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Spring 2013

The Fort Wayne Vine

Fort Wayne Alumni Center Heritage Association

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fw
fort wayne vine

Spring 2013

008



CARE

CONNECT

CELEBRATE

Hopefully spring has sprung in your area of the country or the world. It seemed like winter went on and on this year. Fort Wayne did not receive much snow, but we had many cloudy, cold days—my least favorite.

Despite the long winter, made more difficult by the loss of our dear friends **Cyril Eicher g32** and **Violet (Egly) Ringenberg g45**, I am thankful for the increased opportunities I had to visit with Fort Wayne campus alumni for *Share YOUR Voice* sessions.

In each of these times together, we talked about the creation of the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center—its purpose and mission. We talked about key functions and words. We talked about perceptions and realities. I truly enjoyed dialoguing with and listening to our alumni.

While we are not finished, as I want to hear from more of you outside the Fort Wayne area, I believe we have concluded that our mission has to be about *caring, connecting, and celebrating* what God has done and continues to do through our Fort Wayne campus alumni community.

Fortunately, God brought **Kathryn Fenstermacher c13**, a Professional Writing intern, to pick up much of the writing of our publications, the *FW Falcon* e-newsletter, the *FW Vine* mini-magazine, and *Fruit from the Vine*, our new blog. This allowed me more time to work on a four-year review for the Taylor University President's Cabinet and to attend more *Share YOUR Voice* sessions.

Thank you Kathryn! You have been a God-send, and I believe our alumni will truly appreciate your work and ministry in this issue of the *FW Vine*. Our focus is on communicating how we are *caring, connecting, and celebrating* with a plan for our continuance. Hope to hear **YOUR** voice soon.

We care, connect, and celebrate,



Michael D. Mortensen g91
Director of FW Alumni & Friend Relations

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Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center, 915 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807, or call (260) 744-8790.
E-mail: alumnifw@taylor.edu or online at fw.taylor.edu

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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 46 states and 24 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 50 fields of study are available.



Cover to Cover



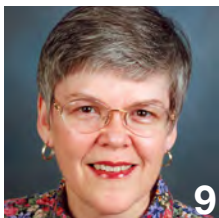
A Kingdom View

Alumni and friends remember "Prayer Mom" Violet Ringenberg and look for ways to continue her legacy of care.



A Legacy of Giving

The Eicher family carries on the campus legacy—even after death.



Distinguished Campus Servants

Check out the newest faces on our Distinguished Campus Servants page. (<http://fw.taylor.edu/distinguished-servant/>)

CARE

A Kingdom View

Violet Ringenberg, 1923-2013 passes on the "Prayer Mom" baton

by Kathryn Fenstermacher cs13

Joyful. Hospitable. Supportive. Faithful.
Prayerful.

Hundreds of words could describe beloved friend and "Ma" **Violet (Egly) Ringenberg g45**, who entered her Heavenly Home on Feb. 4, 2013. Violet was one of the most cherished servants to grace the Fort Wayne campus, devoting more than 50 years of service to students and alumni alike. Many still grieve the woman who was a mother to them in so many ways, gently guiding them during their student days. They face emptiness where her welcoming figure once stood. But sorrow blends with joy as we reflect on Violet's life and envision the beautiful ways her legacy of caring will continue in the future.

Violet's primary legacy was one of prayer. Whether leading within the Women's Auxiliary or volunteering for Phonathon, she always had a prayer on her lips. As head of FW Alumni Volunteer Prayer Team until 2013, Violet received prayer requests from alumni around the world and prayed for each by name. "She was an encourager," said **Joyce (Wiggle) Gerig fs61**, a close friend and volunteer. "If you had a prayer concern, you knew 'Vi' was going to pray about it."

No less important was Violet's commitment to service, especially involving relationships. As a pastor's wife, Violet's door was always open. She loved students, and made herself accessible to them by attending campus events on a regular

basis. "She was such a faithful friend of the alumni and friends," said friend and fellow Auxiliary member **Ruth Steiner gTU51**, whose husband **Paul gTU50** served as the FWBC Chairman of the Board. "When you were around her you had that positive, can-do feeling."

Violet was admired for her leadership in many areas on campus. But she is remembered most for her participation in the Auxiliary's "Prayer Mom" ministry, serving as a prayer mom to more than 30 students over the years. The program paired students with Auxiliary members committed to praying for them throughout the year. Some prayer moms chose to invest further, inviting students into their homes and getting to know them personally. Violet was among them. "I think she probably did that more than many of us," said **Caroline (Perry) Gerig g61**, wife of former FWBC President **Don Gerig g62**, who served with Violet in the Women's Auxiliary. "She was a special person."

But Violet didn't have to be an official prayer mom to invest in students' lives. **Rich Sommer g79**, a classmate and roommate of Violet's son **Gary g79**, claimed Violet was like an adopted mother to him. He occasionally stayed overnight at the Ringenberg home, did his laundry there once or twice, and was part of a large crowd of students the family regularly invited over after church. "We'd have 18 to 32 kids at her dinner table every Sunday afternoon,"



Sommer said. “She kept doing it year after year, month after month. Her hospitality was second to none.”

Kelly McMichael g76 and his wife were among the weekly visitors to the Ringenberg household. McMichael met Violet through Woodburn Missionary Church where he completed his Christian Service assignment. “She was very supportive of my work there,” McMichael said, “and often encouraged me in that.” McMichael, who did not have a close relationship with his mother, developed a special relationship with Violet, whom he considered his “surrogate” mother.

Violet’s mothering influence continued long after McMichael left Fort Wayne. They kept in touch, and when Violet called him during Phonathon each year she asked what his needs were so she could pray for them by name. “I appreciated that touch that she had, that she was concerned with what was happening in my personal life,” McMichael said. “She was really one of the most significant women in ministry that I knew.”

Violet cared for students like they were her biological children. But she was keenly aware that they were her spiritual children, too. “Violet had such a Kingdom view,” Steiner said. “She was responsive to the heart of God

in the sense that what was important [to God] was important to her.”

For Violet, prayer and service were foremost. Sommer said Violet taught students what Christian service is all about. “Violet was a great visionary,” he said. “She always knew if she helped us, that we were going to be able to impact other people.” Violet didn’t need to step into a classroom to do so. She modeled it through her life.

Outside the classroom, on a deeply personal level, Violet upheld the Fort Wayne campus legacy in her own special way. The Resource Center now offers you a chance to model this kind of service to students following in your footsteps, albeit on another campus.

In the spirit of Violet Ringenberg—a prayer mom to many students and a mother-figure to many more—we would like to revive the “Prayer Parent” program by pairing Fort Wayne alumni and friends with current students at Taylor University.

We are looking for volunteers to break down old barriers, to learn a new name and see a new face, and to continue Violet’s work among the next generation. Accept the baton – email alumnifw@taylor.edu.

CELEBRATE

Cover to Cover

The Yalunka people of West Africa celebrate Their first complete Bible translation

by Kathryn Fenstermacher cs13

It was Sunday morning, Feb. 3, 2013. A crowd gathered in the village of Yatia, Republic of Guinea, West Africa. Among them were the native Yalunkas, some of whom had traveled from nearby Sierra Leone. Others had traveled further: a host of U.S. visitors were present. The people gathered before an open tent, beneath which sat a box full of books.

Local Pastor Samuel removed the lid, and a murmur of excitement spread through the crowd as copies of the “Kisin Kiraan Kitabuna,” the “Salvation Road Holy Book,” were distributed among them. For the first time, the Yalunkas began reading a complete Bible in their own language.

The dedication ceremony marked the completion of a more than 100-year process of translating the Bible into the Yalunka language. Missionaries from across the U.S. were involved through the years, but many of these had a common bond: Fort Wayne Bible College.

“Spiritually and biblically, FWBC grounded us in our faith,” said **Steve g80 Harrigan** who, along with his wife **Sheila (Hilty) g82**, served as a missionary in West Africa for more than 10 years. “When you’re out there by yourself you have very little spiritual encouragement. You really need to be able to feed yourself, spiritually.”

Steve and Sheila began their ministry in 1987. They served the Yalunkas in Sierra Leone and Guinea alongside fellow Fort Wayne graduates **Bruce g89** and **Dawn (Clark) g89 Cluckie** and Taylor University graduate **Stan g75** and Valli Yoder, among others. By then the Yalunkas had translations of the New Testament and several



From left to right: **Rev. Dave fs82** and **Gwen (Warner) g78 DeSelm**, **Steve g80** and **Sheila g82 Harrigan**, and **Bruce g89** and **Dawn g89 Cluckie** reunite in Guinea, West Africa.

Old Testament books, thanks to the work of Steve’s parents, **Bill g49** and **Ruth (Egeland) g49 Harrigan**. However, the need for a completed Bible translation remained.

Steve and Sheila’s focus was education; they taught the Yalunkas, who are largely illiterate, through pictures and Bible stories. “We always are concerned about literacy,” said **Phil Logan g67**, who worked among the nearby Kuranko people in Sierra Leone. “It’s a Bible-translator’s worst fear that he will finish a translation and no one will be able to read it.” Phil and his wife **Jan (Shumacher) g68** oversaw translation of the whole Bible into the Kuranko language, which was dedicated in 2008.

Thus, the Fort Wayne missionaries laid a critical foundation for the work of Pioneer Bible Translator Greg Pruitt who arrived in Guinea in 1994. He took the missionaries’



Every Tribe, Tongue, and Nation



Fort Wayne graduates are involved in Bible translation around the world. **Tommy g85** and **Konni g86 Logan** spent the last 22 years in Western Province, Papua New Guinea (PNG) with Wycliffe Bible Translators. They have just finished translating the New Testament into the language of the Kasuas, a local tribal group.

Currently in the States for a Home Ministry Assignment, the Logans reunited with their daughter, **Laura cs16**, who recently entered her freshman year at Taylor University. Laura receives the Fort Wayne Alumni Dependent Scholarship, which is awarded to dependents of Fort Wayne alumni who attend Taylor University. "That scholarship was a huge life-saver this year," Tommy said. "It's such a wonderful blessing."

If you would like to get in touch with the Logans, you can find them on Facebook or email tom_logan@sil.org.

existing resources and began translating the Old Testament. Upon its completion, Bruce Cluckie played a large role in proofing the entire translation before it came to print.

Steve's connections to West Africa run deeper than most: he grew up there. His parents were called to Sierra Leone in 1951. They settled in the village of Ganya and began their ministry among the Yalunkas. Although a minority among Sierra Leone's 13 different language groups, Yalunkas are socially versatile: they learn languages quickly and easily adapt into the surrounding ethnic groups. Bill broke the Yalunka language into written form, jumpstarting the translation process.

Over 60 years after arriving in Sierra Leone, and with the help of many hands, Bill and Ruth's vision has become reality. This is an incredible accomplishment for everyone involved. However, having a translation does not signify that the nation's spiritual needs have been met. "Continue to pray for the movement of God," Sheila urged. "Pray that the Yalunkas would be able to read this amazing gift, this book that God has given them."

Discipleship continues in West Africa. The Cluckies still minister in Guinea, and the Harrigans return annually to encourage the Yalunka church. Through these ministries, the Fort Wayne legacy lives on. "The teaching and mentoring that happened at FWBC repeats itself in God's Kingdom among the Yalunkas," Steve said. "FWBC as an institution is no more, but its legacy lives on in West Africa through the lives it has touched." And that is something to celebrate.

Editor's Note: The late **Jake g45** and his surviving wife, **Ruth (Caddy) g45 Schierling** were honored for their lifetime of service to the Kuranko people of Sierra Leone in early February. For more information and a picture, look at this link: <http://fw.taylor.edu/news/bible-school-building-complex-built-in-honor-of-schierlings>.

CONTINUANCE

A Legacy of Giving

by Kathryn Fenstermacher cs13



Uncle Pete Eicher in his store, where he sold discount goods out of the Schultz Hall basement.

The Eicher family has played an integral role in the Fort Wayne campus's history. Ever since Bethany Bible Institute was transplanted from Bluffton, Ohio to Fort Wayne in 1904, there has always been an Eicher involved. And in the past 100 years, it was a member of the Eicher family who saved the Fort Wayne legacy—not once, but twice.

When the Great Depression struck in the 1930s, it hit the Fort Wayne campus hard. Students struggled to pay tuition, the campus struggled to pay its faculty, and the mortgage of newly built Bethany Hall took its toll. The

college was on the verge of bankruptcy.

Yet hope was always present when “Uncle Pete,” Business Manager **Peter L. Eicher g1905**, climbed into the passenger seat of an old truck and rode to the local grocery. He began visiting bakers and shopkeepers every weekend, bargaining for their day-old or damaged goods in bulk. “We’d go back to the store room, and here there’d be a pile of stuff in the corner,” said **Bill Gerig g61**, one of Uncle Pete’s drivers for his weekend purchases. “He’d look at it and say, ‘I’ll give you 100 dollars’ . . . It was probably worth two or three times as much.”



Dick Baxter g70, former President of the Fort Wayne campus Alumni & Heritage Association, and Cyril Eicher g32 sign the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center Endowment in 2011.

During the Depression, the food went directly to the campus kitchen where it helped cut costs and kept students fed. From a financial standpoint, Uncle Pete's innovation was crucial to keeping the college afloat.

Uncle Pete didn't stop his food runs when the Depression ended, however, not even after his retirement in 1952. Instead, he opened a store in the Schultz Hall basement and sold food at discount prices to married students. "We could go in there and buy a 35 cent can of tomatoes for 5 cents that was just dented a little bit on the side," Gerig said. "A lot of married students felt like they made it through school financially because of Uncle Pete."

A generation later, the late **Cyril Eicher g32**, Uncle Pete's son, continued his father's generous legacy. Cyril served the college for more than 20 years in a variety of positions, from campus treasurer to dean of students.

As director of correspondence studies he saw program enrollment increase from 500 to over 2,000 students. He continued assisting the campus even after his retirement in 1978,

donating time and financial resources to the college. He helped establish the Eicher Memorial Scholarship, which currently provides scholarships for students interested in missions at Taylor University.

"Cyril was legendary," said **Michael Mortensen g91**, Director of the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center. Cyril volunteered twice a week at the Resource Center for as long as he was able until about five months before his home-going on Jan. 18, 2013, just shy of his 101st birthday. "He was always concerned about the state of the Resource Center, in terms of where we were in our financial needs and plans for the future," Mortensen said. Caring for students and alumni remained his great love.

Even after his death, Cyril rivaled Uncle Pete in his financial generosity to the college. Cyril left four annuities that he specified should go to an endowment for the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center, to support its mission and ministry for as long as it continues to function. If the Resource Center ever ceases to be a stewardly investment,

the portion of his estate he pledged to this fund will be consolidated with the Eicher Endowed Scholarship.

While Cyril was the initial donor into this fund, he hoped other members of the campus community would add their pledges, and that together they could provide a total of \$2 million to fully endow the operation of the Resource Center. Cyril's donation along with three others has taken the current total up to \$244,656, and with another \$1.15 million pledged from annuities, estates, and a letter of intent, the goal is possible with the help of others.

Cyril's legacy was the stepping stone that will allow the Resource Center to continue *caring* for, *connecting*, and *celebrating* the Fort Wayne campus and her alumni for years to come.

"It is really an overwhelming blessing," Mortensen said. "I hope this will be fully

funded within the next three to five years so that, as long as we have Fort Wayne campus alumni, we can be there to cheer them on in the calling that took shape on the Fort Wayne campus."

Uncle Pete Eicher saved the Fort Wayne campus when 100 dollars made the difference between survival and bankruptcy. His son Cyril has now preserved the Fort Wayne legacy for generations of alumni to come.

Editor's Note: *Is the Fort Wayne campus or the FW Alumni & Friends Resource Center in your will or would you like to impact our ministry for years to come? If so, please let us know by emailing Michael Mortensen at mcmortensen@taylor.edu.*

Endorse Us

Do you appreciate the Resource Center's vision of *caring, connecting, and celebrating*? Your financial endorsement of this vision would show Taylor University you want them to continue their significant investment each year.

Please consider giving something, as Poorman's Heating & Air Conditioning is going to match gifts up to \$3,000 to show your support and to help us increase our alumni giving percentage. Currently, we are at 6.4 percent, and we hope to surpass last year's 12 percent no later than May 31.

We still need to receipt approximately \$17,000 by May 31 to fund our budget, so every gift makes a difference! Do we have your endorsement?



Scan this code with your smartphone for more information about how to give.

CONNECT

Distinguished campus servants

Kathryn Fenstermacher cs13

Did you know that your favorite professor in college may have changed her major? Has a provost shared the story of his call to ministry? When did your college president get married?

The Resource Center offers an online resource to explore the stories behind beloved Fort Wayne faculty and staff, delving into what motivated them to give their all, both personally and professionally, to the Fort Wayne campus and its students.

Dr. Jay Platte g69 created a section on our website, fw.taylor.edu, where you can view profiles of valued faculty and staff who served the campus faithfully. We call them Distinguished Campus Servants; you might have called them professor, mentor, or friend.

The Alumni Council suggested those they would like to see featured. Well-known personalities like **Joy Gerig g52 & g66**, **David Biberstein g66**, and **Ronald Scharfe** are already online, with more being added monthly (coming soon: **Daryl Yost ha96**, **Kari Reynolds g99**, and **Roger Ringenberg g69**). Platte said there isn't a specific list to determine who "makes it" onto the page. Rather, the goal is to spread recognition among different departments. "We determined that we needed to honor those who had faithfully served the campus, in any capacity," Platte said.

Each profile includes a summary biography and a timeline illustrating highlights of service. A full biography gives greater detail about their personal lives. Additionally, each profile includes a photo album which can be viewed as a slideshow.



So far, feedback has been positive. "We get comments like, 'I'm so glad you're doing that,' and 'This is a great idea,'" Platte said. A recent statistics analysis showed that the page is the third-most visited page on our website.

Viewers may not know, however, that each profile also includes an interactive tributes section, where they can share their own memories of these Distinguished Campus Servants. We love hearing how faculty and staff touched students' lives, so we strongly encourage you to check out this feature.

The process is simple: visit our website, fw.taylor.edu, and go to the Distinguished Campus Servants page. Click "Add Your Tribute" on the right side. Tributes are sent to us for approval and posted right to the page, so fellow alumni and friends can share your memories. Leave your tribute today!

Editor's Note: *What are the selection criteria for Distinguished Campus Servants? Use this link to find out: (<http://fw.taylor.edu/distinguished-servant/>) See what bios we have done and are up now. More will be added in the months ahead, so check back often.*

news notes

Rev. Nelson Chamberlin

g51 published his new book, *Biblical Views on Capital Punishment* in December 2012. It narrates his involvement in the Emmett Hashfield case and delves into scriptures dealing with capital punishment. It also offers suggestions for coping with issues the Death Penalty presents. The book is available through <http://www.fastpencil.com/marketplace>. "I'm grateful for my biblical training," Chamberlain said in reference to his FWBC training, "and this book is a result of that."

After being hospitalized with an infection, **Wes Gerig g51** was moved to Millers Merry Manor, 5544 E State Blvd., Fort Wayne, Ind., 45815. He would enjoy receiving cards.

Ray fs63 and Joanne g62

Burriss retired from the Puerto Rican mission field 12 years ago, where they pioneered prenatal work for evangelism. Their work became the largest

prenatal work in Puerto Rico, in both secular and Christian spheres. They worked with over 1,000 OB/GYN doctors and held prenatal classes in seven different hospitals and clinics. Since retirement, they have published a Bible study entitled, *God's Knowledge of Our Minds*. (The rough draft was written by Joanne's mother. She died of cancer in 1986 before she could finish it.) Ray is now working on a book entitled, *No Way, Lord!*

Ron and **Nancy (Lindland) fs68 Mahler** are in their 35th year with The Navigators, serving all branches of the military in discipleship and Bible study. They have lived in Hawaii for 21 of those years and love the life and ministry God has called them to.

Owen g75 and Marilyn **Cornelius** have moved to Hot Springs, S.D., where they are teaching at Cornerstone Bible Institute.

Submit News Notes items to alumnifw@taylor.edu, call the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center at (260) 744-8790, or mail to FW Vine, 915 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

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



Use your smartphone to submit the latest News Note.

Charles g79 and **Leslie fs75 Smith** live in Missouri City, Texas and are involved with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in planting a new church in Houston.

Skip Kite g80 is thanking God for 41 years of teaching and communicating God's Word. Recently he returned to Africa to renew old friendships, to participate in training around 300 pastors/ministers, and to be blessed by praying with 18 young children to receive Jesus as Savior.

Craig g83 and **Peggy (Bearss) Vincent fs83**, Director of Streamside Camp and Conference Center (Stroudsburg, Pa.), reports 75 different events were held at the camp this year with over 4,000 people attending. It has been great ministry but has stretched their resources and staff.

Rev. Garry g88 and **Connie Brackett** have moved to Frankfort, Ky. where he began serving as the senior pastor of New Harvest Assembly of God last year.

Stuart Zurcher fs88 married Julie Ritter on Nov. 26, 2010. They live in Sully, Iowa.



Jeffrey fs90 and **Barbara Hill** were blessed with a new arrival to their family on Saturday, Sep. 8, 2012. Lillia Christine was born at 9:29 p.m. in Peoria, Ill. Lillia has an older sister, Victoria, 11, and two older brothers, Joshua, 8, and Nathanael, 7. Barbara is a stay-at-home mom and Jeffrey is at home helping take

care of Joshua due to medical problems. The Hills currently reside in East Peoria, Ill.

After 15 years and many changes, **Melissa (Ayers) Bales g98** left the world of banking to begin work as an Assistant/Assistant Program Coordinator for the Fellowship Program at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. She lives with her husband, Ron in Greenwood, Ind.

Joe Boway g95, while living in Fort Wayne, served with the Liberian Children's Ministry. He was in Liberia from March 13 to April 19 attending the Easter Conference for the Southeastern Liberian Lutheran Churches. Joe was thrilled to be there on Easter Sunday when a number of children from the Lutheran schools were baptized.

Rona g96 and **Ty Bruce** are pleased to announce the birth of Lael Susanne who was born

Dec. 10, 2012. She weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19 in. long. She joins sister Amaela, 11 and brothers Clay, 8; Graham, 4; and Everett, 2. Rona is a stay-at-home mom, and her husband is a Fort Wayne fireman.

Dave Arnold g98 has published a book, *Pilgrims of the Alley*. His book is about how to live out an authentic faith in a world where we don't fit in and often find it challenging to live. It's a book about hope and about learning to see how God is at work in the alleys of life. For more information, contact him at dave@bridgecitychurch.com.

Kent g98 and **Angie (Schumacher) g99 Morton**, who have been serving as FEC Missionaries in Albania with their children, are home on furlough raising additional funds and are hoping to return to Albania



Jim Clauser received Award

Jim Clauser g62 received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the South Side High School Association last October. This award is given to alumni who have demonstrated exemplary life-long service through their careers and contributions to their community. Jim was honored primarily for his 36-year teaching career at R. Nelson Snider High School, Fort Wayne, Ind., and his work with the Indiana State Teachers Association and Association-Retired. Jim said he feels most humble to be included among the esteemed South Side graduates.

To read more about Clauser's award, go to <http://fw.taylor.edu/news/jim-clauser-receives-award>.

The New Girl



Have you enjoyed reading our print and online publications this year? You have been reading the work of our first intern, **Kathryn Fenstermacher cs13**, who has completed her Professional Writing practicum with us this semester. In addition to her work with the *FW Falcon*, *FW Vine*, and our website, she has published weekly updates on our new blog, *Fruit from the Vine*. Thank you, Kathryn, for your hard work this semester helping us *care*, *connect*, and *celebrate!*

To read our blog, please visit fruitfromthevine.wordpress.com.

in late summer or early fall. They have just announced they will be returning in a different role with an ECMI church plant initiative, but will still be connected to FEC. They will be working in the capital of Albania with the focus of planting a church that is sustainable and reproducible. They are happy to come and share their vision of their work in Albania at your church during Sunday school class, in a small group, or even over a cup of coffee at your favorite café. The Mortons can be reached at kentmorton@hotmail.com.

Jennifer Woolever g98 now works as the Administrative Assistant to the Financial Director at the Missionary Church Denominational Office in Fort Wayne. She works with another TUFW alumnus, **Jeremy Steup g00**, the Assistant Director of Finance.

Josh fs99 and Rebecca fs99 Boyd moved to Las Vegas where they started a trailblazing ministry, Fight Church (www.fightchurch.com), in the fall of 2010. The ministry is dedicated to those involved in the fastest growing sport, Mixed Martial Arts. Josh also serves as a full-time MMA Chaplain. Rebecca works in the Education Department at the Smith Center for Performing Arts. The Boyds have three children: Josiah, 14; Rachel, 12; and Joel, 11.

Jeff g00 and Shauna **Spence** are pleased to announce the birth of Jeffrey III, born Feb. 7, 2013. He arrived weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19.5 in. long. Jeffrey III joins Ava, 2. The Spences continue to serve with World Partners USA in Southeast Asia.

Steve g00 and Mandy (Wilson) g00 West welcomed Elias Reed on May 5, 2012. He joins siblings Lizzy, 8; Lily, 6; and Garrett, 3. Steve works for the family's life and health insurance business and Mandy is full-time mom and teacher. The Wests live in Logansport, Ind.



Charisa (Piety) g01 and Shannon **Childress** welcomed Zachary Thomas born on Feb. 21 at 10:32 a.m. in San Diego, Calif. Zachary Thomas weighed 6lbs. 11oz. and joins big brother Noah, 3.



FRUIT OF THE VINE

A BLOG FROM THE FORT WAYNE ALUMNI & FRIENDS RESOURCE CENTER



Nate g02 and **Grace (Vanover) g04 Patterson** welcomed Audra Grace Patterson on Dec. 29, 2012. She weighed 8 lbs. and was 19.5 in. long. Audra joins her older brother, John, 2. The Pattersons live in Mooresville, Ind., where they both serve in full-time ministry.



Chad g03 and **Ann (Spencer) g04 Heathco** have added a third child to their family. Henry Charles was born on March 9, 2013 at 3:29 p.m. in Plymouth, Ind. Henry weighed 8 lbs. and was 21.5 in. long. He joins Carter, 7, and Maylin, 4. Chad works as the CFO of K and M Machining in Cassopolis, Mich. and Ann stays at home as a full-time mom and teacher.

Ron Garner g03 recently became the pastor of Bethel Church, Bluffton, Ind. Ron and wife Tonya, a former TUFW secretary, have four children: Samuel, 10; Benjamin, 8; Abigail, 6, and Elizabeth, 4. Currently the Garners are asking God to sell their house in Bryan, Ohio.



Jenni (Edgar) g03 and **Sam Runkle** are the proud parents of another baby boy, born on Feb. 7 at 4:32 p.m. Benjamin "Ben" Clay Runkle weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21.5 in. long. He joins Will, 4; Joe, 3; and Eli, 2. The Runkles live just south of Fort Wayne in Hoagland, Ind.



Rob and **Joy (Stutzman) Martz g03**, along with Katie, 8; Abbie, 6; Hallie, 5; and Judah, 3, welcomed Jubilee Anne on Jan. 17, 2013. Jubilee weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 in. long.

Brooke (Wilson) g03 married Jeff **Hartman** on June 25, 2010 in Destin, Fla. Several TUFW alumni were able to attend: **Mike g03** and **Bethany g03 Collins**, **Doug** and **Elaine Willig g03**, **Rebecca Green Knight g99** and **Bethany Sprinkle fs03** (maid of honor). The Hartmans are living in Carmel, Ind., but are looking to serve with World Next Store for a year, living in four different countries around the world and using their photography and journalism skills to bring attention to social injustice.

Lori (Craw) Current g04 has recently been named President of HYPE (Helping Young Professionals Engage) in Wayne County (Richmond), Ind. Additionally, Lori serves as the Assistant Director of Admissions at Indiana University East in Richmond, Ind. Her husband, **Michael g05**, is a teacher. The Currents have two boys, David, 7, and Cohen, 4, and live in Richmond.

Jennifer Curtis fs04 recently moved to Indianapolis, where she is a preschool teacher at the Goddard School of Zionsville, Ind.

Transition to Teaching



It's never too late to pursue your dreams with Taylor University's Transition to Teaching program. This online graduate program, which originated on the Fort Wayne campus, grants Indiana state teaching licensure in elementary or secondary education. It allows individuals who hold a baccalaureate degree to earn their teaching license within 12 months. **Cassie (Warriner) Lemberg g08**, who markets the program, said the online format is a great fit for nontraditional students and includes hands-on interaction with local schools as well. For a deeper look into Transition to Teaching, visit <http://online.taylor.edu/transition-to-teaching/>.



Sophia Karis Krabach was born to **Jeff g04** and **Kim (Tabor) g04 Krabach** on March 13, 2013. Sophia weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and was almost 21 in. long. The Krabachs live in Kirkland, Wash., where Jeff does contract work for Microsoft as a Software Test Lead, and Kim is a full-time mom. Sophia joins Noah, 6.

Christy Wedge fs04 is now the UX Design Lead, a graphic designer, for Vail Resorts in Colorado. She lives in Denver.

April (Gridley) g05 and Jason **Ruggles** are the proud parents of Ian Alexander Ruggles born on Dec. 20, 2012 at 7:49 a.m. He weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 21 in. long. He joins big sister Gwen. The Ruggles live in Michigan.

Erica (Stratton) g05 and Jon **Key** are pleased to announce the birth of not just one baby, but two on Feb. 28, 2013. Levi Timothy

came first weighing 4 lbs. 14 oz. His twin, Benjamin John, weighed 4 lbs. 13 oz. The twins join their older brother Sawyer, 2. The Keys



live in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Shawn and **Emily (Miller) g05 La Rue** delivered Ava Elise La Rue on Feb. 1, 2013. She weighed 8 lbs 1 oz. and was 20.25 in. long. She joins Kyla, 4, and Micah, 1. The La Rues live in Auburn, Ind., where Shawn is a youth pastor and Emily is a stay-at-home Mom. Ava Elise is **Michael Mortensen g91's** niece.

The **Rev. Johnny Raber g05** was ordained March 17, 2013 at the LaGrange Missionary Church in LaGrange, Ind., where he serves as the Associate Pastor. He serves with his wife **Heather (Auer) Raber g04**, who is a full-time Mom to their three children, Dawson, 4; Rylan, 3; and Myla, 1.

Kylee Shirey g05 was one of two TUFW graduates to be recognized by the *Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly* as a recipient of the "40 Under 40" award. She was also nominated for the 2013 ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award given by

the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce. Shirey is an attorney with Barrett & McNagny LLP and has two children.



Michelle (Cooper) g05 and **Jeremy White** welcomed **Asher James White** on March 19. He weighed 4 lbs. 13.6 oz. and was 18.25 in. long. He joins **Micah**, 2. **Michelle** is an educational consultant working in research analysis and program development.

Tyler Binkley g06 was one of two TUFW graduates recognized by the *Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly* as a recipient of the "40 Under 40" award. He is a commercial real estate broker with NAI Harding Dahm in Fort Wayne. Binkley is married to Jennifer, and they have **Eden Joy**, who was born Nov. 15, 2011.

Benny Powell Sr. g06 is pastoring the Temple Baptist Church of Davenport,

Iowa. He is also a licensed addictions counselor. He and his wife **Linda** have four children and six grandchildren.

Matt g06 and **Michelle (Arvola) fs06 Sayles** welcomed **Bethany Anne** on Feb. 5, 2013 at 6:10 a.m. She weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 21 in. long. She joins **N. Elliot**, 5; **Toby**, 3; and **Isabella**, 2.



Jenni (Bathgate) g06 and **Aaron Wallace** welcome **Parker Aaron Wallace**, born Feb. 9, 2013 at Parkview North in Fort Wayne, Ind. He weighed 8 lbs. 13oz. and was 22 in. long. He joins older sisters, **Addie**, 3, and **Laini**, 2.

Adam g07 and his wife, **Esther Sharp** moved to Springdale, Ohio, just outside of Cincinnati, in October 2012 to become the Director of High School Ministry at the Vineyard Church. He loves his new ministry.

Courtney (Stoppenhagen) g07 Bilbrey received her Master of Social Work from Loyola University Chicago. She, **Jason g07**, and their daughter, **Norah**, live in Chicago.

Angelo Mante g08 received his Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta in May 2012. He and **Marie fs11**, owner of Solid Rock Tutoring, and their two girls, **Sophia**, 4, and **Naomi**, 2, are "loving life." They are serving at North Decatur United Methodist Congregation, where Angelo is an assistant pastor, but they will be moving to another congregation in June. Currently, Angelo is in the ordination process.



Jared g08 and **Elizabeth (VandenAvond) g07 Pomeroy** adopted a baby girl, **Elea Jane**, on Feb. 13, 2013. **Elea Jane** was born Aug. 14, 2012 at 8:10 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19 in. long. After her adoption, **Elea Jane**

Editor's note: More current News & Notes are added weekly on our new website: fw.taylor.edu. Alumni and friends can send for our review and posting, and then they can be read by former classmates and friends. Check out this new feature today!

was baptized the following day – Valentine's Day!

Emerson James Wells made his entrance into the world at 4:25 a.m. March 15, 2013. He weighed 7 lbs. 3.5 oz. and was 21 in. long. He is the son of **Phil g08** and **Beth Wells**, who live in Waupaka, Wis., where Phil is the Student Ministries Pastor at Faith Community Church.

Shawn Harrison g09

recently published a book, *Ministering to Gay Teenagers*. This short, practical book is for youth workers, leaders, and families. It can be purchased at www.simplyyouthministry.com. Shawn and his wife, Emily, live in St. Marys, Ohio, where Shawn is a youth pastor at Wayne St. UMC.



Nick and **Amber g09 Reynolds**, along with big sisters River, 4, and Caedence, 2, welcomed Tennyson Hayes on May 5, 2012. He weighed 6 lbs. 13oz. and was 19 in. long. Amber is a full-time mom, a piano teacher with Take Lessons, and works as a hostess at a local restaurant.



Bill Helmlinger g10 married Jennifer Marie Talbott on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012 at the Dupont Church of the Brethren in Dupont, Ohio. Those in the wedding from TUFW included **Joel Lange g10**, best man, and **Brent**

Salsbury g10, groomsman. Bill is the Youth Pastor at the church where the wedding took place.

Becky Blumenberg g11

recently started a new job as a reporter for the Decatur Daily Democrat, Decatur, Ind., where she has relocated. Her email is rebekah.blumenberg@gmail.com.

Find us on

facebook

Have you visited our Facebook page recently? As of the end of April, we have over 800 "Likes"! Our page, FW Alumni & Friends Resource Center, is a great way for alumni to connect and share updates. We frequently post news blurbs, words of encouragement, and photos from the good old college days. If you have not yet connected with us on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/FWAmniFriendsResourceCenter. Take a look around, and remember to "Like" us before you leave!

Fort Wayne Celebrates! 2013

Mark your calendars for **Sep. 13-14, 2013** when the classes of '63, '73, '88, and '03 are invited to the Fort Wayne campus for their 50th, 40th, 25th, and 10th class reunions, respectively. We are looking for volunteers from each class to help plan the celebrations, so contact Bill Gerig at bill_gerig@taylor.edu or call 260.744.8790 if you would like to get involved. We could not keep bringing hundreds of visitors back to campus each year without your help!

For more information, visit <http://fw.taylor.edu/news/class-of-1963-1973-1988-and-2003-reunions>.



Memorials:

Rev. Cyril Eicher g32, 100, passed away Jan. 18, 2013 in Mooresville, Ind., at the home of son **Larry g61** and **Marge fs68 Eicher**, where he had been living for the past five months. Cyril, known to thousands as “Dean Eicher,” served as professor and administrator for 28 years at Fort Wayne Bible College. Later he served on the Alumni Council and volunteered multiple days per week on campus and later at the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center, identifying pictures, documents, and events. He is listed on the Distinguished Campus Servants page on our website—<http://fw.taylor.edu>. In addition to his service at the Fort Wayne campus, Cyril pastored several churches in Fort Wayne, Cleveland, and Detroit.

Rena (DeMitchell) Smith g39, passed away in Laguna Woods, Calif. on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2012. Her husband, the **Rev. Wesley Smith g39**, preceded her in death.

Rev. Blanchard E. Amstutz g41, TUg46, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013 in Minneapolis. He was 92 and led a full life of service, working with the Billy Graham Association and pastoring churches for over 40 years. He is survived by his wife of over 65 years, Verna, three sons and their families, and many grand and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter. A memorial service was held on Jan. 24, 2013 at the First United Methodist Church in Ashland, Ky.

Violet (Egly) Ringenberg g45, 89, entered her Heavenly home on Monday, Feb. 4, 2013. Violet was an emerita

member of the Fort Wayne Alumni Council and the coordinator of the Fort Wayne Alumni Volunteer Prayer Team. She and **Gerald g45**, who survives her, were married 67 years and served in ministry during those years.

Eleanor Lyon-Nielsen g50, 87, passed away to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013. She had been a teacher for 30 years. Even after retirement she continued to educate in music and art. She also helped the alumni office design backdrops for multiple Alumni Banquets.

Jerrold E. Meyer, g60, 79, went to be with his Savior after having a heart attack on Dec. 2, 2013 in Maumee, Ohio. Mr. Meyer had been a treasure for more than three decades in several educational institutions, and he had also served as a pastor. Surviving him is his wife, Linda, of 38 years.

Fort Wayne Online Store



The Fort Wayne Online Store offers memorabilia that connects you to your campus: Fort Wayne wearables, building replicas, CDs, DVDs, and books. One of our most recent additions is *Ira Gerig+*, a compilation of Dr. Ira Gerig's recordings from his 1975 album, *Jesus Loves Me*. It also includes an audio interview where he shares part of his testimony in his own words. CDs cost only \$7, which includes shipping and handling. Proceeds from the store benefit the ongoing ministry of the Resource Center.

<http://fw.taylor.edu/store>



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