boys featured 23 schools from various areas in New Jersey. Our team competed with their coach and parent **Chuck Shotmeyer**, answering questions from six categories: *History, Geography, Math, Science, Sports and General Knowledge*. They finished an excellent 9th Place out of 30 schools and are anxious to participate again next year.



Pictured (L to R): EC Parent **Chuck Shotmeyer**, ECMS students **Jacob Shotmeyer, Josh Davidson, Ameer Halim**, Parent **Tom Davidson**, 7th Grader **Luke Everson** and Parent **Miles Everson**

The students themselves had this to say about the competition:

Ameer Halim: “I thought Seton Hall’s Academic Competition was a great learning experience for all of us. It taught us how to work as a team to do great things.”

Jacob Shotmeyer: “I had a fun time competing with the other schools, and working together as a team. I also enjoyed the fellowship with my fellow students. I hope to go back again next year.”

As a volunteer coach, Mr. Shotmeyer shared his perspective on this learning experience:

“This event was a great experience for our students. There were approximately 30 teams of four students (7th & 8th Grade Boys) from what seemed to be all of the faith-based private schools in our area. Our boys were very excited, especially in the car ride on the way to Seton Hall Prep as they continued to prepare.

The experience was a ‘ton of fun.’ In spite of the fact that our students, all 7th graders, faced teams of primarily 8th graders, they held their own very well. It was a credit to Eastern Christian to be there and participate. Our boys brought honor to EC as they performed very well academically and demonstrated good sportsmanship throughout the competition. Our team’s goal was to do the best we possibly could this year and learn as much as possible.

I had the opportunity to share Eastern Christian with other parents, some of whom had many questions. I really enjoyed this opportunity and the time spent with four terrific students, who did their best to represent EC in this academic competition. We have our sights on placing in the top three next year.”

Our Website Is Easier to Use!

The “Admissions” section describes our campuses, our curriculum, our location and our tuition/fee schedule and scholarship opportunities as well as providing online forms for the application process.



Inspired by Black Inventors:

A Special Learning Experience at ECES

As part of EC Elementary School's February focus on Black History, alumna **Steffany Baptiste** (Cl. of '95) presented a special assembly in honor of four inventors who have invented common items that have changed people's daily lives.

To set the tone, Fourth Grade teacher **Carol Byma** began by reading verses from Ephesians 2 which emphasized God's grace and God's sacrifice. She then talked about ECES students' response of service, and how others in our EC community, such as Steffany, have responded by service in God's world. [See separate article entitled: *Chapel Devotions*]

After music teacher **Esther Alsum** led the students in a harmonic version of the spiritual, "Hold On," Mrs. Byma introduced "Miss Steffany" as one of her former students, whose grades she still had kept (along with many other former students) in a binder from Steffany's days at EC Middle School! Teacher and friend **Alisa Engelhard** then told the students that their guest was another example of a Christian person who is serving God and her community by educating students and adults to know more about the contributions of Black Americans.

Steffany asked the children, "Why do we study Black History?" Students answered with statements that included remembering freedom for those in slavery and celebrating great works of Black people, but Steffany's goal was to get the students to understand that "Black History is Everybody's History." To demonstrate this concept, she used a PowerPoint presentation, a familiar song ("If You're Happy and You Know it, Clap Your Hands"), and a number of student helpers to jump up and show their posters of the four inventors at appropriate times. Those featured included individuals who invented the following items used every day:

- **Traffic Light** – invented by Garrett Morgan in 1923
- **Ironing Board** – invented by Sarah Boone in 1892 [Editor's Note: the same year that a Society formed to establish Amity Christian School – the 1st of the EC Schools in North Jersey]
- **Golf Tee** – invented by George T. Grant in 1899
- **Pencil Sharpener** – invented by John Lee Love in 1897 [See Contents pg. photo]

The lyrics of the familiar song were changed to help the students sing about each of the four inventions, including verses like:

"The ironing board was made by Sarah Boone – CLAP! CLAP! (repeat) One – two – three, Now our clothes are wrinkle-free, 'cause the ironing board was made by Sarah Boone – CLAP! CLAP!"

Stephanie graduated from Rutgers University with a teaching degree and is now working on her dissertation, studying how Black History is being taught in NJ schools today. She and the students enjoyed their time together in this assembly, and we thank her for coming back to EC Elementary School to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for learning!



Special Guest EC Alumna
Steffany Baptiste



Kirsten Skead is holding one of the posters made for use during this presentation. Several times students was asked to "pop up" to show one of these posters so that the rest of the students would remember the inventors' names and their inventions.

Chapel Devotions based on Ephesians 2:4-10

BY FOURTH GRADE TEACHER
CAROL BYMA

Mrs. Byma read from Ephesians 2: 4-10, taking two verses at a time and using a "show-and-tell item" for each set of verses to share the following devotional:

Verses 4 & 5: "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved."

Visual: A cross with the words GOD and LOVE crossing each other, showing God's great love for us. We talked about love in connection with Valentine's Day, and especially God's great love by sending His Son Jesus Christ for us.

Verses 6 & 7: "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

Visual: A long nail. It is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, where we spend some weeks remembering Christ's sacrifice through His death on the cross. The nail hangs in my classroom to remind us of God's great love for us in sending His Son.

Verses 8 & 9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast."

Visual: A Mathathon book. A few weeks ago we challenged kids in chapel to live "by faith" and encourage others to have faith in us. After studying many heroes of the faith throughout the year, we can be a hero to others by loving and supporting the kids at St. Jude's through the Mathathon project.

Verse 10: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Visual: Two old grade books. God has special plans for each of us to do good works for Him in His kingdom. Our speaker, Steffany Baptiste, is a special person that God has created to do good works for Him in His kingdom. The grade books contain her grades for the two years she was in my classes in EC Middle School, and she has gone on to doing great works for Him. She also is here to celebrate Black History month with us by sharing some special people who have also done great works.

Benefit Concert for the ECHS Music Department

A Program of Jazz Classics

Eastern Christian High School Ensembles and guest jazz quartet, *Four Wheel Drive*, presented an exciting benefit program on February 9, 2007 in the Eastern Christian High School. In addition to the featured jazz group, Eastern Christian High School music ensembles perform various works complementing the theme for the evening, "Jazz Classics."

The evening's program included the following musical offerings: Gershwin's "Rhapsody and Blue," Howard's "Fly Me To the Moon," Jobim's "Girl from Ipanema," and other exciting jazz works.

The members of *Four Wheel Drive* include: **Rebekah Griffin Greene, Terry Greene II, Diana Herold, and Grisha Alexiev**

This group was formed in the fall of 2004 when trombonist Terry Greene II and vibraphonist Diana Herold met at a Big Band rehearsal in New York City. It was at this event that they decided to collaborate as part of a jazz quartet which would also include each other's musician spouse (drummer Grisha Alexiev and bassist Rebekah Griffin Greene). They soon discovered through their newly formed quartet that each member musically complemented each other well. Since then, *Four Wheel Drive* has been bringing their original compositions and their renditions of jazz standards to various venues in New York City and throughout the United States. All four members are performers, composers, and music educators with an extensive list of collective credentials, including performances with such prestigious names as Tanya Leon, Ray Anderson, Big Apple Circus, Monterey Jazz Festival, Rufus Reid, Eddie Allen, Edgar Meyer, John Cage and others.



Members of the ECHS Chamber Singers: Front Row (L to R): Brianna Campos, Stephanie Jacobs, Laura Kuiken and Taylor Ocot; Back Row: Joe Dickey, Joe Pellegrino, and Dan Marcin.



Band members Kerith Sunden, Andrew Vriesema, Yoo Ra Kim, and Bruce Faulkner



ECHS Orchestra member Si Eun Lim on cello.



The Four Wheel Drive Jazz Quartet



Justin Vierling, playing guitar

Introducing Classroll.com

An exciting new option was introduced to ECHS students and parents in February to offer them an up-to-date connection to the learning information posted online for their use. The opportunity is provided through the use of the website, www.classroll.com.

The High School faculty invested time during the fall semester ('06) to learn how to use this site for:

- Recording grades and keeping attendance,
- Calculating final course averages,
- Adding teacher comments, and
- Posting daily assignments.

The sole purpose of the faculty's effort in adopting the use of www.classroll.com is to help students to be accountable for their learning. By making grade books "transparent" to students and parents, the process of learning has become more visible.

Parents can log on to this website from any computer with inter-



Teacher Tim Steen enters assignments and grades for his classes from any computer with internet access.

net access, using a unique username and password and monitor their own student's calendar of assignments and grades for homework, quizzes and tests. Faculty members have been given the ability to choose a number of different options within the program to match their own teaching style and the coursework they teach. Students are able to quickly look up important information about due dates and view the progress of their learning when studying at home, at school or at the library. Special arrangements are being made for those families who don't have access to a

computer so that they can benefit from the information as well.

Personal communication continues to be essential with our school community, and students, parents and faculty are encouraged to talk face to face about any situations or questions that need to be addressed. The hope is that all of us will be more informed and more involved in the process of growth in learning through the use of this new online program.



In the ECHS Entrepreneur Class students form companies and market their own products or services. The first team of entrepreneurs [shown in the photo] got the new semester's marketing and business management off to a productive start with a flurry of Valentine's Day sales of chocolate, brownies, cookies and gift baskets. Other teams developed marketing proposals for movie grade popcorn, birthday greeting surprises delivered to classrooms, a service to deliver lunches from local eateries to seniors and school staff, and the traditional best seller, freshly-baked chocolate chip Otis Spunkmeyer cookies. Business teacher **Sue Noyes** is amazed at the entrepreneurial talent in this class.

Pictured running their own custom gift basket business at the February "Back to School Night" are (L to R): Meghan Way, Rebecca Ydo, Nicole Struyk, Alyssa Steinginga, Taylor Vooyoys, and Esther Tuit.



ECHS Senior Cara Poalillo recently donated 13 inches of her hair to Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for children who lose their hair to cancer treatments. Cara is pictured with her hairdresser and EC parent Noreen Ydo of Tapestry Hair Salon in Ridgewood, who is holding Cara's donated ponytail.

ECHS Service News

FROM THE ECHS LEDGER

■ **Food Drives:** During December the ECHS faculty decided to collect donations for the Bridgeway Community Church Food Pantry, a part of “New Hope Ministries” in Haledon. They opened this opportunity for giving to the entire student body and the table in the hallway was filled with needed items including diapers, detergent, paper products, hygiene products, pancake mix, cereal and canned goods. Again in February a 2nd Food Drive was sponsored by ECHS as a service project to help those in need in our local community.

■ **Penny Wars:** The Junior Class Council sponsored Penny Wars for the month of January to benefit the St. Steven’s School in Uganda that they had begun to support last year. Jugs were located on a table outside the Front Office during the school day, and students from each class were invited to contribute according to the following rules:

- ◆ Each penny added one point to the score for each of the 4 classes, so students were invited to put pennies into their own class’ jug
- ◆ Each silver coin and dollar bill decreased that score by the value of the coin/bill. (Quarter = 25 points; Dollar = 100 points)
- ◆ Putting silver and bills in other classes’ jugs would reduce their total (Points = Pennies minus Silver/Bills)

At the end of fundraiser, the Sophomore Class was declared the winner of the competition, and a total of \$329.28 was raised for St. Steven’s. Teacher **Paul Beverly** received the following e-mail update from Gordon Ssekibaala from St. Steven’s School:

“I want to thank the Lord for the life and everything he is giving us. I send warm greetings from my family, children of St. Steven Kalungi plus the parents. We started our holidays on 8th/12/2006 and we are to resume on 5th of Feb 2007. I want to extend special appreciations from the school management and parents for your support this year and your willingness to continue supporting them. Extend my greetings and thanks to your students. Beginning with next year, my school is to operate as a model school in the area, pray for us.”



Pictured (L to R): ECHS Bookkeeper **Cathy Lagerveld**, Guidance Office Manager **Anne Borduin**, Director of Guidance **Lindsay Koskinen**, Math Teacher **Deb Andrews**, and Spanish Teacher **Claudia Cortes**



ECHS presented Sandy Wilson’s **The Boyfriend** on March 14 – 17. The main characters included: **Jennifer Pellegrino** as **Dulcie**, **Sara Troast** as **Maisie**, **Emily Engelsdorfer** as **Polly**, **Ben Spoelstra** as **Tony**, **Michael Vega** as **Bobby**, **Daria Burachek** as **Madame Dubonnet**, **Joey Pellegrino** as **Percival Browne**, **Kristi Winters** as **Lady Brockhurst**, and **Joe Dickey** as **Lord Brockhurst**.

The screenshot shows the website header with the school logo and navigation menu. The 'Educational Programs' section is highlighted, showing a list of links for High School and Middle School. The High School section includes links for 'Before & After School Options', 'Course Listings', 'Extracurricular Activities', 'Gifted and Talented Program Handbook', 'School Campus Info', 'School Profile', 'Special Needs', 'Sports', and 'Student Web Design'. A large photo of students is featured, along with text about accreditation and the 'Faith in Action' program.

Our Website Has More Resources!

The “Educational Programs” section of our redesigned website is divided into separate informative sections for our High School, Middle School and Elementary Schools. Curriculum guides, handbooks and links to sports and extra-curricular activities’ descriptions as well as standard forms are available.

ECHS

Sports Highlights

2006-07 WINTER ATHLETICS REPORT | BY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR STEVE KING

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

With four starters having graduated and the lone returning starter out for the season due to injury, this year's Boys' Varsity Team faced a rebuilding year. Playing hard and keeping most games close in the first half of the season, the team came together over the last ten games. The team roster included three seniors, but often the playing rotation consisted of two freshmen, a sophomore and three juniors. This team registered a break-through win over Manchester, followed by an exciting County Tournament win over Hawthorne Christian. The team lost in the County Tournament to Eastside. Down the stretch wins were recorded over Midland Park, Waldwick, and Pompton Lakes. The season concluded with another win over Hawthorne Christian, in front of a large, enthusiastic crowd! The team finished with a record of 8-15.

BOYS' JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Junior Varsity Team finished the year at 8-10, after starting the season at 2-6. As the year progressed, several of the players moved up to varsity, leaving room for younger players to gain valuable playing experience. The team showed tremendous attitude and effort from game to game. The highlight of the year was the win over Midland Park, a game where the team scored over 70 points! Other highlights included second half wins over Waldwick and Saddle Brook, teams which EC had lost to early in the season. With the great attitudes, sportsmanship and "team first" mentality, the Eagles can look forward to great things in years to come.

BOYS' FRESHMEN BASKETBALL

The freshmen class was full of talent this year, and two of the more talented members moved up to play on the Varsity team this season. Several also saw split time between freshmen and junior varsity teams. The team started out with a win over Lakeland, but soon fell to 4-5. Along with a big win over Lodi, the team also managed to go on a seven-game winning streak to finish with a record of 10-7. The team played their best game of the year in their last game, losing by a three-point margin to Paterson Catholic, a team that had beaten EC decisively earlier in the year.

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Girls' Varsity Team ended at 5-17, but this record is not indicative of the competitive season they experienced. Several of the losses included a 3-point overtime loss to Midland Park, a 2-point loss to Pompton Lakes, and a 1-point loss to Paterson Catholic. Many of the games were not decided until late in the fourth quarter. Several of the key victories were over Hawthorne Christian, Manchester, and Pompton Lakes. The team was also young, with one freshmen, two sophomores and two juniors seeing playing time. Four seniors also contributed and will be missed. But with a good nucleus returning, the team looks forward to a more competitive season next year.



Boys Varsity Basketball team members Nick Siljee (with ball) and Nate Van Eck (L) and John Muzikowski (R)



Girls Varsity player Kelsey Spoelstra on offense.



Boys Varsity Basketball Team



Girls Varsity Basketball Team

GIRLS' JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Girls' Junior Varsity season was very exciting. The team ended the season with 7 wins and 11 losses. They were very competitive, energetic and never lacking in bumps and bruises. They had a very exciting 3-point win over Immaculate Conception as well as a 12-point win over Paterson Catholic. They also won a great game over Midland Park by a score of 33-31. Thanks to the girls for their hard work and dedication.



Bowling Team Member **Dan Pecoraro** in action.

Many of the team members shattered individual and team records, while as a team they took at least one win over league powerhouses Pompton Lakes, Hawthorne, Manchester and Garfield. They finished second in the division. With the junior varsity also providing a competitive team, there is much hope for next year.

BOWLING

The 2006-2007 Bowling season started off in a state of uncertainty. With only five returning players, it was unclear as to whether the team would come out strong or spend most of its time rebuilding for next year. For the first several weeks, each athlete focused primarily on individual progress while maintaining a spirit of encouragement and unity. However, as the week-long winter break approached, the team achieved a solidarity and passion that Coach **Ji Young Kim** had not seen during his previous three seasons.

Winter 2006-2007 Awards

BOWLING

Debbie Vogel
Second Team All League
Second Team All County

Dan Pecoraro
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Trevor Brennan
Second Team All League

Dominic Rivera
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

Kristen Czerminski
Honorable Mention All County

Michelle Okma
Honorable Mention All County

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Nicole Brello
First Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Kelsey Spoelstra
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Randi Lynn Veenstra
Honorable Mention All League

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Tyler Litland
First Team All League

Joe Veenstra
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Nick Siljee
Second Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

Nate Van Eck
Honorable Mention All League

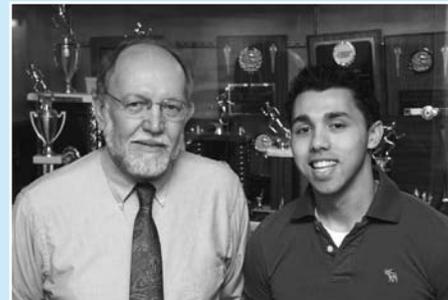
BOYS' MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

This year's Middle School Boys' Team included 5 seventh graders and 7 eighth graders. The boys struggled to finish at 1-14. But the season record does not indicate the growth. Through hard work and dedication, they made great strides as a team. Both individually and as a team, their improvement was exciting to witness. This growth will certainly translate into growth in future athletic competition, but also in life skills itself.

GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The 2006-2007 season was undoubtedly a successful and memorable one for the Girls' Middle School Basketball Team. Simply in terms of wins and losses, their record of 14-2 speaks for itself. This athletic group of girls quickly learned how to play together, to work as a team, and had an enjoyable time doing so. Each of the sixteen girls on the team brought their various skills, abilities and positive personalities to practice and games, allowing their coaches to help shape them in many ways. There was much growth and development during the season, both individually and as a team. What made this team successful, though, was not just their winning record, but their sportsmanship, encouragement, and faith. They were constant image bearers of Christ to their teammates, opponents, and their supporters.

Congratulations!



ECHS Teacher and Former Coach **Michael Alsum** with *Senior* **Dominic Rivera**

Congratulations to Vice Principal **Michael Alsum** on receiving the Athletic Service Award for Eastern Christian at the March meeting of the Passaic County Coaches Association. Athletic Director, **Steve King** nominated Mike for his years of service to Eastern Christian. Mike has been involved in teaching at Eastern Christian since 1963. He has coached various teams in basketball, baseball and golf over the years. In addition he has served as a clock keeper for many basketball games and has continued to be an avid supporter of the athletic program in many ways. Congratulations to Mr. Alsum on this award and many thanks for your service to Eastern Christian!

Editor's Note: Since Mike Alsum is retiring from EC this year, former students and colleagues are encouraged to contact Association@easternchristian.org to express your congratulations and to share your special memories with him.

Congratulations to Senior **Dominic Rivera** on being selected by *The Herald News* as Eastern Christian's "MVP Award Winner." This award is given to one athlete per school for his or her Motivation, Vision and Performance during the season. As a senior captain of the Boys' Soccer Team, Dominic impacted his team with excellent play and leadership qualities. "He is well respected by his teammates and has proven that he is able to make the right decisions even if it's not the most popular," said Soccer Coach **TC De Geyter**. "Dominic is a quintessential encourager and consistently challenges the team to play at a high level." As a center midfielder, Dominic helped lead the Eagles to the Passaic County semifinals and was named First Team All League, Second Team All County, and Second Team *Herald News* All-Area.

Measures of Academic Progress Assessments

BY DICK VAN YPEREN, ECMS AND ECES PRINCIPAL

As far back as anyone can remember, Eastern Christian has used the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) as its primary standardized assessment tool. Each year, usually in March, the elementary and the middle schools dedicated two weeks for ITBS assessments. Although Iowa Tests have provided a way to track student growth in basic skills, the results have not been as helpful as we would like in order to make timely and effective instructional decisions.

As we discussed our concerns about loss of instructional time and ITBS testing results in general, we began to look for a testing alternative that would be more useful to improve student learning, and would give us a better measure of student growth within a school year and from year to year. We believe we have found that alternative with **MAP – Measures of Academic Progress** assessments. MAP is a computer adaptive, standardized test from Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for Grades 2-8 that



Pictured (L to R): **Kayla Van Lenten** deciding which is the correct answer to the MAP test question.

tests students in math, reading and language usage. This test is taken on the computer and adjusts to each learner's level. Upon completion of the test each student receives an immediate score. The students themselves have said that these tests are "way cooler" than the Iowa Tests!

Teachers have been excited to get results back in

24-48 hours, giving a profile of each student within given learning strands of a subject plus an overall score. Teachers will be able to use NWEA assessments to guide instruction since immediately following these tests, teachers can evaluate what learning strategies are working and what alternatives they need to adopt to accelerate growth of every student. These results can be used for flexible grouping and for re-teaching of concepts as needed. Students also receive a Lexile readability level score, which can be used to

help identify curriculum materials and books that are appropriately challenging. Additionally, three school days after all testing is completed, the school receives summary reports we can use for making instructional decisions. Shortly after all the data is available, parents receive detailed results.

The MAP test is aligned

to State of New Jersey and national educational standards, and we hope to use the results of the MAP tests to set and monitor student growth targets. Student results can be tracked over time using an equal interval score that can also be referenced against the largest national student record database in the country. Because we can give the MAP test up to four times a year, we will be able to measure student growth within the school year. In our first year, we plan to administer the MAP in winter and then again in spring. Starting next year, we will likely administer MAP in the fall and spring. Each time the MAP test is given parents will receive a report of the results.

Our initial evaluation of the first MAP results show that:

- *Our Reading and Language Usage median scores at each grade level are above grade level, with our fourth grade scores equaling the spring norm for 5th grade – over a year above grade level!*
- *Our Mathematics median scores for Grades 2-4 are all at norm or above with Grade 4 achieving exactly a year above grade level.*

Additional reports will be evaluated in light of our learning goals which are aligned to the New Jersey State Standards. For more information on MAP testing, visit www.nwea.com and choose to "Tour NWEA with Nick."



Pictured (L to R): **Dan De Jong, Krista Everson, Johnathan Grant, Hannah Flim, Michael Sessa, and Tara Kleinmanns** working on the MAP test.

CONTACT US | FORMS | E-NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

Eastern Christian SCHOOL

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- Student Web Design

Middle School

- Before & After School Options
- Course Listings
- Extracurricular Activities
- Gifted and Talented Program
- Handbook
- School Campus Info
- Special Needs
- Sports
- Virtual Tour

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Middle School

Our Middle School is the bridge between elementary and high school. Here, students continue learning basic skills and in addition learn study skills and habits necessary for serious academic work in high school. The Middle School program is departmentalized, providing instructors who are teaching in their areas of expertise. At the same time, we recognize the unique needs of rapidly growing middle school students by offering a rich variety of academic and practical learning opportunities during daily "activity periods." Conscious of the spiritual capacity of middle school students, all subjects are taught from a Christian perspective and help students make ethical decisions.

Highlights

- Daily devotions and weekly chapel
- Departmentalized instruction in academic subjects

Our Website
Has More Functionality!

The Middle School web pages contain links to information about special programs like Horizons and After School Options, grade level subject listings, sports, and links to assignments and a school calendar.

Spelling Bee Sharpens Skills

BY ECMS TEACHER NAOMI BRAUNIUS

Twelve students qualified to be in the Eastern Christian Middle School Spelling Bee held in January. Seventh grader **Natalie Rhoads** became our Spelling Bee Champion, the runner-up was 8th grader **Amanda Touw**, and third place was awarded to 7th grader **Jeremy Bongiovanni**.

Some of the unique spelling words our students studied from the Scripps National Spelling Bee 2007 book included:

- **infinitesimal** (Latin; extremely small or few but still greater than zero)
- **pfeffernuss** (German; a small, hard, spicy, Christmas cookie)
- **repertoire** (French; a list of things that can be performed)
- **gymkhana** (Asian; a sports or athletic competition)
- **mnemonic** (Greek; related to memory or intended to assist memory)

As part of the 5th and 6th Grade Language Arts curriculum, students are working to build “vocabulary bridges” by identifying Latin and Greek roots. Since many of the words used in our daily lives come from other parts of the world, connections between daily language and the language of origin enable students to learn the meanings and spellings of these words. This educational connection continues in 7th and 8th Grade classes, and the Scripps Spelling Bee gives students the chance to draw on their learned knowledge of roots, phonetics and grammar to engage in a challenging spelling competition. Students are often surprised at the words they are able to spell correctly and, likewise, the words they think they know but spell incorrectly.

Our Spelling Bee was a prelude to the North Jersey Spelling Bee, which is held at William Paterson University in March and features top spellers from more than 200 schools. Natalie is the ECMS representative for that competition, and the winner of this Bee goes on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.



Pictured (L to R): **Jeremy Bongiovanni, Natalie Rhoads, and Amanda Touw**



Pictured (L to R): **Joshua Davidson, Jaclyn Jacobs, Kristen Lindsay, and Jonathan Englishmen**

Travels with the Mind: Annual Geography Bee

BY ECMS TEACHER NAOMI BRAUNIUS

The central Asian nations of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan all border what landlocked country in the Hindu Kush Mountains?

If you answered, “**Afghanistan**,” you are correct! On January 4, questions like these challenged sixteen 7th and 8th graders who made it to the semi-final round of the ECMS Annual Geography Bee sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

After answering many questions based on world geography, 7th grader **Josh Davidson** won the honor of being named our school champion. Eighth Grader **Jaclyn Jacobs** followed in 2nd place, **Jon Englishmen** in 3rd and **Kristen Lindsay** placed 4th in the school competition. Josh’s reward was to take a 70-question test to be reviewed by the National Geographic Society for possible placement in the March State-Level Geography Bee. The National Bee is held in May in Washington D.C.

In 5th-8th Grades, Geography is stressed, not only in accordance with the New Jersey State Standards, but also as part of curriculum goals in Social Studies and History at ECMS. It is so important for our students to understand the vastness of the world, God’s wonderful creation, in terms of history, current events, as well as physical features and landscape. When discussing important current events, for example, knowledge of world geography helps to place a country or region in context, and comparisons can be made to geographic locations in our own country for reference and clearer understanding.

Ultimately, the Geography Bee gives students a chance to test and use their knowledge of geography that encompasses the whole world at one time. For students who enjoy building their own knowledge through competition, this is a great learning experience!

ECMS Winter Spirit Day

BY PRINCIPAL DICK VAN YPEREN



Pulling teammates in a sled race are members of teacher Terry Allen's Allentown Team.



The Dyksen Dynamite Team with teacher Courtney Dyksen

Our Thursday Block Schedule each week allows for longer instructional blocks of time, and an Activity Block at the end of the day. Middle School students thrive in an environment which allows hands-on learning and student-selected activities. We know that middle school students achieve and succeed when they are engaged and active. Culminating seasonal “*Spirit Days*” allow our students to plan and participate in team building and high energy activities which authenticate our stated purpose of being a positive and healthy learning community.

For our *Winter Spirit Day*, student leaders met with Physical Education teacher **Mary Faber** and planned various activities for Advisories (homeroom groups). Student leaders worked with Mrs. Faber to choose four team-building assignments and games. In their Advisories, teachers and students then planned how they were going to express their spirit, their togetherness, and their creativity within the assigned games and tasks.

In sub-freezing afternoon temperatures on Thursday, January 25 the school emptied out onto the playing fields where each Advisory began to rotate through the four designated activities. Judges observed closely as each group performed their game or task, rating each on spirit, participation, dress, and creativity. Then the top Advisory from each grade ended the afternoon by competing in a blind sled dog relay race. Ultimately, **Deb Vandenberg’s** Sixth Grade Advisory prevailed, but all of the students enjoyed the activities of this special day.



The Tanis Tigers Team with teacher Stephanie Tanis

ECMS Student Ensembles Perform in Winter Concert



ECMS Choir with Director Meghann Persenaire.



Pictured are ECMS Orchestra members: Dawn Wang, Jaclyn Jacobs and Michelle Van Dyk



Pictured are ECMS Band members: Front Row (L to R): Jeff Clark, Elizabeth Mulcock and Sara Post; 2nd Row: Victoria Westra, David Kang and Chris Schipper; Back Row: Josh Bruins and Sam Braen.

New Healthy Eating Goals

BY ECMS & ECES PRINCIPAL DICK VAN YPEREN

“Do you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20

In response to the growing trend in childhood obesity and the ensuing health problems, the State of New Jersey has enacted legislation requiring schools to improve the content of foods served in schools. Additionally, recent studies have shown that a child who is physically healthy is more likely to be academically motivated, alert and successful. Although Eastern Christian as a private school may choose not to adhere to the recent legislation, as Christians we recognize that we are to treat our bodies as “temples of the Holy Spirit” and as such we ought then to care for them as well as set an example to others.

Our Eastern Christian nurses and Health teachers met together during the first semester to examine the foods served and offered for purchase at our schools in the light of the State guidelines and make recommendations to improve what is offered in our schools. Each campus has food service unique to its school and, therefore, recommendations are specific to each school.

At ECHS all soft drinks and iced teas that contain caloric sweeteners, and all juices that contain less than 50% fruit juice will be removed from the vending machines. Flavored waters, vitamin waters and 100% fruit juice will be stocked. Low fat milk will also be available. Additionally, snacks exceeding 8 grams of total fat and more than 230 grams of sodium preserving, or snacks that list sugar as the first ingredient will be removed from vending machines. In the cafeteria unhealthy foods will be replaced

“At ECHS all soft drinks and iced teas that contain caloric sweeteners, and all juices that contain less than 50% fruit juice will be removed from the vending machines.”

with healthier options. Also, healthy cereal boxes, fresh fruit, and yogurt will be made available for before school purchase.

At ECMS during the second semester we hope to wean students off of soft drinks that contain caloric sweeteners and replace the soft drinks with flavored waters and fruit juices in our vending machines. We will also purchase healthy snacks for our school store

to replace snacks that exceed 8 grams total fat and more than 230 grams of sodium per serving. Pizza lunch will remain the same, but we do hope to replace the soda with alternative beverages beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. Our caterer, Village Gourmet, has agreed to help us find healthier choices for hot lunch as alternatives to existing choices. We will still have the occasional fundraiser sales of baked goods but will try to limit, if not entirely eliminate, the sale of candy.

At ECES we will continue to have our weekly PTO snack sales of home baked goods but will discourage any consumption of candy. For birthday treats and holiday celebrations we will be recommending healthy treat choices and/or alternative non food gifts such as pencils, erasers and notepads. Pizza lunch will remain the same, but we do hope to replace Rice Krispie bars with a healthier alternative beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. Our caterer, Village Gourmet, has agreed to help us find healthier choices for hot lunch as alternatives to existing choices.



The screenshot shows the Eastern Christian School website. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'CONTACT US', 'FORMS', and 'E-NEWSLETTER SIGNUP'. The main navigation menu includes: HOME, WHO WE ARE, ADMISSIONS, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, CALENDAR & SCHEDULES, OUR STUDENTS & PARENTS, SPORTS, OUR ALUMNI, and EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS. The 'OUR STUDENTS & PARENTS' section is highlighted. Below the navigation, there are links for 'High School' and 'Middle School', each with a list of resources like 'Assignments', 'Bell Schedules', 'Curriculum Guide', 'Events Calendar', 'Forms', 'Guidance Office Resources', 'Handbook', 'School Directory', 'Sports', 'Staff Directory', and 'Weekly Communications'. The main content area features a photo of three students in graduation gowns and a text block titled 'OUR STUDENTS & PARENTS' which discusses the importance of education and spiritual health. At the bottom, there is a link for 'This Week's School Publications'.

Our Website Is Focused on You!

Our Students & Parents is a section of our website where we provide detailed information for those with children enrolled in our school. These pages contain links to assignment and calendar information and other up-to-date information that students and parents in each school need, including online school and staff directories.

Reporting Growth & Achievements in a New Format

BY ECES ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SANDY BOTTGE

Every year students come to Eastern Christian Elementary School eager and ready to learn. In the elementary years, a child's "readiness" to learn plays a key role in their learning process. When a child demonstrates a readiness or capacity to learn a new concept, the teacher directs the child's learning toward a set of established goals. At each grade level there are several educational goals for each area of instruction.

Four times a year, teachers report to parents about their child's growth and achievement. During the first and third quarters, teachers meet with parents to discuss each child's progress. At the end of the second and fourth quarters, teachers evaluate each student's growth with a report card. Over the past two years, ECES teachers have been designing a new format for report cards. Our goal in reporting to parents is an accurate description of where the students are in their learning process.

In the proposed new report card format, statements are listed which describe either mastery, progressing, or needs improvement levels of each educational goal. At reporting time, one of the statements will be checked by the teacher indicating the student's progress toward mastery of that standard. In this way, we hope to focus our discussions with parents and students on specific learning expectations. **This standards-based reporting method assures objectivity and continuity in reporting, rather than traditional grading, which can be subjective.** This format will help further clarify our goal of differentiated instruction in all grade levels.

Our belief is that these changes will encourage a healthy interest in learning, which will hopefully be an influence for a lifetime.



With Assistant Principal Sandy Bottge are students Jessica Barna, Matt Bottge and Laura Carey

Charlotte's Web Inspires Giving

BY ECES TEACHER ALISA ENGELHARD



Enjoying reading in Charlotte's "barnyard" are 3rd graders Ali Sytsma, Michael Vriesema and David Hefty.

We had some fun with E.B. White's classic story *Charlotte's Web*. Eastern Christian 3rd grade students study *Charlotte's Web* every year. Although the story is not overtly Christian, *Charlotte's Web* exemplifies Biblical virtues of friendship, kindness, selfless giving and miracles.

At Eastern Christian Schools we teach from a Reformed perspective, which means that we seek to be part of this great world, yet always to change it for God's glory. In classrooms, we use Christian materials, but also secular literature to talk with the kids about how the world is and how we can change it for Christ. For example, in the story of a spider named Charlotte, as she acts to save her friend Wilbur the pig, she reminds us of the grace that Jesus Christ shows us and our call to love others.

Third graders studied a memory verse about friendship from Matthew 22:37-39:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself."

We tied a Third Grade service project into Charlotte's giving which included harvesting new and used winter wear for people in need. **Mark Ottens** (Cl. of '86), parent of 4 EC students, contributed his construction skills and materials to create an awesome barn. Gloves, mittens, hats and coats collected here were delivered to Madison Ave. Christian Reformed Church in Paterson, NJ to be distributed when the cold weather comes to their food pantry clients.

Finally we coordinated a viewing of the G-rated *Charlotte's Web* movie over our Christmas break for families associated with our school. It was a fun time to see each other and enjoy the film.



Brad Schipper, Calvin Ottens, Robert Ficarro and Samantha Boonstra with some of the clothing collected.

Challenged to “Be A Hero!”

BY FOURTH GRADE TEACHER CAROL BYMA

ECES students were reminded of their theme for the year, “By Faith,” in an early February Chapel as teacher **Carol Byma** reviewed many heroes of faith that each grade was studying. For instance, the Fourth Grade is learning Hebrews 11 with all examples of faith for their memory work this year. The Third Grade is making a timeline in the hallway of Old Testament heroes they are studying. The Second Grade wrote about people in the Old and New Testaments who were examples of living by faith, such as Esther, Daniel, and Stephen. The First Grade studied Moses, and the Kindergarten learned about Noah for their chapel presentation.

After reviewing these heroes, Mrs. Byma reminded the students that God wants us to be heroes, too, following the examples of the heroes in the Bible. During the month of February, when we think about “Love,” we are reminded of God’s love for us and His desire to spread that love to others. Each year the Elementary School shows that love through a special project designed to help others. The faculty’s Special Projects Team has once again decided to participate in the St. Jude’s **Mathathon!** Students watched a video that reviewed how the **Mathathon** works. Then they were shown online clips of young patients at St. Jude’s, expressing their thankfulness to those who make donations to help with treatments.

Students were encouraged to “Be a Hero” by loving the kids at St. Jude’s. They are able to do this and receive some great Math practice by working the problems in the grade-level workbooks that are provided from St. Jude’s, and then collecting money from sponsors for research

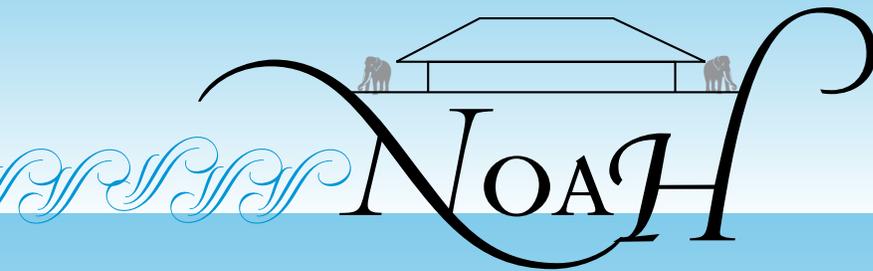
and treatment for cancer and other childhood diseases. I John 4: 7 states, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.” Verse 11 of that same chapter agrees, “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

The students were given two weeks to complete the workbooks, and then two additional weeks to collect the donations. Thanks to all who contributed so generously to help us be heroes in Christ’s name to the kids at St. Jude’s!



Teacher Carol Byma’s 4th Grade class with their Mathathon workbooks.

Scenes from the Kindergarteners’ Chapel Presentation:



“It’s Gonna Rain” predicted students Aaron Burtz, Tyler Balkema, Chloe Whealan, and Andrew De Block.



“Animals” ready to go onto the ark are: Andrew Van Boerum, Brianna Vierling, Jared Silverstein and Luke Ottens.



Saluting “Admiral” Noah are: Ben Postma, Julia Bavagnoli, Ben Maura, Cassidy Langenfeld, and Ethan Green.

Learning to Raise Our Flag Respectfully

BY ECES ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SANDRA BOTTGE



Chaplain Colonel Donald P. Wisse (Class of '48) talks about care for the US flag.

Fourth Grade students from EC Elementary School stood at attention alongside **Chaplain Colonel Donald P. Wisse** (U.S. Air Force Retired) as **Vietnam Veteran Ken Koppenal** (Specialist 4th Class) raised a new flag in front of the school.

Colonel Wisse and Mr. Koppenal were invited to the Elementary School to teach Fourth Grade students about proper respect and care for the American flag. Students listened attentively as their guests gave a brief description of how they served our country and how we can show our respect. They learned how to raise the flag and now have the opportunity to raise it each morning.

Colonel Wisse graduated from Eastern Christian (then named Eastern Academy) in 1948. He served in the United States Air Force for 27 years, including short tours of duty in Greenland, Germany and many Air Force bases throughout the United States. Colonel and Mrs. Wisse's seven children attended Eastern Christian also. Eleven of their

grandchildren attend or have graduated from EC.

Ken Koppenal served in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1968-1970. He served in the Artillery Honor Guard at Fort Benning, GA where he shot off cannons in 21-gun salutes with every flag raising and lowering. Mr. Koppenal has been employed by Eastern Christian for eleven years as a custodian at our Middle School.

We appreciate our special guests' willingness to share their specialized knowledge with us, and we are thankful for their continuing close connection with Eastern Christian School.



Vietnam Veteran Ken Koppenal (ECMS Custodian) demonstrates how to properly fold our flag.



Colonel Wisse, his wife Ethel and ECES students salute as Ken raises the flag.



Jumping up from behind a 4th grader to announce that there's "100% Chance of Rain" is Kindergartener Ben Postma.



Singing about Noah as "The Admirable Admiral"

A New Way to Give to EC and Provide Guaranteed Income for Yourself

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Eastern Christian has partnered with the Barnabas Foundation for Barnabas to issue Gift Annuities for the support of Eastern Christian School.

WHAT IS A GIFT ANNUITY?

A Gift Annuity is a contract between an individual and Barnabas (a qualified charity) which exchanges a gift to Barnabas for an annuity (guaranteed lifelong income) to the individual.

HOW MUCH WILL MY GUARANTEED INCOME BE?

It depends entirely on your age. The older you are when you begin a Gift Annuity, the higher the return will be. For example, a person who is 70 receives a rate of 6.5%. The rate for an 80 year old is 8.0%. The Barnabas Foundation follows the recommended rates set by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

WILL THIS RATE OF RETURN EVER CHANGE?

NO. Once you take out a Gift Annuity, your payment amount is guaranteed for life, regardless of what happens to the economy or stock market.

DO GIFT ANNUITIES PROVIDE ANY TAX ADVANTAGES?

YES. There are several of them:

- Immediate income tax deduction at the time you create the Gift Annuity.
- A portion of the payment amount you receive is tax exempt resulting in a higher effective rate of return.
- Money in a Gift Annuity generally is not included in your estate for estate and inheritance tax purposes.

HOW SECURE IS A GIFT ANNUITY?

All of the assets of the Barnabas Foundation stand behind the contract. The entire amount

you contribute is held in their Gift Annuity reserve fund in order to make your annuity payments.

WILL A GIFT ANNUITY WORK FOR A MARRIED COUPLE?

YES, in fact many Gift Annuities are “two-life” contracts, designed to make payments for the lives of both a husband and wife. The annuity rate is somewhat lower, however, than the rate for a single person.

CAN A GIFT ANNUITY BE BOUGHT WITH STOCK?

YES, and it may be especially advantageous if the stock has appreciated in value. The capital gains tax which you would have owed for the year the stock was sold is spread out over your life expectancy.

HOW DOES A GIFT ANNUITY BENEFIT EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL?

At the Barnabas Foundation, your gift along with all other gift annuity funds are placed in a reserve fund to make your annuity payments as long as you are alive. Afterwards, any amount not used for your annuity payments is paid over to Eastern Christian School to continue to provide for Christian education in Northern New Jersey.

CAN I DEFER MY ANNUITY PAYMENTS?

YES, and it will improve your annual payments. The longer the deferral, the higher the annual annuity rate. For example, a Gift Annuity contracted for at age 65 with annuity payments deferred until age 70 yields an 8.3% rate of

return beginning with the first payment. If you deferred your annuity payments until age 74 the annuity rate is 10.7%. Your payments are guaranteed for life. You are also entitled to an income tax deduction immediately upon establishing the Gift Annuity.

HOW WILL A GIFT ANNUITY WORK FOR ME?

To see exactly what a Gift Annuity from the Barnabas Foundation could do for you, go to their calculator at “www.giftlegacy.net/presents.jsp?WebID=GL2002” and select Gift Annuity. They can assist you in working out the details for yourself and for the benefit of Eastern Christian School.

For more information about either of these giving options, please call Eastern Christian School at 973-427-9294, or contact the Barnabas Foundation at 888-448-3040.

DON'T FORGET...

Tax-free gifts from IRAs

If you are 70 ½ or older this year you can make tax-free gifts to Eastern Christian School from your IRA up to \$100,000. These gifts qualify for your required minimum distribution and are not limited by the 50% of adjusted gross income rule. Gifts must be made from traditional or ROTH IRAs. This rule expires December 31, 2007.

New Heating System Complete

In previous editions of *The Herald*, you have read the exciting news that the EC High School heating plant was systematically being replaced. Now we are very excited to report that the project is complete! The High School is now heated with a combination of new gas fired boilers and rooftop units, controlled with programmable thermostats in each classroom.

One incredibly generous donor underwrote the entire cost of this project, just over **\$300,000.00**. The Board of Directors praise and thank our mighty God for this donor's amazing commitment to Christian education and to Eastern Christian School Association.

TRIP Sales Update

For the 2005-2006 School Year (Sept. 1 - Aug. 31), our sales of TRIP gift certificates totaled

\$1,947,763, just shy of **\$2 million!**

TRIP tuition credit earned during that school year: **\$80,889**

TRIP tuition credit earned during the months of Nov. & Dec. 2006: **\$18,832**

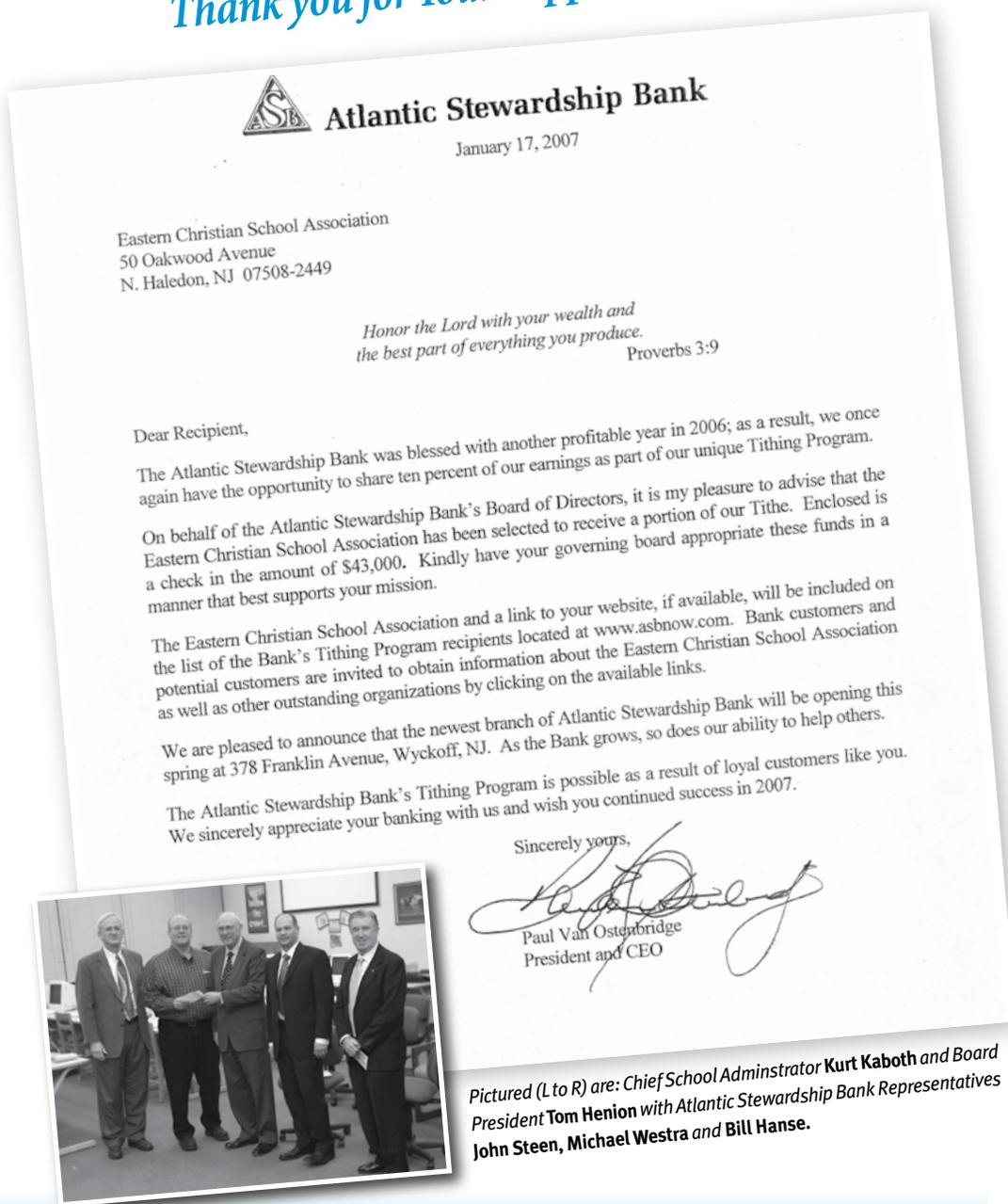
2006-2007

BUSINESS DRIVE DONORS

Business Drive contributions and pledges through February, 2007 totaled **\$24,208.50**. We appreciate the support of the following businesses:

Atlantic Stewardship Bank
 Baker & Hoogerhyde LLC
 Borduin Paving
 Bushoven & Company
 C S Stucco & Plaster Inc.
 Cedar Hill Landscape Contractors
 Columbia Bank
 Factory Direct of Hasbrouck Heights
 Financial Consulting Strategies LLC
 Forrest Signs
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 Leegwater Electric Inc.
 Mark Tirondola Contractor
 Mike Cheresnick Carpentry Inc.
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 Visbeen Construction Co.
 Wallwork Bros.
 Wiegars, Inc.
 Dr. John Wispelwey

Thank you for Your Support, ASB!



Pictured (L to R) are: Chief School Administrator Kurt Kaboth and Board President Tom Henion with Atlantic Stewardship Bank Representatives John Steen, Michael Westra and Bill Hanse.

Association Adopts 2007-08 Budget

BY CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR KURT KABOTH

The annual meeting of the Eastern Christian School Association was held on February 28 at the High School. **Tom Henion**, President of the Board of Directors, guided the members through their annual agenda. **Kurt Kaboth** presented a Report on the Association, followed by the presentation of the proposed budget by **Jackie Streelman**. After a thorough discussion, the members adopted a budget for 2007-2008 of \$8,187,700.

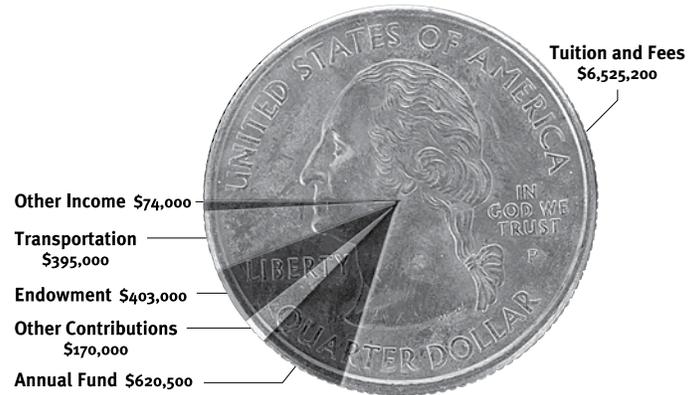
Mr. Kaboth began his report with EC's mission to provide an excellent academic education with a Christian world and life view. From that EC has created developmentally appropriate learning communities for students from Preschool through High School. The faculty and administrators have done this by using a collaborative approach among and between teachers, students, administrators and parents.

The results have been wonderful. In addition to creating Christian learning communities on all three campuses, Eastern Christian's seniors' average SAT scores are 15-20 points above average and its Iowa test scores for 2 through 8 are consistently one to two grade levels above average. A new MAP testing system has been implemented this year and preliminary results show our fourth graders testing one and a half grades ahead of average, and our 8th graders testing two full grades above average. EC has also been blessed with 94% of its seniors going on to college, including two last year to US military academies. This year two juniors qualified for the NJ Governor's Schools.

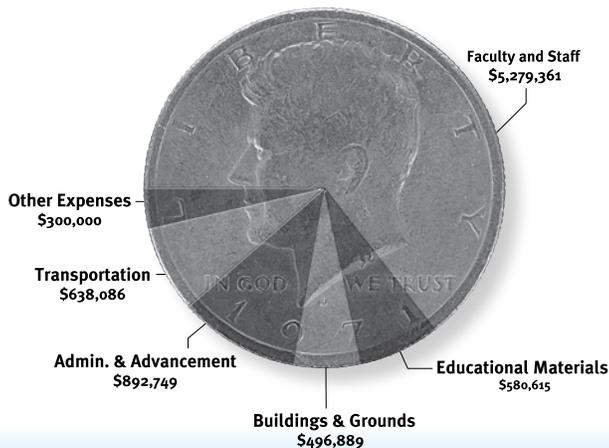
At the same time our students organize and lead Chapel, contribute to our communities through our Faith-in-Action program, and participate in dozens of other school and church activities. And EC has consistently won state

“In addition to creating Christian learning communities on all three campuses, Eastern Christian's seniors' average SAT scores are 15-20 points above average and its Iowa test scores for 2 through 8 are consistently one to two grade levels above average.”

2007-2008 Budgeted Income



2007-2008 Budgeted Expenses



recognition for the good sportsmanship of its student-athletes in every area of competition.

Mr. Kaboth noted new and improved programs this year including the High School's first-year career exploration program with the Christian Health Care Center, the new 8th Grade leadership program at the Middle School, and the new Learning Lab time resulting from moving to the modified block schedule. New student data and financial accounting systems were installed this year, and EC has successfully completed its second full financial audit.

Trends in enrollment and finances over the past year were reviewed also. The most important goal for EC in the coming year is to "tell our story" so we become better known and attract more Christian families to our school. We have a wonderful educational program to share and when

Christian families actually come and see it, they enroll their children.

Jackie Streelman reviewed the budget for the coming year, noting that it was based on realistic enrollment and cost numbers. Tuition and contributed income are based on recent experience, additional contributions will be made by the endowment, and we will be working to keep our transportation system affordable while providing as much service as possible. Expenses were reduced in the areas of personnel, supplies, buildings, and administration. The result is a balanced budget with a 5.49% increase in tuition. The Association voted to adopt the budget for 2007-2008; and after thanking the parents, faculty, staff, Board of Directors and many, many volunteers for their hard work during the last year, retiring Board Member **Karen Nelson** closed with prayer.

Alumni News



THE CORNERSTONE IS LAID FOR PASSAIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1915

Some of the families represented in this photo donated by Phyllis (De Ruiter) Schuurman (Cl. of '53) include those with last names of Vander Plaat, Bangma, and De Ruiter.

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

FORMER STAFF

John Hartog passed away on Nov. 12, 2006 in Grand Rapids, MI. He retired from Eastern Christian in 1995 after serving for many years as bus driver and in the maintenance department. Our sympathies are extended to his children, **John** ('65), **Joanne Bishop** ('68), **Janice Strelman** ('72), and **Judith Hartog** ('76).

Former EC teacher **Willemina (Van Halsema) Quackenbush** ('38) passed away on May 31, 2006. We offer our sympathy to her daughter **Ruth (Quackenbush) Ruiz** ('74) and son **John** ('76).

Martha (Voorman) De Rose died Oct. 21, 2006 in South Haven, MI. She was a former teacher in Midland Park and a substitute for many years. We extend our sympathy to Martha's husband Titus and son **Ted** ('60).

Henry Watzet, passed away on Jan. 14, 2007 at the age of 95. Henry taught violin and general music in the elementary schools and was also a music teacher at Eastern Christian High School in the 50's and 60's. We extend our sympathy to his friends and family.

HERITAGE YEARS

Bertha (Rozema) Fortuin ('29) passed away on Dec. 29, 2006 at the Holland Christian Home in North Haledon, NJ. We extend our sympathy to Bertie's family and friends.

CLASS OF 1945

Class Rep Needed

Roger ('45) and **Ruth (Zuidema) Brassler** ('47) sent in the following update: "We have stayed active in Christian education since we moved to Colorado in 1951. Denver Christian was the

first school which saw our 4 children's faces for 12 years. All married and settled in Colorado. Nine grandchildren and spouses graduated from Christian schools....[Three of our children] have spent the better part of a year building Darren Patterson Christian High school and gymnasium in the small mountain town of Buena Vista, CO, following their parents and grandparents footsteps.... We have all been so blessed. Our heritage of Christian education and family life and missions has led us all on our Christian journey. We thank God for you all and are still striving to pass it on from generation to generation. We've read in the 2006 Alumni Directory, EC's 'Mission Statement and Our Goals.— To enable students to identify and cultivate their God-given talents for ministry and service in their communities'—so true! Aren't we blessed and isn't God faithful! Keep up the good work at EC; we keep you in our prayers."

CLASS OF 1946

Class Rep Needed

Margretta (Veenstra) Van Dyk sent in an update about the great-grandson of Rev. Peter Van Dyk, who served the Prospect Park CRC from 1927 – 1947. Kendall Van Dyk, the son of John Peter Van Dyk, won a seat on the Montana Legislature and will represent a large district from the Billings area in the House of Representatives.

CLASS OF 1952

Class Rep: Christine (Tanis) Vos

6705 North Dr, Jenison, MI 49428-9377

Ren Broekhuizen sent in the following note: "I am grateful for the training I received at E.A. It has impacted my entire life and ministry. I'm grateful to Jesus and His Father for their love and grace."

CLASS OF 1956

Class Rep: Shirley (Van Til) Faber

E-Mail: sfaber6@verizon.net

Marilyn (Van Ek) De Block reports on the Class of 1956's recent reunion: "On Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006, the Class of 1956 held their

continued on page 22

Alumni News continued from page 21

50th Reunion at Portobello's restaurant in Oakland from 12 noon to 4pm with a total of 82 in attendance. Opening prayer and a warm welcome was extended to the 50 graduates by Marilyn with special thanks to those who traveled from California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Alabama, Arkansas, Virginia and Maryland. Ken Tanis, who was our class president, addressed us and challenged us to 'Look at the big picture, asking what difference will I make, what will I be remembered for by my grandchildren and great grandchildren.' A PowerPoint presentation of family photos, our old grammar schools, and some old photos was nicely done by Randy Hagedoorn ('76), son of classmate Norma (Huizenga) Hagedoorn. An open microphone was passed around, and classmates shared interesting and comical incidents from our high school days. Our fellowship continued at the Faith Community CRC barn from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Everyone certainly enjoyed the wonderful variety of delicious goodies baked by

classmate Alan Bandstra. We had a great time renewing old friendships and reminiscing about our 'Good Old Days' at EC."

CLASS OF 1960

Class Rep: Joyce (Anema) Streelman
19 Cottage St Apt 4 A, Midland Park, NJ 07432
Pat (Makepeace) McQuay sent in an update that she was married on July 1, 2006 in Penn Yan, NY. She adds, "We had a wonderful family time with our children and 13 grandchildren. I am in the process of retiring from the JC Penney Company."

CLASS OF 1961

Class Rep: Jerry Hoogerheide
E-Mail: jrhoog@juno.com
Class Rep **Jerry Hoogerheide** writes, "Ruth and I are definitely excited about continuing Kingdom work in 2007. I think the most significant event in our lives in 2006 occurred when we joined a missions team from Charlotte NC in late October 2006 to continue Katrina relief

work in Lakeshore, MS, fourteen months after the storm. I am still amazed at the devastation in that area. Just as a small sample of where our 'heart' is, I'm sending a few attachments. As I write, a team from Charlotte is traveling the 650 miles to Lakeshore for their fifth weeklong trip, and our next trip is planned for late April. Thank you for all you do to continue the Christian education efforts in the Northeast. It is so evident from reading the Herald that the Lord's work is being accomplished around the world. God Bless You All and Have a Great New Year."

CLASS OF 1966

Class Rep: Case De Haan
E-Mail: nddehaan@yahoo.com
Ildiko (Havassy) Zarzycki sent this thank-you note: "This is a thank you to Eastern Christian Schools for a superior education, but most importantly, for the light and love of God which still shines in my heart today. . . . Now that same light shines in the eyes of my children and grandchildren. The light of God's Love has shined through all happiness



MIDLAND PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 1940's

Front Row: John Miller, Carol Douma Waldeck, Franklin Steen, Mae A. Baker Pruiim, Neil Telgen, Mae M. Baker, John Vander Ploeg, Anna Mae Hamersma; **Row 2:** Jane Hoekstra, Irene Hogan Van' t Land, Grant Taylor, Marilyn Dykhouse Machiela, ??, Jeanette Braunius Jeffer, Jake Dykhouse, Elaine Leentjes, Janice Schuurman, Trina Hagedorn Wendelaar; **Row 3:** Teacher Catherine Andela, Albert Nywening, Richard Schuurman, Stanley Vanden Berg, Anna Jane Ten Kate, Janice Hazen, Marie Hamersma, Henry Balkema, Robert Douma, Stuart Kingma.



1956 CLASS REUNION - OCTOBER, 2006

Row 1 (L to R): Ruth (Brezina) Renick, Madelyn (Hoogerheide) Koebe, Norma (Huizing) Hagedoorn, Carol (Okma) Sweetman, Shirley (Van Til) Faber, Marilyn (Lehmer) Vieldhouse, Thea (Boelens) Leegwater, Marilyn (Van Ek) De Block, Janet (De Noble) Jaarsma, Lillian (Steenstra) Block, Beatrice (Van Beveren) Spalt; **Row 2:** Mary (Holtrop) Last, Iteke (Ingwersen) Prins, Wilma (Hagedorn) Tanis, Barbara (Kuiken) Davis, Janet (Cooper) Jellema, Ruthanne (Martin) Wisse, Julia (Dyer) Van Heemst, Donna (Struck) Luyendyk, Elizabeth (Kapteyn) Persenaire, Carolyn (De Haan) Vander Stouw, Nella (Pulis) Rosendale, Doris (TenKate) Zeeuw, Joyce Schoonejongen; **Row 3:** Ken Tanis, Rich Velzen, Edward Nieuwenhuis, Peter Van Hoff, William De Witte, John Heerema, Jay Van Hook, Leonard Dykman, Vincent De Young, Victor De Jonge, Harold Bontekoe, Robert Heerema, Richard Kuiken, Robert Houskamp; **Row 4:** William Slump, Edward Hey, Peter Algera, Alan Bandstra, Peter Van Grouw, George Martin, Jack Snope, Al Huizing, Peter Hagedoorn, John Last; **Row 5:** Arthur Pruiksm, Robert Boogerman.

and tragedy. Because of Eastern Christian, a little immigrant girl from Hungary, with the help of a booster club from Summer St. Christian Reformed Church in Passaic, NJ and wonderful Christian parents, became a school teacher, got a master's degree, taught for 30 years, raised a family to know the Lord. Thank you, thank you. To God be the Glory – Great things he hath done and will do!" [Editor's Note: The meditation and prayer offered at this class' reunion is also printed in this issue.]

CLASS OF 1968

Class Rep: Pat (Borduin) Steinginga
E-Mail: psfabercarpet@verizon.net

As reported in a local North Carolina newspaper, **Paul Stam** was selected to be North Carolina's House Minority Leader. The editorial states "Republicans chose a savvy legislative technician, Wakes' Paul Stam, to be minority leader. Rep. Stam was a good choice. He will represent Republican interests well while cooperating procedurally with [the] Speaker." Thanks

to **Fred ('52) and Joanne ('54) De Ruiter** for spotting this story and sending it in!

CLASS OF 1978

Class Rep: Judy (Fridsma) Vriesema
E-Mail: jvriesema@calvin.edu

Class Rep Judy received this update: "Hi Judy, This is **Debbie (Etterbeek) Dyer**. I just received the Herald, saw **Mercy Godoy's** letter, and wanted to write; especially since I have not kept in contact. I'm living in Forestburgh, NY (Sullivan County). I've been in NY State for 20 years. I work in the court system for the state of New York. I have three grown children: ages 23, 22 and 20, all living on their own now. I'm single again. Life is good and God is good! I would love to be in contact with any old classmates. It would be great to have a reunion. Since I can only imagine the amount of work involved in putting a reunion together, I would like to offer my services in helping if there is any other interest in a reunion shown."

CLASS OF 1987

Class Rep: Laura (Faber) Maccone
E-Mail: mrsmacc01@yahoo.com

Can you believe it will be 20 years since we graduated??? It is time to start planning our reunion!!! Anyone willing to help please contact **Laurie (Faber) Maccone** at 973-427-8552, or at mrsmacc01@yahoo.com.

Russell Huizing has accepted the position of Senior Pastor of the Pleasantview Alliance Church in Saegertown, PA. You can contact Russell at huizingfamily@hotmail.com.

Lisa Lozzi-Quinn wrote, "Just dropping a note to let you know my husband Martin and I were blessed with our second child this year. Keira Lianne Quinn was born on June 3, 2006 and joins her very proud big brother Brendan, who is 6 years old. In 2005, I lost my Dad and a dear Aunt within 6 month of each other, so having our daughter this year, has brought us so much happiness again!"

continued on page 25

Class of 1966 Reunion Meditation

BY DON RITSMAN

BASED ON PSALM 40:1-5, 9-11, 16

When it became evident that I was the one who would be giving this meditation, what immediately came to mind was something that I had read some time ago. A class of graduating H.S. seniors was interviewed and asked to share their ambitions and goals in life.

Here is how some of them responded to the question, “*What is your ambition?*”

- Girl: a fashion designer; Guy: an engineer; Girl: a teacher
- Guy: a politician; Girl: to understand; Guy: a cowboy
- Girl: very little; Guy: no ambition; Girl: a missionary
- Guy: fulfillment; Guy: to make money; Guy: to make 1 cubic mile of money

Do any of those responses sound familiar? They should. The seniors who submitted those responses all came from Eastern Christian H.S., the Class of 1966. Yes, these were our ambitions and those of our classmates. How many of these ambitions were fulfilled? Some of them were noble; others may not have been worth fulfilling.

The fact that our reunion committee wanted to include a Christian



ECHS Class of 1966 Chapel Service during their Reunion Weekend last fall.

worship service as part of our time together, and the fact that the class desired such a service, indicates to me that we share a perspective that transcends the everyday life of this present world. It seems to indicate that we have a God-conscious perspective. And if that, indeed, is the case, it is something for which to thank God.

I always remember the counsel a pastor with whom I worked gave to his own daughter. He said to her, “*When all is said and done, this life is soon over.*” In his words, “*It is insane to organize your life as though this present world was eternal.*”

I often picture our passage through this life as two people traveling together on a train, with seats facing each other. The man whose life is self-centered and focused only on this present world is seated facing the

continued on page 26

Prayer for Reunion Chapel Service

BY BILL HAGEDORN (CL. OF '66)

Father, You have been so faithful to us. You have been faithful to us our entire lives, but today we especially remember and celebrate how faithful You have been to us over the past 40 years since our graduation.

Father, in Your sovereignty You placed us together in Eastern Christian High School over 40 years ago. It was Your intention that each of us would have some impact, however large or small, on the life of everyone else in this class. Maybe that impact was mostly felt in high school, maybe it will yet be felt in the future, and perhaps we might even have the privilege of impacting the lives of each other on this special day. But in some way, by Your design, we will always be a part of each other even though our lives and experiences might be very different.

Father, we feel blessed because of our marriages to loving and faithful spouses. But we also hurt because death, abuse or other situations have torn our marriages apart. Father, we are grateful because of the children you have given to us, and also for the very special gift of our grandchildren. But we also suffer because our children have rebelled, or have disappointed us, or have been affected by disease and other problems, or have even been taken away by death. And we also feel emptiness because some have never experienced the joys and sorrows of having children at all.

Father, we are thankful that we are in good health, despite a new ache or pain every once in a while. But we're also hurting, Father, because of bodies that are suffering from cancer and other diseases, because of surgeries that have left us unhealed, because of any number of other reminders of how frail we really are. Father, our spirits are filled because of Your love for us, and because of a relationship with You that is alive and still growing. But in the deepest part of our spirits we also feel empty, because whether we've had a relationship with You in the past or not, today it's just not part of who we are.

Father, You have connected us to each other for a reason. So help us to rejoice with those who rejoice today, and to weep with those who weep today. Help us to bear each other's burdens, even today, and to speak words of encouragement to each other, especially today, in ways that go deeper than just the superficial.

Father, You have been so faithful to us, so faithful. Help us to see Your faithfulness today in a special way, and to give thanks and praise to You. In the strong and loving name of Jesus Christ, Amen



40TH YEAR REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1966

Front Row (L to R): Ruth (Roukema) Veenema, Helen (Witte) Metallo, Judy (Bruining) Stoner, June (Fisher) Markowitz, Beverly (Okma) Jeczalik, Jane Van Hoff, Don Belanus, Don Ritsman; **Row 2:** Andy Swankie, Ed Hagedorn, Jim Van Duzer, Fred Everett, Ruth (Meenen) Everett, Jim Jacobs, Ellen (Klopman) Faber, Henrietta (Heerema) Krug, Ildiko (Havassy) Zarzycki, Beverly (Nyland) Vandergoot, Beverly (Dykstra) Vander Meeden, Beth (Nawyn) Veenema, Ruth (Maas) Mulder, Dot (Moezelaar) Faasse; **Row 3:** Dave Baker, Rich Josten, Owen Aukema, Case De Haan, Bill Montalvo, John Faber, Bob Aupperlee, Harold Post, Ruth (Andela) Yeilding, Carol (Bush) Prawetz, Nancy (Pontier) Dykstra, Bob Jonkman, Jim Veenstra, Bill Hagedorn; **Row 4:** Marilyn (Faber) Davis, Anita (Hoogerheide) Rose, Janice (Boonstra) Post, Peter Ten Kate; **Row 5:** Diane (Smith) Mol, Ruth (Stelpstra) Pruiksmas, Warren Pruiksmas, Joyce (Schuurman) Muleedy, Janet (Ten Kate) Zimmerman. **Not Pictured (due to photo cropping):** Brian Lokker, Lorraine (Kruitoff) Bartole, Jim Bandstra, Maria (Tizekker) Wagner, Margaret (Schaaf) Faber

ALUMNI NEWS continued from page 23

CLASS OF 1991

Class Rep: Susanne (Balkema) Wynbeek
454 Manchester Ave
North Haledon, NJ 07508-2788

Mark and Pam (Smid '90) Reitsma announce the birth of a daughter, Kathryn Patricia (Katie) on 2/25/07. Mark adds, "Mother and baby are doing well." The Development Office was also notified by e-mail that **Albert and Sharon (Schipper) Berry** had a baby boy, Tucker Ian on February 23, 2007. Tucker joins sisters, Taylor (age 5) and Hannah (age 2) and a brother, Cole (age 3).

CLASS OF 1993

Class Rep: Jennifer (Meyer) Ross
E-Mail: jross@chccnj.org

Congratulations to Carol Albinski and **Brad Dyksen** who were married on Oct. 20, 2007. They reside in Mahwah, NJ. Brad works for Financial Services Inc. (FSI) in the web design department.

CLASS OF 1996

Class Rep: Rebecca (Aupperlee) Lapinsky
E-mail: Lapinsky@msn.com

Reunion Rep: Marcella (Simon) Vander Eems

E-Mail: mrstim6_3_00@hotmail.com

Summarizing the recent reunion, **Marcella (Simon) Vander Eems** shared the following comments: "It was truly enjoyable to gather with classmates for an evening of catching up, sharing laughs and good food. It was rather interesting to see how people had changed in the last ten years. Some people literally had not seen each other since leaving our graduation ceremony, while others remain really close friends and keep in touch regularly. It is amazing really how many different places people end up. We had a lot of fun looking at some old pictures and sharing stories about our lives. All in all it was a great night and hopefully we can do it again in 5 or 10 years."

CLASS OF 1998

Class Rep: Sandy (King) Chiera
E-Mail: alustri22@aol.com

Joel Spoelstra sent in an update, "In May of 06 I transferred from the NYPD in the Bronx to Orangetown PD in Rockland County. In November, I became engaged to

Jessica Hart, an EMT with the FDNY."

Chris and **Sandi Chiera (King)** welcomed Dylan Christopher on December 12, 2006! He weighed 9 lbs 5 oz and was 21 1/2 inches long. He joins big sister, Mattison, 17 months.

CLASS OF 2002

Class Rep: Peter Russo

c/o 7 Knolls Rd., Bloomingdale, NJ 07403-1511
Jenifer (Shaffstall) Reinauer emailed, "I was just looking at *The Herald* and thought I would let you know that I got married February 17, 2006 and had a second baby boy January 10, 2007."



Jenifer (Shafstall) Reinauer was married on February 17, 2006.



10TH YEAR REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1966

Front Row L - R: Jessica Mulder Warren, Ginny Dykhouse Spahr, Tracy Van Lenten Baron, Debbie Lodema Rappold, Miranda Vander Berg Miller, Marcella Simon Vander Eems, Susan Oosting Vander Pyl, & Naomi Everett Braunius; **Back Row L - R:** Michael Spoelstra, Peter Ten Kate, Chris Dykhouse, Rich Troast, Bryan Bosgra, Theius Samuels, Ken Ritsma, Mark Dyer, Ken Belanus, Stephen Borst, Todd Hartley, Mike Tanis, Tim Vander Eems & Jeff Byma.

CLASS OF 1966 REUNION continued from 24

past—seeing where the train has been, apprehensive about turning around to see where the train is headed. The other man, a Christian, is seated facing the future. The scenery of life is also passing before him, but with anticipation he is coming nearer to his final destination: a face-to-face meeting with Christ his Savior. If you have a God-conscious, Christ-centered, perspective, that is something for which to give thanks to God.

A second thing for which to give thanks are the God-given blessings we have experienced over the years. I, for one, am very thankful for the Christian education I received throughout my years in the Eastern Christian school system from first grade through high school. I'm also thankful for the friends I've made: some of whom I first met in EC Junior High, others whom I've known since first grade at North 4th Street Christian School. Many of us can be thankful for faithful, supportive spouses who have put up with us throughout the years.

Many of us can be thankful for children, and some of us can be thankful for grandchildren. Most of us can be thankful for a substantial measure of good health. Some of us can be thankful for the opportunity to see different parts of the world and have some unique and exciting adventures. Some of us can be thankful for satisfying professions that have allowed us to enjoy many of the good things of life. Here, then, is a second thing for which to be thankful: the many God-given blessings we have experienced throughout these past years.

But these past 40 years have not only been filled with blessings and happy days. There also has been a large measure of trials and griefs. I am sure that over the course of these past four decades each of us has suffered the departure of a loved one in death: a parent, a close relative, a friend, in some cases a spouse or even a child. Some of us have suffered the departure of a loved one in other ways: maybe a divorce, or a child who has departed from his home or from the faith. Some of us may have suffered

debilitating injury or illness, or find ourselves ministering to a loved one who has experienced such a trial. Maybe there has been the loss of a job, or the realization that an expectation would never be fulfilled.

But as a Christian, I have discovered that in the depths of my greatest trials Christ has made His presence known in the most personal and powerful way. At times He has personally stepped through the thin veil that separates us from the spiritual realm in order to minister comfort, strength and assurance to me.

I can testify to the truth of Psalm 63:1, “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*” Then, too, as Christians, we have the promise of God: we know that all things work together for good for those who love God (Romans 8:28).

As Christians, here is a third thing for which to be thankful: the Lord's presence in time of trial and His sure promise to those who trust Him: I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

So we are together again after 40 years. Gathered together for a reunion we all have anticipated. In closing, I want to remind you of one final blessing for which to give thanks. As people who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and the blood He shed for our sins, the Bible tells us we can look forward to being a part of that final **great reunion** before His throne. Thanks be to God! [See next page for Worship Service details]



Ruth (Andela) Yeilding and Fred Everett
lead their classmates in singing.

Class of '66 Reunion Worship Service Held at Eastern Christian High School Media Center

NOVEMBER 11, 2006

Greeting & Opening Prayer

Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Favorite Hymns: Led by **Fred Everett** with **Ruth Andela Yeilding** on keyboard.

The hymns included "Living for Jesus," "Take My Life and Let It Be," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," and "How Great Thou Art"

Prayer: **Bill Hagedorn**

Time of Sharing

Scripture- Psalm 40:1-5, 9-11, 16: **Jim Veenstra**

Meditation: **Don Ritsman**

Closing Prayer & Benediction: **Don Belanus**



MIDLAND PARK GRADUATING CLASS 1948

Front Row: Marilyn Dykhouse, Gertrude Vermaas, Anna Jane Ten Kate, Marie Hamersma, Janice Hazen, Miriam Dykstra, Ruth Smith, Janice Schuurman; **Row 2:** Betty Van Dyk, ??, Garry Van Der Weert, Harry De Blaey, Principal, Henry Popjes, Richard Schuurman, Jeanette Braunius; **Row 3:** Paul De Blaey, Jacob Dykhouse, Robert Douma, Ralph Smilde, Albert Nywening, G. Vander Weert, Wesley Kort, Maynard Baker.

PASSAIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 1945

Front Row (L to R): Eleanor Bangma, Joan Apol, Janet Snoop, Joan Mierop, Phyllis De Ruiter, Marilyn Kloet, Jean Vander Molen, Hazel Nydam, Janet Van Loon; **Row 2:** Griselda De Vries, Grace Malda, Marjorie Pruiksmas, Wilma Nydam, Ruthann Drukker, Joan Van Hook, Lois Van Althuis, Alberta De Leeuw, Kathryn De Jonge; **Row 3:** David Grasman, Robert Oostdyk, Bernard Den Boer, Katherine Allman, Joyce Amels, Edward Douma, James Last, John Hamstra, Gerard Fridsma; **Row 4:** Gerhard Korteling, Clarence Van Horn, Walter Andela, Paul Lyman, Henry Vander Plaat, Thomas Van Horn, Peter Donkersloot.



Designated Gifts

NOVEMBER 2, 2006 – MARCH 1, 2007

Gifts received after March 1, 2007 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Herald. During this time period, 189 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 \$100,397.58. Thank you to all who made these donations to support Christian Education at EC!

ENDOWMENT FUND

~ In Memory Of ~

Anna Anema

Raymond & Donna Luyendyk

Austen Bender

Henrietta Bender

Dick Bouma

Helen & William Deitch

Harvey Raymond Brasser

Roger & Ruth Brasser –
Brasser Family Foundation

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Russell & Kathleen Voorman
Lorraine & John Kortenhoeven

Wilma Dykstra

William & Kathy Faasse
Calvin & Connie Graham

Clara Faasse

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Jacalyn “Lynn” Faber

James & Ellen Faber
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Helen Speicher
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Taryn & Luigi Ziccardi
Joyce & Albert Portela
Fransina Faber
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Frank Fisher

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Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

Nicholas B. Fridsma

Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

Nicholas & Bertha Fridsma

Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

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Kathryn Miller Houseward

Bernice Houseward & Stephen Pastoor

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Norman K. Lee

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Fogeline Maas
Agnes & Dennis Crean
Alice & Henry Faasse

Horst-Dieter Nowak

Dianne Nowak

Edward John Postma, Sr.

Elinor Postma

Sieger Pruikisma

Sidney Pruikisma

John W. Ratcliffe

Lawrence Lee & Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee

Jeanette Schipper

Herman & Phyllis Schipper
Sarene Osenga
Kenneth W. Hagedorn
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John & Doris Dyk
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Janice Hazen
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Beverly & Rod Den Hollander
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Jeremy Bernard Van Heemst

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Mildred van Reken

Donald van Reken

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Nancy V. & Michael S. McDonald

William Veenstra

Elizabeth & Adrian Gerritsen

Henry Watzte

Ruth & J. Ted Boomker

Richard Zuidema, Jr.

Bernard & Helen Van Heemst

~ In Honor Of ~

Joanna Berkhout

(95th Birthday)
Aurie & Wilma Tamboer
Donald & Rosemary Struyk
Doug & Vicky Struyk

Judith Bley

(60th Birthday)
Leonard & Betty Dykman

Charles & Beverly Borduin

(30th Wedding Anniversary)
Hilda Borduin

Ed & Betty Gerritsen

(50th Wedding Anniversary)
William & Elsie Schafer
Roger W. & Carolyn Veenstra
Sue Ann & Andy Woudenberg
John & Kay Drukker

Nick & Norma Hagedoorn

(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Barbara A. Davis
Kenneth & Ruth Tanis
Alena & Christian Kuiphoff
Bill & Charlene Cook

ENDOWMENT FUND

~ In Honor Of (continued) ~

Leonard & Betty Dykman
Henry & Trudy Atema
John Oosting
William & Suanne Sweetman
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Anna Mae De Block
Anna Wondergem
Beatrice & Peter Spalt
Raymond & Donna Luyendyk
Carol G. Van Dyk
Peter & Lorraine Hagedoorn
Carol & Glenn R. Sweetman

The Harrison Family
(D.J., David & Jo El)
Joanne W. Dwyer

Jim & Bertha Jacobs
(60th Wedding Anniversary)
Herb & Jo Bosloper
James & Grace Van Wieren
Hilda De Roo
Arthur & Jeanette Knyfd
Corene De Graaf
John & Judith Bosloper
Rena Bruins
John & Linda Bruins
Jeanette Prommel
George Schaver
Jean Schaver
Florence & Bernard Hagedoorn
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Horodnik
Ann De Boer
Griselda & Ernest Nienhouse

Jay & Marty Kuiper
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
PSEG Matching Gift

Doris Kuiphoff
(80th Birthday)
Betty & Jim Youngsman

Griselda Nienhouse
(70th Birthday)
George Schaver
Jean M. Schaver

Margaret Ratcliffe-Lee
(Ruigers College Graduation)
Lawrence Lee & Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee

David & Nancy Simcox
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Richard Tuit
(80th Birthday)
Sue Ann & Andy Woudenberg

Elizabeth "Betty" Vander Plaats
(80th Birthday)
Albert & Janet Visbeen
Ethel De See

Alida & Don Van Valkenburgh
(60th Wedding Anniversary)
Hilda Borduin
Bernie & Helen Van Heemst
Jack & Annamae Hulsebos
John & Doris Dyk
Laura & Edward Lotz & family
Alice Borduin

Helen & Barb Halma
John & Anita De Korte

Hilda & Ada Wisse
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~ Direct Gifts ~

Cedar Hill CRC
Frank & Janice De Haan via Barnabas Stewards
Fund
Estate of Nelson Sweetman (IRA beneficiary – EC)
Estate of Marinus Ten Hoeve
Estate of Marie Hoogerheide Van Der Wall

**RESTRICTED
ENDOWMENT FUND**

~ In Memory Of ~

Elise Kathleen Gorter
(Elise Kathleen Gorter Scholarship Fund)
Elsie & John Golden
Judy Westra
Richard & Lorene Leentjes
Lois & Harry Prins

Adrian A. "Bud" Visbeen
(The Adrian "Bud" Visbeen Scholarship Fund)
Lois & Harry Prins

ANNUAL FUND

~ In Memory Of ~

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Gary & Barbara Link
George & Carol Bosma
Robert & Anita Hoogstra
Garret & Mildred Link
Albert & Catherine Algera
Ronald & Marilyn Stonehouse

John H. De Wilde
Col. David A. De Wilde

~ In Honor Of ~

EC Class of 1956
(50-Year Reunion)
Class of 1956 Members

EC Class of 1966
(40-Year Reunion)
Class of 1966 Members

John & Anita De Korte
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Henry & Doris Zeeuw

Nick & Norma Hagedoorn
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Henry & Doris A. Zeeuw
Adeline Leo

Jim & Bertha Jacobs
(60th Wedding Anniversary)
Adeline Leo

Richard Tuit
(80th Birthday)
Adeline Leo

Albert & Janet Visbeen
Glenn & Yvonne Visbeen via JustGive.org

~ Direct Gifts ~

Estate of Rev. Walter Tolsma

**RESTRICTED FUND –
HS LIBRARY**

~ In Honor Of ~

Bernard W. Houseward
Bernice Houseward & Stephen Pastoor

**RESTRICTED FUND –
SCHOLARSHIP**

~ In Memory Of ~

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Roger & Lori Steinginga
Borduin Paving
Nancy & Lance Kraai
Steven & Laura Gorter
Louis & Susan Graglia
Leegwater Electric Inc.
Herman & Marjorie Jeffer
Jennifer Greene MD
Martin & Diana Van Boerum
Norma Greenfield
Donald & Ethel Wisse
Jean & Gerald Brower
Theresa M. Gaeta

~ In Honor Of ~

Edward & Berdella Cooper
(50th Wedding Anniversary)
Kevin & Kathy Cooper

Clarence "Clix" Knyfd
(65th Birthday)
Jane F. de Waal Malefyt
Arthur & Jeanette Knyfd
Nancy & John Hemrick
Marlo & Kathleen Kooistra
Edna Smith

S. Howard Lagerveld
PSEG Matching Gift

RESTRICTED FUND

~ In Honor Of ~

Bernard & Helen Joustra
(Special Birthdays)
James & Ruth Aupperlee

NOTE: Please mail all endowment, memorial & honorgifts 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 EC are eligible for matching gifts from most companies with a matching gift program. Gifts may also be given online through JustGive.org.