

SPRING 2021

THE

a publication of **Eastern Christian School** Volume 62, Issue 1

> PASSAIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Contracting God's FAITHFULNESS

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

PLUS

Great is Thy Faithfulness Campaign

### A Year of Challenge... A Year of Accomplishment



COVID 19 struck with a vengeance, and on March 13, 2020, Eastern Christian held its last day of in-person classes for the 2019-20 school year. As of April 1, 2021, there were 130 million

confirmed cases of COVID worldwide with 2.8 million deaths.

It has been a year of challenge for everyone. But it has also been a year of great accomplishment in which we have repeatedly recognized God's protection and providence, allowing Eastern Christian to serve the needs of its community in a manner that few other schools have.

At the start of this school year, only about 11% of NJ public school districts were open for full time, in person learning. That number has actually fallen since then. The closure of schools has not only been tied to profound learning loss, but also to significant social and emotional impacts among children.

Eastern Christian has not been immune from these same challenges. We have faced health and safety challenges ranging from individuals who contracted COVID, to mandatory temperature checks, mask wearing, physical distancing, and the inability to operate parts of our school programs. In late March, an uptick in cases in New Jersey led us to pivot to remote instruction at our high school and to suspend athletics for a two week period.

Instructionally it has been a hard year, with first the pivot to remote learning last March, the challenges of offering both in-person and remote instruction in the fall, the interruptions in learning due to quarantines, and many more challenges. Financially, we have faced a significant loss of revenue from reduced tuition income and cancelled fundraising events. We have additionally faced significant unbudgeted expenses as the result of operating in the current environment.

But it has also been a year of great accomplishment!

Our students are learning, their needs are being met, and they are being cared for. Students returned to on-campus instruction in the fall with only very limited interruption for more than three quarters of the academic year. The results of winter standardized testing indicate our students are learning and progressing at, or even above, a pace we would expect in a normal school year, giving them a huge learning advantage over many of their peers in other schools.

Operationally, the Health & Safety Team has been unwavering in its commitment to keeping our students and staff safe. Our custodial and maintenance team have done amazing work in keeping our buildings clean and sanitized.

I am thankful we are seeing signs of light at the end of the tunnel. Effective vaccines are rolling out. This March, 400 doses of COVID vaccine were administered to members of our staff and to colleagues from surrounding schools in a clinic held on our Wyckoff campus—all signs that we are headed toward a more normal operating environment.

Instructionally, we project next school year will be a much more normal year. We are cautiously optimistic we will be able to resume classes and activities that we have had to curtail or suspend due to the pandemic, particularly in music and art. Operationally, we are hopeful we will be able to ease some of the stringent restrictions we have been operating under since last March. Already the guidance from the CDC, the NJ Department of Health, and our local boards of health is easing some of these restrictions and we anticipate we will see more easing in the months to come.

With God's blessing and the extraordinary dedication of our community and those called to work at EC, we have served our students and their families well. We have been true to our calling and the Lord has protected us, provided for us, and blessed our work! For all of these blessings, we say "thank you, Lord!"

**Cover photos, clockwise:** Tubing event, 2021; an undated, unlabeled photo from school archives; Dr. Terry Allen, 2020; MS outdoor chapel featuring Pastor Richard Jones of Bridgeway Community Church, 2020.

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Thanks to our Golf Committee; Kurt Faber (Chairman), Henry Hagedoorn, Dwayne Leegwater, Scott Martin, Bill Van Hoff; to volunteers Sue Leegwater and Laura Steenstra, and to the EC Foundation office. This group solicited sponsors and prizes to help make the event a success and then managed all the details for the day.

The Herald is a bi-annual publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Eastern Christian School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education. The Herald is mailed free of charge to over 6,500 alumni, families, and friends of the school.

Our address database is always being updated. If you would like to update your contact information or if you know of someone who would like to receive The Herald, please contact The Foundation for Eastern Christian School Association office and we will be very happy to update our database accordingly.





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### **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**



# Faithfulness to all generations

#### EASTERN CHRISTIAN'S STORY IS ULTIMATELY ONE OF FAITHFULNESS

The name 'Eastern Christian School Association' first became official in 1951, when the boards of Eastern Academy (a high school) and four elementary schools—North Fourth Street, Riverside, Midland Park and Passaic Christian Schools—approved the consolidation.

However, the school traces its roots to August 17, 1892, when 62 Dutch immigrants gathered in the basement of 2nd Christian Reformed Church to form The Holland Reformed School Society. The next year, the society opened up Amity Street Christian School (It would eventually move to North Fourth Street). According to old school records, the date of the meeting was significant for the new immigrants: "It was on that date in 1878 that the King of The Netherlands decreed that schooling would be religiously neutral and that specifically Christian instruction would be curbed."

This single act would eventually lead to tens of thousands of students receiving a Christian education. The road hasn't always been easy,



but Eastern Christian's story is ultimately one of faithfulness: the faithfulness of a sovereign God weaving many stories and many faithful servants together to form a multi-generational, global tapestry bigger in scope than any of the founding fathers could have ever imagined.

In the words of one former principal, Gerrit Dykstra, long passed away, "His Covenant promise that He will be our God and the God of our children is an inducement for us to continue in this great cause of Christian education...Let us then go forward in faith for to him that believeth all things are possible."

For two years, **Nancy Hemrick** has been working to digitize EC's vital, legal, and permanent records, making more information easily accessible. We hope these lesser-known narratives found from our archives will testify to the faithfulness of an almighty God and the faithfulness of his servants, even through difficult seasons.

# The visionary leadership of an immigrant pastor, 1892

Location: Amity Street School, Paterson

From: Fiftieth Anniversary of the North Fourth Street Christian School, no author

#### Led by two pastors, Rev. R. Drukker and Rev. Van Vlaanderen, 62 people met on August 17, 1892 to formalize the work that had started two years earlier.

According to records, "About 65 persons were assembled for the purpose of organizing a society which wished to start a school for Christian Instruction. After prayer had been offered and a Holland Psalm had been sung; this gathering at once went to its task, trusting in God that He would lead them in their deliberations."

At its school dedication a year later, the Rev. P. Van Vlaanderen, was led to proclaim to the listening crowd, "God has done wonderful things for us."





Nevertheless, the grammar school had some challenges to overcome in the early years. According to records, "During the first years of its existence, not only did the school have to face the attacks and sneers of some of our own people, but to finance the school properly was a difficult task. The ardent support of a small number and especially of Rev. P. Van Vlaanderen meant much for the success of the school under God's blessing."

In addition to his key role in forming Amity Street Christian School—he was also, not surprisingly, elected as the first president of the Board of Directors— Rev. P. Van Vlaanderen is listed in local records as serving as the pastor of "Erst Christelijk Gereformeerde Gemeente te Paterson, N.J." from 1889-1904; it was a Dutch speaking church translated as First Christian Reformed Church of Paterson,

NJ. Little else is known about this visionary man, nearly lost to history. Wouldn't he have been surprised in 1892 to know about his enduring legacy here in New Jersey!



#### GOD HAS DONE WONDERFUL THINGS FOR US"

-Rev. P. Van Vlaandersen

# The high school that almost wasn't, 1919

#### Location: Eastern Academy, Prospect Park

From: 25th Anniversary of Eastern Academy; An historical review of Eastern Academy 1919-1944



#### By human standards, Eastern Academy shouldn't have really happened.

The idea of a local Christian high school was first conceived in 1913. A teacher was hired, but only one student—named Garret André was enrolled. It was an abysmal failure, and the idea was shelved.

Then, in 1917, Rev. Walter P. Heeres, delivered an impassioned speech at an elementary school rally regarding the need for a Christian high school: "As a challenge to others he offered to sell his car and contribute the money for the cause on condition that others would make comparable contributions." No one responded.

In 1918, a third attempt was made. After a rousing speech by Rev. Vander Mey about the necessity of Christian secondary education, 60 individuals united to form a school association and a board of 10 men were nominated to draft a constitution.

However, documents record that "This committee did not report back to the association until almost a year later...the members were also plagued by a feeling of hesitation."

Despite the delay, the laborious work slowly continued, shouldered mainly by the original 10 men. More troubles were to follow. "Before the opening of school in September the board of directors hoped

to acquire

the necessary

money to pay all the expenses for the first year. By the end of May, four months before the opening of school, only \$117.00 had been received. This alone speaks volumes as to poor support after a year and a half of preparation. Two thousand dollars plus the income received from tuition was the sum needed."

More creative measures were enacted to raise necessary funds, but these also failed. By July 17, "this might have discouraged any group less determined. It was faith alone which prodded the board on."

Despite all this, the high school opened with 17 students on September 3, 1919, sharing the North Fourth Street elementary school building, utilizing makeshift desks of wood planks and saw horses, and possessing only \$628 in its treasury. The school would remain in a shared space until 1924, when it moved to a remodeled house on North 7th Street, Prospect Park.

It was certainly the humblest of beginnings, but it was still a beginning. "Though the board was not able to realize the goal it had set, the moral and spiritual foundations laid by the committees bore fruit in later years," stated a 25th anniversary booklet. "Men with vision like this save a people from perishing. Though they would insist that God receive all the glory, and rightly so, God also uses means, and His glory is in part reflected in the work of His children."



The first class of Eastern Academy planting a tree for Arbor Day

#### **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**



# Ladies help pull school through Great Depression, 1929

Location: Passaic Christian School, Myrtle Avenue, Passaic; Riverside School, Paterson

*From: History of the Passaic Christian School by Gideon Wattez; Golden Jubilee of the Riverside School for Christian Education 1899-1949* 

#### The Passaic Christian School also had a rocky founding, taking 20 years from its original proposal in 1894 to make it to its formal building dedication in 1916.

Those 20 years were marked by several stopsand-starts, a lack of support, and at times, general differences of opinion. However, in 1916, the school finally opened with 72 elementary school students enrolled at Myrtle Avenue in Passaic. The school took off and enrollment soon soared to nearly 250 students.

Less than 20 years after its turbulent beginning, however, the school faced another massive hurdle that threatened to undo it: the stock market crash of October 1929, which would tumble the United States into the Great Depression. The school would document that salaries were "cut to the bone."

In the words of Wattez: "The most discouraging feature of the depression years was the gradual decrease in enrollment. By 1936 there were only four rooms in use with 160 pupils in attendance [at Passaic Christian School]. With salaries at a low level, the teachers volunteered to accept a further reduction in salary." However, help came from an unlikely source. Known as "Ora et Labora," a Ladies Circle was organized in 1929 and stepped in to purchase items that the school board was unable to provide. It also made more significant impacts as the years of economic downturn continued. "It was this Ladies' Circle that finally paid off the mortgage, eliminating the need of raising sufficient funds each year to pay the interest," stated Wattez.

#### THEY ORGANIZED TO HELP THE SCHOOL IN ITS FINANCIAL STRUGGLE...HOW DO THEY DO IT? BY A DINT OF HARD WORK.

Ladies also played a critical role at the nearby Riverside School presumably during that same era. An anniversary booklet from 1949 praised the assistance of its 'Society of Willing Workers' shedding light on female fundraising practices that have since been forgotten: "These are very active ladies, and that smile can instantly be changed into a determined look. They organized to help the school in its financial struggle... How do they do it? By a dint of hard work. We have seen them on a truck collecting paper and old clothes. We have watched them serving dinners and being caterers at weddings. You may also find them conducting a rummage sale in an empty store downtown."

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# Fire shuts down school, but the community opens it back up a week later, 1933

Location: North Fourth Street School, Paterson

From: Fiftieth Anniversary of the North Fourth Street Christian School, no author



PHOTOS: The North Fourth Street campus in a photo dated sometime before 1924.

Interestingly, a 1908 school program featured an ad from a local ironworks company boasting about their installed fire escapes, with a note that reads "we sincerely hope that they will never be used."



#### WITH THE HELP OF FIVE CHURCHES, TWO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS OF EDUCATION...AND ONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL...EVERY SINGLE CHILD HAD A SEAT AND AN INSTRUCTOR WITHIN ONE WEEK.

In the overnight hours between March 31 and April 1, 1933, a devastating fire tore through North Fourth Street school, destroying the third floor and the roof, and causing extensive water damage on lower floors. The building would be out of commission until the following September.

With the help of five churches, two public school boards of education (Paterson and Prospect Park) and one Christian school they'd eventually merge with, every single child had a seat and an instructor within one week. The quick ramp-up was a testament to the strength and resiliency of the community, but not everyone was happy. "This was a disappointment to some pupils who expected an extra vacation," stated one eyewitness.

The school was insured, thereby ensuring no financial loss to the institution. And the fire repair actually brought jobs to the community: "Many supporters and members who were without work during this time of depression were engaged to help rebuild the school."

THE FIRE REPAIR ACTUALLY BROUGHT JOBS TO THE COMMUNITY: "MANY SUPPORTERS AND MEMBERS WHO WERE WITHOUT WORK DURING THIS TIME OF DEPRESSION WERE ENGAGED TO HELP REBUILD THE SCHOOL."

#### GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS



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# "Hour of Trial", 1944

#### Location: Eastern Academy; Riverside School

*From: 25th anniversary of Eastern Academy; Envoy April 1944; Golden Jubilee of the Riverside School for Christian Education* 

#### Eastern Academy's 25th anniversary was overshadowed by the height of World War II. The school's written material during these years show the contradictory forces of a joyful high school experience and a world at war.

In a student newspaper dated April 1944, for example, the front page features two stories: In one, "Speaking for everyone at E.A., I send to the parents and relatives of Alfred Van Loon our sincerest sympathy at Al's death while at the Great Lakes Training Station," and in another, "Well, the senior boys are now the undisputed champions on Eastern Academy's basketball court."

In its anniversary bulletin written in 1944, it was estimated that 200 students and alumni were in service and "some have already given their lives." It adds, "Testimonies come back to us that the religious training provided in the home, church and at E.A. has helped them

An advertisement for war bonds appears in an EC publication.



to remain steadfast in the hour of trial...a fact for which we are extremely grateful."

Frances Greydanus is quoted in the same book: "The leaders of the Germans understand the meaning of this command: 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and he will not depart from it' and carry it out by taking the very young child from the home and educating him in the principles of the Nazi government. Surely, if ALL Christians fully understood this, our schools would be larger and greater than they've ever been in the past."

Yet even in the darkest times, God's community was still at work. Deep in the annals of Riverside Schools is this wartime story: "During the war years, the Riverside School found it difficult to hold the annual picnic due to the scarcity of food and other things, and decided to hold a drive and collect funds to offset the loss of this income. The supporters of the school rallied to the cause and the board found that more money was collected than they ever had or could have realized from a picnic."

#### **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

The results of the fundraising efforts still stand today. A current photo of the high school. BELOW: A fund collection envelope from 1951

# Crisis led to consolidation 1950

#### Location: Multiple; decision impacts five schools

From: History of the Passaic Christian School, by Gideon Wattez; 50th anniversary of the North Fourth Street Christian School; Golden Jubilee of the Riverside School for Christian Education 1899-1949

#### Space seemed to be an issue for all of the local Christian schools from the onset. One document mentioned that in 1899, students at Amity Street were "packed like sardines in the basement."

Apparently, this problem continued on a number of campuses for a number of years. In the late 1940s, the schools that would eventually merge to form Eastern Christian School Association were faced with burgeoning enrollment but no space. Elementary schools in Paterson, Midland Park and Passaic needed to expand but were unable to successfully fundraise. Meanwhile, the area's only Christian High school—Eastern Academy--was also launching a fundraising drive for a new building and was drawing from the same pool of supporters. "After much prayerful study, the idea of consolidating all the school societies into one unit was proposed. This move would



offer some relief to the impossible conditions which we were facing. The various school societies were led to see the wisdom of merging. Thus the crisis had led to consolidation," said Wattez.

This upheaval was not done without emotion. Writings from Riverside School in 1949 capture the difficulty with poignant words: "The supporting societies consider their schools as their very own, much like parents do their children. They work and live just for that one school. In the new set up things will be changed," it states. "Consolidation is in the travail of birth...May God bless the efforts now put forth, so that this great undertaking may be successful, for the wellbeing of our covenant youth."

Final merger agreements were filed in December of 1951 to form Eastern Christian School Association. The move led to a massive reshuffling in school populations, repurposing the North Fourth Street school to become a junior high for all area seventh and eighth graders, eliminating space pressures at the remaining three elementary schools, and enabling the success of only one fundraising campaign to create a new high school campus in North Haledon. This campus, erected in 1954, stands today.

# Personal loss in the midst of a national tragedy, 2001

#### Location: Eastern Christian High School

From: Personal Interviews, 2020

#### On September 11, 2001, New York City woke up to a gorgeous, sunny day. It was something Lynda Pasqueretta, newly hired high school front office administrator, remembers vividly.

"It was after this one day that the world began to completely change." At 8:46:40 a.m., as teachers and students continued on with their typical Tuesday routines, Flight 11 would crash into the World Trade Center less than 25 miles away. The day was only beginning.

A little radio was placed in the front office and became Eastern Christian's connection to the world. Based on the reports coming in, Pasqueretta and co-worker **Cathy Lagerveld**, under the direction of Principal **Jan Lucas**, typed up a brief message and hand delivered it to each classroom so teachers could read it.

She recalls, "When the bells rang at the end of that block, students flooded into the front office, asking

to use our [landline] telephones...There were two lines at our desks that went out into the hallway, with students wanting to check in with their families," she shares. "There were two girls who kept returning every single break, as their father was a NYC firefighter, and their mother was unable to reach him." It was the Van Hine family. Emily was a senior; Meghan was a freshman. Their mother, Ann, was a busy mom and co-owner of a dance studio. Their father, Bruce, was a member of the Special Operations Command, Squad 41 out of the Bronx.

Ann Van Hine picked the girls up from the high school at 2 p.m. Still no word. The family continued to wait. Then, according to Ann, "A little before midnight, I heard a car pull up." The two men inside— Bruce's lieutenant and personal friend, plus a fellow firefighter delivered the news. Bruce was unaccounted for.

"We had a personal loss in the midst of a national tragedy. It was our loss but the whole nation/world was changed. There is nothing that can prepare you for that. There is the loss of not only the loved one, but a sense of privacy. It is a two-edge sword because the care and concern of others was amazing, but it was our loss. So, in a weird way you become a public figure, but you didn't sign up to be a public figure," says Ann.

During these years, the Eastern Christian community would play a role in shepherding two families who lost fathers—the Van Hine family and another family that would join the community at a later date—their stories joining those of 2,975 other families. Ann would like readers to know that "We have not forgotten the love and support the EC community showed us and that we try to pay that forward."

As for Ann, she has spoken several times at Eastern Christian High School in the years that followed and has also given students personal tours at the 9/11 Tribute Center (now museum). God has opened up a much wider sphere of influence than Eastern Christian School, however, allowing her to share "the story of His presence and provision on over 550 walking tours as well as to school groups." She has additionally traveled to Japan four times to share her story with survivors of the 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster.

> **"GOD HAS NEVER LEFT US OR FORSAKEN** US. HE IS WHO THE BIBLE SAYS HE IS. HE CAN **BE TRUSTED EVEN WHEN IT** DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. HE **NEVER WASTES ANYTHING. HE USES EVERY EXPERIENCE** WE HAVE TO **ENABLE US TO** HELP OTHERS. HE IS GOOD."



Ann Van Hine and late teacher Paul Beverly speak to an Eastern Christian High School group in front of the FDNY Memorial Wall in this undated photo. Bruce Van Hine is one of the 343 firefighters inscribed on the wall.

### FAITHFULNESS IN A PANDEMIC

# Pandemic, 2020-2021

The story of the Coronavirus pandemic is still being written. Yet we can look back at God's faithfulness in past times of struggle and be encouraged at the good work the Lord continues to do even now. Here are three major news stories that reflect the continued faithfulness of the Lord and acknowledge the continued faithfulness of his servants:

## EC Commended by Accreditation Agency

Eastern Christian School received a glowing commendation from the Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools for its completed Mid-Term Report, part of a necessary, 7-year process to maintain accreditation.

"The report was found to be complete, and shows evidence of faithful implementation of the strategic plan for growth and improvement. I was impressed with your school's response to the challenges presented to you by the COVID-19 impact," stated Mary Burke, the associate vice president of accreditation in a recent letter.

HS Dean of Students **Tina Schwab** managed the accreditation reporting process, which involved gathering input from the wider community.

Part of the 7-year cycle includes formulating school-wide objectives and monitoring progress. This cycle's objectives are:

#### **Global Competence**

Written in 2017, the seven-year goal expresses that Eastern Christian students "will demonstrate a heightened level of global competence." This goal included a variety of measurable internal and external assessments, as well as a number of action steps. The initiatives under this umbrella goal included establishing an international student leadership counsel and a curriculum review focused specifically on equity and inclusion.

#### Character

Building on prior work, the character goal seeks to ensure students "will demonstrate Christian character as outlined in the Eastern Christian core values and graduate profile." Most notably, the work under this category has been recognized with the 2020 National School of Character award. Despite COVID-related challenges, work continues in earnest to cultivate a culture of service, excellence and caring.



#### **Strategic Plan**

Also multi-faceted in nature, this objective calls for Eastern Christian School to "develop and implement a strategic plan dealing with three critical areas related to long-term sustainability: enrollment, facilities, and financial sustainability." This has included an intentional effort to retire long-term operating deficits and increase EC's endowment. Furthermore, it has resulted in a better understanding and optimization of current space.

In an in-service day presentation to teachers, Schwab tied the accreditation goals back to the ultimate fabric of the school, which is to ultimately raise up a generation that loves and serves God and neighbor with excellence. She adds, '[These goals] are part of who we are and what we are trying to do with our students."

# National District of Character

AWARDED FOR A SECOND TIME

Eastern Christian School will be honored in March at the National Virtual Forum hosted by Character. org, a non-profit advocate and leader for character education. After a rigorous application process, EC has been recertified as one of only 7 Districts of Character in the nation, earning the award for a second time in a row.

"Each of these schools and school districts has put in place a comprehensive approach to help their students understand, care about and consistently practice the core values that will enable them to flourish in school, in relationships, in the workplace and as citizens," stated Dr. Arthur Schwartz, President of Character.org.

The application process was orchestrated by a cross-disciplinary committee consisting of Jesse Wright, Liesl Botbyl, Mary Faber and Donna Holly. Character.org's philosophy breaks character education down into 11 principles, and the Eastern Christian School team spent months collecting extensive evidence in all 11 categories to demonstrate a consistent and intentional effort in promoting good character. In addition, the school was assigned a national evaluator to determine re-eligibility.

Principles evaluated by Character.org range from promoting core values, to providing students with opportunities for moral action, to fostering a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum.

Wright reveals that creating a culture of character involves "student, faculty and community beyond our walls all contributing to that education. This

ABOVE: Students hold a variety of leadership roles on all campuses (principle 9). Here, a pre-COVID photo from the elementary school shows the reading buddies program at work.

BOTTOM: Despite the pandemic environment, Eastern Christian School has intentionally cultivated a caring community (principle 4), engaging family and community members through winter snow tube events. recognition of character speaks to all of those stakeholder and contributors."

As a Christian institution under the Lordship of Christ, Eastern Christian School's standard stretches even higher. "Character Education at Eastern Christian goes well beyond developing students who have strong ethical values in order to do "what is right". Our mission and goal involves the development of men and women who can think about their lives and relationships through a Biblical worldview in order to become transformers of the world," says Botbyl.



"OUR MISSION AND GOAL INVOLVES THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO CAN THINK ABOUT THEIR LIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW IN ORDER TO BECOME TRANSFORMERS OF THE WORLD"

- Liesl Botbyl

#### FAITHFULNESS IN A PANDEMIC

# Honoring and Celebrating

EVERY TRIBE, NATION AND TONGUE

Many of these experiences were made possible by a \$15,000 Vital Worship Grant

Elementary school mothers lead chapel last year before the pandemic

In a year where many activities are cancelled, yearbook staffer, Josaida Pineyro, decided to poll music students on their favorite songs from last year. The nearunanimous winner: Baba Yetu, a song about the Lord's Prayer, written exclusively in Swahili.

This experience was one of many opportunities on campus aimed at intentionally cultivating unity within diversity last year. From Pre-K through high school, students were brought into the richness of the Christian faith represented by a variety of cultures and languages. Guided under the mission of last year's spiritual theme, "Every Tribe, Nation and Tongue," students and staff members learned from parents, they learned from community pastors and diversity experts, and they learned from each other.

This year the work continued under a different theme. "In implementing 'Every nation, tribe and tongue,' we created a foundation of unity. We have moved from understanding that to acting on it through "Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly," stated an internal report. awarded by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship to Eastern Christian School after a vigorous application process facilitated by grant writer **Melanie Davies**. The school was recently commended for the successful conclusion of this 2-year process, which was chaired by teachers **Belen Araneda** and **Adam Culp** under the support of Assistant Head of School **Ruth Kuder**. The grant enabled the school to purchase music, chapel and devotional materials; bring in new speakers; and offer specialized training.

As part of the process of assessing effectiveness of the initiative, students and staff members participated in a survey titled Diversity in Worship after the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. Out of 250 responses, 70% observed a noticeable difference in worship styles and themes because of the efforts to culturally diversify chapels.

"I feel blessed to know God more in school and in church," shared one participant. Another commented, "I feel like it is a safe place."

The survey also revealed some other statistics regarding our school community. Currently, EC students worship at home churches speaking in English, Spanish, Korean, Greek, Russian, Chinese, Armenian and Malayalam. Home church worship styles ranged from remaining mostly stationary to lifting up hands to dancing in the service.

The journey started with the grant will continue for the forseeable future. "Revelation 7:9 gives us a picture of every tribe, tongue, people and nation worshipping God and so not only is it a beautiful thing to bring together people of many backgrounds, but it's also just biblical. God created us in His image, each unique and beautiful in our own way and each purposeful in our way. When we worship in many different forms, we are able to see a glimpse of God's many facets," shares Araneda.

"IN IMPLEMENTING 'EVERY NATION, TRIBE AND TONGUE,' WE CREATED A FOUNDATION OF UNITY. WE HAVE MOVED FROM UNDERSTANDING THAT TO ACTING ON IT THROUGH "ACT JUSTLY, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLY."

## FOUNDATION NEWS

# 2020 Giving Tuesday

EC supporters donated \$151,050 on Giving Tuesday, shattering the original goal of \$50,000 and outpacing previous Giving Tuesday records by more than \$135,000.

The money this year helped defray unbudgeted COVID-19-related expenses associated with ensuring the safety of in-person learning at all three campuses. Gifts were received from more than 175 individuals. Notably, EC's Board of Directors and Foundation Board committed to make significant personal contributions toward the goal; 100% of EC's Administrative and Education Council also participated.

By the end of the day, the school's total reached \$89,550. The following morning, an astonishing additional \$61,500 arrived in the mail.

### **Golf Outing Recap**

On Monday, October 19, 2020, 114 golfers came together at Wild Turkey Golf Club in Hamburg, NJ for a day of supporting the mission of Eastern Christian School through golf.

It was a great day on the course with a time of fellowship, catching-up, and seeing mask-less faces of friends and community members outdoors. The day began with a putting contest and lunch, followed by the scramble format outing, and concluding with a delicious dinner under a big top tent.

The combined efforts of volunteers, sponsors, and players raised over \$38,000 for Eastern Christian School! Thanks to everyone for another great golf outing. See you next year!

**Special thanks to...** Platinum Sponsor: Columbia Bank Swag Sponsor: Visbeen Construction Co. Gold Sponsors: Bushoven LLC, Kuiken Brothers Co. Inc Silver Sponsors: Abbey Carpet and Floor of Hawthorne, Heerema Company, KV Builders LLC, Leegwater Electric Co., Martin Orthodontics, Regency Wealth Management, Reiner Group Inc, Wayne Tile Company Lunch Sponsor: KJB Fireplaces Inc, Putting Contest Sponsor: Ken Steenstra Landscaping Inc Golf Team Challenge Sponsor: Wispelwey Dental LLC Driving Range Sponsor: Ulrich Inc Beverage Sponsor: Jeff Vander Molen and Terrie O'Connor Realtors ...and to many other Hole and Prize Sponsors



HERITAGE DINNER on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 (in accordance with COVID-19 regulations)

All those who graduated 50+ years ago are welcome to attend. We will be honoring the following classes celebrating milestones in 2020 and 2021:

1965 and 1966 - 55 years 1960 and 1961 - 60 years 1955 and 1956 - 65 years 1950 and 1951 - 70 years 1945 and 1946 - 75 years **HOMECOMING FEATURES** 

Alumni and Friends Golf Outing EC5K and Fun Run Homecoming Super Saturday Alumni Soccer Game 3v3 Basketball Tournament HomEComing Dance

# **COVID-19 Stopped Our Gala**

BUT IT DIDN'T STOP EC FROM PROVIDING SAFE IN-PERSON AND QUALITY REMOTE LEARNING **EVERY DAY**!

# Great is Thy FAITHFULNESS!

Keep your eyes open for an upcoming spring celebration!



EASTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

# Alumni Celebrations

Kaylin Ramos '13 & Christopher Dzepovski

Linnea Topp '11 &

Jacob Shotmeyer '12 &

Heather Tanis '12 &

Matthew D'Urso '13 &

Jenna Shotmeyer '13 &

Ryan Vander Plaat '13 &

Tara Kleinmanns '14 & Mark Simpkins

Sarah Mulcock '14 &

Jonathan Arringdale

Matthew Bottge '16 &

Kelsey Veenstra '16 & Brooks Alberti

Morgan Abma '17 &

Courtney Schlect

Matthew Heinrich

Courtney Rice

Joseph De Siervo

Larissa Lemes 8/9/20

Cody Schmeer 7/10/20

Carly Struyk

9/5/20

8/14/20

7/25/20

11/1/20

9/5/20

8/14/20

10/3/20

8/18/20

9/4/20

David Amels

9/5/20











### WEDDINGS

Sarah Vander Ploeg '03 & Kevin Harrison 8/15/20

Kelly Braunius '04 & John Ombaldo **10/17/20** 

Bryan Bushoven '07 & Katelyn Tilli '07 **8/7/20** 

Joan Hoogerhyde '07 & Tito Zepeda 2/5/21

Keith Spoelstra '07 & Arielle Van Wingerden 11/21/20

Vincent Criscenzo '08 & Laura Schiraldi 12/5/20

Cristin Hemstead '08 & Robert Berry 4/18/20

Kristina Winters '08 & Christian Rubio **10/9/20** 

Cheryl Bogertman '09 & Kyle Florek **7/30/20** 

Jaclyn Steinbruch '09 & Dan Cruickshank **10/23/20** 

Ben de waal Malefyt '10 & Becca Boven 9/25/20

Thomas Ursetti '11 & Cassandra Peterson 9/25/20

















THE HERALD

15

# **Alumni Celebrations**





### BABIES

Dave '01 & Tara Ten Kate Callan David 12/2/20

Levi & Kristen (Groenewal) Kool '05 Weslie Clara 8/22/20

Brett '06 & Elyse (De Jong) Fritzsch '05 **Hunter Alan 8/7/20** 

Joe & Melissa (Woudenberg) Cecere '06 Luca Jay 7/5/20

Jeff & Kelly (Slagter) Cortland '06 Jace Christian 8/10/20

Ben '06 & Kathy Kuiken Cana Joy & Ember Hope 7/5/20

Chris '06 & Jaclyn Saldivia Logan Mattis 8/13/20

Jeff & Alyssa (Steiginga) DeKorne '07 Madison Joy 4/3/20

Joe & Victoria (Faber) Macaluso '08 Jenna Carolyn 11/28/20

Brad & Nikki (Siegel) Outlaw '08 Chavah Noel 11/9/20

Matt Schmarak & Allison Visbeen '08 Mason Robert 8/1/20

Justin & Becca (Ydo) Steyling '08 Dylan Tyler & Mila Joy 9/17/20 Derek & Michelle (Van Lenten) Gilman '09 Carrie Mae 5/8/20

Tim & Emily (Brotherton) Milazzo '09 Kaia Lilly & Kova Peter 7/31/20

Brian '09 & Gabriella Sietsma Braelynn Olivia 5/14/20

Dan & Joy (Abma) Charnesky '10 Carter David 8/13/20

Jordan & Carolina (Candamil) Gayfield '10 Annalise Haven 2/20/20

Dan & Rachel (Soodsma) Hansen '10 Lucas Daniel 9/3/20

Jesse & Victoria (Leonardo) Hewitt '10 **Aubree Love 6/12/20** 

Mark '10 & Leah (Groenewal) Tirondola '11 Mark Douglas 8/13/20

Tyler '10 & Kimberly Westra Theodore Wayne 6/3/20

Andrew & Victoria (Westra) Dodson '11 Liesel Eira 12/13/20

Jordan '11 & Brittany (Faber) Klingler '10 **Lyla Mae 4/6/20** 









### **UPCOMING REUNIONS**

To stay up-to-date, please be sure EC has your current email address. Update online at: www.easternchristian.org/alumni or email: alumni@easternchristian.org

#### CLASS OF 1960 – 60 YEAR REUNION Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 12 noon

Portobello Restaurant Oakland, NJ Please e-mail lwynbeek@aol.com for more information and reservations.

#### CLASS OF 1971 – 50 YEAR REUNION

Friday, October 15, 2021 at 7pm Facebook page: "EC Class of 1971" Co-Chairs: Bill Reitsma: reitsma1@ptd.net; Dave Bruinooge: dcbgolfer674@aol.com

Macaluso

# Remembering

#### FORMER FACULTY/STAFF

The following faculty members recently passed away. They faithfully served Eastern Christian School for many years, impacting the lives of hundreds of students.

#### Donald Holwerda 1/20/2021 ECSA FACULTY 1957 – 1990

(33 YEARS) Served as: Teacher of Grade 4, 5 and 6 at North 4th St campus & Wyckoff campus

Principal – North 4th St campus 1963-1977

Jean Driesback 1/31/2021 ECHS FACULTY 1985 – 2000 Spanish Teacher

Chairperson of Foreign Language Department

#### ALUMNI

Marjorie (Fylstra) Bandstra '35 North Haledon, NJ 12/25/2020

June (De Jonge) Vander Wall '43 Lamont, MI 12/16/20 Daniel Minkema '45 North Haledon, NJ 10/18/2020

Alice (Soodsma) Kulig '46 Canajoharie, NY 1/22/2021

**Juan (John) Stam '46** Costa Rica 10/20/2020

June (Zimmer) Dickten '48 Warwick, NY 10/4/2020

Donald Van Heemst '48 Hollidaysburg, PA 11/26/2020

Nancy Pelgrim-Rader '49 Apopka, FL 8/18/2020

Jessie (Van Althuis) Martin '50 Mahwah, NJ 10/11/2020

Lambert Hazen '51 Hamburg, NJ 6/28/2020

Irene (Hogan) Van't Land '53 Grand Rapids, MI 6/20/2020

Janet (Oosting) Miedema '53 Middletown, NY 8/13/2020

Robert Oostdyk '53 West Milford, NJ 10/13/2020

Marcia Kouwe '54 Webster, NY 9/13/2020

Arlene (Dobbelaar) De Vuyst '54 Fair Lawn, NJ 10/25/2020

James Little '55 Cincinnatus, NY 8/16/2020 Peter Orbeck '55 Jenison, MI 11/11/2020

Wilma (Beauchamp) Nydam '57 Wyckoff, NJ 9/7/2020

Elmer De Ritter '59 Kentwood, MI 12/14/2020

Eleanor (Pruim) Unterstein '59 Grand Rapids, MI 11/8/2020

Gordon Kline '60 North Haledon, NJ 7/16/2020

Margery (Taylor) Bermbaum '61 Rockville, MD 5/22/2020

Raymond Bosma '62 Pompton Lakes, NJ 1/31/2021

Henry Bandstra '65 Bradenton, FL 1/26/2021

Andrew Andela '68 Edmeston, NY 8/14/2020

June (Rosendale) Bangma '69 Pompton Lakes, NJ 8/29/2020

Donald Dekker '72 Fair Lawn, NJ 1/27/2021

Elsa (Braun) Stewart '75 Chattanooga, TN 9/22/2020

**Timothy De Boer '95** Virginia Beach, VA 1/24/2021

Anthony Di Giorgio '12 Wayne, NJ 9/9/2020

# Gifts in Memory The following is a list of donations received 7/1/2020 through 2/15/2021 which totaled \$22,420.

#### **IN MEMORY OF**

#### **Andrew Andela**

George & Rozanne Bruins John & Linda Bruins

#### **Robert Angione** Jill Asch

Joanne Bedkowski Joanne Bedkowski Robert & Sandra Bottge Thomas & Linda Dykhouse Savannah Eaves-Kohlbrenner Dylan & Tina Jaycox Hillmann Group, LLC Anthony & JoAnn Just Jason Kreil Alexis Schamble Smith, Crotty, Meyer & Bruins

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Gerald & Janyce Bandstra Sharon & Michael Bojcik Wilma & Jack Decker Rhonda Klein

Paul Beverly Lisa Branum

Arthur Boonstra John Drukker

**Peter Botbyl** Robert & Laura Dykstra Ronald & Barbara Gorter Nicholas & Kristen Vander Plaat

#### **Harriet Braunius**

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Eunice Broersma

Joanne & Michael Kukol

Joyce Bruining Roger & Lori Steiginga

#### **Donald De Bruin**

John & Barbara Belanus Robert & Sandra Bottge Robert & Joyce Breur Nancy & Steven Bruining Beverly Byl

## Gifts in Memory cont.

Thomas & Linda Dykhouse Steven & Anna Eichhorn Mary Lou & David Flitcroft Paul & Trudy Heerema Carl & Edna Hoogerhyde Wilma Kohere Beth & John Milkamp Steven & Sheri Moyer Marilyn & Harry Myers Denis, Barbara, Michel & Shayna Nikolas Lynda & Thomas Pasqueretta Ann Quinn Carole Roper William & Lisa Soodsma Linda Steiginga Ronald & Karen Steiginga Gretchen & David Vallaro David & Cynthia Visbeen

#### Jean Dreisbach

Bob & Liz Aupperlee Charles & Paula Bartow William & Lily Bond John & Anne Borduin Robert & Sandra Bottge James & Sally Brandes Roberta Dawson Mark DeMartine Stephanie DeMartine Florence Ditko Ruthanne Dreisbach Avis Fleckenstein Friends: Kristin, Kelly, Christina, Melissa & Nancy Joseph & Grace Gorski Deidre Groehnert Nancy Kreis Berton & Carolee Minerley James & Claudia O'Bosky Kevin & Peggy Ruhnke Michael & Suzen Susan Jennifer Tesseyman Pamela Weaver Betty Wells

Kay Drukker Gladys De Vos

Christine Ekdom Donald Ekdom

Ann Flaming Nicholas Flaming Linda Johnson

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Nicholas & Bertha Fridsma Nicholas B. Fridsma Helen Van Heemst

**Elise Gorter** Donna & Steven Brown CS Stucco & Plaster Kathleen Gorter Steve & Laura Gorter Miles & Lisa Kuperus

#### **Donald Holwerda**

Gerald & Janyce Bandstra George & Carol Bosma Robert & Sandra Bottge John & Karen Breur David & Barbara Dykhouse Thomas & Linda Dykhouse Nancy & John Hemrick Cynthia Lootsma Henry & Grace Lootsma Garret & Flo Nieuwenhuis Ron & Rita Popjes Ronald & Nancy Sietsma Ronald & Karen Steiginga John & Carolyn Steen David & Cynthia Visbeen Amy Wheatley Mark & Grace Wisse

**Marjorie Jeffer** Gladys De Vos Petronell Koop

Harold Jellema Jim & Kathy Youngsman

**Gary Kollar** Rose Marie Kollar

Henrietta Krug Genevieve Douma Henry & Lois Schuurman

**John Last** Wesley & Phyllis Kort

Adeline Leo Ken & Pat Jacobs

#### Jessie Martin

Char De Boer Mark & Linda Everett Thea & Martin Leegwater Lois & Paul Lyman Edward & Kathleen Martin Ray & Julia Martin Howard & Cora Muller Lynda & Thomas Pasqueretta Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church Mark & Pamela Reitsma Brady Ternes Walter & Jean Worrall

#### Robert Meenen Jenny Mignon

**Annie Meyer** Richard Meyer Betty Jean Kacos

**Daniel Minkema** Henry & Marge Balkema Marcia A. Roukema Doris Villarreal

Carolyn O'Berne Gretchen & David Vallaro Harvey Prins Iteke Prins

**Richard Schuurman** Wesley & Phyllis Kort

**Peter Spaak** Ellyn & William Kohrs Debra Schroeder Evan Spaak Shari & Daniel Van Hook

Ruth Spikeboer Ellen Van Someren Smith

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**Bernard Van Heemst** Bertha Van Heemst Donald Van Heemst Edward & Ida Van Heemst Jeremy Van Heemst Helen Van Heemst

**John Van Lenten** Karel & Catherine De Waal Malefyt

James & Katherine Veenstra Nicholas Veenstra James & Lois Veenstra

**Janet Visbeen** Ruth & John Husselman

Bernice Vogel Ruth & Phillip De Jong Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church

Robert Vogel Beverly & Ken Vander Meeden

**Barbara Vriesema** Robert & Sandra Bottge Hilda Wisse Helen Van Heemst

**David Woudenberg** Henry & Judith Woudenberg

**James Youngsman** Betty Youngsman Jim & Kathy Youngsman

#### **GIFTS IN HONOR**

**Carol Byma** *in honor of Carol's faithful service to EC* Henry & Lois Schuurman

#### Ethel De See

90th Birthday Thomas & Diane De See Gerald & Janyce Bandstra Rick, Liesl, Greta & Elizabeth Botbyl Zachary De See Jan De See Maxwell De See Steven & Jerrilynn De See Lenora Malefyt Henry & Lois Schuurman James & Linda Ten Kate Peter & Beverly Ten Kate

#### Karel & Catherine De Waal Malefyt

72nd Wedding Anniversary Karel & Catherine De Waal Malefyt

**Catherine De Waal Malefyt** 92nd Birthday Karel & Catherine De Waal Malefyt

#### John Ratcliffe-Lee Birthday

Lawrence Lee & Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee

Marilyn Sporn Birthday Donna & Steven Brown

**Debra Vandenberg** in honor of Deb's many years of service to EC Henry & Lois Schuurman

**Albert Visbeen** 90th Birthday Lenora Malefyt

#### BEQUESTS

Estate of Adeline Leo Estate of Phyllis Sweetman Estate of Marinus Ten Hoeve

#### DIRECT GIFTS TO ENDOWMENT FUND

Ruth Spikeboer

## ANNUAL Stewardship Report

April 2021





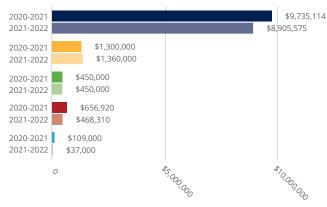


# A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS GIVING, BUDGET, ENDOWMENT & ENROLLMENT NUMBERS



### Revenue

**TUITION AND FEES FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND** SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES **TRANSPORTATION** 



### Expenses

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM** 

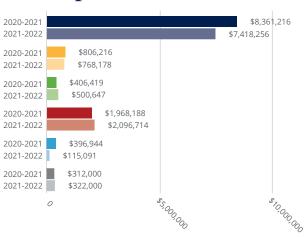
**BUILDINGS** 

**FOUNDATION** 

ASSOCIATION

**TRANSPORTATION** 

**DEBT SERVICING (PRINCIPAL)** 

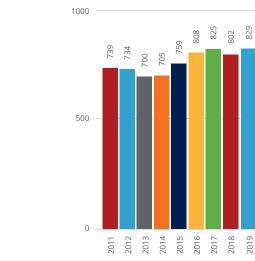


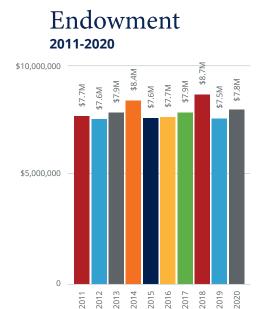
### Enrollment 2011-2020

829

715

2020





- 21 -

### THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US!

### Annual Fund Gifts

#### Leadership

Jeffrey Botbyl Sandra Bottge Tom Dykhouse Lisa Forrest Rudi Gesch Steven Gorter Ruth Kuder Nick Kuiken Dan Lazor Dwayne Leegwater Scott Martin Iulia Patel Mark Reitsma Ken Ritsma Kathryn Tarta **Chuck Shotmeyer** David Visbeen Ryan Vogel Sandra Westra

#### Faculty & Staff

Terry Allen Karvn Baitzel Janyce Bandstra lenna Beverlv Naomi Braunius Peter Damsma Donna Furrey Geraldine Gallagher Leah Genuario Laurie Genzink Laura Gorter Ruth Henion Suzanne Kraai Cathy Lagerveld Deborah Lincoln Beth Milkamp **Ernest Pastor** Amanda Post Christin Reinmuth Sharon Spoelstra Petra van't Slot Sarah Vander Wall Paige Visser

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Donna Furrey Ruth & Frederick Garver Robert & Leah Genuario Elizabeth & Adrian Gerritsen Rudi & Stephanie Gesch Steve & Laura Gorter Betty Gower Lawrence & Michele Grant Dwight & Nina Gregory Bonnie & James Griffioen Ralph & Marie Grimes Douglas & Virginia Groenewal Harry & Barbara Gros Donald & Alice Grosso Ruth Halma Lynn & John Hand William & Barbara Hanse Derek & Maria Hanson Evan & Doris Heerema George & Mary Heerema lacob & Marian Heerema William & Marcia Heerema Robert & Mary Heerema Ruth Heeringa Jonathan Henderson Thomas & Ruth Henion Connie & Richard Hensel Dean & Lori Herman Ann & Donald Herring Judy & Kevin Hoekman Thomas & Elaine Homestead Clara Hoogenhuis Carl & Edna Hoogerhyde Robert & Kathy Lynn Hoogstra Albert & Elizabeth Huizing Annamae Hulsebos Steven & Beverly Hulsebos Clifford & Jean Huntington Howard & Barbara Husselman Ruth & John Husselman Walter & Jo-Ann Intlekofer Janet Jaarsma Edward & Dorothy Jaasma Theodore & Jo Jansma Robert & Patricia Jeffer Brian Jellema Janet Jellema Angel Jimenez & Lilia Coba-Jimenez Linda Johnson Norman Jonkman, Jr. Richard Josten Bernie Joustra Kurt Kaboth & Katherine Cunningham Beth & Nick Karanicola







# MISSION PARTNERS



### Annual Fund Gifts (continued)

John & Anamaria Killian Elaine Kirc Kathy Klaassen Rhonda Klein Wilma Kohere Rose Marie Kollar Philip Kolm Michael & Suzanne Kraai Marjorie Krupacs Rich & Ruth Kuder Donald & Carole Kuder Richard & Ruth Kuder Doris Kuiken Douglas & Miriam Kuiken Henry & Evie Kuiken loan Kuiken Nicholas & Donna Kuiken Richard Kuiken Wayne & Betty Kuiken Richard & Laurie Kuipers Anna Kulak Ann Kuperus E. Nancy Laauwe Kenneth & Cathy Lagerveld Deborah & Ed Lamoureux Lori & Kenneth Lansev Mary Last Daniel & Michelle Lazor Hojin & Chae Un Lee Kwang-Ho & Hyejin Lee Dwayne & Susan Leegwater Thea & Martin Leegwater Deborah Lincoln Allen & Jean Lindsay Carol Ann Lindsay **Catherine Lindsay** Gary & Barbara Link Alice & Henry Luinenburg Lois & Paul Lyman Linda Madsen Ray & Julia Martin Scott & Denise Martin Diane & John McDonough Michael & Vanessa McGarry Patricia McQuay Beth Meetsma John & Theresa Meyer Beth & John Milkamp Amy & Jared Minatelli Romeo & Anila Mitri Sung Ho Mo & Dae Sung Shim Kathleen Nienhouse Garret & Florence Nieuwenhuis

Dianne Nowak Edward & Jill Nyland Brielle Ocot Wilma Oliphant Erik & Elizabeth Olsen Femi & Itee Olumurewa Glenn & Kathleen Palmer Joseph & Maureen Papola Ernest Pastor & Sarah Cinquegrana Julie & Amar Patel

Julie & Amar Patel Margaret Pennings Robert & Patti Peretti Cindy & Jim Perrotta Ken & Mary Petzinger Wilma Philips Lloyd Pontier Ron & Rita Popjes Harold & Janice Post Kathryn Post Keith & Amanda Post Robert & Mary Postma Robert & Marilyn Postma Iteke Prins Muriel Prins Arthur & Fern Emma Pruiksma James R Putt James W Putt John & Robin Quackenbush Donald & Darlys Recker Gay & Ronald Redcay Will & Christin Reinmuth David & Marjo Reitsma Mark & Pamela Reitsma Andrew Rienstra Ruth Rienstra **Ringwood Christian School** Janet & Richard Ritsma Kenneth & Melissa Ritsma J. F. Girard Rooks Sidney & Mae Rooy Elizabeth Rosendale Gary Roskam Jennifer & Jason Ross Marcia Roukema Sally & Dave Ruitenberg John & Elizabeth Schaaf George & Beverly Schaaf George Schaver Jean Schaver Paul Schipper Phyllis Schipper Richard & Nancy Schipper

Wayne & Cheryl Schipper Joyce Schoonejongen Marilyn Schryvers William & Beth Schuil Henry & Lois Schuurman Phyllis Schuurman Edward & Romana Secades Darlene & Charles Shotmeyer **Bernice Siegers** Kathy & Dennis Sikkema Wilma Sikkema Cathie Smeedy Stacy & Russell Snapper Frank & Betsy Snope Eleanor Snyder William & Lisa Soodsma Beatrice & Peter Spalt Bernhard & Sharon Spoelstra Marilyn & Donald Sporn Paul & Dottie Stam Robert & Joyce Steen Carl & Cynthia Steenstra Henry & Fredricka Steenstra Albert Steenwyk Sally & Steven Stegink Roger & Lori Steiginga Ronald & Karen Steiginga Virginia & Warren Stella Ruth Stelpstra Mark & Brenda Stockman Alan Struck & Anne Bontekoe Trena & Calvin Swart Neale & Winnie Sweetman Phyllis Sweetman Gertrude Talis Scott & Bethanne Tanis Peter & Beverly Ten Kate Carolyn Thomas John & Una Thomas Ellen & Todd Tintle Bernard & Rena Tolsma Betty Tolsma Heather & David Troupos **Richard Tuit** Wilma Tuit Lisa Uvanni Margaret Van Dam Clarence & Joyce Van Der Wiele David & Betsy Van Dokkenburg Donald Van Dongen Judith Van Dyke Anthony & Janyce Van Grouw

Peter & Judith Van Grouw Henry Van Heemst Ann Van Hine Bill Van Hoff Marguerite Van Hook Jim & Debbie Van Schepen Marilyn Vanden-Handel Bill & Marcia Vander Eems Joan & Robert Vander Haak Keith & Karen Vander Leest Beverly & Ken Vander Meeden Bill & Shelley Vander Meulen Wilma Vander Plaat Kornelius & Susan Vander Ploeg Carolyn Vander Stouw Sarah & Marcus Vander Wall Ralph Vander Werf David & Beverly Vandergoot Jessie & Dic Ver Hage William & Gladys Vermeulen Doris Villarreal David & Cvnthia Visbeen Adrian & Ruth Visbeen Kenneth & Sharon Visbeen Paige & Steven Visser John & Candy Vogel Ryan & Kristina Vogel Judi & David Vos Jon & Julie Voskuil John & Sandra Vriesema Bill & Judy Vriesema Dick & Tena Wattez Eileen G. Weinbrecht Don & Mary Westra Judith Westra John & Kristin Westra Michael & Sandra Westra Wayne & Julie Westra Ralph & Nancy Wiegers Ernest & Georgia Wiegers George & Susan Wilhoit Debra Wilkes John & Patricia Wispelwey Donald & Ethel Wisse Kenneth & Barbara Wisse **Ruthanne Wisse** Henry & Judith Woudenberg John & Karen Wynbeek Leonard & Ruth Wynbeek Betty Youngsman Michael & Virginia Zimmer Bonnie Zuidema Doris Zuidema Jean Zuidema

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#### **The Endowment Fund**

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#### **Capital Campaigns and Major Gifts**

We routinely have needs that cannot be met through the operating budget. When these needs arise, Capital Campaigns and Major Gift solicitations are organized to fund those expenses.

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92

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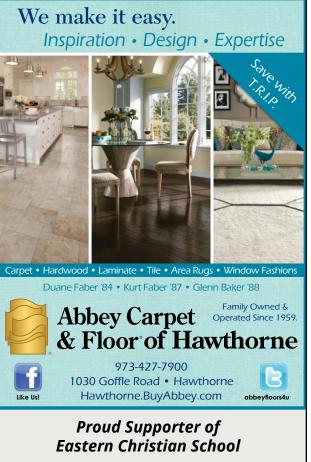


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# EC SPORTS

# Fall 2020 Athletics Summary



### **GIRLS TENNIS**

The Eastern Christian 2020 girls tennis team represented the school with class, sportsmanship, and a 7-5 record, demonstrating a level of competitiveness that establishes EC as a formidable opponent among local schools. The biggest team improvement for coach **Adam Culp**'s team came as a result of an added year of experience for 6 of the 7 starting players. The competitive difference was best illustrated by a marathon 3-2 win over the Hawthorne Bears, and a more decisive 4-1 win over Hawthorne later in the season. Under the leadership of team captains **Katie Kuiken** and **Kate Foy**, the team developed strong chemistry and a positive work ethic. The strength and determination in **Christy Kim**'s game earned her 5 wins at the first singles position. Freshman standout **Kathy Kim** and senior **Katie Kuiken** won 6 matches each. Fortified by two doubles teams with .500 records, the Eagles showed strength from top to bottom.

### **GIRLS SOCCER**

Of the four wins the team totaled in this strange and shortened season, the 2-1 victory under Butler's lights on its senior night avenging an earlier 5-0 loss was by far the team's best. Junior captain **Gabbi Angelucci** came up with dramatic heart-stopping saves that added to her 100+ total for her first season in goal. Captain **Nicole Foster**, the only senior on the team, and sophomore **Brooke Talsma** held the team together with smart and physical play. Freshmen **Allie Spalt**, **Mackenzie Wynbeek**, and **Gianna Angelucci** all grew to be promising players for what looks to be a bright future for coach **Seth Stadtlander**'s program. The league also recognized the great play of our girls by selecting Nicole Foster and Gabbi Angelucci for Second Team All-League honors and Brooke Talsma for Honorable Mention. GIRLS TENNIS DEMONSTRAT[ED] A LEVEL OF COMPETITIVENESS THAT ESTABLISHES EC AS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT AMONG LOCAL SCHOOLS



THE HERALD 43

#### **EC SPORTS**



### **BOYS SOCCER**

Under the direction of first year head coach Rich **Troast**, a young Eagles squad started the season 3-0-1 with no goals allowed. Multiple injuries then derailed their momentum, including a season ender for senior standout Daniel Buckles in goal (though he later returned as a defender following hand surgery.) Five different teammates saw time hoping to fill that void as the team kept fighting behind the leadership of captains Michael Steiginga, Evan Hopeck, and Jayson Farraye. Season highlights included a 1-0 win at Hawthorne Christian and a 3-1 win over Butler on Senior night. For his consistent and outstanding play, junior Evan Hopeck was selected by NJIC coaches for First Team All-League recognition. Sophomore Michael Cook and senior Michael Steiginga received Second Team All-League honors for their defensive efforts. Although this turned out to be a rebuilding

year with a 4-9-1 record in a Covidshortened season, 9 returning starters and a winning season for coach **Max Harvell**'s JV team give the EC faithful plenty to be excited about for the program's future!



### **CROSS COUNTRY**

EC XC entered a new era in 2020 following the retirement of long-time coaching legend Joel **Apol**. Though the shortened season saw just 7 meets (all at Garret Mountain and mostly on Saturdays), coaches Stephen Bailey and Lindsay Hoffman were impressed by the boys' strong start, winning first place in their pod during the Season Opener race on October 3 and then second place during the Brett Taylor Invitational on October 17. Led by seniors Will Critchfield and Aidan Sehulster, the team's most consistent performance came

from junior **Luke Parker**, who finished top 10 in most races, including the NJIC championships. The season also provided a glimpse into a bright future with junior **Joshua Steen** running strong and freshmen **Austin Vanderpyl** and **Jaden Ritsma** contributing in many Varsity races.

Our girls team was led by senior captain **Kristen Ghinelli** in her 4th year as a varsity runner who qualified for 2nd team All League and All County honors. Senior **Karissa Kuperus** and Junior **Kayla Kingston** always gave solid efforts and qualified for Honorable Mention. Despite all of the obstacles the pandemic offered this fall, we are thankful that our seniors had the opportunity to compete and represent our school so well. With so many talented runners returning, we look forward to the future success of our program!



XC warm-ups. L-R: Matt Vanderwall, Joshua Steen, Will Critchfield, Aidan Sehulster, Kayla Kingston, Karissa Kuperus and Zherui (Jennifer) Wang

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