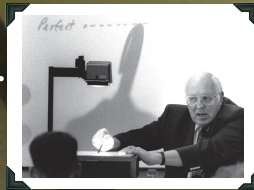




Much to Remember & Celebrate



Your Fort Wayne Alumni Center will relocate our office for a second time in 2019 to space leased by First Missionary Church (see page 8). We also will transition into our second decade of ministry.

Through the years, we've all faced various transitions in our lives. Recently, **Stephanie (Cox) Demorest g93** and I were discussing one of her life transitions from the role of student to that of professor. **Dr. Doug Barcalow g71** had asked Stephanie to consider teaching at her alma mater. She enthusiastically agreed. Her former professors, then colleagues, assisted her transition from student to professor and welcomed her to "Holy Hall," where she would eventually move into the former office of **Dr. Wes Gerig g51** who "retired" in 2008.

In this issue, we will look back and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Wes, who shared with his colleagues, "Holy Hall." This famous hallway on the northwest side of Witmer Hall, parallel with Rudisill Blvd., housed the offices of Dr. Wes, **Dr. Dave Biberstein g66**, Dr. Barcalow, **Dr. Roger Ringenberg g69**, **Dr. Michael Cook h09**, **Dr. Jim Saddington h09**, and **Dr. Laura Gerig g91**, just to name a few. Some of these professors who helped Stephanie in her transition will pay tribute to the one who transitioned to his eternal home on June 9, 2019.

We also will look forward with fresh data from a recent alumni survey, as we use those findings to focus our ministry for 2020 and the coming years.

Looking forward to 2020 and beyond,

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

Fort Wayne Alumni Center Leadership Team

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P.S. We love to hear from you. Please submit your prayer requests at www.fwalumnicenter.org/pray4me and your News Notes at alumnifw@taylor.edu or at www.fwalumnicenter.org.



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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.



Tribute to Wes Gerig g52

By Michael D. Mortensen g91

An accident on June 27, 1933, nearly forever changed our lives, but most of us were not yet born.

According to the *Journal Gazette*, Wesley Lee Gerig, the three-year-old son of the **Rev. Jared g29** and **Mrs. Mildred (Eicher g28) Gerig**, then of Cleveland, OH, ran out into the road while waiting for his **Uncle Cyril g32** and **Mildred (Neuenschwander g34)**

Eicher's wedding party. He was struck by a truck in Grabill, IN, and rushed to Lutheran Hospital. At that time, the hospital was located just up the road from where **Dr. Wes g51** and **Mary Carolyn (Steiner g52) Gerig** would eventually raise their family at 4030 South Wayne Avenue!

The newspaper headline read, "Son of Jared Gerig Thought Fatally Injured." After all, he suffered critical injuries to his head, a broken left leg, and other injuries when the truck passed over his body, according to the paper.

Can you imagine how your life might have been different if his young life had ended that day?

Who might have guessed then what God would do with Dr. Wes' life?

It took a week for the doctors to express hope for survival.

Later, he would go on to graduate from Fort Wayne Bible College (FWBC), Fuller Theological Seminary, and the University of Iowa, where he would be awarded his Ph.D.

Upon graduation, Dr. Wes began teaching at FWBC in 1957. He would stay until his "retirement" in 2008 from Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW) after 51 years teaching virtually every Bible or theology class offered, including Greek and Hebrew.

In 1952 Dr. Wes married Mary Carolyn, who much later in life often carried his briefcase to his office before she reported for work in the college bookstore.

Together, they ministered to students, both on-campus and in their home, where students were invited to come for dessert and fellowship.

Along with raising their four children, **Jeannie (Johnson g78)**, **John g81**, **Jeff g84**, and **Jerry g89**, Mary Carolyn often ventured away with him from campus,

as he traveled and lectured in Israel and other Middle Eastern countries; the Caribbean islands of Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic; as well as Ecuador. Later, in 1983, Dr. Wes traveled and spoke in Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

In addition to his teaching, Dr. Wes pastored

Son of Jared Gerig Thought Fatally Injured

Wesley Lee, three-year-old son of Rev. and Mrs. Jared Gerig of Cleveland was probably fatally injured at Grabill Wednesday evening when a truck ran over the child. The Gerig's are well known here.

Following the wedding of Cyril Eicher to Miss Mildred Neuenschwander at Fort Wayne the wedding party left for a dinner at Grabill at the home of the bride's parents.

Shortly after a truck struck the lad and the boy sustained a crushed head and fractured leg and other injuries. He is at the Lutheran hospital at Ft. Wayne and according to word received here today little hope is held for his recovery.



Tribute to Wes Gerig continued

for 11 years as “Interim” at Harvester Avenue Missionary Church, Fort Wayne, IN. From 1989 to May 1991, he also served as the interim Senior Pastor of First Missionary Church, Fort Wayne, IN. He served again in this capacity at First Missionary in 1994-95.

Throughout the same time period, he ministered as an interim pastor at First Missionary Church, Berne, IN; Grace Missionary Church, Celina, OH; Grace Community Church, Lima, OH; and the First Christian Church, Kendallville, IN. During the summers of 1989, 1991, and 1996, he pastored Karuizawa Union Church in Karuizawa, Japan; and later in 1994, he pastored the Kurume Bible Fellowship in Tokyo.

After his interim assignments, while continuing to teach on the Fort Wayne campus, he taught Sunday School and Wednesday evening services for multiple congregations. He always wanted 50 minutes, and he often used his signature overhead projector and “hand” pointer.

In spite of walking with a limp, later a cane, and then ultimately riding a motor scooter after his leg was amputated at the knee, Dr. Wes did not slow his pace (unless he was driving a car, not past 55 mph!).

During these years, Dr. Wes served as one of the translators of the New International Version of the New Testament. He worked mainly on the Gospel of Mark and the Epistle to the Hebrews.

He would faithfully get up between 4:30 and 5:00 each morning to devote his time to his prayer list and the study of God’s word. His teaching and preaching format typically included alliteration and lists, which he trusted to help students and congregants remember his materials. In the same way and for the same purpose, in his assignments, he requested lists in “noun” form (many times to

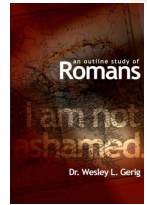
the dismay of his students, who spent hours trying to figure out how to change adjectives and verbs into nouns!).

In “retirement,” he was driven to write, so others who were not able to take his classes or who needed a refresher could pick up one of his books. Your Fort Wayne Alumni Center published five of his books, the most popular being his translation and commentary on the Epistle to the Romans.

In 2012, Mary Carolyn received her eternal reward, and Dr. Wes moved soon after to Ashton Creek Retirement Center, where he kept teaching. He taught a Friday class at 3 p.m., which many times was visited by alumni and friends. He also preached the Sunday morning service at least once a month. Of course, his overhead and pointer were his constant companions, even though I don’t believe “noun form,” “others, please,” or “heresy” were ever stamped on those papers.

Dr. Wes taught his Friday afternoon class at Ashton Creek until two weeks before he entered His heavenly reward on Sunday, June 9, 2019, surrounded by his family.

All of our lives were touched by this man whose walk was different than most, and this man whose life God preserved has made all the difference in our lives.



Available on Amazon.com

Editor’s Note:

A Dr. Wes and Mary Carolyn Gerig Annual Scholarship has been established in their honor for students at Taylor. Contributions can be made at this link: <http://bit.ly/SupportAlumniCenter>.

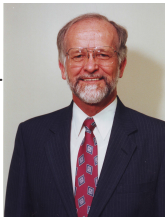
UPDATE:

- **Arlan Birkey g64** – Drives cars for Kelley Automotive in Retirement
- **Dr. Dave Biberstein g66** – Recently retired from Pathway Community Church
- **Dr. Roger Ringenberg g69** – Recently retired from Taylor University
- **Rev. Gerald Steele** – Lives in Florida. Still travels for mission work
- **Dr. Michael Cook h09** – Serves at Houston Baptist University in Houston, TX

Honoring Dr. Wes Gerig

Arlan Birkey g64

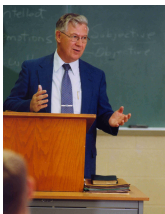
“I was always impressed by his focus on APPLICATION. It was of course important to get the correct meaning of a scripture passage and Dr. Wes was good at that, but Bible knowledge without application to everyday life is of limited value. Dr. Wes lived what he taught.



When several of us in the Bible Department went down to IU at Bloomington to hear a well-known Israeli archaeologist, somewhere along the way we stopped at a McDonald’s for lunch. Dr. Wes ordered a Happy Meal, not knowing that it was particularly for children. We had a great time asking him what toy he got with the meal and of course never failed to tease him many times thereafter about that incident to his chagrin.”

Dr. Dave Biberstein g66

“Dr. Wes taught me the importance of work. He was a workhorse ‘being about his father’s business.’ He graded more papers than any prof I have ever known. He taught me to strive for excellence and the importance of prayer.”



On a lighter note, “At a faculty retreat we played a game with candy. Starting with 20 candies one would add when positive and subtract candies when negative. One question said, ‘If you have ever had a speeding ticket, come forward and put 5 candies in the dish.’ When I went forward, there was Dr. Wes. I said, ‘Dr. Wes what are you doing up here?’ He said, ‘Pomona, CA, 1954, and I did not deserve it.’”

Roger Ringenberg g69

“I especially appreciated Dr. Wes’ organized notes, illustrations, and the conviction and knowledge with which he taught. His use of fill-in outlines and an overhead projector became the pattern for my own teaching. I did, however, later progress to using PowerPoint, for which he was granted an exemption. I later counted it a great privilege to teach with him as a colleague and share a space with him in ‘holy hall.’”



Rev. Gerald Steele

“I knew Dr. Wes to be a great man of prayer. He also was one of the most disciplined men that I’ve ever known. On the humorous side, I was amazed to come to his door at his office and see him taking a nap in the midst of grading papers. He would be sitting in front of his desk with his face practically touching his desk top sound asleep.”



Dr. Michael Cook h09

“I remember his deep knowledge of scripture; more, the Bible was not simply something he knew, but was something that lived deeply in him. His heart-language was the Word of God.”



Editor’s Note:

For more stories and tributes, visit <http://bit.ly/DrWesTributes>.

CONNECT

Reunions Reconnect Alumni During Reunion Weekend

Not many sounds are sweeter to an Alumni Director than alumni returning to campus, some for the first time in 50 years, and many recognizing and reconnecting with a former classmate.

It does not take long for the memories and stories to flow, even if it did take a few minutes to remember a name.

While we had fewer reunions this year in part because of the significant relocation of your Alumni Center not once, but soon twice (see Page 8), the Classes of 1969 and 1979 welcomed back almost 80 alumni and friends Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20.

The Class of 1969 arrived on Friday night, meeting at **Dr. Roger g69** and **Carol (Steiner fs69) Ringenberg's** home across from the campus on Rudisill Blvd. No formal program was planned—it was just a time to socialize and catch up with each other's lives.

Then on Saturday morning, the festivities continued in the Ramseyer Retreat Center on the south side of the campus. **Susi (Laymon) Jones g71** and her regimen of alumni volunteers prepared and served a delicious breakfast for the class, where still more stories were shared of “the good old days.”

Following the breakfast, **Dr. Jay Platte g69**, one of the 50th class reunion organizers, showed a video of memories from the class featuring photos and recordings from yesteryear.

Michael Mortensen g91, director of Fort Wayne Alumni and Friend Relations, and **Stephanie (Cox) Demorest g93**, Alumni Center Coordinator,

then gave a brief ministry update.

The morning capped off with each member of the class receiving a memory booklet that had been assembled by Dr. Platte with memories and biographical sketches of what God has done in the past 50 years and a replica from the Alumni Center.

Before the group left to do more visiting, perhaps at a local restaurant or home, they sang the *Alma Mater* and *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, led, of course, by Dr. Platte.

Meanwhile, the Class of 1979 assembled across the parking lot in space occupied by Crossroads Bible College at The Summit.

Much like the 50th attendees, 40th reunion alumni from the 70s socialized, snacked, and encouraged one another. **Jeanne (Mohr) Crafton g78**, director of Crossroads, hosted the group brought together by a reunion team led by **Nancy Raney g79**. Jeanne gave a campus update, sharing how the Fort Wayne campus is now used. Then Michael and Stephanie gave another brief ministry update.

After a Chick-fil-A lunch, the group assembled in the Eicher Commons surrounded by **Deb (Lehman) Shaw g80** playing piano and **Jan (Mast) Longcor g79** leading the singing of hymns, including a resounding rendition of *Wonderful Grace of Jesus*, and choruses. Various alumni then shared their stories of God's faithfulness, even through adversity.

The group prayed for each other, cried, and laughed and then departed to their respective homes in multiple states feeling refreshed and renewed.



Editor's Note:

Special thanks to last year's Class Reunion planning teams! A letter was recently sent to various class leaders for the years ending in "00" and "05." We're hoping several more classes will decide to partner with the Alumni Center to plan a reunion for September 18 or 19, 2020. Additionally, your Alumni Center is organizing a vocal celebration, open to all – mark your calendars for Saturday, September 19th and look for more details soon!



Will YOU help plan a 10th, 25th, 40th or 50th class or specialty reunion in 2020?
E-mail Stephanie at stdemorest@taylor.edu
or call 260.744.8790.

FORT WAYNE REUNION 2020
Weekend
*Reconnect * Renew * Rejoice*

Fort Wayne
 Alumni Center
 Lillian R...

CELEBRATE

Focusing on 2020 and Beyond

As we look at a new decade of ministry, your Alumni Center staff, core volunteers, and Alumni Council did a comprehensive review of our first decade of ministry.

Many of these accomplishments have been featured in past publications, Facebook, and on our website. It truly is remarkable to see what we have been able to accomplish with fewer resources than when we began. Yet God has been faithful, staff and volunteers loyal, and ministry partners supportive. To God, be the Glory!

After looking back, we turned our attention forward to the next decade. After all, we want to be wise stewards with God's resources that He provides through you. From the middle of August through September 26, alumni completed a four-question survey to help us evaluate our ministry as we move into a new decade.

You spoke, and we listened, especially before deciding to relocate again (story on page 8).

"We were very encouraged by the participation, sample, and responses," **Michael Mortensen g91**, director of Fort Wayne Alumni and Friend Relations, said. "It was the largest response we have had to a survey in our history. The responses came in proportion to the percentages of alumni for each campus name grouping back to the 1940s."

"Alumni shared how important the ministry of the Alumni Center is as we care, connect and celebrate the work that God continues to do through our alumni and friends," **Sari (Pafford) Harris g88**, president of the Alumni Association, expressed.

AND, THE SURVEY SAYS...

88% said the Alumni Center overall is very important or important.

80% said the *FW Vine* is either very important or important.

77% said the *FW Falcon* e-newsletter is very important or important.

67% said the website (www.fwalumni.org) is important.

65% said Facebook presence is important.

60% said reunions are important.

In contrast, only 37% said specialty reunions are important.

58% said a physical location is very important or important.

46% said they would likely or very likely attend a webinar.

29% said they would very likely or somewhat likely attend a virtual reunion.

41% said they would come to a Taylor sponsored-non-fundraising alumni event (10% said they were unsure).

Alumni then ranked the following topics of interest in priority order: professors, musical groups/extra-curricular activities, staff, campus buildings, and then athletic teams and events. This will help guide our work moving forward.

Lastly, 126 alumni wrote comments. Most gave thanks for the work of the Center, the staff, and volunteers, while others made constructive suggestions that we are considering. "The survey results clearly communicated that we still have a call to answer and work that God intends for us to do," Sari explained.

“We give thanks that our lives intersected at Indiana and Rudisill. We thank God for how He has used this campus - her faculty, staff, and students to impact the world. And, we thank Him for providing the resources for us to *care, connect, and celebrate* all He did and is still doing through our alumni in the past 115 years.”

- Michael D. Mortensen g91 & Stephanie (Cox) Demorest g93, Fort Wayne Alumni Center Leadership Team

With this as our motivation, your Alumni Council met in October to review the data and to begin setting the vision for the next ten years. Some of the priorities include:

First, Michael will continue to empower Stephanie with more leadership responsibilities due to his dual responsibilities.

“Stephanie has been an incredible partner in ministry, and she loves Fort Wayne alumni.”

Second, we are working to expand your Alumni Council, so we’re adding new members from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s.

Third, we are recruiting new volunteers to help with specific roles (e.g., Outreach Volunteers, Writers, and Virtual Archive Assistants).

Fourth, we plan to try some new things

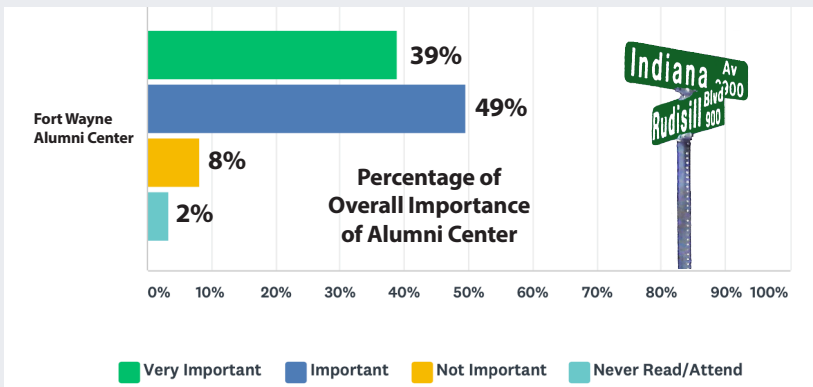
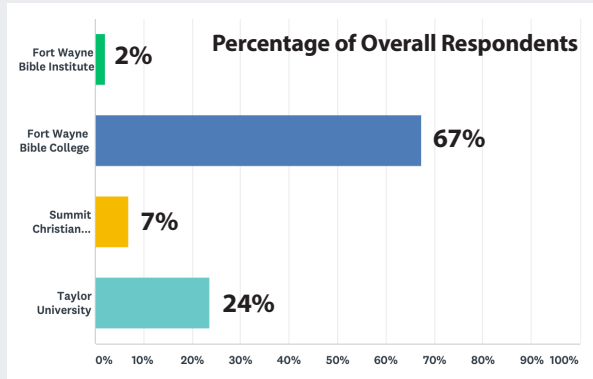
through technology to engage alumni, no matter their location.

Fifth, we have already begun planning events for Reunion Weekend 2020 on September 18 and 19 for all to attend, those having class reunions as well as those who simply want to come back together!

Over the next several months, you’ll

be hearing about how we intend to answer that call Sari identified and to move forward as God leads and provides. Meanwhile, if you would be willing to serve, near or far, please let us know by e-mailing: alumnifw@taylor.edu or calling Stephanie at 260.744.8790.

Our next Alumni Council meeting will take place on Saturday, January 11, in our new location inside of First Missionary Church, 701 W. Rudisill Blvd.



CONNECT

NEW ADDRESS!
701 W. Rudisill Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Old Friend; New Ministry Location

By Michael D. Mortensen g91

Not long after the Bible Training School opened in Schultz Hall in 1904, First Missionary Church organized. Then in 1921, they built their present sanctuary.

Since that time, First Missionary Church and the Fort Wayne Campus have partnered together, often sharing space.

Many students attended First Missionary, where several faculty members taught, pastored, or attended.

Alumni Relations held banquets and events in their fellowship hall and sanctuary or used their parking for events in Founders Hall.

Then in the 2000s, students started attending chapel in the sanctuary on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 10 a.m., until 2008.

Most recently, First Missionary gave your Alumni Center permission to lease space in the Welty Education Building (WEB), located just east of the historic church building. This once served as the Missionary Church denominational headquarters.

After our move to the WEB in May 2019, the church decided to sell the Welty Building due to the cost of repairs on this additional building.

Where would we go? We wanted to remain near our beloved former campus.

Once again, First Missionary opened its doors for us to lease renovated space on the south side of the building on the main floor.

Our new location formerly was **Susi (Laymon) Jones' g71** Children's Music Room, but she graciously offered to move across the hall so that our ministry would have a space.

"We are excited about the newly renovated space," **Stephanie (Cox) Demorest g93**, explained. "It's larger than our current space in the WEB, it requires no stairs, and it is close to the parking area. Additionally, we'll be able to host some of our future alumni events in the same area as our office."

A few Taylor football players and their dad will help us move, and we hope to be up and running by the first of the year, if not sooner. Our move depends on the church completing some extensive remodeling they have undertaken in their main building this past Fall.

During the October meeting of the Alumni Council, some members of the Council and Alumni Center staff toured the new space while it was under construction to pray for the new location.

Our new address will be 701 W. Rudisill Blvd, and our phone number, 260.744.8790, e-mail, alumnifw@taylor.edu, and web, www.fwalumnnicenter.org, will remain the same.

We give thanks once again for God's provisions for our wants and needs. Come, visit—we'll roll out the blue/purple and gold carpet for you!





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.

1960s

The **Rev. Paul DeMerchant g61** suffered a stroke on April 2. While it is a long process, his wife, **Joan (Hoxsey g65)** reports that he has made some progress.

The **Rev. Bruce g68** and **Joyce (Richardson g69) Head** celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in November in Celina, OH, where the couple resides.



Helen (McIntosh g69) and Arden **Steele** have relocated to SIM Sebring Retirement Village in Sebring, FL after serving with SIM International in Bolivia for more than 40 years.

1970s

Dick g70 and **Cheri (Bruner) g73 Armstrong** retired in December 2018 and have relocated from Denver, CO, where they each served with Youth for Christ for over 30 years. Dick also worked in guest relation for the Denver Broncos for 17 years. They now reside in Fort Wayne, IN, near their son, **Ben Armstrong g08**.

Rick g72 and Monica **Haberkamp** retired from missions with TEAM in October 2018. They recently relocated to Columbus, OH. For 21 of their 40 years in ministry, Rick provided Biblical training to the Kanembu people group of Chad, Africa, while Monica trained Sunday school teachers and taught English. The Haberkamps witnessed God's work among Muslim believers and devoted themselves to language, crafting chronological Bible stories, and translating the Jesus film into Kanembu.

After 43 years of full-time ministry (35 years in the Christian & Missionary Alliance and 8 years in the Missionary Church), **Tim Steiner g74** retired on December 1, 2019, from the pastorate. He and his wife **Sheryl (Bixler g72) Steiner** are looking forward to what the Lord has for them in retirement.

Evelyn Tomlinson g79 retired on July 1, 2019, from State Farm Insurance Company after 29 years of service in their IT department. After graduating from FWBC, Evelyn worked at the post office for five years and then attended Illinois State University for two years before becoming a computer programmer/systems analyst at State Farm. She lived in St Louis from 2004-2008, where she earned a Master of Arts in Counseling from Covenant Seminary and then worked as a counselor for a year. She returned to State Farm in 2008 where she completed her career as a test analyst.

1980s

Paul Hendershott g80 worked for US Steel as an Instrumentation Technician for 18 years in Gary, IN, after earning an associate's in electronics. He and his wife of 37 years, Ruth Ann, now live in Craig, CO, where he has continued to use his electronics degree for the past 14 years at TriState Generation and Transmission. Renee, their first, passed away at 18 years due to respiratory complications.

Doug g82 and **Kim (Wild) Beutler g81** live in Fort Wayne and have five children and two grandchildren.

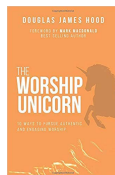
The **Rev. Tom Olney g88**, associate pastor for congregational connection and care at Palm Coast Bible Church, in Palm Coast, FL has recently traveled to the Bahamas twice to assist with Hurricane Dorian relief efforts. Watch for story in upcoming *FW Falcon*.

Rob Witzig g88 has been named executive pastor for Pine Hills City Church, which meets on Sundays in the former Eicher Student Commons. **Chris Freeman g09** is the senior pastor. Rob and **Toni (Jackson) g89** live in Fort Wayne.

1990s

The **Rev. Lydia (Steele) Miller g90** received her ordination from the Anderson Churches of God. She serves as a chaplain at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, where she works with Dr. Jon Swanson.

Doug Hood g93 published *The Worship Unicorn: Ten Ways to Pursue Authentic and Engaging Worship*. Doug currently serves as a musician, composer, and worship pastor at Central Ministries of Fort Wayne. He is also President of CSD Group, Inc., an award-winning design and integration firm that partners with churches to elevate their worship experiences through better audio, video, lighting, and acoustics.



After 13 years in his previous position, **Doug Morris g93** has taken a new position as a Financial Associate with Thrivent Financial. He is excited to serve with a faith-based, not for profit Fortune 500 Company that helps Christians make wise money choices. His wife, **Brenda (Howard) g93**, recently celebrated her 15th anniversary with DeKalb Center for Early Learning in Auburn.

Carl Wunsch g97 was named Police Officer of the Year by Arizona Black Law Enforcement Employee's (ABLE). Carl and his wife, Kristen, live in Surprise, AZ.



Sarah (Burke) g98 married Chris McCown on June 15, 2019.

Heather (Gunderson) g99 married David Drenk on February 23. The Drenks reside in Madison, WI.

Alumna Overcomes Debt, Publishes First Book

By Andrea (Matetic) Osmun g05

After **Heather (Neilson) Burgette g04** graduated from Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW), she ended up accumulating a lot more debt than she could handle. She moved to California for a few years, and when she returned to her home state of Indiana, she was a “hot mess.”



“I went bonkers financially,” she said. “As I was adjusting to adult life, I made a lot of bad choices with my money. Some of them were actual emergencies, but I spent frivolously.”

With a lot of hard work and discipline, in 2014, Heather and her husband, Blake, finally finished paying off their debt. She decided to start a Facebook group called “*Becoming Debt Free*” to help others on their debt-free journey.

“Something like that would have been helpful when we were starting out,” she said. “I wanted others to have resources and support.”

Heather then started a blog called “*The Debt-Free Mama*” at www.HeatherBurgette.com, in which she began writing about her journey out of debt. This Fall, Heather self-published her first book, *Unlock Your Why: 7 Keys to a Thriving Relationship with Money*.

“It’s very humbling that God uses our mistakes—for those called according to His purpose, for our good—to inspire other people,” she said. “My heart is to get it in as many hands as possible.”

Heather’s book is available on Amazon.com as a Kindle eBook and as a paperback.

Editor’s Note:

For the full story of Heather’s journey, go to <http://bit.ly/HeatherBurgetteBook>.

2000s

Kelley Wayne g01 and Kelly Lyn **Sewell** welcomed Lilliana "Lillie" Joy on April 10. Lillie weighed 7 lbs. 6.9 oz. and was 19 ¾ in. long. Kelley recently was named Lead Pastor at Journey Church in Michigan City, IN.

Tauna (Herrell) Batiste g03 was named Executive Director of the Batten Disease Support and Research Association in Columbus, OH in May 2019.

Tim g06 and **Beth (Manon) g04 Groman** recently moved to Helena, MT, where Beth has been named Dean of Students and Retention at Carroll College. Tim started Groman Construction LLC.

Brian g06 and Amy **Kuhr** welcomed Gavin to their family on October 19, 2019. Gavin weighed 5 lbs. 19 oz., was 16 ¾ in. long, and joined his older brother Brody.

Charrell (Williams) Stevens g07 was nominated as Distinguished Staff of the Year in her role as Secretary of Student Services at Elkhart Community Schools. Charrell and her husband, Justin, have twin daughters and reside in Goshen, IN.

Rick Schwartz g07 was named senior pastor of First Missionary Church in Berne in February. He and his wife, **Jamie (Knuth g07)** had previously been at CrossPoint Community Church in Lima, OH for eight years. Rick grew up at First Missionary, where his dad, **Jim g79** served as the youth pastor.

Angelo Mante g08 has returned to Fort Wayne to head Alive Community Outreach, an organization whose goal is "to cultivate a community of non-violence through relationship and education."

Danielle Partee g08 gave birth to Graydon Ellis on November 11. He weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz., and was 19.5 in. long.



Sean g09 and **Becky (Parcell) g06 Smuts** welcomed their fourth child, Rory Amelia, on June 14. She joins Aydian (12), Kiki (7), and Ben (2).



Dr. Michael Cook h09 is now the Administrative Director of the Gideon Institute of Christian Psychology and Counseling and Director of Clinical Training at Houston Baptist University in Houston, TX. Previously, he had served at Huntington University.

Andy g09 and Maria **Culbertson** joyfully announced the arrival of Levi Dennis on October 22, 2019.



Candice (Hart) Moore g09 has recently joined the staff of St. Joseph United Church in Fort Wayne, IN. She and her husband, **Ben g11** and their two girls live in Fort Wayne.

Dr. Leticia Starks-Underwood g13 published *You Can Make It: A Kingdom Book of Encouragement Part I*, the first

in a series of books featuring testimonies from around the world that seek to encourage, empower, and inspire readers in their faith. She has also published a companion guided journal, *I Know Who I Am in Christ*, that prompts reflections on our identity in Christ. Leticia lives in Fort Wayne with her husband, Jay, and their daughter, Jayelle.



Memorials

Betty (Blosser) Young g50, 89, passed away on October 28, 2019. She is survived by her daughter, **Linda (Young) Hale g81**.

Dr. Wes Gerig g51 entered the presence of Jesus on June 9, 2019. He will be remembered for his 51-year teaching ministry at FWBC, SCC, and TUFW in Theology and Bible as well as for his dedication to teaching God's Word until his last days at Ashton Creek Health and Rehabilitation Center in Fort Wayne.

Ed Widmark g54 passed away on October 31, 2019. During his time at FWBC he was an integral part of the original Crusaders Quartet and the radio ministry of the college. His wife, **Joyce (Gerig) fs54**, and daughter and son-in-law, **Angie (Widmark g85)** and **Scott Davis g85** survives.

James Sowers g58, 84, passed away on October 29, 2019, after battling Alzheimers. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Blanche (Schwarzwalder) Sowers g58**, their son **Allen Sowers g84** as well as 2 other sons, 14 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren.

After battling cancer for multiple years, **Jim Welty g66**



passed away peacefully on November 14, 2019. He is now reunited with his wife, **Patricia (Mayo) g67**, whom he met at Fort Wayne Bible College, who passed on March 7, 2019.

Judith A. "Judy" Martin fs68, 71, of Decatur, Indiana passed away on September 3. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Lowell Martin. Judy taught piano performance at both Fort Wayne Bible College and IPFW as well as owned and operated Martin Music in Decatur for over 40 years.

Naomi Wiederkehr g68, 87, passed away October 10, 2019. Naomi worked in the FWBC library and served as a Sunday school teacher at West Missionary Church in Berne. Naomi will be remembered for her deep

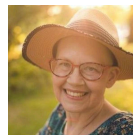
love of her Savior and for her jovial spirit. Naomi is survived by her brother, **Gareth Wiederkehr g52**.

Rebecca Joy (Duff) Leonard g75, 67, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed on to her eternal reward on August 21, 2019. Becky earned her undergraduate degree in music education and her master's degree in school administration. She devoted her life to teaching vocal music and directing musicals in schools and churches.

Terry L. Diller g83, 57, of Elkhart, IN passed away on May 18, 2019, at his home. His sister, **Cathy (Diller) Schrock g90**, survives.

John Emenhiser g05 passed away on May 16, 2019, after a long battle with brain tumors. In recent years John helped as he was able with pastoral visits to hospitals and homes as a volunteer with the Pathway Church. He is survived by his wife, Danielle, and his three daughters.

Pam Dykehouse fs09, 60, passed away after fighting pancreatic cancer,



on Thursday, July 18, 2019. Pam served at TUFW as the bookstore manager and later as bookkeeper until May 2009. Survivors include her husband, Tim, daughter, **Jill (Dykehouse) Brosman fs06**, son, Zach, and multiple grandchildren.



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

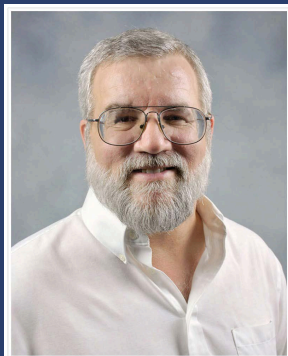
**If not, send us your email address!
alumnifw@taylor.edu**

Former Alumni Director Recovering from Stroke

Scott Raymond g80, former TUFW director of alumni relations suffered a stroke on October 20, following an annual weekend reunion event with several Fort Wayne alumni.

Initially, he was hospitalized, and then he was moved to a rehabilitation center, where therapists could work with him daily.

After a short rehabilitative stay,



Scott Raymond g80

Scott is back home, where he is improving daily, according to his wife and caregiver,

Julie (Tyrie) g81. He can walk with assistance, and his speech is getting clearer and clearer. "Every little progress is a victory," Julie explained.

The family is asking us to pray for strength and movement to return in his arm.

Scott is currently the Executive Director of Student Success at Huntington University, where he has served since 2008.

Stewarding Your Alumni Center Forward

By Michael D. Mortensen g91 & Stephanie Demorest g93

Before making the decision to relocate your Fort Wayne Alumni Center again, the staff, leading volunteers, and your Alumni Council conducted a comprehensive review of our first decade of ministry. Then we looked forward to the next. After all, we want to be wise stewards with God's resources that He provides through you.

With the positive response from the recent Alumni Survey (Story on pages 6-7), we feel a clear mandate to begin focusing on the decade ahead.



Much like the past, we depend on alumni and friends to provide for our ministry. Your gifts fund our ability to keep our alumni connected through the *FW Vine*, our website, reunions, and many other venues.

With the close of 2019 approaching, your gift, postmarked by **December 31**, is needed and appreciated. Each gift, no matter the size, will combine for the amount needed to move our mission forward as we continue caring, connecting, and celebrating, all for the glory of God.

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

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

**Your
Alumni
Center
Wants YOU!**



- Writers
- Outreach/Care
- Prayer Team
- Virtual Archive Assistants
- Reunion Class Planners
- Event Set-up/Take-down

We can use you weekly, monthly, or just occasionally. Please contact **Stephanie Demorest g93**, Alumni Center Coordinator, for more information.

260.744.8790 or stdemorest@taylor.edu



FORT WAYNE
ALUMNI CENTER

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



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!

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