



ALUMNA OF THE YEAR—NANCY (EPP '75) BELKNAP

Central Christian School is pleased to announce that alumna Nancy (Epp '75) Belknap has been named the 2021 Alumna of the Year Award (AYA) recipient. Presented each year, the AYA recognizes a member of Central Christian School alumni for the following:

- An ongoing, clear, fruitful, and faithful commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
- An ongoing, clear, fruitful, and faithful commitment to the mission, vision, and values of CCS
- An ongoing and clear demonstration of personal commitment to CCS through the demonstration of one's own resources (time, support, and spiritual gifting)



Mrs. Belknap was born into a Christian home that recognized the importance of Christian education. Her father, the late Harold Epp, was an influential figure in the history of the school. Harold and Lillian Epp met while serving in a children's home and were married in 1954. One of the young ladies that Harold and Lillian had the opportunity to invest in eventually would attend Central Christian. Belknap remembers attending Central's low German supper as a young child and always looked forward to the day when she would be a CCS student. Harold and Lillian Epp sent their four children to CCS: Beverly (Epp '73) Sullivan, Nancy (Epp '75) Belknap, David Epp ('76), and Paul Epp ('80).

Nancy's love for Central Christian began with her parents' love for the school. Her parents' volunteer efforts over their years at CCS included serving on the board of trustees, coordinating the low German supper, and making new year's cookies, to name a few. The Epp family was not only generous with their gifts and talents, but also faithfully supported the school financially for decades. Harold and Lillian enjoyed attending extracurricular events, such as games and concerts, while their children and grandchildren were students.

When asked what memory sticks out to Nancy in her parents' involvement at CCS, Nancy responded, "I remember Dad coming home late from board meetings, and I remember Mom being covered in flour when making new years cookies for the German supper." Memories of her dad included some of his favorite Bible verses such as Ephesians 1:7-8 and 2:8, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding . . . for by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."



Nancy met her husband, Paul, at Crestview Bible Church, and the two were married in June 1977. The Belknaps went on to have four children, all of whom graduated from CCS: Sheree (Belknap '99) Wedel, Emilee (Belknap '01) Foote, Kylee (Belknap '04) Goodson, and Jonathan Belknap ('09).

When reminiscing about why the Belknaps chose Central Christian for schooling, Nancy shared, "We knew we would someday send our children to Central . . . Of course, the fact that the Bible was a part of the curriculum was very important to us. I can remember Sheree coming home from school singing praises to God that she learned at school, and it was my favorite part of having her at Central Christian." Sheree would go on to teach first grade at CCS from 2003 to 2010.

Paul and Nancy have been involved at CCS in several different capacities over the years, from coordinating the low German supper, to working at the Kansas State Fair, to watching athletic competitions, and even serving as a line judge for volleyball games. Nancy began working at the school in 1996 when her son, Jonathan, was in kindergarten, first as a paraeducator, then serving in food service as a cook and manager.

Mr. and Mrs. Belknap continue to steward the gifts that they have in a way that assists the school, through prayer, support, and service. When asked why CCS was so important to her family then and now, Nancy shared, "It is all about God's Word being taught, past, present, and future." Belknap added, "Central Christian has meant so much to us over the years. We truly love the community of like-minded people who are working together to help children get the best of school life that is grounded in God's Word."

Lillian Epp passed away in May 2000. Harold married Rose Funk in 2003, and Rose became a part of the Epp family, also volunteering at CCS. As one of their last acts of stewardship, Harold and Lillian Epp directed their estate to make a financial gift to Central Christian School. After Harold's passing in January 2021, the Epp estate gift was instrumental in helping CCS be debt-free. The Epp's stewardship to Central Christian, to this day, extends beyond their earthly lives to have an eternal impact on the lives of CCS students.

Compiled by CCS staff

The Director's Corner



Jim Doerksen ('67)
Alumni Director

WELCOME TO DR. JOHN WALKER! – On May 11, 2021, Board of Trustees Chairman Mike Wyatt welcomed John Walker, Ed.D., to Central Christian School, "We are so very blessed to announce that Dr. Walker has come on as superintendent, dedicating his gift of leadership, heart, talent, experience, influence, and energy to God's mission at CCS. Dr. Walker joins school administration in the midst of much prayer by our board members (and many others) that CCS may continue in its tradition, while growing in excellence to fulfill its purpose". Stepping into his new position on June 1, Dr. Walker said, "For over 70 years, CCS has kept Christ as the foundation of its curriculum, and I look forward to reinforcing our commitment to keeping Christ central for next 70 years."

MORE NEW STAFF FOR THE NEW YEAR – Mrs. Amber Osner began working as the Director of Admissions and Marketing in June. Mrs. Sherry Earle is the school's new office manager in the main building. Kaitlin Lay will assume responsibilities as the kindergarten teacher, and Katie Wilkens began her position as the fifth grade teacher last January.

DEBT FREE !! Here is a quote from Superintendent Dr. John Walker, July 30, 2021: "Just one year ago, CCS had over \$464,000 in debt. This debt seemed insurmountable at times and hampered our ability to take on strategic initiatives. As I write this to you on behalf of the CCS Board of Trustees, **Central Christian School is 100% debt free!** You read that right, 100% debt free! First of all, all glory goes to the Lord. We are thrilled that the Lord providentially provided for CCS in this way. Secondly, we thank the faithful donors who have stepped up by the Lord's prompting to sacrificially give to CCS. And third, thank you to all of you who have been faithful in prayer for our school, our needs, our staff, and the hearts of our students." **This is great news!** You can see the rest of Dr. Walker's announcement by going to the school's website, www.cougarsccs.com. We see God's goodness through it all. He indeed is Jehovah Jireh, our provider.

Now it is leadership's responsibility to be good stewards of the funding God provides, often through generous gifts from His people. In response, the school's board of trustees has pledged to not allow spending to exceed income, now or in the future. Debt will no longer be a millstone to the school's growth.

The donations that helped to eliminate the debt are the result of a concerted fundraising effort led by a committee of staff, volunteers, and parents who are dedicated to ensuring a bright and secure future for Central Christian School. You will hear more about their aspirations for CCS in the coming months.

ALUMNI & REUNION WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 17–18, 2021

This year will be the school’s 5th annual Alumni & Reunion Weekend, and we’re switching it up a little. We encourage all alumni and friends of the school, near and far, to join us on the CCS track on Friday evening, September 17, at 5:30 p.m. for a fun time of food, fellowship, and football. There will be yard games for the kids and a delicious meal: pulled pork sandwiches, homemade mac ‘n cheese, tender green beans, warm caramel apples, and a beverage, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children Grade 5 and under. Kickoff will be at 7:00 p.m. During halftime, classes will be recognized by decades, and alumna Nancy (Epp ’75) Belknap will be honored.

After the game, the CCS Alumni Association invites you to come into the building for an after- party that I’m hosting Friday night. We are planning an informal time of food, fellowship, and singing. A few individuals will lead us around the piano in songs that were sung in chapel from the ‘50s through the present. Tables will be set up with light snacks and drinks. This singing will be honoring the Lord, build our esprit de corps, and be a time to enjoy memories of our years at Central.

On Saturday morning, the 18th, we will be hosting our first CCS Alumni and Friends Pancake Feed and Cornhole Tournament, both beginning at 8:00 a.m. The suggested donation for the pancake feed will be \$5. A custom CCS cornhole set will be the prize for the cornhole tournament. Watch for a tournament registration link on Central Christian School’s Facebook page. The entry fee is \$50 per team, and checks should be made payable to Central Christian School with Cornhole Tournament on the memo line.

Also on Saturday morning, CCS Superintendent Dr. John Walker will give a school update and be available for campus tours, and I’ll be there to meet, greet, and visit. The school building will be available at lunch for classes who would like to make their own arrangements or bring food in. We are excited that the Classes of 1961, 1980, 1981, 1996, 2001, and 2011 are planning reunions, and we hope that many other alumni will be part of this special weekend.

For more information about the weekend, contact either of our Alumni & Reunion Weekend Coordinators, Bethany (Duree ’15) Murphy at 620-513-7696 or Julianne (Duree ’17) Orpin at 620-474-5442.

A lot of planning, preparation, and hard work go into this weekend. Thank you, Bethany and Julianne, PTF, CCS administrative staff, and volunteers for all your efforts!

ESTATE PLANNING – We have copies of an estate planning brochure which has immensely helpful information to assist you in planning your last acts of stewardship. Here is an excerpt. “If you are a child of God, you should possess a natural love and inclination to give back to your Heavenly Father as you plan the final distribution of His blessings to you. You must also consider . . . if you do not support the ministries of His kingdom, who will? As a Christian, you should not overlook the power and potential that is within a last act of stewardship. You could make the largest and most significant gifts of your life in this final giving activity. This is one of your most powerful opportunities to advance the name and kingdom of Jesus Christ and bless your family and loved ones.”

If you would like a copy of this brochure, please let me know, and I will send it to you.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL LIGHT HOUSE - The CCS Alumni Association is the grateful recipient of the very first *Central Light House* along with most of the next 45 editions. Most of these were donated by Lovella Thiessen (’54) with Jan Flickinger (’55) adding a few more. In these papers is a wealth of information about the early years at Central. Nine issues were published each year and were sold for one dollar. Included in each issue are items of school news, quotes from students, poems and pithy sayings, reports of school socials, Scriptural meditations, dorm reports, honor rolls, and much more.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Thirteen newly graduated young people completed the requirements for joining the Alumni Association of Central Christian School last May. As I met them and got to know them, I appreciated their youthful and fervent love for the Lord. They are being sent out as arrows for Him for such a time as this.

Please pray for these high school graduates as they begin their independence and continue preparing themselves for a life of service for Jesus.

A story from the CCS Senior Breakfast that was told by a teacher was that one of these seniors caught her before she went home not feeling well. He asked her if he could pray with her before she left. Upon her return several days later, he sought her out to pray with her again. Such seemed to be the heart of this class!



2021 Graduates of Central Christian



**Jacob Elmore, Caleb Yoder, Adre Ibarra, Connor Langlais, Lucas Gill,
Dawson Urwiller, Cory Embers, Collin Oswalt, Devin McConnell,
Brooklyn Nisly, Madeline Boman, Ivy Mead, Kristen White**

We wish these special seniors God's richest blessings as they look to the future to carry on the plan of God in their lives.

We are so pleased to welcome these graduates of 2021 into the Central Christian School Alumni Association!



Rita (Friesen '69)Loewen
Presenting an Alumni Association Key

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name.

Malachi 3:16

NKJV

We are always looking for memories and stories that you have from your Central Christian School days as well as any suggestions for alumni stories. Contact Jim Doerksen, Alumni Director, at jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com.

Family News

Please keep us updated on you and your family's marriages, births, and deaths.

Email Jim Doerksen at jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com.

Congratulations -

Julianne Duree ('17) and Jonny Orpin were married on May 22, 2021.

Richie Oswalt ('19) and Haley Stiebens were married on June 4, 2021.

J.T. Duree ('18) and Paisley Jaye ('18) were married on June 5, 2021.

Taylor Coffey ('19) and Hunter Bailey were married on July 17, 2021.

Welcome - Doug and Erin (Sundquist '02) Stone welcomed daughter Marietta Barbara on November 5, 2020.

Marietta joins big brother Simon, age 2.

Nathan and Ameer (Aaron '06) Lind welcomed their daughter Daphne Grace on February 4, 2021.

Cody ('14) and Kaylee Moore welcomed their son Easton Warren on April 1, 2021.

Kyle ('12) and Andrea Crouse welcomed their son August Andrew on May 17, 2021.

Jonathan ('09) and Anna Belknap welcomed their son Theodore (Theo) Wayne on May 31, 2021.

Jacob ('07) and Bethany Yates welcomed baby boy Tucker Wayne on July 6, 2021.

Deaths -

Regina (Wagler '73) Plett of Selkirk, Manitoba, died on March 21, 2021.

Carolyn (Neufeld '68) Buhler of South Hutchinson, Kansas, died on May 29, 2021.

Roger Cornish ('72) of Wichita, Kansas, died on July 7, 2021.

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Please contact

CCS Alumni Association at
jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com
if you have a change of email or
mailing address. We want to keep in
touch with our alumni and friends.



We encourage you to contact your former classmates.

For lists of class members and their contact information, please email jdoerksen@cougarsccs.com.

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Jim Doerksen

A young friend of mine said he suddenly started paying attention to the stock market after having ignored it for years. Each day he would be listening for how the market was doing and think about how world and national news was affecting its movements. He studied its intricacies as never before. The ups and downs affected him emotionally. Why this sudden interest? He had put his treasure there and was carefully watching his investment.

Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . , but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . ." where it is secure. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The widow in Luke 21 knew how to wisely invest what the Lord had given her. She received the Lord's commendation when she put all she had into the treasury for God.

In I Chronicles 21, David's perspective was that he would not offer anything to the Lord which had cost him nothing. The story is told of a family who purchased a new piano. They thought it would be generous to give their old piano to the church. Upon consideration, they took the old piano back from the church and replaced it with the new one. They wanted to be like David, who would not give anything which had cost him nothing.

All that we own, all that we have is not really ours but the Lord's! It was He who gave it to us in the first place, according to I Timothy 6:17-18.

What an opportunity we alumni have to give generously to the needs of our school. This school is needed now more than ever before.

Let's give more than we think we can give! God will honor that generous spirit which was characteristic of the early Corinthian believers who in ". . . their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality."