

Alumni News

Saint Philip Catholic Central High School

Vol. 10, No. 1

2010

Ready for the Future

Congratulations
to the St. Philip
High School
**Graduating
Class of 2010.**

Together, they
were offered
\$720,000.00
in college
scholarships and
counting!



Reaching our Goals



The \$500,000.00 Challenge was met and on April 12, 2010 the BCACS community celebrated the Ground Breaking Ceremony at St. Philip High School. Pictured are The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, together with St. Philip sophomores (left to right), Taylor Wyatt-Knowlton, Keegan Kalkowski, Lauren Ritsema, and Kylie Hadlich.

Rooted in Faith

Alumni's Guide to Who, What, Where, When & Why

TAKE A LOOK WITH YOUR CALENDAR BOOK

14th Annual Alumni Homecoming Reunion

All alumni and friends are invited Saturday, October 2, 2010, to the 14th Annual Alumni Homecoming Reunion. Invitations for this full day of nostalgia, food and fun will be sent mid-summer.

The day begins at 1:30 p.m. at C. W. Post Field for Big RED Football. During the game, the Athletic Hall of Fame inductees will be

honored.

The festivities continue at St. Philip Church, where we will celebrate the 4:30 p.m. mass to honor all STP alumni. The **Class of 1960** will be recognized as they mark their 50 year reunion.

Festivities conclude with an hors d'oeuvres and cocktail reception held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sheila Guerra Gymnasium.

The 2010 Distinguished Alumni will be honored and the school will be opened for all alumni to explore. Reconnect and reminisce while wandering the hallways and classrooms of your alma mater.

Don't miss a moment of the fun. Mark your calendars today!

All Proceeds Support BCACS Scholarships

Sheila Guerra Memorial Golf Outing

Sunday, September 12, 2010

Allwyn Downs

Contact Vicky Groat
vgroat@bcacs.org or 269.963-4503

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASSES OF



1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950,
1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980,
1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 & 2005



CELEBRATE YOUR MILESTONE YEAR HOMECOMING WEEKEND

SUMMER IN THE CITY 5K RUN AND 1-MILE FUN RUN/WALK

Join us Saturday, August 14, 2010 for the Summer in the City 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk at Bailey Park. The 1-Mile run will start at 9 a.m., with the 5K starting at 9:30 a.m.

The course is within Bailey Park on paved paths and does not cross any

roads.

There is an early bird special for those registering before June 14th. The cost will be \$22 for ages 13 and up and \$12 for ages 12 and under. After June 14th, the cost will be \$25 for ages 13 and up, and \$15 for ages 12 and under. The 1-Mile Fun

Run is \$12 before June 14 and \$15 after, for all ages. BCACS staff will receive a discounted rate. All entry fees include a t-shirt.

Awards will be given for age groups and split by male and female. There will be a water station and refreshments after the race.

ATTENTION:

The **Classes of 1950, 1955, 1960, and 1970** will be celebrating their milestone reunions during the 14th Annual Alumni Homecoming Reunion

ATTENTION:

The **Classes of 1975, 1985 and 2000** will be celebrating their milestone reunions during the STP Alumni Summer Block Party

AUGUST 13, 2010

STP Alumni Summer Block Party

Watch bcacs.org,
the STP Alumni Facebook page
at "saintphilipalumni", and your
mailbox for more details

20th Annual Michael J. Hume BIG RED OPEN

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010
RIVERSIDE COUNTRY CLUB

Contact Mary Rabbitt for more
information or to register
mrabbitt@bcacs.org
269.963.4503

PLANNING A REUNION?
HAVE STP ALUMNI NEWS TO
SHARE?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Alumni News
269.963.4771
stpalumni@bcacs.org



So Happy Together

Margaret "Peg" (Skaggs) Hogan, Class of 1942, and **John Hogan, Class of 1939,** celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 16, 2009.

* Class Reunions * Engagements * Weddings * Anniversaries * Babies * Special Moments * Holiday Parties

STP ALUMNI SMILES AND MILESTONES

Tiger Cubs



Madelyn Gallagher (left) is the daughter of **Chris Gallagher, Class of 1997,** and Ann Gallagher.

Isabelle Formsma (center) is the daughter of **Blake Formsma, Class of 1999,** and Melissa Formsma.

Braden Westphal (right) is the son of **Lisa (Buckley) Westphal, Class of 1998,** and Jason Westphal.



Wedding Bell Reunions for Alumni Brothers



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT SMITH OF LOON LAKE PHOTOGRAPHY

Chris Rabbitt, Class of 2000, together with other STP Alumni at his wedding on December 19, 2009. Chris married Kyra Lower at St. Philip Church with a reception at Yarrow Golf Resort.

James Rabbitt, Class of 1998, together with other STP Alumni at his wedding on July 18, 2009. James married Heather O'Leary in Evanston, Illinois.



Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

ST. JOSEPH AND ST. PHILIP SCHOOLS: DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

JIM PEARL, CLASS OF 1978

Our family, for 84 years and counting, has been invested as students, parents, and a teacher of St. Philip and St. Joseph Catholic Schools.

The matriarch of our family, Nancy Pearl, taught Latin and French for fourteen years at St. Philip High School. She had a passion for teaching and a hope that the knowledge she shared would lead her students along a path of lifelong learning and fulfillment.

It is always heartwarming to hear stories from former students and parents who so fondly regarded Mrs. Pearl.

Over the years, the pastors at St. Jerome, St. Joseph and St. Philip have all given their support to the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools. That support has afforded families throughout the area the opportunity to educate their children in a faith-filled and values-driven learning environment. Our grati-

tude for their willingness to share their gifts of knowledge, faith, and compassion is boundless. These shepherds of souls have enabled many generations of children to be educated at the feet of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

In addition to out-

*Why
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started in the 1950's?
Because we believe that the
dividends are both priceless
and eternal.*

standing academics and a faith-based environment, athletics play an important role in the Catholic school community. Over the course of twenty five years, three members of our family – from two generations – had the opportunity to learn valuable lessons about discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. There were the countless hours spent practicing at Walsh Field, the exhilaration of running through the tunnel at C.W. Post Field,

and the quiet moments of prayer at the Grotto after the games. Each of these instilled that sense of pride that we still feel today as we watch new generations of Tiger athletes excel on the field and on the court.

As parents of two fifth-grade daughters at St. Joseph Elementary, we receive dividends every day as we see the faith, morals, and values we talk about and model in our home being reinforced by the teachers and administrators at the school. Our daughters begin and end the school day with prayer. They are strengthened for their journey through life by learning from God's word, coming to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and by sharing in the rich traditions of our Catholic faith.

Our daughters, Emily and Hannah, will be part of the St. Philip graduating class of 2017.

Throughout their twelve years of Catholic education, we will have invested a great deal of our time, talent, and treasure in the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools.

Why do we continue the investment the Pearl Family started in the 1950's? Because we believe that the dividends are both priceless and eternal.



HOLY CONSULTATIONS: During a recent visit, The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, together with BCACS Pastoral Administrator, Reverend Robert Creagan, advise the St. Philip's L.E.A.D. team.

HAPPY TO BE HOME AND READY FOR ROME

When I returned to Battle Creek, I was delighted to visit the Sacred Heart Chapel at St. Philip High School. Located at the entrance of the high school, this chapel welcomes all visitors and serves as a reminder of the reason for our schools. I immediately decided to celebrate mass with each individual class on a weekly basis. This opportunity to celebrate with small groups gives a deeper meaning to this sacrament and develops a closer connection between our students and priests. I encourage all students, staff, parents and alumni to set aside time during the school day for prayer and reflection in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel.

This year, it is my honor and privilege to lead our Class of 2010 on their pilgrimage to Rome. We depart on June 25 and return on July 2. Some of the places we will visit include an overnight in Assisi to see the Basilica of St. Clare, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Holy Stairs, the Basilica of St. Mary Major, Peter's Tomb, the Coliseum and the Roman Forum. We are blessed that during our visit to Rome we will celebrate Holy Mass at the Vatican on two occasions. Please remember our students, staff and parents who are participating in this special pilgrimage in your prayers.

I am blessed to be called to serve in Battle Creek. Many of you know that I was ordained at St. Philip in 1988.

Returning was a "homecoming." I am proud of our schools and our parishes and thank each and every alumnus for their support which makes all things possible.

--The Very Reverend Robert Creagan, Pastoral Administrator

Jim Pearl,
BCACS
Foundation
Trustee, and
Interim BCACS
School Board
President,
addresses
parents at the
Annual State
of the Schools
meeting



KINGS & QUEENS OF THE COURT

A breakout year in both girls and boys basketball brings STP hardwood glory

Coach Mark Beckley, Class of 1964, led the boys' basketball team to an unprecedented finish of 23-3. They won the district title before advancing to the Class D Regional Finals.

Beckley expressed his pride in the achievements of the Varsity Basketball Team, sharing, "The highlights of the season were winning the League Championship and defeating Wyoming Tri-Unity Christian in double overtime."

St. Philip senior Chris Riley was selected to the Class D All-

State Team by the Associated Press.

St. Philip graduates seven from their team: Thomas Bauman, Max Dechant, Todd Lassen, Jordon Pontoni, Conor Reilly, Chris Riley and Ben Tanoff. Although facing a rebuilding year in 2010-2011, Coach Beckley is encouraged.

"The Junior Varsity posted a 14-6 season this year and demonstrated a lot of ability and grit."

Beckley also acknowledged the dedication and talent of the assistant coaches, **Pat Frost, Class of 1970**, and **Ed Bauman, Class of 1970**.

2009-2010 Boys' Basketball Team sets school record for most victories in a season.

2009-2010 Girls' Basketball Team earns Regional Title.

Coach Frank Niemann and the girls' squad ended their 2010 campaign with league, district and regional championships to go with a school record 25-1 finish.

Seniors Lena Oliver and Becca Freybler each scored over 1000 points during their careers, setting a record for this achievement in one year. Oliver broke the school scoring record set by **Allyson Doyle, Class of 1997**. Freybler broke the career record for three-point shots with 135 shots. The previous record was held by **Katie Staib, Class of 1999**, at 112. Freybler also broke the single game three-

point record with seven total in the game against Colon this year. The previous record of five was held by a number of players.

St. Philip seniors Oliver and Freybler were selected to the Class D All-State Team by the Associated Press. Five seniors will graduate this year leaving big shoes to fill. Coach Niemann remains confident that members of our strong JV team are ready to move up and compete in the 2010-2011 season.



(Above) 2009-2010 State Champion Volleyball team.
(Right) The team united before the final game.

St. Philip Volleyball Continues Its Legacy



Head Coach Vicky Groat, Class of 1985, is very proud of the accomplishments of her team this year, especially winning the state championship, a record 15th! Graduating six seniors, Amanda Bolles, Riley Buschke, Carly Dickerson, Lena Oliver, Megan Toth and Arikka Wright, Coach Groat expressed, "Next year's team is fairly young, but our goals remain the same--continuing the legacy of STP Volleyball." Coach Groat shared her appreciation for the tireless coaching support from assistants, **Amy (Nelson) Schaub, Class of 1990**, **Sara (Parker) Jones, Class of 1990**, and Angela Williams.

Volleyball Champs Sign College Letters

TOTH SIGNS WITH AQUINAS COLLEGE: "St. Philip volleyball has been a great stepping stone for me as I enter my first year of college. The dedication and passion required to be successful in the past four years have taught me the importance of time management, commitment, and love of the game. As I look back on my four years of varsity St. Philip volleyball, it is clear that there could be no greater preparation for my next four years at Aquinas College."



--- Megan Toth

OLIVER SIGNS WITH WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY: "It is a privilege to follow in the footsteps of so many talented and dedicated St. Philip Volleyball team members. Playing at St. Philip is great. Beyond the rigor of the athletic and academic programs, St. Phil is a close-knit family environment. I will always regard my time and being a part of the tradition at St. Philip as instrumental in helping me to mature as an adult and open doors for my future. I look forward to carrying forward all that I have gained from St. Phil as I begin my collegiate career at Western Michigan University." --- Lena Oliver



Great things are "springing" up thanks to you!



Breaking ground are: Father Joseph Gray, Father Bob Creagan, Monsignor William Fitzgerald, Father Chuck Fischer, The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Kim Lewis, Father John Fleckenstein, Sally Chadwick and Kathy Grosso.

BCACS Community answers the \$500,000 Challenge

KATHY GALLAGHER, BCACS FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

Monday, April 12, 2010, was an exciting day for every alumnus, alumna, student, faculty, parent and parishioner at St. Philip School and Parish and the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools as we broke ground for our new parish center, school administrative offices and locker rooms.

The new 20,000 square addition is being made possible through the stewardship of the Battle Creek community and its donations to the In the Spirit of Community Capital Campaign.

This \$15 million campaign has generated nearly \$10.8 million towards its goal. The parish center, school offices and locker rooms are the next step in construction for the Spirit campaign which also includes the development of a cohesive parish and school campus.

Other projects already completed include the construction of a new rectory at the St. Philip campus, construction of locker rooms and concession stand at Walsh Field, renovation of the Tiger Den, construction of a new middle school at the St. Joseph campus and expansion of

the cafeteria and kitchen facilities at St. Joseph School.

As I am writing, our school is closed for the weekend while the asbestos in the halls and main floor bathrooms is abated. Beginning May 24th, Cherry Street will be blocked and excavation will begin.

During the summer months, concrete work, underground plumbing and electrical and masonry work will begin. By fall, the exterior shell will be complete including windows, doors, and roofing. This will be perfect timing for our "Hard Hat Tours" during the Homecoming Reunion!

The new locker rooms will be ready for our athletic teams during the basketball season. Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto will find its new home during the spring. Demolition of our old (and worn!) cafeteria will take place in April and allow for a new parking lot, landscaping and lighting.

If all goes as planned, you are cordially invited to attend the ribbon cutting and blessing of our new facility next spring!

You should have already received information in the mail about the BCACS Foundation Annual Fund Drive. Proceeds directly support the academic and extracurricular programs at St. Philip, scholarships for qualifying students, and help to minimize tuition increases. Contributions also support the alumni activities including this newsletter! Please respond generously to our call to "Preserve Faith in Education . . . For Generations" by returning your pledge card today! Great news! We are now able to accept donations through www.bcacs.org. Click on "Network for Good" to securely process your gift!

ANNUAL APPEAL

With all of its charm and character, our 100 year old classroom facility with its 50 year-old addition is costly to maintain. Consequently, the final phase of the In the Spirit of Community Capital Campaign focuses on renovating and equipping our classroom facilities to meet the needs of today's and future students. A grant received from the Binda Foundation funded the development of a "prototype" classroom, helping faculty to "test" technology, environment and equipment. Nearly, \$100,000 was invested to fully renovate this classroom, guiding the way for continued facility improvement. As funds become available, we will continue these renovations. Ultimately, the transformation of the high school fulfills the vision for Catholic education for the 21st Century.

FUTURE VISION

The Future is Now at STP

KATHY GROSSO, ST. PHILIP HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

"This room feels like we are in a college."

"It seems more professional."

"It is calming."

"The technology is easy in here."

These are some of the comments that students have made since being in the new prototype (model) classroom. Even before the room opened up for instruction, students were asking to see the room and had daily questions about different aspects of the construction. They were excited to be involved in a learning space that was different.

The vision behind the prototype classroom is two-fold:

1. The room should be comfortable and convey a culture of engagement, discussion, and collaborative conversation.

2. The technology should easily and seamlessly integrate into student learning and teacher instruction.

With all new lighting, ceiling, windows and coverings, cabinetry, carpet, electrical (many more outlets!) and mechanical work, the



room definitely looks different than any of the others.

In addition to the physical changes, there are features to the room that support learning that is focused on the student rather than the teacher. For instance, there is one wall that is lined with white 'huddle' boards. These are sections of whiteboard that can be taken off the main board and carried to student tables. Here students can record ideas or brainstorm questions related to a particular topic. The boards can then be hung back up on the main wall, enabling groups to share information. It also allows ideas to 'sit' for a few class periods so that information can be added and new ideas shared.

The whiteboard on the other side of the room is ready to become an "interactive whiteboard". The newest version of the software will be installed within the next month or so. This will allow the teacher and the students to take full advantage of the wireless and laptop technology that has been such a part of our school for the past four years.

The prototype room has become a showcase for visitors, alumni, and prospective families. It is giving our community a sense of the vision the BCACS community has for education and how St. Philip can evolve itself to meet the needs of a 21st century learner. Stop by to take a look!



**PLAN to
REALITY: Our
Classroom
of the Future
(above) is
now a reality
(below). St.
Philip juniors
Guiherme
Merici and
Kyle Griffin.**

Spirit of Community Objectives

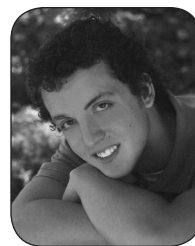
- ☒ BUILD A NEW ST. PHILIP RECTORY
- ☒ RENOVATE THE SETON CENTER
- ☒ DEMOLISH NEARBY VACANT BUILDINGS
- ☒ BUILD NEW LOCKER ROOMS, REFEREE OFFICE AND CONCESSION STAND AT WALSH FIELD
- ☒ BUILD A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AT THE ST. JOSEPH CAMPUS
- ☒ EXPAND AND RENOVATE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
- ☒ RENOVATE TIGER DEN GYMNASIUM INCLUDING NEW BLEACHERS, LIGHTING AND SOUND SYSTEM
- ☒ RAISE \$500,000.00 BY DEC. 1ST TO RECEIVE THE \$500,000.00 CHALLENGE GRANT
- ☐ CONSTRUCT A PARISH CENTER AND SCHOOL CAFETERIA AT ST. PHILIP
- ☐ RELOCATE OUR LADY OF LOURDES GROTTO
- ☐ BUILD NEW HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
- ☐ RELOCATE THE MAIN HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE
- ☐ RENOVATE CLASSROOMS AND THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE HIGH SCHOOL
- ☐ UPGRADE HIGH SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

STP Alumni Association Welcomes the Class of 2010

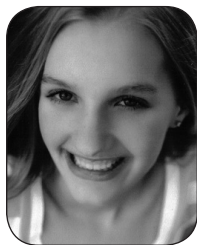


Branden Harris,
Valedictorian,
plans to attend
Spring Arbor
University and is
still considering his
field of study.

CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR'S & ACADEMIC TOP TEN



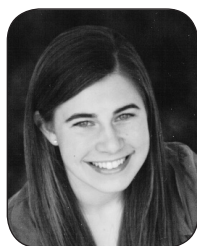
Max Dechant,
Salutatorian,
plans to attend
Marquette University
and study physical
therapy.



Amanda Bolles
plans to attend
the Kalamazoo
College and study
biochemistry.



Emily Cracolici
plans to
attend Michigan
State University
and study social
relations and policy.



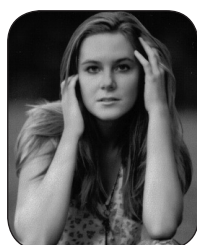
Colette Curtis
plans to attend
St. Mary's College
and study education.



Becca Freybler
plans to attend
Michigan State
University and
study nursing.



Jessica Gerow
plans to attend
Syracuse University
and study
architecture.



Seneca McKinzie
plans to attend
Michigan State
University and
study international
relations and
business.



Ben Tanoff
plans to
attend Kenyon
College and is still
considering his
field of study.



Erin Yacovoni
plans to attend
the University of
Dayton and study
middle school
education.



Parting thoughts...

CARLY RAE DICKERSON, CLASS OF 2010

My education in the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools began in elementary at St. Joseph. Now as a senior at St. Philip High School, I am able to reflect upon the many lessons and opportunities that were provided for me during my time as a student.

I believe that an education at St. Philip is unique and unlike that of other schools. At St. Philip, they strive not only to create a successful academic program, but to also create an environment that allows students to grow morally and spiritually. Having the opportunity to explore my faith is an experience most other schools are not able to offer.

Unlike large public schools, the St. Philip community is able to create a sense of family within its small numbers.

Along with being challenged academically, I also had the privilege to develop athletically. While St. Philip may be a small school, the academic and athletic programs continue to improve each year, creating well rounded students.

I feel truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to learn and grow in such a special environment. The lessons learned and memories created at St. Philip have become the foundation for my future.



Dear Mom and Dad,

Just about a dozen years ago, you stood by as we started off to school for the first time, burdened down with lunch kits almost as big as ourselves and an assortment of fears even bigger than ourselves.

Throughout our grammar school years, as you watched us in the various stages of our physical, intellectual and spiritual development, you probably often wondered if we would ever amount to anything at all. Then came our high school days, when your pride as well as your misgivings grew with our added inches. You hoped, with undaunted trust in God, to make men and women out of your sons and daughters.

Perhaps sometimes you were tempted to despair in the process: but, true to your God-given rights and responsibilities, you

stuck by us through all our youthful joys and sorrows, our mistakes as well as our successes.

In spite of the fact that our welfare often meant sacrifices for you, Mom and Dad, you persevered in seeing us through. Your strength overcame our weaknesses; your courage was greater than our faint-heartedness; your sound advice and your encouraging smile kept our feet on the right path.

Today we are nearing our goal and looking forward to taking our places in the great world that lies just beyond the doors of St. Philip High School. We are now looking ahead, not backward. One ambition we cherish; one determination we keep strong in our souls today--the resolve to prove to you that your efforts in

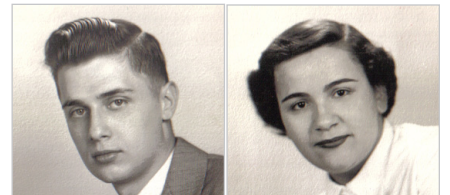
our regard have not been in vain. We are determined, for your sakes as well as to carry out God's plan for us, to make good, not only in the worldly sense, but also as the loyal Catholics you would like us to be.

We thank you, dear Mother and Dad, for our wonderful homes, for our Catholic education, for the example you have given us, for everything. No matter how we may try to repay you for all you have given us and done for us, we can never make it up to you entirely. So we offer our gratitude to Our dear Lady and her Divine Son, Our Lord. They will know how to repay you. We can only say, we thank you, Mom and Dad and we thank God for you.

*Ever lovingly and gratefully,
Your sons and daughters,*



The Graduating Class of 1949



Memories of years gone by...

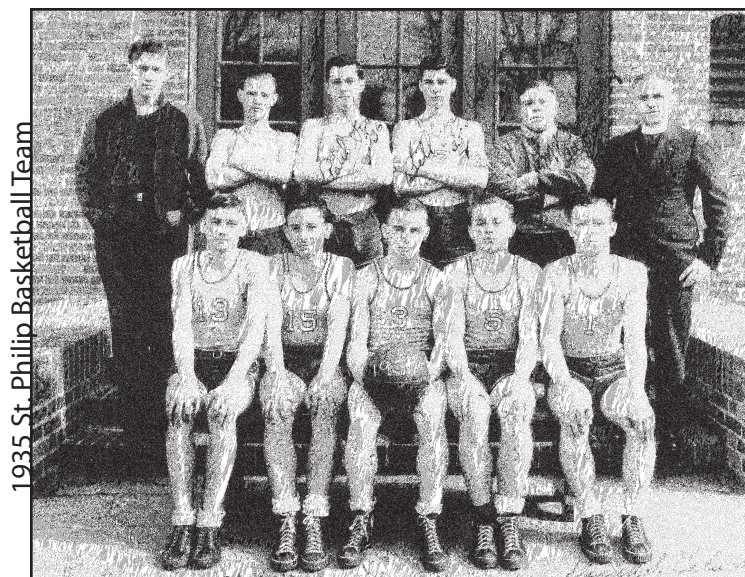
CLASS OF 1949 IN THE MAY CROWNING PROCESSION



Sister Helen Marie



Sister Mary Lawrence



1935 St. Philip Basketball Team

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the STP family have passed from this life to the next. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. We extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones.

Alice (Carnell) Conley, Class of 1938
 Betty (Murray) Behnke, Class of 1944
 Joseph Burgie, Class of 1944
 Richard Ell, Class of 1949
 Jack Sloma, Class of 1949
 Patricia (Reilly) Beeson, Class of 1950
 Ed Morrison, Class of 1950
 Jerry Griffin, Class of 1951
 Joni (Anderson) Lawniczak, Class of 1954
 Gary Huard, Class of 1956
 Alice (Porter) Noverr, Class of 1958
 Richard Heldt, Class of 1960
 Michael Kelley, Class of 1967
 Larry Trehwella, Class of 1978
 Twyla Baarson-Snow, Class of 1988
 Karan (Vaughan) Simon, Class of 1974
 Mark Tuttle, Class of 1974
 Albert Hocking, Class of 1994

IN MEMORY OF BETTY MURRAY BEHNKE OUR BEST FRIEND FOREVER

*You can shed tears
that she is gone,
or you can smile
because she lived.*

*You can close your eyes
and pray that she'll come back,
Or you can open your eyes
and see all she's left.*

*Your heart can be empty
because you can't see her,
Or you can be full
of the love you shared.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow
and live for yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow
because of yesterday.*

*You can remember her
and only that she's gone,
Or you can cherish her memory,
and let it live on.*

*You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back,
Or you can do what she'd want--
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

Peggy, Nancy, Bertie, Mary, Jo & Judy - Class of 1954



ALUM COLUMN

What being a teacher at STP teaches me

KATIE REED, CLASS OF 2000

As an alumnus of the Class of 2000 and a teacher of four years at Saint Philip High School, I have the distinct privilege to write an article about the exciting changes that are occurring in our

high school. Who knew that construction could sound and look so sweet?

As I am getting ready to celebrate my ten-year class reunion, my peers and other alumni have often asked me if the high school has changed. My reply to them is, "The roof still leaks, the boiler still speaks, the locker rooms still reek, but we are starting to fix it in a few weeks."

Despite needing constant repairs, the people of Saint Philip have been the glue that has held this special place together. Being a teacher at Saint Philip High School has taught me that the strongest foundation of our schools is not in blueprints, but rather in the fact that we are built upon tradition, faith, and love.

I truly believe that there is a lot to be said about our students, faculty, families, alumni, parishioners, priests, community, and God's grace to have kept our alma mater standing for the past 93 years. When reflecting on the hardships that history has dealt our St. Philip, I am overcome with pride to be a part of something that is larger than myself.

On March 28, 1928 (on the heels of a Great Depression) the original Saint Philip Catholic Church burned down to the ground and the great people of this community were able to come together and start rebuilding in that same year. Today (on the heels of an economic recession) the "spirit of community" has come together to rebuild and renovate our Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools. According to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), "Between the 2000 and the 2010 school years, 1,603 Catholic schools were reported closed or consolidated (19.7%) in the United States. The

number of students declined by 533,697 (20.1 %)." Although this data deeply saddens me, it also reminds me of what a special group of people we truly are to make our vision of Catholic education go forward and increase the number of students within our schools.

As the Lenten and Easter seasons pass, I am reminded of the true meaning of sacrifice. I believe that sacrifice is a common thread that we as a Catholic community all share. I am certain that we have all sacrificed not only our wallets, but also our time, service, heart, and dedication to keep our schools going. "Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God - the rest will be given." —Mother Teresa

Thanks to everyone's sacrifice, the ground breaking is about to begin and changes have already taken place! I have been the "lucky chosen one" to move into the new and finished model classroom that was renovated thanks to a generous grant from the Binda Foundation. The brand new windows are already covered in handprints

from our excited students plastered against them, and constantly asking me when we get to move in. We are all very excited to test the new technology and go from one working outlet to twenty.

The next phase of construction, which is scheduled to begin on May 17th, will include the new parish center, cafeteria, administrative offices, entryways, and locker rooms. The tentative month of completion for this first phase of construction is spring of 2011. Then we are hoping to push forward onto phase two!

Even though summer is just around the corner, it is a great time to be a Tiger. These last weeks of school will be filled with hard hats and graduation caps. Let the celebration begin because our day is finally here! Thank you and God bless everyone who has sacrificed to be the foundation that our renovated school will be built upon. Together we have formed an excellent ground for our current students and future generations to build upon.

Being a teacher at Saint Philip High School has taught me that the strongest foundation of our schools is not in blueprints, but rather the fact that we are built upon tradition, faith, and love.

Want to share how your STP experience influenced your life? Email your remarks to stpalumni@bcacs.org. Please put "Alum Column" in the message line and attach a recent photo.

IN THANKSGIVING

St. Philip Catholic Central High School and the BCACS Foundation extend their deep appreciation for recent gifts received in memory or honor of these STP Alumni.

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William Heine, Class of 1941
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LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING THE FACE OF STP.

WE DID IT!

*Thank You STP Alumni for helping us meet our
\$500,000.00 Challenge!*

*Your generosity will ensure a quality Catholic education for
generations of Tigers to come.*

Keeping our STP Alumni, their Friends, and Family connected with Tiger Pride!

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