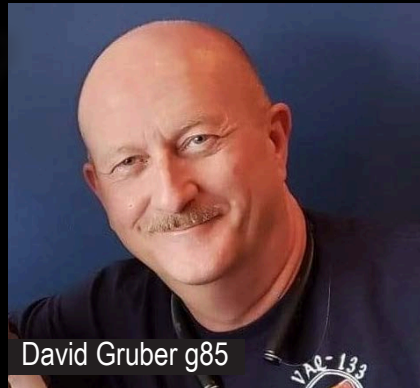




Chris Freeman g09



David Gruber g85



David Arnold g98



David Stout g60



Erin (Green) Haywood g03



Donovan Coley g85



Peggy Lundy g80



Sari (Pafford) Harris g88



Dr. Tim Warner g50

zoom

Celebrating Our Common Ground

It is no secret that the campus located at the intersection of Indiana and Rudisill served as an important tool to train and equip men and women for over a century. The fruit from this vine of God's own planting continues to minister to a world in need, especially during this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite seven different names, two institutional changes, and decades that may separate us, we all have a "common ground" and heritage of Christ-centered education that was Biblically-anchored and world engaging.

In this issue, we will focus on examples of this "common ground," exploring the chapel program over 70 years, hearing from two pastors who graduated 21 years apart from two institutions on one campus, but who are pastoring a thriving congregation on their college campus, and looking at several of our alumni from diverse majors who are serving during COVID-19.

During this time of isolation and uncertainty, we have much to celebrate for all God has done and continues to do through your Fort Wayne Alumni Center, and more importantly, through Fort Wayne campus alumni and graduates.

We continue to pray for our alumni, who have been impacted by this situation.

We **CARE, connect, and celebrate,**



Michael D. Mortensen g91 & Stephanie (Cox) Demorest g93

Fort Wayne Alumni Center Leadership Team

mcmortensen@taylor.edu



stdemorest@taylor.edu

P.S. We welcome **Paige McNinch g20**, our new Publications Coordinator, who graduated from the Professional Writing program at Taylor University. You will see the fruit of her work in this publication, which has given us more time to focus on the immediate needs of our alumni and friends.

Editor's Note: A cluster gathering of the **Classes of 1955-1965**, the **Class of 1970**, and the **Class of 1980**, are planning reunions during Reunion Weekend September 18 and 19. If you are interested in more information or if you would like to assist in the planning for these classes, another class, or a group of individuals, please e-mail alumnifw@taylor.edu TODAY!

FW Vine is published two times per year for Fort Wayne campus alumni and friends by the Fort Wayne Alumni Center and the Taylor University Alumni Relations Office. Copyright ©2020 Taylor University®.

Send address corrections and mailing updates to:

Fort Wayne Alumni Center

701 W. Rudisill Blvd.

Fort Wayne, IN 46807

260.744.8790

alumnifw@taylor.edu

www.fwalumnicenter.org

Opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Taylor University.

The Fort Wayne campus was founded in 1904 as the Fort Wayne Bible Training School. It was renamed Fort Wayne Bible Institute, Fort Wayne Bible College, Summit Christian College, and later became Taylor University Fort Wayne. Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America's oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 43 states and 31 foreign countries attend Taylor, where 118 degree programs are available.



Chapel in Shultz Hall

Common Ground Found in Chapel

By Paige McNinch g20

The Fort Wayne campus went through several changes through the years, but there is a common thread that unites alumni, no matter when you attended: chapel.

The chapel program holds a special place in the hearts of many alumni, but as with most things, it evolved a little over time.

For example, **Dr. David Stout g60** recalls attendance

being taken as one entered or left Founders Auditorium. “That didn’t seem unusual at the time,” he said. For him, chapel was midmorning every weekday.

This daily schedule remained the same until the early 80s. “[In the early 80s], they moved chapels to Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10 a.m. only,” **Dr. Jay Platte g69** recalls. During that time, students had to go to the second floor of Witmer to sign that they had gone to chapel and to a local church.

Even after this change, attendance was still required for several years. However, beginning around the 90s, this changed into a “soft requirement,” as **David Arnold**

g98 put it. “It was ‘strongly suggested,’ and I remember the RAs would go around, say ‘Chapel!’ I don’t know of anyone who got in trouble for not going, but I know that it was required for professors and staff to be there, to set an example for the students.” Attendance was strong most of the time.

Still, he loved attending. “For me, I was so hungry [as a new Christian]. I couldn’t wait to go to chapel. It was a very different experience from some of my fellow classmates who grew up going to church,” he said. “I grew a lot in my spiritual walk, so I was really grateful for that time.”

For many Fort Wayne students, Founders Auditorium was where chapel was held. But for **David Gruber g85**, who served as stage manager for four of his five



President Jay Kesler g58 speaking



Dr. David Stout g60



Dr. Jay Platte g69



David Arnold g98



David Gruber g85



CONNECT

Common Ground Found in Chapel continued

years at the college, chapel involved more than daily attendance.

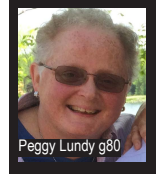
“I was responsible for making sure that all of the setups for every chapel and every special event were staffed and operated properly by whatever crew there happened to be that year,” he said. “I was working about a 14 or 15-hour course load, so that kept me busy, but the other part of life was Founders Auditorium. It was my home away from home.”

Eventually, however, chapel was moved to First Missionary Church. Anthony Opliger—former professor and, later, campus chaplain in the mid to late 2000s—recalls chapel being held there for his entire seven years on the Fort Wayne campus.

“Although, there was one January that we met in the old library on campus,” he added. “I think we were just trying to experiment. We had dreamed of moving chapel to campus somehow—there were even some ideas and plans to build some kind of gathering-place or sanctuary-type place, but those plans never came to fruition. But I think still after that we met for at least a couple weeks in the old library, just to do something different.”

Despite differences like these, chapel stayed the same at its core. The “unspoken liturgy,” as David Stout called it, was largely the same through the decades. “It was

kind of like a half an hour church service, generally,” said **Peggy Lundy g80**. The typical pattern was an introduction followed by music, then the speaker would be announced and welcomed onto the stage. After that, chapel would be closed with prayer.



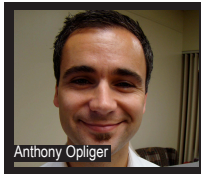
“It tended to be—most of the time, not all of the time—like a devotional,” Jay Platte said of the messages given at chapel. “It would spark conversation, often for the rest of the day.”

Chapel also stayed the same in the ways it reached the hearts of those who attended. “The singing of the student body was always extraordinary,” recalls David Stout.

“I think it was unusual, and I don’t know why; I’ve been a pastor in congregations for many years—and in some very large congregations of several thousand members—but I’ve never heard quite the consistent quality of singing. I realize now that there was a lot of student morale, I think, attached to singing.”

Peggy Lundy also remembers loving the singing in chapel. “It was just wonderful, mostly we sang hymns, but just to sing music in a group like that. That was probably overall my most lasting and enduring memory.”

Peggy also fondly recalls hearing Ira Gerig play during chapel, as does David Gruber. “Hearing Ira Gerig play that organ in the chapel and leading us in hymns—awesome, great memories,” Gruber said. “Some of my fondest memories





of chapel were when Ira Gerig was at the organ and led the singing,” **Jerry Wenger g78** said. He could not resist being the loving “Grandpa” to the student body and often exhorted us to sing more enthusiastically, to raise the roof with *‘Wonderful Grace of Jesus,’* which in a recent poll was probably the favorite hymn.

In the late 90s and early 2000s, Marcel Murray led the worship, which the students loved. After he moved, student-led worship teams or guest worship team leaders, like Gordon Miller, from Fellowship Missionary, would lead the time of praise and worship.

No matter what chapel was like for any one of our alumni, there would always be unique encounters with God for each person. “There was so much potential with chapel,” said Anthony Opliger. “This was the one time the campus community would come together with Jesus at the center, everybody, all students, faculty, and staff all participating.

One of the things I really liked about it was it was all kinds of people from all traditions within the church. In the same room, you’d have people who’ve been part of a Baptist church their whole life, and people who’ve been part of a Wesleyan church, and people exposed to more liturgical streams of our faith, and people asking the really hard questions.”

In a video entitled, *Signs Along the*

Way, **Cyril Eicher g32**

talked about the early days when he was in school, when J.E. Ramseyer, one of the founders of the Fort Wayne campus, would frequently speak in chapel about the deeper Christian life. “A lot of spiritual victories were won at the altar [during those days],” Cyril explained.

More recently, some of these questions and challenges led to life-altering decisions. It was in chapel, for example, that Dave Arnold felt called to ministry. “I was kinda like Moses—not that I’d compare myself to Moses—I felt like there was no way God would call me to preach,” he said. “But it was in chapel that one of the speakers really challenged us to see if we’d be called into ministry. That’s why it’s very significant for me.”

Most of all, however, chapel is remembered as a time for the student body to come together for one purpose: to worship God.

“My time on the Fort Wayne campus was really special for me,” said Anthony Opliger. “Chapels were one part of that, because it was a time and place where the campus community came together.”

Whatever the experience, it was the community of believers coming together that made chapel truly special. No matter where or when chapel was for you, we all have this common ground.



CONNECT

Alumni Pastors Find Common Ground on Campus

By Michael D. Mortensen g91

Rob Witzig g88 was one of the last to graduate from Fort Wayne Bible College (FWBC). **Chris Freeman g09** was in the last graduating class from Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW).

Rob came to Fort Wayne from Morton, IL, through encouragement from his youth pastor, **Cal Rychener g81**. Chris grew up in Fort Wayne but met and married **Madison Robbins g09**, who grew up not far from Morton, IL, in Peoria, and attended Cal Rychener’s church.

Now, not only do Rob and Chris pastor a thriving church together, but this church, City Church, houses their offices and holds their church services in the former English Library and Eicher Commons on the south side of the Fort Wayne campus.

Chris, the lead pastor, planted the church in the former Prime Time/City Life Center across from South Side High School in November 2016. Due to its growth, City Church moved to the former Fort Wayne campus, now called The Summit, and has continued to grow from one service to two with 700 plus in attendance every Sunday

Due to this growth, the church asked Rob to join the pastoral team as the executive pastor

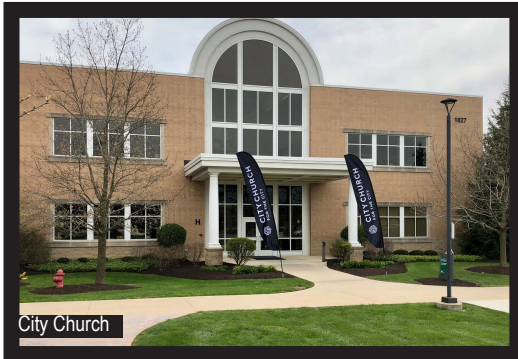
last September. “We needed to transition from being a campus of Pine Hills Church, [where **Steve Shaffer g82** served as executive pastor], to our own church,” Chris explained.

Rob leads the staff team, helps with systems and structures and oversees the business operations. Chris provides the preaching, teaching, and vision development, but they share pastoral care. “The church is still portable because we share space—we have to set up and take down each Sunday,” which Rob coordinates, to free Chris on Sunday mornings.

For Rob, who felt led to vocational ministry, it was natural to come to FWBC, because it was recognized as a great place to pursue training for God’s call. “I did not consider really any other school,” Rob said.

During his senior year at Snider High School in Fort Wayne, Chris said he got caught up in some “not good things,” but he had a pastor, **Dale Hamrick g77**, and his intern, **Adam Sharp g07**, both Fort Wayne grads, who poured into him. He states regarding his conversion experience, “Immediately, I felt a call, a tug towards ministry. I didn’t know what that meant.”

It was Adam who invited Chris to come, play intramurals on campus. “They welcomed me in, and so Adam suggested I come to Taylor Fort Wayne. At the 11th hour, I turned



City Church



in my application,” Chris explained.

At FWBC, Rob studied Pastoral Ministries, even though he did not see himself in a senior pastor role. Ultimately, in his preaching class with **Dr. Dave Biberstein g66**, he learned the importance of loving people and loving God’s word. It is Dr. Biberstein whom Rob credits for investing in his life, even with regard to his then girlfriend, **Toni (Jackson g89)** who was allegedly going to dump him. “He did a little counseling with me for which I will be forever indebted,” Rob said with a sheepish grin, because now Toni is his wife.

In contrast, Chris studied Counseling, and he never took a preaching class. However, Chris said, “I got a solid biblical foundation and learned how to study the Bible. “The Counseling degree has come into play much more than I would have thought. It’s been great in helping me help so many others.” Chris credits and gives thanks to **Dr. Michael Cook h09** and **Dr. Laura Gerig g91**. Dr. Biberstein and Bob Smith were also great influencers and professors.

During a recent Zoom interview, Chris and Rob gave thanks for **Dr. Wes Gerig g51** for influencing their lives and ministries significantly. They also paid verbal tribute to staff and professors like **Dick Baxter g70**, **Dr. Jim Saddington h09**, **Dr. Roger Ringenberg g69**, and **Dr. Doug Barcalow g71**.

Both pastors credit the Biblical foundation and the faithful commitment of these professors for their common ground today. “Every faculty member, including **Dr.**

Randall Dodge g81, cared about your faith and your walk with Jesus,” Chris said.

FWBC and TUFW truly was “the place where your calling took shape,” Rob explained. “While we both attended during different decades, we felt God’s calling in our lives, and God used the Fort Wayne campus to impact and refine our calling that took shape.”

“We came from a similar place, where we were looking for something bigger than ourselves. That is what the campus stood for, and now we look forward to being in ministry partnership with Christ and the call God has placed on our lives,” Rob concluded.

“When Madison and I graduated in 2009, there were so many question marks,” Chris said. Then after moving back to Fort Wayne after a stint of pastoring in Ohio, to start City Church, three churches were meeting at the time at The Summit, so they were not even looking to expand there, but God opened the door.

“The first Sunday on campus, I walked up on stage [in the former dining commons], and no one really realized the significance of the moment,” Chris said. “Yet, it was pretty cool, because our first Sunday was Palm Sunday, and I was looking forward to Easter.

“We thought the campus was dead, but just like God raised Christ from the dead, He was giving new life,” Chris concluded. Thanks be to God for this common ground.

Editor’s Note: Your Alumni Center celebrates and gives thanks for all graduates who have been pastoring during COVID-19. You too are saluted during this unprecedented time. May God bless you!

CARE



Fort Wayne Grads Serve During COVID-19

By Paige McNinch g20

When COVID-19 struck in the U.S., everyone was affected. Life looks different now for us all, but Fort Wayne graduates are continuing to spread God's light in these dark times.

Donovan Coley g85 is the president and CEO of the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission. When warnings about COVID-19 began to surface, he knew immediately that it would change how they work. "It was critical for us to respond before it became overwhelming."

In order to help prevent the potential spread of the disease, they decided to move their emergency shelter to a nearby church. They have also moved many of their services into a "parking lot ministry," where they are able to serve the homeless in the community without bringing anyone into the building.

Educators are also facing unique challenges during this time. **Rod Burton g93** works as an instrumental music teacher at Weisser Park in Fort Wayne. "We're not allowed to enter the school building," Rod explained. "Everything that we're doing currently has to be online." But for some students, access is limited. "We know that in an urban district like ours not all students are going to have access to technology to stay connected."

Online learning for music in particular

adds another layer of difficulty. "I just finished checking with my students, and one said he's practicing his trumpet, but he's bored because he appreciates the interaction with the other band students while he's there," Rod said. "I think that's the challenge that I'm hearing and feeling right now."

Sari (Pafford) Harris g88 also works in education as the Assistant Director for Ball State's Office of Teacher Education Service and Clinical Practice. Similar to Donovan's experience, her office began making decisions early on. Ultimately, they chose to end all field placements, including for student teachers, and to close their



buildings and work remotely.

While Sari is grateful for the opportunities provided by technology, working from home is complicated. "The distance and remote location mean that the items we sometimes need to complete a task are not currently available to us," she said. "Some tasks which might take just a few minutes in the office often take 30 or 40 minutes to complete because of the additional legwork required."

And, of course, healthcare workers have struggles of their own. **Karen Whitman g80** serves as a nurse practitioner in a nursing home in Chicago. One of her roles has been alleviating fears and providing more education

for residents and staff. Personal protective equipment (PPE) has been needed, yet some people in her church and another organization sewed face masks for her and other staff. “My faith has grown in several ways,” Karen says. “The biggest is trusting God for protection and wisdom in my care of these residents.”

Erin (Green) Haywood g03 is a clinical social worker at the Cleveland VA Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Erin has stepped out of her normal role to partner with a psychologist in establishing a program that addresses needs

of patients and provides support to frontline workers.

“We came up with a plan to embed mental health (psychology and social work) providers with our COVID treatment teams through resilience building and psychological first aid,” Erin explained. Now, she is providing training and resources to VA

medical centers throughout the country. “It has been a very challenging but also a very exciting three weeks,” she concluded.

Other interviewees are also feeling this excitement. “I have often prayed over the years that we would find our place in God’s larger story,” said Sari. “This is one of those unbelievable opportunities that God gives us to be a part of that!”

Donovan echoed this sentiment: “I’ve looked back and I’ve said to myself, ‘How is it that God brought a Jamaican to America, and I’m now working with the rescue mission at such a time as this?’” he said. “My faith has

become more personal, more tangible. [This crisis] has forced me to depend upon my brothers and sisters even more...my rugged individualism has no place within this particular context.”

“I think this situation has really made me realize how I try to control so many outcomes on a daily basis,” Rod said in his own reflection. “I’m just appreciating the fact that my family is still healthy, and I’m hoping and praying that everything stays that way.” While looking for a particular song, he also stumbled upon



Above: Your Fort Wayne Alumni Center collected cards and comments for former Fort Wayne campus coach and campus pastor, **Bud Hamilton g67**. He had been hospitalized, where he tested positive for COVID-19. After his release, he was quarantined at home. Thankfully, he is expected to make a full recovery.

a quote by Mary McDonald that has been helpful: “Looking back, I can see God’s design and gentle guiding each step of the journey. Knowing His hand supports me daily enables me to accept new challenges and strive for higher goals.”

Finally, Sari recalled reading about how God is still working. “[There are] doctors and nurses in Italy who have witnessed the dying believers’ faith and have turned to Christ,” she said. “This is reminiscent of what Christians have done for hundreds of years—taking every opportunity to shine a light in the darkest of times to reconcile all men to God!”

CELEBRATE

Different Day of Fun and Funds

By Paige McNinch g20 and Stephanie (Cox) Demorest g93

The 5th Annual Day of Giving on March 20 became a “Day of Fun and Funds” due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Normally, your Alumni Center would be full of volunteers and staff answering phones, writing notes, and enjoying fellowship, but for the safety of all, volunteers were asked to stay home. Instead, **Michael Mortensen g91** and **Stephanie (Cox) Demorest g93** worked separately via Zoom to host this event.

The day included livestreamed interviews that spread a message of hope and common ground to alumni around the world who joined us.

After the opening kickoff, Michael gave an impromptu devotional in the sanctuary at First Missionary Church. Following that lesson from 1 Kings 17, he conducted several Zoom interviews, including one with **Tony Opliger**, former accounting professor and chaplain; a time of hymns and choruses with **Tim Johnson g81**; and an interview with three generations of the **Phil Logan g66** family who have attended FWBC, SCC, or TU. These can all be found in the Facebook group, “Fort Wayne Alumni Connection,” or archived at www.fvalumniconnection.org.

Aside from digital interviews, Michael also took viewers on a virtual tour of the surrounding neighborhoods. During his “walk down memory lane” and “out for a drive” segments, he narrated

at various spots about their significance to former Fort Wayne students, including places like the Friendly Fox, the Gerig house, former campus buildings, and Foster Park.

These tours and events tied the day together under its theme of “common ground.” Although many generations of students

attended the Fort Wayne campus since its founding in 1904, all alumni share



memories of some of the same places, which connect them across generations. And most importantly, alumni are united by the one Spirit who led the founders to walk through knee-high grass all those years ago to establish the school.

The Alumni Center is dedicated to caring, connecting, and celebrating the Fort Wayne alumni and is able to do that because of donors like you. This year’s Day of Giving raised a total of \$15,481.10 towards our year-end goal. We are thankful for your donations and pledges, and we look forward to serving you in the year to come.

If you didn’t get a chance to give during Day of Giving, you can still make a donation at www.fvalumniconnection.org/dayofgiving. Thank you for your dedication to furthering our ministry and for this successful Day of Giving.



Submit *News Notes* items to alumnifw@taylor.edu, call the Alumni Center at (260) 744-8790, or mail to *FW Vine*, 701 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Do you receive your monthly e-newsletter, the *FW Falcon*? Contact the Alumni Center to add your email address to our list.



Use your smartphone to submit the latest News Note.

1940s

The **Rev. Gerald Ringenberg g45** celebrated his 97th birthday on April 29.

1950s

Dr. Tim Warner g50 celebrated his 95th birthday on December 24, 2019. Your Alumni Center forwarded cards and sent over 30 comments to Dr. Tim after the first of the year.



1960s

TA Strader g60 married Kathie on November 8, 2019. The Straders reside in San Antonio, TX, and Kathie serves as a hospice nurse in Houston, TX, on weekends.

Rachel (Morris g61) Kulp has

published a novel with WestBow Publishing. The book is titled *Prairie Rose*, and it is a Christian historical romance novel. It is available for purchase on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



1970s

Flossie (Johnson g77) and her husband **Russ Epley** are in the process of returning home from their missionary work with TEAM in Japan. In this period of transition, the two are trusting in God's faithfulness despite our global pandemic.

Bruce Rocke g79 began ministering at Berne Evangelical Church on April 1 as Senior Pastor. He and his wife **Dianne (Yerke fs79)** now reside in Berne, IN.

1980s

Skip g80 and **Rosie Kite** continue to serve with Fellowship International Mission and have reached over 800 people with the Gospel, this past year. They ask for your prayers as they continue to pursue God's calling in their lives. They live in Salem, NJ.

Glenn Tamagawa g80 married Daezsa Tomas on the signature 16th-hole tee box at the Ocean Course at Hokualea, which features the longest stretch of ocean-front golf in Kawai, Hawaii. The nuptials took place on February 22. Glenn now works for Costco, when not golfing, and the newlyweds live in Kapaa, Hawaii.

Rev. Allen Sudmann g83 concluded an interim pastorate at Berne Evangelical Church, where he had served since September 2019. He is now serving as interim pastor at Grace Missionary Church in Celina, OH.

Joan (Ronde) Smith g85 completed her recertification as a Project Management Professional (PMP) with the Project Management Institute. Joan and her husband, **Tim g86** live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Cathy (Austin) g85 and Dr. Richard **Toupin** have served in New York City with Samaritan's Purse. They worked with COVID-19 patients in a field hospital in Central Park, which was set up to assist the overwhelmed Mount Sinai Hospital.

Dr. Donovan Coley g86 received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Indiana Wesleyan University in November 2019. Donovan is the Executive Director of Fort Wayne Rescue Ministries.



Patricia (Teall-Brinkman) Vincent g88 has started offering life coaching services to those who might be facing difficult choices, new challenges, transitions, or any other difficult life situations. Set up a consultation by phoning or requesting an outline of coaching by emailing her at patriciateallvincent@icloud.com, or by calling (208) 514-4813.

We give thanks that former professor **Leon**, and his wife, **Anne g95 Amstutz**, survived an accident en route from their home in Elkhart, IN, to Berne, IN, on December 23, when their vehicle was hit twice in the same accident. While both went to the hospital, they are recovering and now home. Leon serves with SonSet Solutions in Elkhart, IN.

1990s

Doug Hood g92 will be teaching at the National Worship Leaders Conference in Nashville, TN, in July. The theme this year is "Rediscover."

Petula Myers g94 continues to serve with the Alliance Missions aXcess team in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In partnership with another local para-church organization and an organization from the US, they are preparing to offer training in the area of trauma awareness for local parents, teachers, and healthcare professionals in early April. She asks that you keep the planning process in your prayers.

Joe Boway g95 continues his service with The Liberian Children's Ministry. The ministry's goal for 2020 is to reach 2020 new students and families with the gospel. They ask for your prayers as they work toward this goal and as he travels back and forth between Liberia and his home in Fort Wayne.

2000s

Daniel "Bo" Holden g02 was recently named partner at Rothberg Logan & Warsco LLP in Fort Wayne. Bo has served with the law firm since October 2017.

Erin (Green) Haywood g03 serves as a clinical social worker at the Cleveland VA Medical Center, one of the largest and most complex VA hospitals in the country.

Tyler Binkley g06 and his partners have recently started Xplor, a unique commercial real estate firm in Fort Wayne. Tyler is the Vice President and Broker.

Biberstein Devotes Time to Writing for Future Generations

Dr. Dave Biberstein g66 taught Pastoral Ministries on the Fort Wayne campus for almost 26 years, before his "retirement" in 2008. As during much of his career, he continued pastoring until last November.

He now is devoting his time to writing, so his teachings can be passed to future generations. Your Alumni Center is partnering with "Pastor Biberstein" with the help of **Dr. Jay Platte g69**, volunteer webmaster and Archive Coordinator, to publish some of his teachings/devotions on our www.fwalumni.org website.

These devotionals will be published weekly on an array of topics. During Holy Week, the devotionals were published daily.



Courtney (Stoppenhagen)

Bilbrey g07 has started a new Psychotherapist-Counselor practice in Rogers Park, IL, a Chicago neighborhood. She and **Jason g07** live in Evanston with Norah, 11, Augie, 5, and a new Golden Doodle, which Courtney is training as a therapy dog.

Angelo g08 and **Maria (Ayelle fs11) Mante** have returned to Fort Wayne where he leads Alive Community

Outreach, an organization whose goal is to cultivate a community of non-violence through relationship and education. The Mantes live in Fort Wayne with their five children.

Sharri Dann g09 graduated from North Iowa Community College in Nashua, IA, with a degree in nursing.

Lindsay (Thompson) Stump g09, owner of Organized to Save on YouTube, was featured in the March 2020 issue of Glo Magazine. The issue featured “momprenuers” who have found a way to balance their family life while running successful businesses.

Memorials

Miriam (Schumacher) Escher g44 passed away on July 9, 2019, at the age of 102.

Julia Ellen (Erdel) Farley g49 died peacefully on February 24 at age 90. An excellent musician, Julia touched many lives with her graciousness, kindness, and charity, including her caretakers during her difficult last years.

Colleen (Krahl) Smith g50 passed away in Davenport, IA, on January 11 at the age of 92.

Robert Crockett g53 went home to be with the Lord on December 26, 2019. He had served as an Office Manager for Western & Southern Life Insurance for 35 years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Marilyn (Fox) Crockett g58**.

Rev. John Wommer g59 passed away on January 3, 2018. He is survived by his wife, **Margaret (Richards) Wommer g60** and daughter **Jenifer (Wommer) Hirschy fs85**.

Mary (Fultz) Weidner g59, 83, went home to be with the Lord on March 5. Mary volunteered for multiple years for your Fort Wayne Alumni Center, among other organizations, churches, and groups.

Rev. Ron Mayforth g60 was called home on December 28, 2019. Surviving is his wife, **Sharon (Yntema) g60**, whom he met at Fort Wayne Bible College—they were married 60 years. He served as a pastor in three states and two countries, and later he served as a professor.

Sharon (Steiner) Hastings fs63 was received by her Lord April 22 after fighting a blood disease for multiple years. While a student, Sharon sang with the S.F.M. Trio. Her husband, the **Rev. J. Edward Hastings fs63** survives along with her brother, **Duane Steiner g64**, and cousins, **Barbara Steiner-Renaldo g65** and **Carol (Steiner) Ringenberg fs69**.

Music Provides Peace During Pandemic

By Michael D. Mortensen g91

Through the decades, music has been an important element of the Fort Wayne campus experience for worship, performance, or for relaxation. During times of crisis, listening to music can calm, encourage, and inspire.

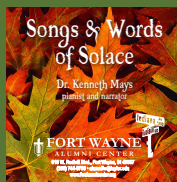
Recently, **Dr. Jay Platte g69**, felt prompted to go through our archives to find selections performed by Christian Service Groups, Oratorio Chorus and Orchestra, and students that might provide hope and encouragement during the COVID-19 pandemic. He then posted these on our website (www.fwalumnicenter.org).

Additionally, **Dr. Ken Mays g60** gave permission to post his *Words and Songs of Solace* CD, which we have been distributing when we learn of an alumnus(a) losing a loved one. Ken made the CD at the prompting of his late wife, Nita, who lived with chronic pain. Ken playing the piano,

reading scripture, or rubbing her back were the only things that would bring her relief. Alumni can hear this special CD for free at www.fwalumnicenter.org/BeEncouraged.

“What great comfort those wonderful hymns, so beautifully rendered, bring at this time of stress in our country,” **Marian Magary fs48** posted in response. **Kathie (Line) Donaldson g65** wrote, “Beautiful, thanks Ken, for this encouragement.”

Late last month, with Ken’s prompting, we also posted *To God be the Glory: A Tribute CD to Dr. Ira Gerig and Dr. Rene’ Frank*, who were both instrumental in Ken’s life of playing and teaching piano. “Those songs and scripture might encourage many of our folk,” Ken wrote.



Editor’s Note: Ken and his Crusaders’ Quartet are planning to be at Reunion Weekend 2020 September 18 and 19 to provide a concert open to all alumni on Saturday afternoon. Watch our website for more details.

Michael Pennington g76 passed away on March 9, at the Veterans Administration Healthcare System in Ann Arbor, Michigan. A faith-filled, people person, Mike was always willing to help those in need with his time and resources. Survivors include his daughter, **Leah (Pennington) Manley g99**.

Terry Bovinet g78, age 63, suffered a massive heart attack on January 1 and passed into the arms of his Savior. Survivors include Terry's wife, Jackie, their four children, and three grandchildren.

Ellen (Springer g80) Hanson passed away February 1 after seven months of fighting colon/liver cancer. Ellen worked as Assistant to the Director

in the Global Outreach Department of Cedarville University. She and Bob had worked for years with young people, both in paid and volunteer positions. Ellen had a one-on-one ministry with many young women.

Noel Iwai fs82, 53, passed away on April 9, 2012, in Powell River, British Columbia.

Rick Fortier Jr. g04 passed April 14. He had been living in Indianapolis, IN.

Steve Walley passed into the presence of the Lord March 16 after a long battle with ALS. He served the college as a piano instructor and as arranger for *Benediction* (1975) and *Sounds Together* (late 1980s). He also performed many other recording sessions.

A long-time friend of the Fort Wayne campus and your Alumni Center, **Gaylord Conrad**, 95, passed away on December 5, 2019. He often came to the Scholarship Luncheon with his special friend Highla Ellen Kiessling.



**Are you receiving the
FW Falcon,
our e-newsletter?**

**If not, send us your email address!
alumnifw@taylor.edu**

**Visit
www.fwalumnnicenter.org.**

Kellogg Family of 12 during COVID-19

By Paige McNinch g20

Paul g02 and **Ashley (Bandy g03) Kellogg** are at home with their ten children during the COVID-19 pandemic. With several kids having special needs, the family is staying well, and their biggest challenge at the time is simply maintaining focus while everyone is at home.

"I think the kids are used to, 'If dad's home, then it must

be [break], so we don't have school to do,'" Ashley said.

The family has started spending more time together doing fun activities since the outbreak started, such as having movie nights and playing board games. They're also thankful for Zoom calls to help them and their children stay connected to friends.



Alumni Center Exists Because of You

By Michael D. Mortensen g91 & Stephanie Demorest g93

Hopefully, no matter how near or far you are, you know your Fort Wayne Alumni Center staff and volunteers care for you. We are thankful for God's provisions that allow us to *care*, *connect*, and *celebrate* even during this unprecedented time.

We give thanks for our Fort Wayne family that continues to care for each other through prayer. In the last month, we saw the number of prayer requests jump from 8 to 66. Because our ministry exists, over 30 alumni volunteers are praying for each of these requests by name.

Because our ministry exists, **Dr. Jay Platte g69** was able to post **Dr. Ken Mays' g60** *Words of Solace* CD along with several other reassuring songs performed by various alumni and groups at www.fwalumnicenter.org and www.fwalumnicenter.org/BeEncouraged.

Because our ministry exists, we



Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope or give online at <http://bit.ly/SupportAlumniCenter>

have almost 1,350 who are connecting emotionally and spiritually after seeing a photo or watching a video on our private Facebook page. In just one photo of **Deb (Lehman) Shaw g80** for a WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD, 43 commented and 78 liked or loved spreading encouragement.

Because our ministry exists, this mini-magazine has been published and mailed to you.

The truth is that our ministry exists only because of gifts given to your Fort Wayne Alumni Center that range from one penny to \$1,000, our largest gift this year. Due to COVID-19, some in our Fort Wayne family may have limited financial resources. So, as you're able, please join us, giving a gift today to sustain our ministry, no matter the amount. We're just \$14,120.20 from our financial goal at press time.

Keep your Alumni Center alive and vibrant by giving your gift today!

Crusaders Planning 60th Reunion

By Michael D. Mortensen

In the fall of 1957, five men from various backgrounds and places around the country formed a singing quartet plus pianist to travel the country to accompany the late **Rev. Don Rohrs g48**, who served as the National Director of Missionary Youth Fellowship (MYF). Eventually, this group was invited to represent the college on a rigorous travel schedule, performing three or four weekends a month and then throughout the summer.

Over sixty years later, despite living in Hawaii, California, Texas, and Illinois, the Crusaders Quartet are still singing together. In 2018, the five returned to Hawaii, home of two of its members, for an anniversary tour, where they performed 10 concerts over 16 days.

In 2010, these men led our Senior Extravaganza, a precursor

for Reunion Weekend, for their 50th reunion. Now, they are all planning to return to campus for Reunion Weekend on September 18 and 19 for their 62nd reunion.

"I have often said, the name of our quartet is the Crusaders, but we should have been called the Leftovers," said quartet member **T.A. Strader g60**. Recently, while bantering back-and-forth like 20-year old college students via e-mail, it was suggested they should now be called the "Octos"—five letters for five guys all in their 80s.

While plans are still being worked out, a concert/singspiration is being planned for Saturday afternoon, September 19, where all alumni are welcomed.





Taylor University
701 W. Rudisill Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807



FOSTER PARK

260.744.8790 • www.fwalumnicenter.org • We Care, Connect and Celebrate!

