

# THE MUSTARD SEED

December 2017

Faith Mennonite High School

Volume 39 Number 3

## FMH Says Goodbye to a Long-term Teacher

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, started out as a normal day for everyone at Faith Mennonite High School. The students were celebrating last night's basketball victory against Schaefferstown, but teachers lectured and handed out assignments as usual. Mr. Ressler graded tests with his Consumer Math students during third period. He started out his Accounting 1 class with his normal teasing and handed out a new paper that would start Sportsman Gallery, a major accounting project. This project would be continued over the next few weeks. He helped his Accounting 2 students restock Snack Shoppe and informed them they would be grading forms on Friday. Little did anyone know that this would be the last accounting class he would ever teach.

Students were shocked when they received a text that evening around 7:00 informing them that Mr. Ressler had passed away. Within fifteen minutes, they were gathered at Weavertown Church grieving and crying out to God on behalf of the school and the Ressler family. Throughout the evening, more than seventy students, teachers, and alumni came to Weavertown Church to show their support.

School started at 10:30 am on Thursday, December 7, when the FMH student body gathered in room 100 to remember and reflect on the life of Mr. Ressler. Dave Stoltzfoos gave a devotional about the faithfulness of God, then students moved outside to place a black cloth over the FMH sign

as a visible symbol of their grief. Several parents were present and split up into small groups with the students for a time of sharing memories, tears, and prayers. Hot lunch was served, even though most people did not have much of an appetite. School was dismissed at 1:00, but many of Mr. Ressler's students and fellow teachers lingered



around the piano to sing songs of hope until later in the afternoon.

School was cancelled for Friday, December 8, as well as Monday, December 11, giving the students an opportunity to attend the funeral. On

Tuesday, school started again at 8:30, despite the hole that was keenly felt in room 109. Mr. Ressler was not there teasing his students or sitting at his desk. FMH is blessed that Mr. Austin Herschberger agreed to take up the challenge of teaching Mr. Ressler's classes beginning on Monday, December 18, 2017. FMH will continue to miss the famous jingling keys, friendly smile, and everything else Mr. Ressler added to life at school.

Mr. Ressler's passing has brought the school together in ways that would not have been possible

otherwise. The teachers did well in leading and relating to the students even during their own difficult time of loss. The parents who came to school on Thursday gave their time and energy to support the students. The moms who had been on the schedule to bring in hot lunch rose to the occasion and adjusted their plans, bringing in a hot lunch that was greatly appreciated. The students bonded together as they cried out to God. Most of all, God showed that He was real. He demonstrated that He still has a plan. He proved that He will not fail. He can be trusted, even when it seems everything is in chaos.

*Kristal Bange*



*Students practice archery with Mr. Ressler in 2006*



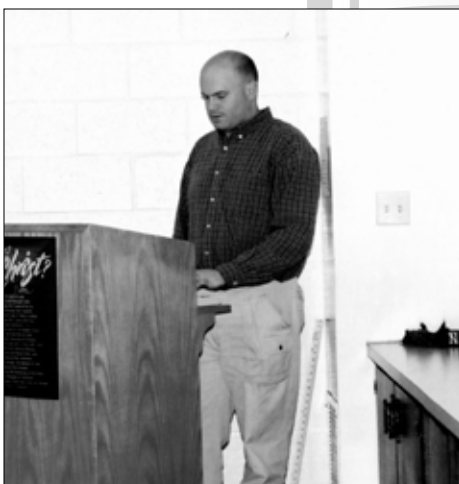
*Mr. Ressler in the early 1990s*



*A typical scene in room 109*



*Checking the news before class begins*



*Mr. Ressler teaches from his computer behind the podium*

## Alumni Basketball

The FMH alumni basketball tournament is an exciting weekend for everyone. There will be a lot of good competition as well as fellowship. The tournament offers a chance for young players to show their skill and older people to defy their age. If you don't play basketball the weekend offers a great opportunity to visit the school and see old friends. If you would like to gather the old squad and enter a team contact Jesse Herschberger at 717-598-5411.

## PHASE 2

We are excited to announce the start of phase two of our building project for FMH. Phase two focuses on building a kitchen adjacent to the gymnasium. This will bring about some profitable changes such as additional classroom space. Currently some classes are being held in the library, conference room, and even in the kitchen.

Our total goal for phase two is \$280,000. We have broken this into three smaller goals. We already have \$50,000 promised towards our first goal of \$130,000. We would like to invite you to join us in raising the other \$80,000 before March 31, 2018.

# Editorial

“Therefore since we are surrounded by such a huge cloud of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith...” Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT. Take a close look at the word “weight” in this passage. I believe what it refers to is not necessarily always a sin, but something that holds you back from digging deeper in your relationship with Christ. Maybe some examples of weights in high-schooler’s lives could be caring too much about what others think, fear of failure, reputation, or spending too much time on social media. What weight do you have in your life? The Bible clearly calls us to strip off every weight in order to run with endurance. As we have learned this month, the road God leads us on will not always be easy, but He promises to give each of His children the strength and joy to endure through this short life on earth. We need a generation that seeks Jesus wholeheartedly and lays aside all earthly distractions. Forget about your reputation or what others may think of you and fix your eyes on Jesus; you will never regret it.

*Mariana Stoltzfus*

# Students Speak Out

What was the scariest moment of your life?



**Freshman - Linda Stoltzfus**

When I was 12 or 13, I was riding a rollercoaster and it stopped and I was afraid we were never coming down.

**Sophomore - Katrina Good**

I got stuck in an elevator once and that was the scariest moment of my life.



**Freshman - Tyler Kauffman**

I was mowing and I crossed the road and a car had to brake really hard. It almost hit me.

**Sophomore - Elmer Stoltzfus**

My mom was pranked called and told that she had stolen some things and that the cops were going to come take her to jail.



# Calendar

- Dec 22 Christmas Caroling
- Dec 23- Jan 1 Christmas Break
- Jan 4 Jr/Sr Basketball Game
- 8 Jr/Sr Ladies Basketball Tournament
- 9 PTF 7pm
- 12 Alumni Tournament
- 19 Invitational Tournament
- 27 Quiz - a - thon at LAMS

# Alumni Feature

Austin Herschberger is an FMH graduate of the class of 2012, and is also employed at Gehman Accounting in the Payroll Department. His goal as a teacher at Faith is to prepare his students for a life of wise stewardship. He remembers the pressures of being a high school student, and has a passion to see young people succeed in the business world. Mr. Herschberger has a bachelor’s degree in Accounting from Thomas Edison State College, and is teaching Accounting 1 and 2, as well as Consumer Math and Computer Programming 1.



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