

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

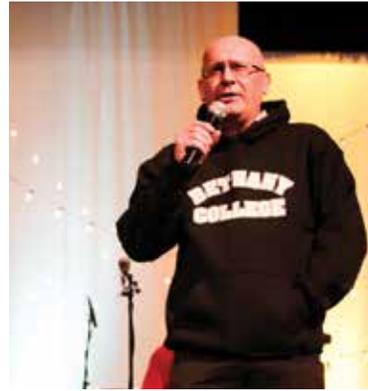
*Are we preparing students for life and ministry in the 21st century?*

Exams, essay research, writing, and completing assignments are all part of the life of a student. Doing these often seems like an end in itself; however, these activities and the evaluation that an instructor provides are part of the bigger picture of a student's life at Bethany College. In fact, it may feel like the academic work is disconnected, but these activities are part of the broader character development goals Bethany has for its students.

As an organization, Bethany College also undergoes regular evaluation. How do you evaluate a place like this? It is done through self-reflection and by asking those who care about us. It is comprised of reviewing these three components:

- What is our **Mission**? In other words, what are we called to as an organization?
- Do the **Activities** of the organization support the **Mission** we are called to?
- Do the **Outcomes and Results** of our **Activities** reflect the **Mission** we are called to in today's context? In our regular review of these, we look at many aspects to see whether our mission, activities, and outcomes are aligned. We have a very competent and motivated team who review each of our courses to see what students are expected to learn through them and to ensure that it connects with our mission. This is done in all areas of the College: Academics, Service Learning, Student Life, and all other supporting activities. When I began my role here, I was struck by how intentional Bethany College is about connecting all that is done at the school. That said, looking at things ourselves provides only a limited picture. We recognize the need

to have others who will "speak the truth to us in love." In that light, we have a body of peer Bible Colleges throughout North America who do this for us and are helping us



undergo an external reflection next year. This quality assurance program is provided by ABHE (Association for Biblical Higher Education), an organization that understands our context and our

"business" and who wholeheartedly desires Bethany College to thrive.

In this edition of *Connection* we report some of the outcomes that Bethany College is seeking to have in our students' lives. The results of the alumni survey conducted last year are encouraging and have provided us with assurance that the mission, activities, and outcomes of the College are, in fact, aligned. We are very thankful for this!

However, we cannot only celebrate last season's success. We also need to look forward! To that end, Gil Dueck, our Academic Dean, has led our academic review to ensure the same alignment in that department. In the following pages we outline some changes that this intensive self-reflection has led us to.

*Howie Wall, President*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CLOSING WEEKEND:

*Spring Concert:* 2:30 pm April 20  
Knox United Church

*Commencement:* 2:30 pm April 21  
Bethany Place, Hepburn

### 2013 SPRING TOUR:

*Bethany Players:* Alberta/BC  
April 23-May 7

### BETHANY SUMMER CAMPS:

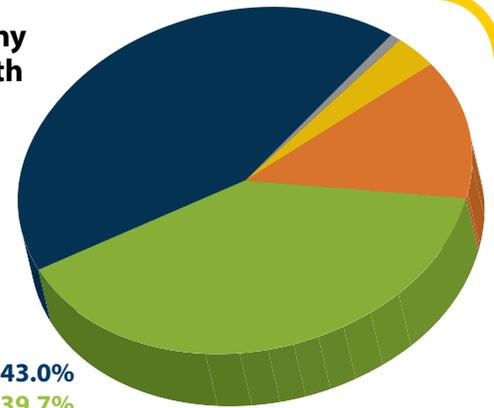
*ELITE Volleyball:* July 8-12  
*ATTACK Volleyball:* July 15-19  
*ON THE PITCH Soccer:* July 15-19  
*ABOVE THE RIM Basketball:* July 22-26

### OPENING WEEK:

*FALL THEATRE:* Oct 31 - Nov 2

Details at [www.bethany.sk.ca](http://www.bethany.sk.ca)

**I believe a Bethany education is worth the time and money it costs.**



Strongly Agree	43.0%
Agree	39.7%
Unsure	13.2%
Disagree	3.3%
Strongly Disagree	0.8%

## Finding it hard to pay for education?

### Did you know....

**Starting 2012**, the Government of Saskatchewan issues a \$500/yr scholarship for up to four years when you attend Bethany College! This is eligible for any student who has graduated with a Grade 12 Diploma from Saskatchewan.

**Upon completion** of a program at Bethany College, you can receive a tuition rebate of up to \$20,000 provided that you file a Saskatchewan income tax return! This is eligible for out-of-province students if you stay to work in Saskatchewan.

## TRANSITIONS

We are pleased to welcome Rick Guenther to the Bethany Team as Director of Advancement (a maternity leave replacement for Joy Lise Nokinsky).

Rick has local roots, working and farming in the area, having served in local school and municipal leadership and serving on the Leadership Council of Hepburn MB



Church. Rick's work experience includes years of customer service in the retail sector and in marketing a regional start-up enterprise.

Rick's continued prayer for his life is to "integrate every aspect of living into mission" for Kingdom purposes. Coming to Bethany

College, where intentional discipleship is a core dynamic, strongly resonates with his life passion to demonstrate hope and renewal to those who seek the wholeness that Jesus offers.

*Howie Wall, President*



# April 30<sup>th</sup>

is the **new fiscal year-end** for Bethany College. We are asking for your help to meet our financial obligations prior to that date. Thank you!

## SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM CHANGES

Over the past four years we have been engaged in a comprehensive reevaluation to make clear connections between our big-picture goals and the individual elements of our program. We summarize those goals with three important words: **discipleship, community, and transformation.**

The following is an outline of our new initiatives:

**1. Diploma of Biblical Studies** – our cornerstone program has been reshaped to help students discover and understand core Christian convictions while integrating those convictions with questions of personal identity and vocation. We have introduced a Personal Discernment Process for each diploma graduate to provide guidance for the student's next steps.

**2. Concentrations** – we have added six 12-credit concentrations that can be taken within our four-year program. These concentrations can be taken in combination with our existing majors, creating far greater flexibility (upwards of 30 combinations are possible!)

**3. Church Leadership Major** – this major is designed to foster a love for the church while broadening students' understanding and practice of leadership. In addition to entry-level pastoral ministry, this prepares students for the wide range of leadership needs and opportunities within the contemporary church.

**4. Majors** – each of our three majors (Church Leadership, Ministry Arts and Intercultural Studies) have been revised with the goal of greater integration with other elements of the Bethany program.

**5. Restorative Justice** – our newest program initiative is anchored by Stephen Siemens, a Bethany graduate and current Restorative Justice Coordinator for MCC Canada. This program teaches practical ways of connecting Bethany's theological vision with the concrete challenges of victim-offender relationships and the wider criminal justice system.

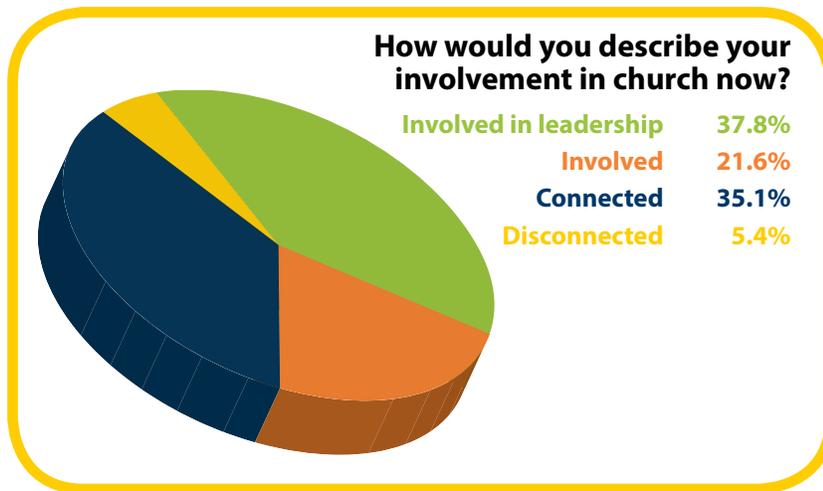
**6. Partnership Development Plan** – recognizing that Bethany can do many things with excellence and that there is even greater opportunity in becoming partners with others! We are building relationships with key partners that will add options and value for our students. In this way, Bethany is committed to being a contributor within our wider Canadian Mennonite Brethren community.

***"I am proud, both of the overall quality of our program and with the commitment I have seen among our faculty and staff as they bring these changes to life among our students!"***

*Gil Dueck, Academic Dean*



## ENGAGED AND READY TO SERVE!



Bethany College alumni stand out in noticeable contrast to other youth in Canada when it comes to being involved in church. In a survey of recent alumni, 94.5% of respondents indicated that they were connected to or involved in their local church, with nearly 38% of those involved in leadership! In contrast, in the new study *Hemorrhaging Faith* commissioned by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and written by Bethany alumnus James Penner and associates, only 23% of young adults raised in a Christian setting were considered “engagers,” defined as “those who still affiliate with a Christian tradition.”

In fact, of those who were most familiar with Bethany’s program, 92% agreed that their time here prepared them to serve in the church.

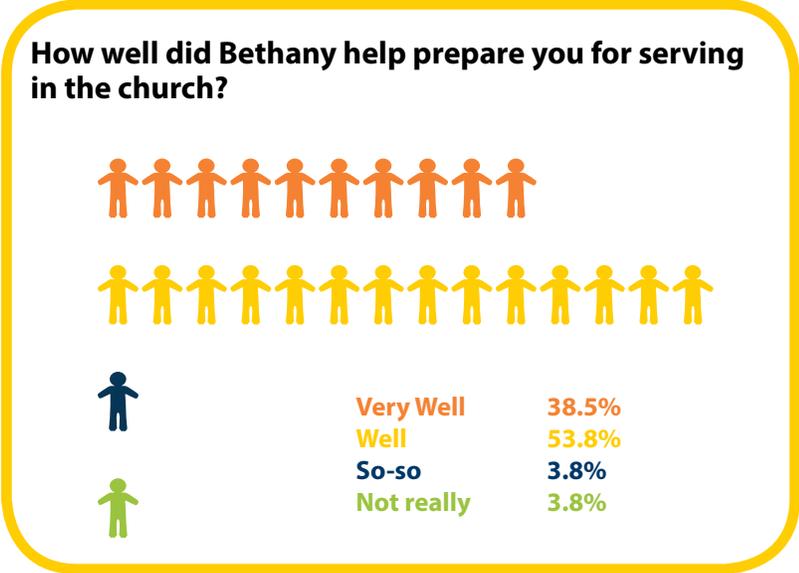
Although the majority of respondents were alumni, the survey was also sent to people with a variety of other connections to Bethany, both

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past and present. Overall, strong affirmation for Bethany College was received. For instance, 92% stated that they would recommend the

school to potential students, and 96% agreed that Bethany’s mission of “*nurturing disciples and training leaders to serve*” is on target.

Furthermore, in response to the question of whether a Bethany education is worth the time and cost to attend, respondents highly affirmed the value of their education here.



Eighty-four percent stated that it was worth their time and money!

This comes as great news for the College in light of having undertaken a review of these questions along with a push to focus and realign programs and academic studies accordingly. Of Bethany’s three distinctives, “*Community*” stands out as a strong memory for alumni. The majority of respondents cited “*relationships with other students*” and “*time in dorm*” as their strongest image or memory of their time here.

Four out of five respondents felt confident to explain all three of Bethany’s unique markers - **Discipleship, Community, Transformation** – to potential students. This indicates a strong alignment with what the College has set out to do with the message that the students take home with them. One former student remembered “*the feeling of being poured into and developed by the faculty, staff, and community*” and

another affirmed Bethany as having provided their “*theological formation for ministry.*”

Rick Schellenberg, an instructor at the College who was responsible for conducting the survey said, “*As far as survey results go, these numbers hit it out of the park!*” He’s right. These numbers appear to reflect strong

affirmation for Bethany’s distinctives and strategic direction among its supporters.

So in a context of Canadian youth distancing themselves from their churches, Bethany stands as a strong beacon in the face of that reality, and stands as a great investment by the Christian community to prepare young men and women for engagement and leadership in local churches and communities.

*Rick Guenther, Director of Advancement*

# YIELD

## YOUTH ADVANCE 2013

This year's annual Youth Advance led by Dean of Men Dave Carey and a team of dedicated students, transformed Bethany College on the weekend of Feb 1 to 3 into a welcoming place for youth to be shaped by God through interactions with college students and participation in various activities. Activities included hanging out in the dorms with students, playing games in the Games Room, watching a dinner theatre production, engaging in worship, attending workshops, cheering at Hockey Night in Hepburn, playing dodgeball, and more! As this year's youth entered the school, they saw a remodelled student centre featuring shops and businesses in a town called "Yieldsburg." The various shops were designed to draw the youth to embrace the theme of "Yield," highlighted by Jesus' words found in Matthew 16, "If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose

it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." In the last session of the weekend, Phil Wiebe, a Bethany alumnus and this year's featured speaker, shared the pain of having his eight-month-old son die of SIDS. The silence in the room was striking as the audience heard the story of Phil's painful journey. Phil stated that God does not will death, but God does welcome those who love Him into His arms. He said, "My little boy is in heaven right now, making lots of people laugh. So the exciting thing is that death is not the end, death is a new beginning. We are here on earth to reconnect with God and bring people closer to Him." In order to do that, he challenged everyone to yield their life to God. "Remember," he said, "the only thing you can take to heaven with you is people!"

Joy Lise Nokinsky, Director of Advancement



Left to Right: Main Speaker & Alumnus: Phil Wiebe • Students & Youth Advancers • House Band Leading worship • Photos by: Jeff Williams & Erin Bader

# FROM PRAYER GRATITUDE GROWS

Prayer is a spiritual discipline where one's heart and mind join to meet with God. In prayer we often ask God for health, needs to be met, blessings for ourselves and others, for understanding, perspective or wisdom... the list goes on. As we pray, we often experience a change in our attitude. God will gently open our eyes to see all that He has provided for us, even what He is providing right now. From this, a spirit of gratitude can grow. When we search for God in prayer and allow Him to permeate our

hearts and minds, we can begin to understand what God wants us to know and do. One thing God wants us to know – regardless of our status in life or whether we have little or a lot – is that we are His cherished children. We all come together as one group on the holy ground of God's generous and abundant heart toward us. In prayer, we can begin to believe that God will work abundantly through us no matter what! When prayer takes us deeper into an ever growing understanding of God's goodness, a spirit of gratitude

grows inside of us. Gratitude comes out of the realization that who we are and what we possess are gifts to be used and shared. Gratitude frees us from the ties of duty and prepares us to offer ourselves and our resources freely and fully for the work of the Kingdom. At Bethany College we are grateful for the many friends who give of their time and finances. My prayer is that you would continue to seek God's guidance for where and how you can serve.

Cliff Brandes, Alumni and Donor Relations

### SOME OF YOU ENJOY DONATING TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS!

Here are a few priorities:

- |  |          |  |          |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| 1. Replacing old boilers with more energy efficient models | \$50,000 | 3. Guest Room washroom renovations                             | \$10,000 |
| 2. Board Room and Student Development office renovations   | \$20,000 | 4. North Court (Women's Residence) windows, roof and bathrooms | \$40,000 |

**Nurturing Disciples and Training Leaders to Serve**