

Unity Christian High School

Faith, Excellence, Service



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The Tidings is a publication by Unity Christian High School's Development Office. Its purpose is to highlight some of the special things that occur within our school and to unify our Unity Community. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Please contact the Development Office if you would like to update your contact information, share an announcement, or if you know of someone who would like to receive *The Tidings*.

Email
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Write
Unity Christian Development Office
4542 48th Avenue
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Online
See *The Tidings* or share it electronically from our website:
<https://www.unitychristian.org/parent-resources/#bulletins>

Social Media
Connect with the daily happenings at Unity through our social media channels.

@UnityChristianHighSchool
 @Unity_Christian_High_School
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 @UCSaders

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Our Vision

Developing followers of Christ to be leaders.

Our Mission

Foster faith, increase knowledge, develop skills to serve God and others.

Our Motto

Educational Excellence in a Christian Community

Our Beliefs

- We believe God is Creator, Savior, and Lord.
- We believe the Bible is God's Infallible Word and is the full Gospel of Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration.
- We believe our children belong to God and are instructed to know Jesus as Lord and Savior, to enjoy Him, and to love Him and others.
- We believe a Christian world view will benefit a person in this life and in eternity and seeks to restore the Kingdom of God on earth.

Blessings & Needs in Growth

Jerry DeGroot, Principal/CEO

Unity Christian has experienced a steady increase in student enrollment over the past few years, and we anticipate this trend continuing. This has necessitated the need for expansion. The primary objective for this expansion is to accommodate the larger student population. The upgrades and expansion of the educational facilities will enhance the overall learning environment and bolster programs to support student needs.

A comprehensive analysis of enrollment trends in the Eastern Ottawa County Schools over the past five years reveals a consistent upward trajectory. This data is critical for projecting future student numbers and determining the scale of the required expansion. The facility utilization at our current capacity is proving to be challenging as we assess the needs of all students socially, academically, and spiritually. This analysis informs decisions about which specific facilities require expansion versus renovation.

The *Sequence I* expansion includes additional general education classrooms, increasing the size of our current industrial arts space, adding a science classroom, upgrading the computer-aided design and engineering space, and providing room for a blossoming robotics program. The crosswalk connecting the educational wings will provide safer traffic flow and add a second elevator to assist students with physical limitations. The new greenspaces outside these buildings will allow for more student gatherings, increasing the amount of socialization that happens at high school. All areas will be integrated with modern educational technology fostering a tech-savvy learning environment.

Sequence I is well underway and if construction conditions continue to be favorable, students will be walking these halls and using these classrooms in August of 2024. Current funding is at \$9.5 million of an anticipated total cost of \$12.7 million. A little over 800 individuals have made commitments to *Sequence I* and over half of those individuals who made a one-time gift have been contacted to make a 3-year commitment to finish the funding for *Sequence I*. Please consider how you can support this project.

While planning *Sequence II*, we evaluated the long-term benefits of the expansion considering factors such as: increasing student enrollment, improving academic performance, enhancing fine arts, and emphasizing the importance of flexible spaces that can adapt to evolving educational needs.

Unity Christian is committed to providing a well-rounded education that nurtures students spiritually, academically, and physically. Recognizing the importance of fine arts and our lack of facilities and space for these programs, *Sequence II* focuses on enriching these areas to align with the schools' mission. We humbly ask for our community's support and prayers as we construct a building that offers our students a holistic education.

With the desired *Sequence II* start date of June 2024, the estimated project completion is projected to be fall/winter of 2025. As plans are solidified, join us in lifting the plans in front of our God - moving forward in God's plans and design!

In Christ,

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

EXPANDING OUR MISSION

SEQUENCE II DESIGN & FLEXIBILITY

The proposed *Sequence II* expansion aims to create an environment that fosters creativity, physical well-being, and spiritual growth. Through careful consideration of curriculum integration and architectural design, this project seeks to enhance the overall educational experience for students in a Christ-centered environment.



The fine arts facility includes a large performance stage that supports performances like student plays, choir, band, and orchestra concerts. These activities are currently being held at area churches. These spaces are rented at an additional cost, and we are confined to the church's schedule for rehearsals and performances. Other spaces connected to the stage will provide studios for dressing & makeup, vital storage, and much-needed equipment used in fine arts. The multi-use space will consider acoustics, lighting, sound, and other factors ensuring this multi-purpose space is able to accommodate various artistic mediums and events.

In line with our value of multiuse spaces, the fine arts space will also be used daily for the increasing number of students incorporating physical education into their schedules. The flexibility within this expansion will allow for maximum use through a diverse array of activities. This new area will serve as a platform for students to showcase their talents while reinforcing Christian values.

Through many discussions with teachers, our trustees, and architects, we have a high degree of confidence that *Sequence II* addresses our needs in both fine arts and physical education while allowing for flexible student use. This project emphasizes the importance of addressing the current and future needs of our growing student population.

We are filled with gratitude for a community that allows us to continue providing a faith-infused education to our young people. With a vision to deepen and enrich the spiritual foundation of future generations, we are embarking on an ambitious project – one we cannot achieve without you. To turn this vision into a reality, we humbly seek your support. Your generous contributions will enable us to construct an educational center that focuses on enhancing programs through a curriculum designed to foster an atmosphere that cultivates strong Christian values.



By investing in the expansion of our school, you are sowing the seeds of faith, love, and wisdom that will bear fruit for years to come. Together, let us empower the leaders of tomorrow, grounded in Christ, guiding them to a future filled with purpose, and unwavering faith. Join us in praying how God will guide these plans, touch the hearts of those who support us financially, and create the pathway for the completion of “Expanding our Mission.”

-Jerry DeGroot

The Unity Christian High School Trustees **urgently** request your involvement. A decision to continue with Sequence II must be made by March 2024.



GROWING ENROLLMENT AT UNITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Academic Year	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27
Enrollment	688	700	750*	800*	840*

**predicted based on current EOCS K-12 enrollment and a growing number of non-EOCS transfers (EOCS – Eastern Ottawa Christian Schools)*

THE URGENT ‘WHY’ OF FUNDING SEQUENCE I & II

- Educational programs and methods are changing and supporting our students is a must! We know there are enough people within our community to support the school and the facility expansion, but it will take everyone. We ask you to consider pledging 1% of your income for the next 5 years!
- To sustain faith-infused, biblically-based education well into the future, we need to share the responsibility. Hoping for the largest donors to cover 80-85% of the cost of the facilities is not a sustainable model. The alternative of raising tuition will drive us toward being a school for the financial elite and we cannot do that!
- Capping enrollment is simply not something we want to do! However, this outcome will be difficult to avoid if the funding for Sequence II is not raised in time. Growth is coming whether we are ready for it or not. This growth is coming primarily from within our feeder system and running out of space would be a community problem without a ‘good solution.’
- To ensure Sequence II can begin this summer, we need 3,000-5,000 donors to contribute \$500.00 to \$1000.00 per year for 5 years. Can you be one of those donors?

The blessings and responsibilities of sustaining Christian education in our community belong to those individuals who believe in it! We need ALL who believe in Christian education to contribute to it. For the sake of future students, for the sake of current students, for the sake of parents and grandparents, for the sake of our community, for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Will you join us?

Brad DeKock, Jon Lanning, John Dice, Julie Lenters, Thea Gabrielse, Ed DeYoung, & Teresa Kooyer

Give Today



Pledge Today



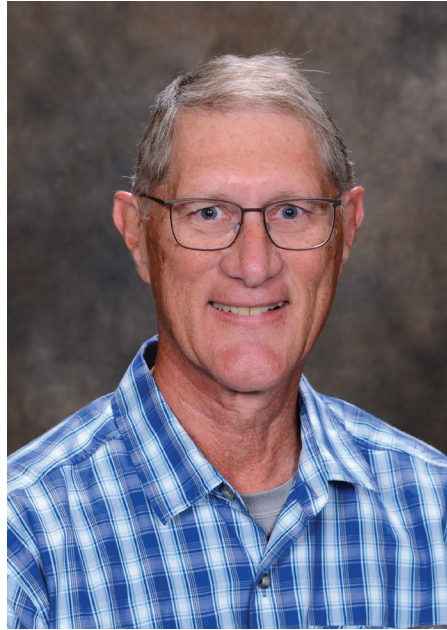
TODO EN EL TIEMPO DE DIOS

Mr. Scott Wesseldyke

In the fall of 1985, a new Spanish teacher arrived at Unity Christian High School. Scott Wesseldyke came to Unity after spending 8 years discerning where God's path was leading him. Now he looks back at the 39 years he has devoted to Unity Christian High School and can see God's hand through the highs and lows of life. He recollects how different the day to day of teaching was. "We had hand crank ditto machines. We used reel-to-reel tapes for listening to the Spanish lessons. There were no computers in the classrooms. Our biggest concern for a while was if a student had a beeper or not. I had to take a class on using slide projectors, film strips, and overhead projectors to graduate with my degree. But kids were still kids. They had problems and they found solutions."

**"But kids
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Scott's journey began not far from Hudsonville. He attended Zeeland Christian Elementary School and Holland Christian High School. He then graduated



from Calvin College and finally ended up at The University of Michigan for a master's degree. Scott credits his upbringing for planting the seeds to his desire to be a Christian School teacher. But the road to teaching Spanish at Unity Christian High School was not always straightforward.

Scott went to college planning to graduate with a major in physical education and a minor in biology. Everything went according to plan until he had to take calculus for his minor. When this class proved to be a barrier, he knew he had to pivot. While his physical education classes had gone well, he needed to find a new minor.

During his freshman year Scott took an accelerated Spanish program to complete his foreign language requirements quickly. His Spanish professor pulled him aside and let him know that he was quite gifted at Spanish and could receive a minor by only taking a few more classes. Still needing to fill his minor requirements, Scott took his professor's advice. Despite earning a Spanish minor, he never planned to use this skill

set. He had his sights firmly set on teaching P.E.

Between his sophomore and junior years of college Scott's Youth Pastor, Bob Grussing, told him he needed to go on a summer mission trip to Mexico. Scott resisted, saying he needed to stay and earn enough money to cover his tuition for the following year. Scott eventually acquiesced and signed up for the trip. Through fundraising, he covered the mission trip's cost and his upcoming tuition. While in Mexico, he sharpened his Spanish language skills – which he still did not intend to use post-college.

When Scott graduated, he and his new wife, Judy, cast a wide net. As a civil engineer, Judy could get a job anywhere there was a decently sized city. She told Scott to apply for teaching jobs anywhere that met those criteria, and she would follow. This proved easier said than done. Scott applied for a slew of jobs across the country and consistently was the runner up for positions.

Eventually, Scott and his family moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan so he could begin graduate school. After a bumpy move, Scott was led to a position teaching P.E. at Emerson School for the Academically Gifted, a private but non-religious school. Here he eventually began teaching Spanish as well as physical education.

Over the next 4 years, Scott applied for several jobs in West Michigan, but the Lord closed the door each time. Scott grew frustrated. It hurt to feel shut out of a community that he had grown up in, student taught in, and wanted to raise his family in.

Finally, in the spring of 1985, he saw a job opening at Unity for a Spanish teacher. Desiring to have

his young daughter enrolled in Christian school in the coming years, he applied. He got an interview, and then a second, and to his surprise, was finally offered the job.

During his time at Unity, Scott has experienced exciting high points with his students. He had the honor of coaching the men's bowling team that won Unity's first men's state title and he took many groups of students on trips to Mexico. His other coaching experiences were in Varsity Soccer, Freshman Soccer, and Tennis. He also experienced personal low moments too. During Scott's time at Unity, Judy lost a battle with cancer. Despite this being an unimaginably challenging time personally, Scott was so grateful for the Unity community during this time. He felt supported as he navigated cancer treatment with Judy and was cared for during her eventual passing.

Scott witnessed the transition from Unity being a small country school to a 700+ student school in a new – and still expanding – campus. When he looks back at his career at Unity, Scott feels immensely blessed. "I can

remember a number of times over the years when I would look around at the teaching staff and think, 'Wow! I am part of the BEST teaching team there is.'"

Looking back at his life, Scott can see how God was shaping and preparing him for every next step in his journey even when he did not understand why. He was guided into Spanish when that was not part of his plan. He spent time being prepared for his role at Unity while the Lord told him to 'wait' instead of opening doors to other jobs in West Michigan. The Lord blessed him with children with his wife Judy even when he was yet to meet his wonderful wife, Linda. Linda has supported him in his many activities at Unity, such as his years of coaching Freshman Soccer and helping with many student activities. He has been blessed to pour into students the way many people have poured into his own life.

Scott remarked, "I have learned to hold on to Mark 11:22, 'Jesús contestó: "Tengan fe en Dios."' Through all the many days at Unity, I know that I need to simply have faith in God. There

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are so many stories that I can tell about my experiences with students, highs and lows, but I know that God has our lives in his hands."

As Scott finishes his final year of teaching, he contemplates what the next step is in God's path for his life. We know that God has something wonderful in store for him despite how much he will miss the energy and excitement of working with teenagers every day.

¡Bendiciones y gracias, Sr. Wesseldyke!



ALUMNI & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kim (Smith '07) and Greg Parlmer officially adopted Layne Evelyn Marie Parlmer (born 1/5/22) on 1/5/23. Layne joins biological big brother Lowen, aged 2.5. The Parlmers are so thankful for the gift of being able to raise these siblings together!

Leah (Van't Hof '10) and James Los welcomed their daughter, Elise Jean, into the world on July 21, 2023. Congratulations to the growing Los Family!

Kelsey VanBemden ('12) is excited to announce that she will be married to Eddy Rodas on May 18, 2024. Blessings on your new journey as husband and wife!

Becky (Miedema '03) and **Chris ('03) Plantinga** welcomed their second son, Lawson Emet, into their family on September 20, 2023. Lawson joins his big brother Noah, aged 6.

Lauren (Hoffman '10) and **Joshua ('10) Jongsma** gave birth to their daughter, Ellison Marie Jongsma, on 10/13/2022. Welcome to the Blue Crew, little Ellison!

Gina (Crumb '15) and Eric Rickert were joined by baby girl, Emmy Mae, on September 26, 2023. Blessings to the newest member of your family!

Teacher, **Ryan Hoogerheide**, and his wife, Erika,



welcomed son, Asa Ryan Hoogerheide, into the world at 2:56 AM on December 19, 2023. We are so happy that mother and baby both came through the birth healthy and well!

Class of 1958

65th Class Reunion

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Unity Christian High School

5900 48th Ave, Hudsonville MI 49426

11:00AM

Punch Bowl

"Get-Reacquainted-Time"

12:00PM

Lunch in Unity's Food Court

Dress Casual

Come when you can, leave when you must

We cannot wait to celebrate this milestone in the 'new to us' campus! 65 years – how did we get here so fast?

God is Good!

-Marian Poel

Please contact Carolyn De Vries (616-457-9824) or Phyllis Steffen (616-895-7176) if you did not receive a "Save the Date" in December.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW STUDENT NIGHTS

We invite prospective students and their parents to tour Unity! Spend time previewing our facilities, activities, and the life of a Unity student. You will have the opportunity to attend teacher presentations by subject area. Held on January 22, 24, 29, February 5, 7, and 12.

WINTERFEST

Winterfest begins January 29 and runs for 2 weeks. Students enjoy dress up days, games during break & lunch, half-time competitions at sporting events, and a lip sync competition. Winterfest culminates with the Winter Dance on February 10 at The Pinnacle Center.

EOCS BAND CONCERT

At Fair Haven Church on February 8 at 7pm bands from Allendale Christian, Borculo Christian, Hudsonville Christian, Jenison Christian, Lamont Christian, and Unity Christian High School will come together for a concert to remember!

WINTER BREAK

There will be a long weekend running from February 16 through 19. We hope our students and teachers enjoy a well deserved break!

WINTER PLAY

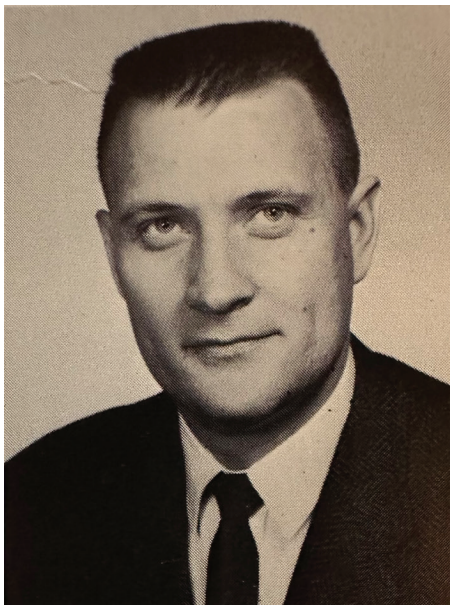
Unity is proud to present its production of Little Women directed by Dan Sanders. Performances will be held on February 29, March 1, and 2. Keep an eye out for tickets to go on sale!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents, join us on March 4, 7, or 8 for a time to connect with teachers about your students' progress and success this semester. Watch for sign up details in the Home Bulletin.

THROUGH THE GENERATIONS:

with Mr. Marv Klyn



Marvin "Marv" Klyn was a teacher at Unity from 1966 until 1995. During his 29 years teaching high school history, Marv became a beloved fixture at Unity. He was known for 'Mr. Klyn's famous lip sync performance,' his beloved sense of humor, and his ability to make learning history fun.

As a history teacher, Marv often heard students complain, "History is boring." He took these complaints seriously and recalled something his own history teacher had taught him - that "history is His Story." He made efforts to ensure that history was interesting to learn because it was not just random stories from the past but rather the plan that God had set for the world.

This was demonstrated through the newspapers Marv displayed on his classroom walls. Over the years he had built quite the collection of newspaper headlines covering major world events. Early in his teaching career he decided to display them to his classroom. He went down to

Gemmen's and purchased the supplies to build 27 frames. He rotated his collection, so students saw new headlines each year.

Long before Marv was a teacher at Unity Christian High School or even a resident of West Michigan, his story began in the farmlands of southern Iowa.

FIFIELD, IOWA **1933 - 1942**

Born on July 3, 1933, Marvin and his twin brother Marion entered the world during the Great Depression. The depression greatly impacted the trajectory of their lives. Marv vaguely recalls fireside chats with President Roosevelt, the New Deal era, and the changing tide of cultural norms post roaring twenties.

Life for Marv began on 'Klyn Farm' as 1 of, eventually, 12 children. He and his siblings attended Whitebreast School - named for a local legend about a bear with a white spot on its chest that was killed in a local creek by a Native American Chief. Marv calls the school "proverbial" in every sense. They walked one and a half miles to school each way, there was only one school room, a belfry on the roof, and a wood burning stove in the middle of the room.

His Dutch heritage was a part of Marv's life right from the beginning. His parents would speak Dutch when they did not want their kids to know what they were discussing. Phrases like *kleinabeechie*, small kids, and *stoute jongens*, naughty boys, were used often in their home.

By the late 50's the only home that Marv had known ceased to exist. The government purchased the farm ahead of the creation of Red Rock Reservoir when the Des Moines River was dammed.

MONROE, IOWA **1942-1947**

As a result, the Klyn family moved to Monroe, Iowa. Marv's father was able to buy a 120-160-acre farm due to low interest rates caused by the Farm Bill.

In Monroe, the Klyn children attended their first Christian school, Pella Christian Grade School. This building was two stories, had multiple classrooms, and there were buses used to collect children, like the Klyn's, who lived far away from the school.

Sadly, during the family's time in Monroe, Marv's mother passed away due to complications from surgery.

OTLEY, IOWA **1948-1951**

Marv's family moved again, this time to Otley, Iowa. Their new farm was smaller; they had fewer family members to house as the older siblings left the nest in addition to the loss of Mrs. Klyn. Marv recalls that the reason for this move was not entirely clear but always guessed that his older brothers encouraged his dad to move to a smaller farm now that he had less help and was beginning to age.

In Otley, the Klyn children now lived even closer to the Christian school system in Pella. Marv has particularly strong memories of Marion and him beginning Pella Christian High School. The school had a tradition of letting

the seniors initiate the freshman. The Klyn Twins were tasked with asking a set of female twins on a date and then running down a long molasses and feather covered sheet while upperclassmen jeered them on. Despite a 'sticky' beginning, Marv greatly enjoyed his high school experience.

COLLEGE YEARS 1951-1956

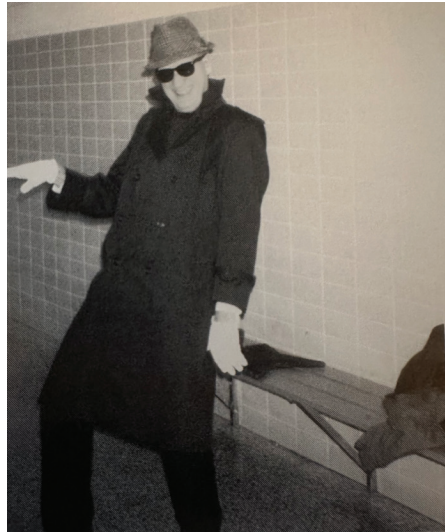
In the fall of 1951, Marv went off to Calvin College. He credits attending Calvin to the events that occurred in the year leading up to his enrollment. Rev. Van Houten, who had already influenced his father on the importance of Christian day school, encouraged Marv and Marion to attend Calvin. Additionally, the twins received letters from Henry De Wit, the head of finance at Calvin, personally encouraging them to attend. Finally, their father took them to visit Calvin's campus.

The trip from Otley to Grand Rapids was a long one. Many of the freeways that now connect the cities had yet to be built. A trip that now takes 7 hours, took well over 11 hours on local highways. Marv remembers driving through Hudsonville on that trip and being 'wowed' at the many lanes of traffic he encountered.

In the summer of 1953, Marv's life took a change. Rather than being an Iowa boy who returned home from Calvin each summer, he truly became a Michigander. That summer he decided to begin taking summer classes to earn his teaching degree. His mother's dream of her children becoming teachers inspired him to commit to that goal.

Shortly after, Marv left a job at Keeler Brass in 1954 to work at Besteman Produce. When Marv

met with Mart Besteman for an interview, he shared that he was a student at Calvin College. Upon hearing this, Mart hired him on the spot and told him to bring in his class schedule so they could give him shifts around his classes. Marv credits his time at Besteman Produce with teaching him about the importance of hard work.



Marv student taught in the fall of 1955, but it was not his first time in front of a classroom. He had taught previously for one year in Prairie City, Iowa. A small school needed someone to fill a gap for just one academic year to keep them from closing. But that school in Prairie City had been a two-classroom school – vastly different from the Ottawa Hills (then one of the wealthier areas in Grand Rapids) school he was in now. Marv felt very blessed to have had an amazing mentor teacher, Mrs. Goudzwaard.

"I set out with a purpose and a goal. With encouragement from many, and hard work, along with God's help, I accomplished it. I am thankful and grateful for the training I received in my home, for the years of Christian education at Pella Christian Grade School,

Pella Christian High, and Calvin College. Thankful, too, for the many experiences I had in all those years."

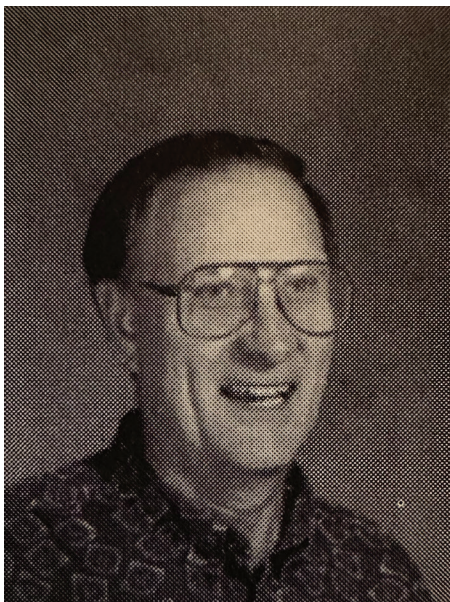
THE ARMY 1956-1958

Marv had been granted a 2S deferment that allowed him to finish his education. After graduation, he kept his promise to the Marion County Draft Board. He reported back to that board as soon as he graduated Calvin and entered the military on July 19, 1956. He began training at Fort Chaffe.

Marv feels that he was a sheltered person before he entered the army. He had primarily been exposed to people who lived and believed the same way he did. He is so grateful for the strong Christian influences of his upbringing, but he also believes his time in the army was valuable. He learned to be in community with people who were different from him while maintaining his values.

After finishing his tour in Korea, Marv got a job teaching 6th grade at Grandville Christian while on inactive duty. His family had mixed feelings about this choice. Some of his relatives felt that he should return to his hometown to teach.

For many years after his tour in Korea, Marv lived in the upstairs apartment of a woman named Annie. Annie and her daughters loved to scheme to set Marv up on dates. Many of these attempts were unsuccessful but they persisted. Their plans finally came to fruition when they invited Marv to church one Sunday evening and introduced him to Phyllis. Marv remembers, "The plan was completed. I met Phyllis. I will never forget the night. The rest is history."



UNITY YEARS 1966-1995

In the spring of 1966, a Grandville Christian coworker informed Marv that Unity Christian High School was searching for a new history teacher. He dismissed the idea of this position. He was thoroughly enjoying teaching middle school and had not felt any disquiet about his current position. But even the mere suggestion of this job spun nervous thoughts in his mind, "Would I be any good? Would I be a success?"

A few days later, Marv was enjoying a Saturday when he felt a 'nudge.' The job at Unity came to mind again and he felt curious about the opportunity. "Why not?" seemed to echo in his mind. He immediately called Mr. Vander Vliet, the principal of Unity, and put his name in the ring for the history teacher position.

Marv interviewed with both Mr. Vander Vliet and the board but discovered that he was one of 15 well-qualified applicants. He figured he had little chance of being offered such a competitive position.

God had other plans though. Several days later, Marv received news that he was being offered the contract. He and Phyllis prayed for God's direction and ultimately felt that the 'nudge' that Marv had received was the Lord's leading. Marv happily accepted the contract, not yet knowing this was where he would teach for the remainder of his career.

Over the years, Marv recalls many funny and memorable things happening at Unity. On a particularly memorable day, as 5th hour began, Marv and his class heard a loud boom. He looked out into the hallway and saw pieces of a bathroom stall covering the floor!



The 1996 Silhouette was dedicated to Mr. Klyn in honor of his retirement. The Silhouette recounts that during his time at Unity, Marv taught over 5,100 students, honed his unique sense of humor, and planted roots in the Hudsonville community!

Marv couldn't quit Unity completely. While the 94-95 academic year was his last as a

teacher, Mr. Postma convinced Marv to continue running the bookstore and to occasionally substitute teach.

We thank Marv for sharing his wonderful life story with us. His story is a testament to God's guiding hand. We are grateful for the years he spent investing in and educating our students and pray for blessings over his continuing legacy through his friends and family members.

**"Great is Thy
faithfulness!
Great is Thy
faithfulness!
Morning by
morning new
mercies I see;
All I have
needed Thy
hand hath
provided.
Great is Thy
faithfulness,
Lord, unto
me!"**



STORE to STORE



revive was blessed by Gemmen's Hardware last spring with a large supply of store shelving units. Because this gondola shelving matches what revive already has, we were able to expand several departments such as toys, hardware, linens, and sporting goods. We also added a completely new double-sided aisle of shelves to the store floor. All this extra space has allowed us to get many more items out for sale, which in turn has increased our revenue significantly! More space means more to shop! We even had enough shelving to reorganize parts of our back room for the volunteers that work there.

Now that we've made good use of all we could, we have extra shelving units for sale. If you or someone you know is interested in sturdy metal gondola shelving with pegboard backing and adjustable shelves, let us know! We have it listed on craigslist if you'd like more information. We also have 5' - 7' sheets of spare pegboard for sale, also listed on craigslist. Call the store to find out more: 616-662-3375.

A big thank you to Gemmen's for their generosity in giving us this shelving and allowing us to improve our store and to provide other businesses and organizations with the opportunity to do the same! Another big shoutout to Inontime in Zeeland for the space to store the shelving as we worked to implement it! Your flexibility and generosity made this project possible for us! It is so good when a business community comes together to support one another!



A Family Affair

We call those who volunteer at **revive**, “family.” And there’s a good reason for that. Maybe you wonder what makes volunteering at **revive** so special? Well, we’d like to give you a little glimpse....

It’s gathering with 20-30 other volunteers in the morning before opening to pray over the day and each other, as well as give thanks for all the blessings we see in this place.

It’s meeting other widows who know what it’s like and invite you to play cards or come over for coffee.

Sharing laughs over coffee and baked goods in the breakroom.

Greeting hundreds of customers a day with a smile and an offer of help.

Unloading someone’s car and listening to them explain what makes their donation so special.

Consoling a man who used to faithfully shop each week with his wife, buying things for the grandkids and just enjoying each other’s company, but now cancer has caused him to shop alone.

Looking at the piles of donations in your department and knowing that it will sell and benefit our schools if you can get it out there.

Shaking your head as you chase dust bunnies with your broom after just sweeping the whole store.

Meeting people you know as they shop and stopping for a minute to catch up.

Watching student volunteer groups come in with the energy it takes to get the extra jobs done.

Posing proudly for a picture with the EOCS principals as you anticipate blessing each student with the fruits of your labor.

Cleaning up an item, choosing a fair price, and laughing as it ends up in someone’s cart before you even go home that day.

Hearing stories of shoppers who find just the right thing they needed at just the right time, or who find something full of sentimental value from a childhood memory.

Celebrating with a fellow volunteer over the birth of a new grandbaby.

Crying with a fellow volunteer over what cancer takes away from a family.

Exclaiming over the record-breaking sales numbers – again! – and feeling the satisfaction of knowing you had something to do with that.

And that’s not even all the ways volunteering at this store blesses others and brings blessings into our own lives. What a wonderful “family” to be a part of! God is truly using this place - and the people in it - to bring His light and love into a dark and hurting world. Want to be a part of that family? We’d love to have you.



HAPPY New Year 2024

New Year, New Plans?

If this time of year has you thinking about ways you could enrich your days and add meaning to your list of activities, **revive** has a place for you! The number of shoppers and donors making **revive** a part of their routine has only been increasing, which means there's plenty to do around the store to keep things running smoothly. Even more so now as we say goodbye to a few volunteer "snowbirds" for the season. If you'd like to see if **revive** is a good place for you, just stop by to talk with a manager, take a tour, and hear about all the different ways people find this to be a great place to be every day! You can also find information and a volunteer form on our website: www.reviveresale.org.

Come join the fun!



Address

3675 Baldwin St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
616-662-3375
revive@unitychristian.org

Shopping Hours

M, W, F: 10 am – 5 pm
T, Th: 10 am – 7 pm
Sat: 10 am – 3 pm

Donation Hours

M-F: 10 am - 4 pm
Sat: 10 am - 12 pm







Unity Christian High School

5900 48th Avenue

Phone: 616-669-1820

www.unitychristian.org

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“developing followers of Christ to be leaders”