



# ALUMNI TIMES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, January 9, 9:00 a.m.  
Alumni & Friends Coffee
- Friday, January 16, 4:00 p.m.  
Basketball Homecoming
- Friday, February 20, 9:00 a.m.  
Alumni & Friends Coffee

**We love to see our alumni at CCS events!**

### SAVE THE DATE!

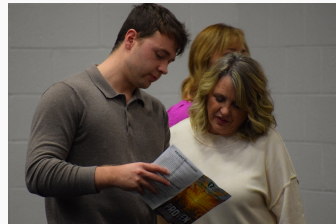
Alumni & Friends Weekend  
September 18-19, 2026

## Stewardship Dinner

**FROM DR. JOHN WALKER, SUPERINTENDENT**



Central Christian's Annual Stewardship Dinner has become a tradition unlike any other. Fellowship, food, music, engaging speakers, worship, and giving, all in one place, under one roof. We are so grateful for all who came out, nearly 350 individuals, to support the mission of CCS by providing funding to support our school's operations. Our financial goal for the evening was \$125,000, and the Lord in His kindness EXCEEDED our goal! Praise the Lord with me! We would love to continue to offer an excellent, Christ-centered, biblical worldview education to more and more families, so thank you for your prayers, your promotion, and your provision to fulfill our mission of exalting the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support!



Guest speaker Dan Meers



# 2025 Alumna of the Year Lori (Friesen '79) Willems



## FROM LORI WILLEMS

I was blessed to be born in a Bible-believing home. My parents were very committed to bringing up their children in a godly manner. The four of us children all attended public school, but my parents deeply desired that when we reached high school, they would make every effort to get us into a Christian school. One great thing was that we lived right across the street from Central Christian High School. So, when it came time for my oldest sister to go to high school, they started working on how they could make that happen.

Finances were tight, but they knew that was what the Lord wanted them to do. My mom took a job at Central Christian as a cook to make that a reality, and my sister was able to attend. Mom remained in that job while all four of us attended and later graduated from CCHS.

I remember my first day at Central saying to my family, "Wow, I feel like I am actually somebody." I never had that feeling at public school. I cherished my four years at Central. I truly consider those years a gift from the Lord.

I met my husband, Russ, when he came to CCHS his junior year. We went on to get married in 1981. We have three grown children, their spouses, and also 14 grandchildren that we are so blessed by. All three of our children graduated from Christian school. We currently have three grandchildren at CCS and one who graduated from CCS in 2024. The rest are either homeschooled or at another Christian school, which we are so grateful for.

Central gave me a strong spiritual foundation in a nurturing environment where I learned the Word, had good academics, and met lifelong friends. I am truly thankful for this school, and I've been blessed to remain a part of it in a small way.



## 2025 Community Choice Winner

For the third year in a row, Central Christian School has been voted Hutchinson Community's Top Private School, and we are so grateful. What an incredible blessing to see how God is working through our school and that His work is being recognized within our community! We give all glory to God, but we must also give a heartfelt thank you to our faculty and staff who serve with excellence, faith, and love.



# Alumni & Friends Weekend 2025

It is amazing to have counted at least 100 CCS alumni who participated in events throughout the weekend! Thank you to everyone who came back to our alma mater!



We encourage you to begin reaching out to former classmates now for next year's CCS Alumni & Friends Weekend to be held on September 18–19, 2026. For lists of class members and their contact information, please email [alumni@cougarsccs.com](mailto:alumni@cougarsccs.com).

# Class Reunions 2025



The Class of 2000 celebrated a quarter of a century since graduation! They met Friday evening for the game and a pulled pork meal. They were also able to take a tour of the new early education school. Thank you, Class of 2000, for returning to CCS to celebrate this milestone!

L to R: Arianna Valdois, Carol Sue (Tanksley) Hanger, Riley Swanson, Erika Headings, Sarah (Jackson) Keller, Josh Naiman



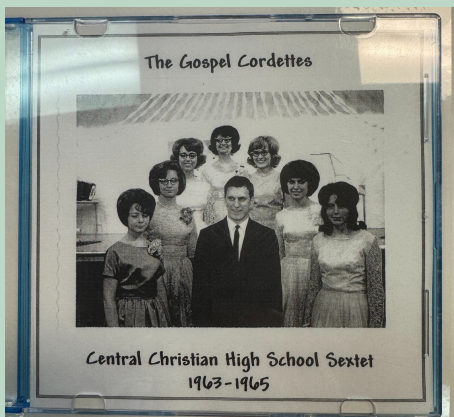
The Class of 1975 enjoyed each other so much, they gathered together twice! The class attended the game Friday and toured the school after the game. They had chili from the chili feed over lunch on Saturday and then went to dinner Saturday night. Thank you, Class of 1975, for sharing your weekend with us as you celebrated half a century of graduating from CCS together.

Front row: Jean Ann (Miller) Schrock, Debbie (Hamm) Edens, Elaine (Rhoads) Lovercamp, Nancy (Epp) Belknap  
Back row: Wilbur Miller, Tim Kuhns, Rick Neufeldt, Jay Bontrager, Duane Nisly, Jerry Dean, Steve Miller



Front row: Sharon (Gaughenbaugh) Hoppe, Dawna Hamm-Walsh, Fern (Doerksen) Froese, Esther (Yutzy) Rohla, Dorothy (Wichert) Nightingale, Evonne (Dirks) Packard, Sharon (Buller) DeBoer  
Back row: Richard Parsons, Loren Friesen, Bob Friesen, Lloyd Yoder, Lynn Jost, Melvin Regier

The Class of 1965 celebrated 60 years since graduation! They gathered in the CCS library on Saturday and had chili from the chili feed for lunch. This class had a music group in high school, so they rekindled their love of music and sang together. They had such a fun time; they also ate dinner together on Saturday. Thank you, Class of 1965, for returning to CCS to celebrate six decades.



## Grandparents Day



Grandparents are loved and celebrated at CCS! We had four alumni who watched their grandchildren perform during Grandparents Day on September 26.

L to R: Carrie (Engel '76) Robinson, Brenda (Unruh '80) Green, Gary Miller ('70), Rita (Yutzy '76) Eldridge

# FAMILY NEWS

Please keep us updated by emailing [alumni@cougarsccs.com](mailto:alumni@cougarsccs.com).

## CONGRATULATIONS

- Zane Allen ('19) and Amber Pate were married on June 20, 2024.
- Noah Starkey ('15) and Gillian Brandt were married on April 26, 2025.
- Ivy Mead ('21) and Ryan Stucky were married on June 21, 2025.
- Acacia Clobes ('22) and Joseph Collins were married on August 9, 2025.
- Benjamin Krehbiel ('15) and Azzia Denham were married on October 12, 2025.
- Bonnie (Schroeder '99) Bailey was named as November's Provider of the Month by the Reno County Child Care Task Force. Bonnie is a teacher in the Jay & Connie Schrock Family Early Education School.

## BIRTHS

- Ellie (Stubbs '16) and Jesse Todd, a son, Theo Dillon, on July 5, 2025
- Daniel ('07) and Shanna (Belton '08) Casey, a daughter, Coraline Ruth, on July 29, 2025
- Laura (Thompson '13) and Andrew Goering, a daughter, Charlotte (Lottie) Kay, on July 31, 2025
- Erica (Wilt '11) and Adam York, a daughter, Lily Charlyne, on August 1, 2025
- Julianne (Duree '17) and Jonny Orpin, a daughter, Cecilia Grace, on August 19, 2025
- Summer (Casey '18) and Joel McGrew, a daughter, Georgia Elaine, on August 21, 2025
- Alyssa (Vester '10) and David Dorris, a daughter, Leyah Aveley, on September 21, 2025
- Kyle ('10) and Mallory Thompson, a daughter, Ava Wren, on October 18, 2025
- Payton ('14) and Kirsten Miller, a son, Fletcher Eric, on October 28, 2025

## DEATHS

- Timothy Abernathy ('79) of Wichita, Kansas, on October 21, 2024
- Paul Unrau ('68) of McPherson, Kansas, on August 22, 2025
- Dorothy (Van Sickle '57) Emslie, of San Antonio, Texas, on September 12, 2025
- William L. "Bill" Baker, former secondary faculty member, of Hutchinson, Kansas, on September 13, 2025
- Charles Rempel ('68) of Edmond, Oklahoma, on October 7, 2025

## CCS Legacy Scholarship

We are excited to announce the establishment of the Central Christian School Legacy Scholarship, a new initiative made possible through the generosity of alumni who believe in supporting future generations of CCS students! Preference for this scholarship fund will be granted to students who have parents or grandparents who are alumni. This is the first alumni scholarship fund of its kind at Central, and we are thrilled with the direction it is headed. We are pleased to share that through generous giving; we have raised \$10,000 toward scholarships. More information will come regarding awarding these scholarships. This scholarship fund will always be open for donations if giving is on your heart. To all who have contributed so far, thank you for giving so generously to this fund. Your commitment helps us open doors for students and strengthens the legacy of our alumni family.

## ALUMNI & FRIENDS COFFEE

You're invited to join us for coffee and fellowship each month from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the CCS conference room. You can enter the building on the west side. The coffee is great, and the people are even better. Feel free to bring your friends!

COFFEE DATES TO SAVE

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

# CCS Alumnae Return as Cheer Coaches



Shana Walter, Adrienne Walter, Andrea Bailey, Bonnie Bailey  
Photo credit: Jodi Lewis, Yellow Overalls Photography

Bonnie (Schroeder '99) Bailey and Shana (Corcoran '04) Walter are both CCS alums who are married to alumni of CCS. They are back at the school coaching the high school cheerleaders, including their own daughters. This cheer feature is in an interview style format, interviewed by Alumni Director Cassi Johnston.

Bonnie graduated from Central in 1999 and married Ben Bailey ('99) in 2001. They have five children. Their older three graduated in 2020, 2023, and 2024, while the youngest two still attend Central. Their oldest married in 2024. Bonnie and Ben will be grandparents this coming spring and are looking forward to another wedding in May! Bonnie works in the early education school (formerly Central Christian Preschool and Child Care Center). Her hobbies include teaching three-year-olds Sunday school, cross-stitching, watching Nebraska volleyball, and going to her daughter's volleyball and basketball games.

Shana graduated from CCS in 2004 and married Jay Walter ('94) in 2008. They have three daughters. Shana has several part-time jobs but spends most of her time homeschooling her two daughters who aren't at CCS yet. Her hobbies include serving at church, sipping coffee, and snuggling her beloved golden doodle, Biscuit.

## FROM BONNIE (SCHROEDER '99) BAILEY AND SHANA (CORCORAN '04) WALTER

*CJ: How many years did you cheer at Central Christian? What sparked your interest in being a cheerleader? Who were your influences?*

BB: I cheered for five years, two in junior high and three in high school. My interest came from watching Central's cheerleaders as I went to my older siblings' games. Some of my influences were Tian (Miller '94) Pyle, Denise (Prutow '93) Ryherd, and Stacy (Tatro '93) Unruh.

SW: I cheered at Central Christian for three years. I was homeschooled until 9<sup>th</sup> grade and was devastated when the school's administrator wouldn't let me try out before my freshman year. At that time, the cheerleaders had to try out in front of the student body, and students got to vote. (Yikes!) He said since I hadn't gone to school there yet, they wouldn't know my character enough to vote properly. Cheer was everything to me, and I think God used that experience to help me hold a looser grip on this earthly thing I held too tightly. I wanted to be a cheerleader for as long as I can remember. My mom was the cheer captain at Burrton, and I remember trying her skirts on and learning old cheers with her when I was little. In middle school, I cheered for the homeschool basketball team, and Mom was my coach. Bonnie was also an inspiration. I remember going to a CCS basketball game in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and just being wowed by her long hair, big smile, and awesome jumps! Her whole squad was amazing!

*CJ: What drew you back to coaching at CCS? You have both coached before, correct?*

BB: I coached junior high cheerleading at CCS after cheering at Tabor College. One of the things that interested me in high school was coaching. Sue (Kroeker '85) Penner was coaching both junior high and high school cheerleading at the time, and she wanted to cut back. I tried it and coached for a year before I got married.

SW: Well, Tony Urwiller, Central Christian's current athletic director, has asked me virtually every year if I would be the cheer coach. I had been coaching competitive gymnastics for the last 17 years and was not ready to give that up the previous times he asked, but I had stepped away from that last year. When Adrienne said she would go out for cheer, that's when I said yes. I am SO glad I did. I quickly discovered cheer is still my happy place, and I am totally in my element when I'm with the squad.

(continued on the next page)

*CJ: What memories do you have of your own cheer squad at CCS? Did you have other interests in high school? What are you anticipating with this current squad?*

BB: Some of the memories I have are of cheer camp bringing our squad together and trying out to be an All-American cheerleader and making it. Georgeann Miller was our coach, and she was a big influence in my walk with Christ. She continually pointed us to Christ with her gentle attitude. I played volleyball, basketball, and ran track, and I also went to youth group. I'm hoping this squad will be an encouragement to the student body, not only on the football field or basketball court but during the school day, and they'll point others to Christ. I am looking forward to doing a halftime routine.

SW: Hah! This story was actually brought up to me a few weeks ago. I was doing a series of back handsprings during a timeout. On my final one, as soon as I threw my head back, I could see the referee standing there, but there was no stopping it. I clobbered him with my feet, and we both ended up on the ground! Also, I can still hear my coach saying, "Shine for Jesus!" before every routine and game. As alluded to before, cheer was my passion. I tried track for one year, but it just didn't do it for me. I think my main goal for the squad this year is just to be a squad the school can be proud of. I want to attack everything we do in cheer with excellence and joy!

*CJ: Any fun facts about cheerleading at CCS?*

BB: A fun fact is we did black light routines for basketball homecoming for the years of '96-'99. We had a whole black light pep rally.

*CJ: You both met your husbands through CCS, and they are graduates as well. Tell me your stories.*

SW: I was a CCS student while Jay was teaching at CCS . . . but the romance obviously didn't start there. Three years after graduation, I moved back from Virginia. He was the football coach, I was cheer coach, and through the encouragement of many staff members, we each slowly opened to the idea of going out. When he finally asked, it was the best first date I had ever been on, and the rest is history!

BB: Ben's first year at Central was his 8th grade year. We started becoming friends around basketball homecoming of our freshman year and began dating at the end of the year. We graduated together and got married two years out of high school after dating for five years.

*CJ: Thank you both for your love for CCS and for Jesus. Thank you for encouraging the squad to reflect Him.*



Pictured above: Bonnie in high school, Bonnie with daughter Andrea wearing Bonnie's uniform, Shana in high school, Shana's daughter Adrienne wearing Shana's uniform



CENTRAL  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL  
ALUMNI

---

CCS Alumni Association  
Central Christian School  
1910 E. 30th Ave.  
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](mailto:alumni@cougarsccs.com).

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

## CCS Fall Wrap-Up

### FROM CASSI JOHNSTON, ALUMNI DIRECTOR



Cassi (Eldridge '06) Johnston,  
CCS Alumni Director

CCS is full of life and activity right now! It was wonderful to count at least 100 alumni during Alumni & Friends Weekend! There was a football game Friday evening, and classes met together for reunions. PTF provided free desserts, the concessions stand served an amazing pulled pork meal, and the decades of CCS graduates took photos together. The football game was short because the Cougars made a habit of 45'ing every team they played during all of regulation season! The cheerleaders set aside their usual cheer uniforms and instead wore uniforms from decades past. I am biased, but my daughter wearing my mom's uniform from the 70's was my favorite. My mom, Rita (Yutzy '76) Eldridge, and her mom sewed their uniforms, and it held up for five decades, only to be worn again. Saturday brought double the number of craft fair vendors we had last year. Several booths were run by current students and our own alumni. We even ran out of chili during the chili feed!

The Annual Stewardship Dinner was held on November 15. The goal was to raise \$125,000, and that goal was exceeded! It was another great time to see alumni and to gather to praise the Lord for His faithfulness. In between Alumni & Friends Weekend and the Stewardship Dinner was a new-to-CCS event called Fall Fest. Central's Parent Teacher Fellowship put together a fundraising opportunity to support the high school choir as they head to Branson in April to open for The Haygoods! The night included food trucks, games, local music groups, and our own CCS choir. It went over so well that it will likely become an annual gathering. Color Green's bass player, Doug Yoder, is an alumnus of CCS. He graduated in 1970. His classmate Pat (Fager '70) Muntz played keyboard with her group, Right Track Gospel Band. It was so good to have support from talented alumni musicians!



Doug Yoder ('70) and Pat (Fager '70) Muntz