



ALUMNI TIMES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, December 8
K-12 Christmas Concert
- Friday, February 9
All-Decade Basketball Team Recognition from 2010 to 2019. This will be a time of recognition between the basketball games.
- Friday, February 16
Homecoming

We would love to see our alumni at CCS events!

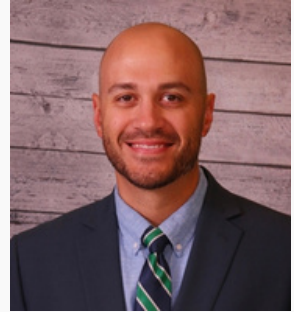
Stewardship Dinner 2023

FROM DR. JOHN WALKER, SUPERINTENDENT

We are thankful for all of you and your faithful support of CCS! To all of those who were able to join us for the 75th Anniversary Celebration and Stewardship Dinner, thank you! I know many class reunions were held, and there was much laughter and joy surrounding fellowship with each other. It was a vibrant celebration of all that God has done at CCS for the past 75 years and all that He is doing in His faithful care of CCS!

We had opportunities to recognize the different decades and classes in attendance, while also recognizing the families of former administrators, and celebrating our alumnus of the year, Mr. Alvin Kroeker. The food was amazing, the fellowship was sweet, and the speakers were inspirational.

As I reflect on a night well spent, I am reminded of God's work in the lives of so many people. I heard story after story of how the Lord used CCS and the faithful men and women who made an impact because of God's Word.

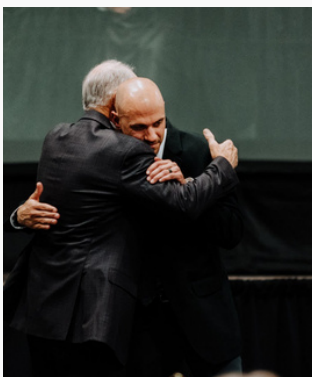


By the grace of God, we have EXCEEDED our financial goal of \$100,000! Between gifts and commitments, we have been given over \$140,000! Please join me in thanking the Lord for His kindness, mercy, and care. And you know what? The Lord is still kind, merciful, and caring regardless of if we met our goal or not—He is worthy to be praised regardless of man-made attempts to meet goals. Yet, in His kindness, He has provided abundantly more than we could ask or think. Don't we have a great God? I am thankful. May the Lord find us faithful in the work we have ahead, forgetting what lies behind, and pressing on toward the prize of the upward call of Jesus Christ in our lives. Let us not lose sight of the incredible task we have in shepherding the hearts and minds of young people. May we be faithful in what Psalm 78:72 states, "So He shepherded them according to the integrity of His heart, and guided them with skillful hands." Please join me today, and every day, in praising the Lord! I am thankful for all of you.



CCS alumni mass choir and current high school choir members

Stewardship Dinner 2023



FAMILY NEWS

Please keep us updated by emailing alumni@cougarsccs.com

CONGRATULATIONS

- Dylan Krahn ('08) and Kelsey Hill were married on January 7, 2023.
- Rita (Yutzy '76) Eldridge retired on August 31, 2023 after 38 years of service to First Presbyterian Church, Hutchinson.
- E. James Pauls ('52) and Carolyn (Ens '62) Klassen (deceased 2015) were selected as the 2023 inductees for the Tabor College Arts Hall of Fame.

BIRTHS

- Erin (Sundquist '02) and Doug Stone, a daughter, Clara Bernice, on Aug 31, 2023
- Kyle ('18) and Kaylin (Tobias '18) Krehbiel, a son, Kade McCoy, on September 2, 2023
- Caleb ('11) and Bethany (Belton '11) Green, a son, Judson Thomas Wayne, on September 11, 2023
- Cody ('14) and Kaylee Moore, a son, Truett Lee, on September 11, 2023
- Caleb ('09) and Kelsi Hageman, a daughter, Lyla Grace, on September 28, 2003
- Sarah (Hagen '13) and Jesse Brown, a daughter, Johvi Elizabeth, on October 2, 2023
- Julianne (Duree '17) and Jonny Orpin, a daughter, Ingrid Lily, on October 14, 2023
- Richie ('19) and Haley Oswald, a son, Everett Evans, on November 23, 2023

DEATHS

- Taylor 'Frankie' Terry ('09) of Hutchinson, Kansas, September 25, 2023
- Nathan "Nate" Schroeder ('74) of Goddard, Kansas, November 15, 2023

GRANDPARENTS DAY



CCS honored grandparents on September 22, 2023. They were invited to have breakfast, watch a special music program, and do classroom activities with their grandchildren. We are so privileged to have grandparents who love the school!

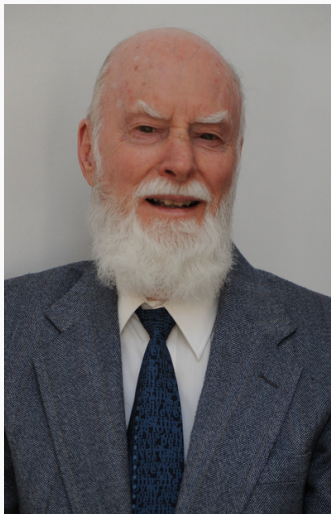
Pictured to the left are alumni grandparents with their grandchildren who are current CCS students.

Back row: Debbie (Johnson '73) Schnitzler, Brenda (Unruh '80) Green,
Lori (Friesen '79) Willems, Russ Willems ('78)

Middle rows: Kathie (Walter '66) Girst, Rita (Yutzy '76) Eldridge, Carrie (Engel '76) Robinson

Front row: Paul Richert ('60)

“ When I came to the book of Romans, I realized that I did not have a true faith in the Lord Jesus. Following what I had learned in Romans, I got down on my knees before the Lord, repented, believed, and asked Him to be my Savior and Lord.” – Marvin Cowan



Marvin Cowan was in the first graduating class of Central Christian Bible Academy in 1952. His relatives were among the Mormon pioneers who settled Utah, he was ordained an LDS deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood at the age of 12, and he became a teacher at age 14. He was zealous to proselytize for the Mormons. He went to Mesa College and earned a B.A. from Intermountain Bible College. In 1960, he earned a Masters of Divinity from Denver Seminary and in 1987 received a Doctorate of Divinity from Western Seminary. Marv has been a missionary to the Mormons in Utah with Missions Door since 1961 and currently resides in Salt Lake City, Utah. God's sovereign plan for Marv's life involved Central Christian and its godly faculty. He recounts the following story with great thankfulness.

FROM MARVIN COWAN ('52)

I was a typical teenager walking home from school with friends when I confidently claimed, “The Bible says that one day I will be a god!”

My friends looked startled. No one said anything for several moments. Finally, one of my friends queried, “Where does it say that you can become a god in the Bible?”

I had no idea, but I knew that my church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, taught that I could become a god. I thought it said so in the Bible. My friend then asked, “Have you ever read the Bible from start to end?”

“No, but I've read parts of it and other scriptures, too.” I replied.

“You should read the whole Bible and learn what it says,” challenged another friend.

I was preparing to go on an LDS mission and thought reading the Bible would probably be a good idea. “Okay,” I replied, “I'll take your challenge and read the whole Bible!”

My family and I were living in Montrose, Colorado. I took the challenge seriously and began reading in Genesis and continued book by book, finding many discrepancies with what I had been taught in the LDS Church. When I came to the book of Romans, I realized that I did not have a true faith in the Lord Jesus. Following what I had learned in Romans, I got down on my knees before the Lord, repented, believed, and asked Him to be my Savior and Lord.

After becoming a true Christian, I knew I wanted to learn more, but didn't know where to go for help. I returned to the Mormon church once, but knew immediately that they were not teaching the truth. My family, who moved a lot during my childhood, decided to move to Idaho, so I spent the summer in the eastern hill country skinning a cat (driving a caterpillar/tractor) pulling a combine. During this time, I visited a couple Mennonite churches and studied God's Word, but had many jumbled thoughts and beliefs. My dad, who had been a devout Mormon and had caused our family to be very involved, suddenly became disillusioned with some Mormon teaching. He began going to the Mennonite Church and one day asked me if I would be interested in attending my senior year at a school in Kansas called Central Kansas Bible Academy.

I was trying to find solid teaching that matched God's Word and was interested. Since my dad worked for the railroad, he gave me a free train ticket to Denver and a half price one to Hutchinson. So, I traveled alone halfway across the country and was greeted by Walt Ediger, the president of the school, because my dad had sent a telegram ahead to make arrangements for me.

The school was small and only had one year of classes before I became part of the senior class that autumn of 1951. I quickly made new friends and enjoyed my classes. I was given the nickname “Cowboy”, and when my brother, Orion, joined me months later, he was called “Cowboy” too. We didn't have money to buy cowboy hats or boots, so we weren't sure why we had this nickname, but maybe it was simply because the word cow is in our last name!



Orion Cowan ('52), Helen Cowan,
& Marvin Cowan ('52)

As I was soaking in the solid biblical teaching, I became concerned about my parents' potential to pay for my education and room and board. Times were tough, and my family had always been very tight financially.

One day, I overheard the school president discussing an urgent dilemma with several others while I was in the dining hall. One of their bus drivers had quit, and they did not have a replacement. Since I had been taught to drive a tractor and my grandfather's Plymouth when I was just seven years old, I knew I could drive a bus. So, I piped up and said, "I can drive the bus for you!"

The group was startled, then just looked at me and smiled. No one replied, so I walked on to my next class. A couple hours later, President Ediger came looking for me and asked, "Were you serious about being able to drive the bus?"

"Yes," I replied, "I've been trained on lots of farm equipment and cars. I'm sure I could do it," I confidently answered.

It was already late in the afternoon, and they truly were desperate for a driver. So, Walt Ediger asked, "Do you think you can pass the Kansas chauffeur license exam? If so, we need to hustle down to the office today before it closes at 5:00 p.m."

I answered affirmatively, and we quickly made our way to the driver's license division where I took a chauffeur exam. I missed one or two questions, but passed the exam without trouble. I officially became the southern route school bus driver. I drove about one and a half hours every morning before school, and then I would take those same students back home in the afternoon. So, I was able to pay for my education, room, and board as well as help with my brother's and sister's expenses. (My sister attended after I graduated.)

My senior year was vital to my Christian growth. The teachers taught with a clear biblical worldview that opened my eyes to God's Word and gave me a foundation to grow rapidly. I was hungry for the Word and appreciated their perspectives, even in subjects that were not considered Christian subjects. My classes included history, bookkeeping, German, Bible, civics, English composition, and a few others. Yet, the teachers included God and His perspective in every subject.

Christmas of 1951 was a unique event as I was unable to leave the school because of finances. The school kept the boarding area open for me and a brother and sister from Nebraska. (They came from a Christian orphanage which sent them to receive a Christian education.) The three of us celebrated solemnly and enjoyed a few days of rest and relaxation. Mr. Ediger and his wife drove the three of us around town to look at the lights so that we could have memories of that town celebration. The kindness of the Edigers and the school in allowing us to stay through the holidays was greatly appreciated.

Graduation occurred in the gym next to the old building on 801 North Chemical Drive in May of 1952. There were ten graduating students including me and my brother. (He was a year older, but in the same grade because of our many moves.) Graduation was a wonderful celebration! I am eternally grateful that God orchestrated the events that led me to a school where I could learn His Word from godly people with sound doctrine. Central Kansas Bible Academy, now called Central Christian School, gave me a solid biblical foundation and motivation to serve the Lord and go to Utah and preach the gospel of Christ.



Alumni & Reunion Weekend 2023:
Jan (Klassen '55) Flickinger, Marvin Cowan ('52), & Charles Watkins ('59)

Alumni & Reunion Weekend 2023

It was wonderful to see everyone who attended Alumni & Reunion Weekend! Between the Alumni & Reunion Weekend and the Stewardship Dinner, several classes gathered to eat, chat, and reminisce. Many also took tours of the school's new classrooms. It is a blessing to have continued friendships even decades after graduation.



1976

Class of 1976

Back row: Jim Averitt, David Epp, Phil Nisly, Conrad Prieb, Mark Hebrank, Jim Holmes
Front row: Carrie (Engel) Robinson, Kris (Rowland) Dean

The Class of 1976 had a second gathering this fall!

Back row: Mike Miller, David Epp, Steve Croucher, Mark Hebrank, Jim Holmes
Front row: Carol (Kauffman) Hershberger, Rita (Yutzy) Eldridge, Kris (Rowland) Dean, Carrie (Engel) Robinson, Liz (Cooper) Penner, Jana Nisly, Sheryl (Regehr) Busenitz



1977

Class of 1977

Joy (Bloom) Holmes, Kim Goering, Pat (Bontrager) Martin



1983

Class of 1983

Back row: Robyn Markat, Barb (Drotts) Ross, Patricia (McPherson) Cross
Front row: Keith Nisly, Kerry Goertzen, Karla (Yutzy) Headings



Class of 1973

Back row: Norman Mast, Mark Pauls, Irving Jennings,
Clay Dirks, Richard Schroeder
Front row: Bev (Epp) Sullivan, Sherry (Fry) Troyer,
Angela (Hoyer) Frankenfeld, Sheri (Rowland) Gray



Class of 1978

Back row: Carlin Parker, Doug Witzke, Russ
Heldreth, Russ Willems, Bob Hempel, Steve
Hullet, Jim Walter, Clare Goering
Front row: Gaye (Glazener) Caldwell, Carol
(Atwater) Beal, Nadine (Kinser) Hullet, Connie
(Bontrager) Goering



Class of 1979

Back row: Jim Caywood, Michael Schriener
Middle row: Rachel (Pope) Wakefield, Beth
(Thiessen) Jones, Lori (Friesen) Willems, Jan
(Regehr) Pankratz, Esther (Schmidt) Caywood,
Joni Razo-Heldreth
Front row: Larena (Siebert) King, Ron Phelps,
Kristi (Beck) Thompson



Class of 2013

Back row: Jared Starkey, Timothy Prescott,
Matthew Jackson, Benjamin Wingert
Front row: Sarah (Hagen) Brown, Cynthia (Morris)
Cornett, Elise (Taylor) Krebaum,
Laura (Thompson) Goering, Brittani Green
Not pictured: Tim Willis

The Class of 1979 tried out the school's new classrooms!



Alumni & Reunion Weekend 2023





Jessica Toevs enjoys history, reading, being outside, and spending time with her family. Growing up she loved playing sports and earned a college volleyball scholarship. She attended and played at Tabor College, where she met her husband, David. They farm outside of Whitewater, Kansas, and have children Judah, age 6, and Malia, age 3. She works part time as a graphic designer in Wichita, Kansas.

FROM JESSICA (DIXON '08) TOEVS

My husband's great grandfather came to America from Prussia with the Mennonites fleeing religious persecution. They settled in Kansas and began farming, bringing with them a hard red wheat variety, which we still grow today. David is a fifth generation farmer on 1,000 acres growing wheat, corn, soybeans, and triticale and also raises cattle. He works the farm with his father and brother. David took over his late uncle's hay farm as well (the hay farmhouse is the

original and still standing Toevs homestead house), supplying hay for other farmers and several zoos in Kansas and the surrounding states. My dad retired from farming three years before I was born, and he came from a long line of farmers. While I never lived on the farm, my mom and grandma did several homesteading practices such as gardening, canning, sewing, and practicing good stewardship with money and possessions. A little over a year ago, I began a homesteading blog, Prairie Creek Homestead, to share with others the skills and knowledge my mom and grandma have passed down to me.

A handful of the classes at Central that helped prepare me for this life were taught by Mrs. Beverly Hilton. I took her home economics, food science, and housing/drafting classes where she taught us the basics of sewing, cooking, and house building. These classes help keep alive vital life skills! I am very grateful to the many teachers who continue to pour into the students at CCS just as Mrs. Beverly Hilton, Mrs. Kathryn Rich, and Mr. Jay Walter did for me and my classmates.

Homesteading is a simpler way of living, and often others can view people who live this way as simpleminded. I find this to be untrue; it takes being knowledgeable in many subjects, or a driven mind interested in learning, to do what we do. My in-laws are incredibly intelligent, loving people. Out here, neighbors take care of each other, and it's a beautiful community. Farming and homesteading go hand in hand, and I believe these small families and hard workers are the backbone of every society.

Throughout the spring and summer months, I spend the majority of my time outside in the garden. This is my favorite time of the year! I believe we can all benefit from more time spent with sunshine on our face and our feet in the dirt. Sitting down to write this comes at the close of my 2023 gardening season, where I can enjoy my period of rest and the fruits of my labor. This is my 10th year with a solo garden. In the main garden, I grow spinach, broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, beets, carrots, green beans, potatoes, onions, corn, tomatoes, zucchini, yellow squash, garlic, watermelon, honeydew, cantaloupe, and pie pumpkins. A small side garden houses rhubarb, asparagus, strawberries, and herbs. We planted a small orchard behind the main garden, with peaches, apples, cherries, plums, pears, blackberry, and blueberry bushes.

Yields for this year include 135 onions, 200 lbs. of potatoes, 37 pumpkins, 300 jars of canned goods, and roughly 70 bags of frozen vegetables and fruits. Each year with David's family, we butcher and process a cow and a hog by hand, keeping half, which gives around 230 lbs. of beef and 80 lbs. of pork. We also grow and mill our own wheat flour and cornmeal from the fields we farm.



And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12



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Central Christian School
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Hutchinson, KS 67502

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

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FORMER CLASSMATES.
IF YOU NEED THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION,
EMAIL ALUMNI@COUGARSCCS.COM.**



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As you are reading, you might notice that this edition of the Alumni Times has a new look. That's because this publication has a new editor! Jim Doerksen kindly introduced me in the last issue of the Alumni Times. I am Cassi (Eldridge) Johnston, a graduate of the Class of 2006. Our class is one in a three-way tie for the smallest graduating classes of CCS with seven members! I have been married to David for fifteen years, and he is the owner of NMGI. We are big fans of the school! I am the daughter of alumna Rita (Yutzy '76) Eldridge and mom to three CCS students. I began attending CCS in 2000 and have early memories of the hallway being open between the buildings. I remember students sliding on the ice in the winter—both intentionally and unintentionally! I am thankful my oldest daughter gets to experience the finished classrooms this year.

She also has two of the teachers that I had at CCS, Mr. Walter and Mrs. Rich. It is a fun season for my son to be in Mrs. Penner's class because I was her aide my senior year. My favorite memory of that time was when my now husband sent a singing telegram for Valentine's Day as I helped in her third grade class. What a surprise to turn around to see the neighboring class all peeking in behind me at the conclusion of the song! The kids got quite the show, and my cheeks turned quite the shade of pink!

I never imagined I would go from CCS STUCO president and newspaper editor to CCS alumni director. However, if you think about it, those interests involve writing and people gathering. So, they do kind of go hand-in-hand! I have met several of you through phone conversations, at Alumni & Reunion Weekend, and at the 75th Anniversary Celebration and Stewardship Dinner. I plan to be here for a while and hope to meet many more of you throughout the years. Please always feel free to reach out. I would love to hear your stories!