

“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

Graduation season is upon us again. We hear from this year’s graduates and get to know our Pella II family a little better.

In grade school, middle school, and junior high, I have most appreciated the teachers being so nice and my friends staying with me.

Kaden Van Wyngarden—Eighth Grade



My favorite scripture/verse is Matthew 10:39, “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”

In high school I will be doing band, cross country, and soccer.

My best memories in grade school and junior high have been when A girl in my grade had a walking taco, she hit it against her table and it blew up everywhere.

Another one is when I led everyone in cross country the wrong way and we ended up running a mile more than we needed to.

Tobey Steen ran a 50-meter dash and was flailing his arms around. After the race he did the worm on the field.

In high school, I am most looking forward to doing sports/other events, and going to school with friends from other schools.

Taryn Hugen – High School



My favorite verse is Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” This has been my favorite verse since freshman year. It was our verse for track and it has stuck with me ever since. I say it before every concert or dance performance—even tests!

This summer I am going on my third mission trip to Sierra Leone Africa with my mom, my brother Ty and my cousins Drew and Kenyon Geetings. We are going to the Raining Season Orphanage. I am very excited to be going back.

I also plan to work this summer to make money for college. Next year I will be attending William Penn University on a dance scholarship. I am very eager to be joining their dance team. Some of my best

memories of high school would be cheering at the dome my junior year. It was one of the coolest experiences ever. Also, I loved getting involved with theater, cheer, dance, and many other activities.

What I am looking forward to next year is meeting new people and being independent and not being far away from home. The past four years I have tried hard to really get involved and try new things. I have been involved in cheer, dance, theater, speech forensics, Caleb Crew, Student Council, band, track, and International Club (iClub). I will miss all these activities and how busy I was.

My favorite part of high school was making new friends and building relationships and also late-night theater practices. I have so many great memories from the past four years. I am so thankful that I went to a school that offered me so many great opportunities, and encouraged and helped me grow in my faith.

Brooke Van Woerkom - College



I currently attend Indian Hills Community College. My major is radiologic technology. This means that I am the x-ray technologist you would meet in the circumstance of breaking a bone or experiencing other abnormal symptoms. School has been a mix of classroom and clinical hours. Upon

graduation in May I will graduate with a Certificate of Completion from the radiologic technology program and an Associate of Arts degree. Although graduation is in May, I will continue to take classes over the summer until I have officially completed all my classes in August.

I have no plans set in stone for after graduation. In August when school is finished, I will have to take a board examination to obtain my X-Ray license. I hope to find a full-time job soon that I may begin in August. I hope for it to be close to this area so that I can still live in Pella.

I have seen God working in my life through the patients with whom I have been able to come in contact. I try to find meaningful conversations with some of my patients which allows me to show them God's love when they may be in a time of pain.

My advice to high school graduates would be to follow your passion! Following this passion of mine has brought me great happiness and wonderful opportunities in these past two years.

Annie (Matherly) VandeKamp – College



I am graduating from Trinity Christian College on May 4 with a Bachelor of

Science in Marketing and a minor in Studio Art. My husband Jordan, our dog Bella, and I will be moving downtown Chicago soon after graduation. I will be working in Online Marketing & Fashion while Jordan will be working in Marketing Analytics. We are certainly in a season of life with many changes, and we are so grateful for God's continual presence and blessings in our lives!

Pella II's Annual PET Auction

By Will Van Wyngarden

On March 27 the stage was set again for another epic PET/Mobility Worldwide fundraiser. We gathered once more at Pella Christian High School for a delicious meal and an evening of intense and reckless bidding, as war was waged for incredibly desirable and calorie-laden items. Let us also not forget the numerous fun events, like an I-Cubs game, a clay pigeon shoot, and a pool party. Although, it should be noted that even those events usually feature often unhealthy amounts of food consumption.

We decided to shake up the menu a little this year. Cheesy potatoes and corn were replaced by green bean casserole and mashed potatoes. Though some were sorely disappointed by the omission of cheesy potatoes from the menu, it did allow for the opportunity for a late auction addition in the form of cheesy potatoes by the pan-full.

Other notable items included the old stand-bys like cinnamon rolls, pies, Dutch letters, and cookies, which included an epic bidding war for the cookie-a-day for a year prize. We also had items that are quickly developing into old standards, like really expensive sweets from Cranberry Stone and high-dollar car detailing from Let It Shine. One interesting new offering came from Brent Pierson. It was a bouquet made from

money of various denominations, which the exact amount we may never know.

Countless hours were volunteered in terms of service and auction item preparation. Large sums of money also go into the production of items for auction. We are again extremely thankful for those gifts, without which we could not hold an auction. And of course, many thanks go out to all who bought items or dropped money into the freewill donation. We had a record setting year, as we raised \$28,126.50. That is an updated total from a late donation. That is now enough to build 108 PET carts, plus a seat belt and 3 reflector stickers.

We are planning a Build Day for Friday, June 7. This will be an all-day affair, so please come whenever it is convenient for you. This is really the second half of activities, and we always have a fun time together assembling the PET carts so they can be shipped around the world! See you there!

Golliet Family Profile

By Ryan Hoekstra



Jon and Lindsay Golliet have been worshipping with us at Pella II for a while now, and we thought it would be good to sit down and get to know them better. Maybe you know (or have figured out) some of the

information that follows but there's probably a surprise or two as well!

Other than Jon and Lindsay, their immediate family includes Noah (7), Jonah (4) and Lilah (3). Other family members at Pella II include Jon's uncle and aunt (Les and Carla Nieuwsma) and his cousins with their families (Levi, Luke and Lance).

Lindsay (Vos) is a native of Sully. She went to Sully Christian School and graduated from Pella Christian High in 2005. She has a brother, Curt, and two sisters, Mindy and Stacia.

Jon grew up in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, a suburb of the Twin Cities. He has two sisters, two step-brothers, a half-brother and a half-sister.

It wouldn't be a big surprise to learn that they met at the University of Northwestern St. Paul, when they were both choir members.

Lindsay graduated with an International Studies major, and Jon graduated with a General Studies major with an emphasis on youth ministry.

They got married right after college, and moved to Mali, Africa, where Lindsay taught English in a small rural village and Jon was involved in a project to teach others how to operate and maintain tractors.

After returning to the States, they lived south of Newton for a while. However, two years ago, they moved to Pella. They started attending Pella II, and became members about 1-1/2 years ago. They have both been

active musically in worship (singing in choir, playing guitar, vocal solos, duets, and praise band). It was a pleasant surprise to see Jon playing his trombone with the brass ensemble on Easter morning!

Before coming to Pella II, Jon and Lindsay led Sunday School singing at Sully CRC and also for the Sully CRC/Sully First Reformed Church combined Vacation Bible School. Jon also led the Sully CRC praise teams and was a Youth Group leader.



With their educational background and passion for music, they agree on what they love about Pella II. "We love seeing younger people participating in

worship, and the blend of music, with different worship styles."

Lindsay is a homeschool teacher. In moving away from more intentional international ministry, she loved the idea of the homeschool environment lifestyle. She was encouraged by cousins and friends who did homeschooling. She says that the most challenging part of being a homeschool parent/teacher is "being with the kids all day." However, she states that "the most rewarding part is seeing the spiritual growth of our kids."

To support her efforts to educate their children, Jon is employed as the Service Manager for Champion Crane in Des Moines. He manages the shop and its equipment, scheduling regular maintenance for their fleet of cranes and other vehicles used in the construction business. He also drives truck for the company.

The most challenging part of the job, he says, is “if a crane breaks down, it’s pretty stressful getting it back up and running, with others waiting for it.”

But his greatest reward is that “it’s fun to drive around town, seeing the cranes and what they’ve done.” Whether that’s on a current jobsite, or after the work (and project) is completed, Jon knows that he plays a part of that process.

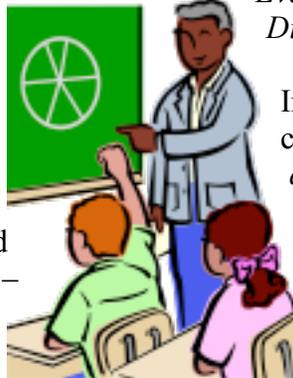
In case you forgot, the Golliets are licensed foster parents.

So, what do the Golliets (all of them!) most enjoy doing together? They all love reading out loud, and going to the public pool. Jon and the three kids love to play Pokémon – the card game. In fact, Noah and Jon are frequently present at Pella Pokémon League on Friday nights. On some Saturdays, they enjoy entering and competing in various Pokémon tournaments in Ames, Des Moines, and other communities.

Jon considers all games to be his hobby, including board games, video games, and card games. Lindsay loves to read and go to the library. She also really enjoys going to Coffeebreak at Calvary CRC.

They have a couple of ideas about a dream vacation. First, they’ve been talking and thinking about a month-long road trip vacation, but that would have to wait until their young children are old enough to appreciate and remember such a strong bonding experience.

And some day, they’d like to visit Israel, with its many historical sites. They would love to make memories that strengthen their strong Christian faith!



Pastor’s Pen – Discipleship

By Pastor Paul Bradford

Dear Pella II Congregation,

In the Pastor’s Pen we’ve been discussing the five core purposes of the church, purposes which are commanded in the New Testament. These include *Community*, *Evangelism*, *Discipleship*, *Ministry*, and *Worship*. We’ve discussed *Community and Evangelism*; in this article we’ll discuss *Discipleship*.

In the Great Commission, Jesus commanded us, “*go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*” (Matthew 28:19-20) Since this was

the final command of Jesus to his Church, making disciples is obviously *very* important.

But what is a disciple? Everybody in Jesus’ day understood this term. Every Rabbi had several disciples. Disciples would spend lots of time with their Rabbis, sometimes even living with them or traveling with them. The goal of the disciple was to learn to *think* like his Rabbi *and* to learn to *live* like his Rabbi. The goal of a disciple was ultimately not simply getting an intellectual education, rather it was about developing a godly lifestyle. Discipleship is about *transformation*, not simply about *information*.

So, when Jesus commanded the Church to “*go and make disciples*,” he was commanding us to bring people to faith in him and train them to be like Jesus,

imitating our Rabbi in how we think, live, and serve.

Traditional “discipleship programs” have focused on learning and memorizing scripture, and learning certain theological principles. While these things are important, that’s not how Jesus or the early church would have understood discipleship. Jesus command was to teach them “*to obey everything I have commanded you.*” Discipleship is about developing a lifestyle of obedience, training people to do everything Jesus taught his disciples to do.

For us to become disciples, we need to become doers of the Word, not just hearers of the Word. How do we learn to pray? Good teaching on prayer is valuable. We just had a series of sermons on prayer. But the way we learn to pray is by praying! Have you noticed that the Lord’s Prayer is all in the plural? “*Our Father... give us today our daily bread... forgive us our debts...*” Jesus intended for us to pray together, not just in private. He prayed with his disciples, and the early church continually prayed together. Acts 2:42 says that the early Christians “*devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*” (ESV) The Greek text doesn’t just say, “*they devoted themselves... to prayer*”, it says, “*they devoted themselves... to the prayers.*” Luke was referring to set times of corporate prayer. And the early church took those times very seriously. They had learned to do what Jesus did.

How do we “*make disciples?*” We train people to pray by having them pray. We train people to share their faith by giving them opportunities to share their faith. We train them to communicate with their spouse in a loving way by actually practicing communicating. We train people to serve by giving them actual opportunities to serve.

We do need to learn, but truly learning only takes place when we put what we’ve learned into action.

People in the skilled trades or the medical professions all intuitively understand discipleship. How does a person become a master mechanic? By working alongside a master mechanic! The master mechanic *shows* the apprentice how to do something, *does it with him, watches him do it* on his own, then allows him to *do it by himself*. The same is true when training a nurse how to take blood pressure or give someone a shot. That’s discipleship. Only we, in the church, are training people how to *live their lives*.

At Pella II we want to be a *family*, loving each other and encouraging each other (*Community*). We want to be an *army*, advancing God’s Kingdom by bringing others to Christ (*Evangelism*). And we want to be a *rabbinical school*, a community where people learn practically how to love, to communicate, to handle their finances, to pray, to serve, to be great parents, to be godly spouses, to pray for the sick, to comfort the hurting – in a word, to live like Jesus!

Heavenly Father, may our congregation be a community where people don’t simply gain information, but where they experience life transformation. May we learn to obey, to put into action the things you taught us to do. May we ourselves, and those to whom we minister, grow in Christ’s character, his thinking, and his lifestyle. We ask this in his name, Amen

Thank you graduates for submitting pictures and information. If we missed anyone, please contact a newsletter editor!