



UNITY CHRISTIAN
IN HIS SERVICE



June 2020

BULLETIN

BRANCHING OUT I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit ... — James 15:5

Dear Friends of Unity,

A virus has caused much of our society to pause, or even close. Businesses, churches and schools have been impacted in ways no one saw coming on March 15, 2020.

On March 16, we closed our school doors to our students and the general public, and by March 19, we rolled out an online instructional program. In less than a week, we will close the book on the 56th year of Unity's operations. It has been a year like none other! What have we learned in the past two months about each other as a Unity family?

- We are adaptable. We have learned that our staff are quick to adapt, and willing to try new ways of teaching under tough and uncertain conditions. Teacher videos, Google Hangout Meetings and Zoom conference calls are now a weekly occurrence.
- We are generous. On four separate occasions this year local farmers have donated beef for our entire staff! Kind words and cards from parents have arrived at the school in above average numbers.
- We are creative. Parents have become teachers. Teachers have become video creators. Students have reached out to each other to peer learn. We have creatively found ways to add this into our lives.
- We are resilient. This is hard work, teaching and learning from a distance. It is so good to see students, parents and teachers rise up week after week.
- We have an amazing senior class. This group of 63 have been so understanding and hard working. They have lost a lot from their senior year. No grumbling. Wow. Grateful for this special class.

What have we learned about God in this time?

- He is patient. I believe that God has given us an opportunity to reset with him. So many people have mentioned to me that there is now more time to pray and more time for family meals complete with devotions. In this new time, there is now more time to patiently remember the promises of God.
- And His promises are true, on good days and uncertain ones. God is ever present (Psalm 46:1). He makes our paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6) and he is our refuge in times of trouble (Nahum 1:7).

We approach June with lots of questions. Will we have a traditional graduation? Will we have summer sports? What will August look like for school starting up? When will the gym be open again? We have many questions and many unknowns. May we find ourselves sitting at the feet of God, trusting Him, seeking his wisdom.

In Christ,
Wayne Dykstra

In prayer:

- ...for the family of Randy Jacobsma, Unity Alumni and past Board Member, who passed away on April 25.
- ...for the family of Justin De Jager, Class of 2007, who passed away on April 30th.
- ...for Austin Van Donge and Noah Bronner as they recover from surgery.
- ...for Coach Travis De Jong in the death of his father, Dwayne De Jong.
- ...for a safe summer and a return to normal life.

With praise...

- ...Congratulations to Cody Haarskamp in graduating with a MA in Sports Leadership.
- ...Congratulations to Jessica Koedam and Jonah Hofmeyer in receiving their Iowa FFA Degrees.



Living with God in Charge: Mark Kauk

by Marla Vande Kamp

As we bid farewell to Mark Kauk, who has been at Unity for 44 years, we remember many things about him. Mr. Kauk came to us directly out of college and “jumped right in” to a full-time life as a teacher and coach. He coached 6-on-6 girls’ basketball (which some of you do not even remember), then became involved in coaching track and cross country. For many years, we saw him running with his teams. He also encouraged students to do running in the summer. Mr. Kauk was always friendly and had a real passion that students learned Physical Science as a part of the beautiful creation that God has made and upholds. His Junior and Senior science courses were always taught with the intent that students in that field were ready for college and later employment. With the faculty, Mr. Kauk was a teacher that was known for working well with others. He was a great team player. He was also someone that other teachers confided in, and in return, he always gave wise advice.

For 44 years, Mr. Kauk was always on time to early morning faculty meetings and devotion time. He always ate the school lunch and had fun with other staff members over lunch. Many times I could hear him chuckle with them. He loved the morning faculty snacks of mostly crackers and cheese, but sometimes we had to remind him of his “turn to be on duty” with the students’ free time.

We Say Farewell

We are thankful for the years of service we have had from four staff members who are not returning for the 20-21 school year.

Mrs. Sandra Nyenhuis has served us for one year in our library. She brought great joy and a desire for assisting in learning to work each day. Sandra has accepted a teaching position at South O’Brien High School in Paulina.

Mr. Cliff Warner has served as PE/ Health teacher and Boys Varsity Basketball coach for the past six school years. Cliff has made a decision to seek work closer to his home in Harrisburg, South Dakota. We appreciate Mr. Warner for his enthusiasm and his work in the gym and the classroom.

Mrs. Mar Vande Kamp has served Unity as a secretary for

While teaching at Unity, Mr. Kauk married JoEllen Visser Poel. Those attending the wedding will always remember JoEllen and her three sons singing “Welcome to our Family”. Later, son Trevor Kauk was added to their family. Years later, we also remember Mr. Kauk’s sorrow at losing his wife, JoEllen.

All four of his boys attended Unity. And now his family continues to grow. To his family have been added three daughters-in-law and six grandchildren. And now we remember his most recent wedding that welcomed his new wife Melissa, her daughter and grandson. At the wedding reception, one of Mr. Kauk’s grandsons told me “And now I have another Grandma.”

Mr. Kauk was always an encourager, no matter what the topic was. He was a great Christian mentor in the classroom and on the athletic field. He challenged students to always do their best because he challenged himself to do that.

Mr. Kauk’s life with both joys and sorrows, even when we saw tears flowing down his face, always acknowledged that God was in charge of His life. He totally believes that and lives it. He has a tremendous heart for the mission field and sharing God’s love for others, both right at home and far away.

God bless you, Mr. Kauk and Melissa and your families, as you travel a new road following God’s leading in your lives.

the past 43 years. Mar has left a legendary impact on students spanning four decades. She always knew what to say to encourage students and when to say it. Mar is retiring this summer.

Mr. Mark Kauk has taught and coached at Unity for 44 years. Mr. Kauk has taught and worked at Unity his entire teaching career! Mark coached girls 6 on 6 basketball, track and cross country. He has coached 5 State Championship Cross Country teams. He came to work each day to teach science at a very high level. Mr. Kauk is retiring this summer.

We thank God for these 4 individuals. God bless each one of you as you move into your new season of life.



History Day 2020

History Day 2020 looks a little different this year. After having 34 students participate in the district History Day competition at Northwestern College, eight were chosen to move on to the state competition held in Des Moines, Iowa. The students chosen to move on were Sydney Krommendyk and Megan Vander Kooi for their paper, Noah Bronner for website, Sam Eppinga and Elias Obbink for documentary, and Joya Schreurs, Jessica Nibbelink, and Hannah Landman for performance. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, both the state competition in Des Moines and the national competition in Washington D.C. has turned into a virtual competition. The virtual state competition is scheduled to be held the week of May 4 and the national finalists will be announced May 8. Mr. Harskamp and myself were once again proud of the level of projects our students created. It is a blessing to see our students use the gifts God has given them in an academic setting. Thanks to all the students who participated and to the parents who helped, Mr. Harskamp and I really enjoy this project and find the finished projects to be rewarding!

Mr. Holwerda and Mr. Harskamp

Have you considered hosting an international student?

How about trying it out for a month or two this summer?

Our international students will be spending the summer here rather than going home. We also have a need for host families in the fall--for returning students and new students. A stipend will be paid to all hosting families. If interested, please contact Dorenda Van Gaalen (dvangaalen@unitychristian.net) or Wayne Dykstra.

Gifts given in memory...

<i>Arie Mans</i>	<i>Gerb Mars</i>
<i>Jerry Den Hartog</i>	<i>Randy Jacobsma</i>
<i>Fran Moss</i>	<i>Dwayne De Jong</i>

Vogel Foundation to honor
Pete Statema for 55 years of service with
their company



State Champions

by Trevor Mouw

The results of last February's TEAMS (formerly JETS) Engineering competition are in, and Unity students are on top! Unity Varsity B Team finished in FIRST place among all Iowa teams and the Varsity A Team finished THIRD!

Top 3 teams in each state qualify for the National Competition in Nashville! ...except this year, because that event has sadly been cancelled due to Covid 19 concerns. In the current standings, Unity B ranks SECOND in Division 1 Nationally (Unity A, 7th)!

But anyway, both teams will receive certificates for placing in the top 3 in our state, and the B Team will get individual medallions and a "Best In State" banner!

Years of Service Recipients

It is our tradition at Unity to thank our staff members when they reach milestones for every 5 years of service at Unity Christian High School. This year, due to Covid-19, we are likely unable to recognize these staff members in person.

We appreciate the dedication of the following staff members who have served the Lord and our students well in their time at Unity.

5 Years of Service

- Brittany Foreman - Payroll and Bookkeeping Services
- Jonathan Holwerda - Social Studies Teacher and Coach
- Dorenda Van Galen - International Student Services

10 Years of Service

- Wayne Dykstra - Head of School
- Cody Harskamp - Social Studies Teacher and Coach
- Rhonda Van Donge - Spanish Instructor
- Bob Van Gelder - Bus Driver

20 Years of Service

- Janie Van Dyke - English Instructor and Play/Musical Director

When you have a moment, please thank the following eight staff members for the work they do at Unity.





Alexandra Bandstra



Anna Beitelspacher



Ashley Beitelspacher



Tomas Bulk



Micah Byl



Megan Byisma



Megan De Groot



Jasper Fedders



Erica Feikema



Gideon Fynaardt



Michaela Gray



Peter Hoogland



Ethan Hulshof



Aimee Hulstein



John Ju



Ivan Kamp



Ethan Kloten



Sydney Krommendyk



Mali Krosschell



Hannah Landman



Naomi Lief



Kyle Goolman



Brody Rens



Dylan Riebeling



Nathaniel Runia



Sofia Sandbulte



Bryce Scholten



Joya Schreurs



Darby Schuiteman



Brayden Stuit



Adriel Tinklenberg



Parker Van Kley



Riley Van Wyhe



Levi Vande Voort



Kayla Vande Zande



Karli Vanden Brink



William Ver Mulm



John Vreugdenhil



Mr. Wayne Dykstra
Head Of School



Mr. Jonathan Holwerda
Class Advisor



Mr. Rudy Folkerts
Class Advisor



Mr. Trevor Mouw
Class Advisor



Mrs. Rhonda Van Donge
Class Advisor

Unity Christian High School

Orange City, Iowa Class of 2020



Alan (Rong) Wang



Susan (Yu) Wang



Katey Wieringa



Jocelyn Zonnefeld



Aubyn Zwart

Unity Honor Society Class of 2020

Anna Beitelspacher
Ashley Beitelspacher
Madison Blankespoor
Devin Bos
Joya Breems

Tomas Bulk
Micah Byl
Megan De Groot
Jenna Dekkers
Micah Dykstra

Gideon Fynaardt
Alexis Haverhals
Jackson Hofland
Aimee Hulstein
Ivan Kamp

Sydney Krommendyk
Mali Krosschell
Hannah Landman
Georgia Lodewyk
Sofia Sandbulte

Joya Schreurs
Darby Schuiteman
Adriel Tinklenberg
Austin Van Donge
Parker Van Kley



Madison Blankespoor



Devin Bos



Joya Breems



Jenna Dekkers



Lane Dekkers



Elliot Dykstra



Micah Dykstra



Alexis Haverhals



Ethan Hoekstra



Jackson Holland



Jonah Hofmeyer



Georgia Lodewyk



Matthew Moline



Jayden Mulder



Jessica Nibbelink



Austin Van Donge



Kaylee Van Donge



Andrew Van Grouw



Julianna Van Grouw



Luke Wagner



Kayla Vande Zande
Karli Vanden Brink
William Ver Mulm
Luke Wagner
Alan (Rong) Wang

Susan Wang
Katey Wieringa
Jocelyn Zonnefeld
Aubyn Zwart

Future Plans

Seniors 2020

Bandstra, Alexandra
Beitelspacher, Anna
Beitelspacher, Ashley
Blankespoor, Madison
Bos, Devin
Breems, Joya
Bulk, Tomas
Byl, Micah
Bylsma, Megan
De Groot, Megan
Dekkers, Jenna
Dekkers, Lane
Dykstra, Elliot

Dykstra, Micah
Fedders, Jasper
Feikema, Erica
Fynaardt, Gideon
Gray, Michaela
Haverhals, Alexis
Hoekstra, Ethan
Hofland, Jackson
Hofmeyer, Jonah
Hoogland, Peter
Hulshof, Ethan
Hulstein, Aimee
Ju, John
Kamp, Ivan
Klompfen, Ethan
Krommendyk, Sydney
Krosschell, Mali
Landman, Hannah
Lief, Naomi
Lodewyk, Georgia
Moline, Matthew
Mulder, Jayden
Nibbelink, Jessica
Oolman, Kyle

Rens, Brody
Riebeling, Dylan
Runia, Nathaniel
Sandbulte, Sofia
Scholten, Bryce

Schreurs, Joya
Schuiteman, Darby
Stuit, Braden

Tinklenberg, Adriel
Van Donge, Austin
Van Donge, Kaylee
Van Grouw, Andrew
Van Grouw, Julianna
Van Kley, Parker
Van Wyhe, Riley
Vande Voort, Levi
Vande Zande, Kayla
Vanden Brink, Karli
Ver Mulm, William
Vreugdenhil, John
Wagner, Luke
Wang, Alan
Wang, Susan
Wieringa, Katey
Zonnefeld, Jocelyn
Zwart, Aubyn

Plans after High School

Dordt University
University of Sioux Falls
South Dakota State University
Northwestern College
Dordt University
Dordt University
Dakota State University
Undecided
University of Iowa
University of Sioux Falls
Dordt University
Dordt University
Northwest Iowa
Community College
Gap year, then Dordt University
McPherson College
Dordt University
Northwestern College
Dordt University
Dordt University
South East Tech
Northwestern College
Dordt University
Undecided
Dordt University
Northwestern College
Calvin College
Dordt University
Northwestern College
Dordt University
University of Nebraska
Dordt University
Northwestern College
Dordt University
Undecided
Undecided
Northwestern College
Northwest Iowa
Community College
Dordt University
South East Tech
Dordt University
Northwestern College
Northwest Iowa
Community College
Dordt University
Dordt University
Northwest Iowa
Community College
Western Iowa Tech
Dordt University
Dordt University
Dordt University
Dordt University
Northwestern College
Undecided
Work
Dordt University
Dordt University
Dordt University
Dordt University
Dordt University
University of Minnesota
Dordt University
Dordt University
Dordt University
Dordt University

Major

Undecided
Nursing
Agriculture Business
Nursing
Biomedical Engineering
Communications
Cyber Operations & Networking
Undecided
Nursing
Elementary Education
Digital Media
Undecided
Automotive/Light Duty Mechanic
Independent Studies
Automotive Restoration
Undecided
Pre-Medical
Nursing
Elementary Education
Welding/Plumbing
Pre-Medical
Digital Media
Dairy Production
Agriculture General
Biology/Health Profession
Education
Digital Media
Business/Sports Management
Psychology & Criminal Justice
Pre-Medical
Biology & Chemistry
Art
English
Undecided
Veterinary Technology
Psychology
Diesel Tec
Pro-Tech
Construction Management
History
Nursing/Spanish Minor
Diesel Technology
English & Theology
Animal Science
Diesel Mechanic
Graphic Design
Biology
Digital Media
Pro-Tech Agriculture
Business & Marketing
Computer Science
Undecided
Work
Undecided
Music Education
Accounting & Business
Criminal Justice
Pre-Physical Therapy
Management
Education
Spanish
Mathematics & Biology
Social Work

New Faces, New Opportunities

by Coach Jay Schuiteman

I don't know about you all, but the 2019-20 season seems like a life time ago. So much has happened since then. This season will be remembered for being a season of with new faces and new opportunities. With four new starters, two freshmen and no seniors, we were asked to grow and develop in a way few teams experience. The season, as usual, had some ups and downs. But, we experienced exciting games and moments as well. The girls, and the coaches, learned to play and win as a unit. Unfortunately, our season ended early with a loss in the first round of tournaments. However, that doesn't change the fact that it was an amazing year of development for our young team. I am already stoked for next year's season and everyone returning to play.

The devotion we read through this year has been a favorite of mine for years. It's called "The Divine Dance", by Shannon Kubiak Primicerio. This book challenges us to look at life with some urgency. The dress rehearsal is over and God is knocking on the dressing room door. Is the dancer ready to dance for HIM? The Choice is left to the dancer. The book lead us into many great discussions on friendships, parents, dating, and dancing for the audience of ONE.

I know I said we had no seniors but we do say goodbye to two senior managers this year. Erica Feikema & Katey Wieringa were amazing managers that were selfless and served the team greatly. Their leadership and energy will be missed.

And we also say good-by to some great friends and coaches. Jordan Coulter, a graduate from Northwestern, has been with us for two years. She will be moving to Omaha to look for for a full time job. Alyssa Colyn will also be moving. She will go to Ripon, California, and attend graduate school for a physical therapy major. All of us are so appreciative of them for the time, effort, and energy they spent on this team. They did a great job with coaching and with being a friend to



Front row, l to r: Anneke Klompfen, Emily Alons, Tyra Hulstein, Josie Byl and Hannah Hofland; second row, l to r: Amaya Van Essen, Rylee Visser, Janie Schoonhoven, Gracie Schoonhoven, Tyra Schuiteman, Jenna Bouma and Emma Byker.

all of us. Everyone here will miss them deeply. Thank you for contributing to our program and good luck in the next phase of your life!

On another, happier note: Congratulations to the girls who were recognized this year!

Janie Schoonhoven for the... First team all-Conference War Eagle, First team all-review, first team all-district IBCA & IGCA, and 3rd team all-state from the IPSWA.

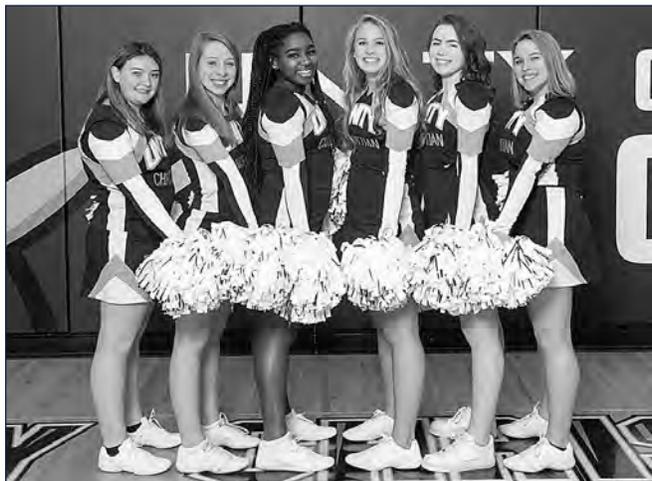
Gracie Schoonhoven for... First team all-Conference in the War Eagle and Second team all-review

Tyra Schuiteman for the Second team all-Conference in the War Eagle

And finally, Jenna Bouma for an Honorable mention in the War Eagle

On behalf of the coaching staff I would like to thank the parents, fans, and players for their support this season. God is good, and we give Him all the praise and glory for the opportunities He has blessed us. Thank you to the school for blessing me with the opportunity to represent Unity and lead these amazing young ladies. Thank you Jon Holwerda, Jordan Coulter, Alyssa Colyn and Jeff Saeger for their friendship and dedication. May we all, on or off the court, strive to love people as Christ has loved us!!

Enjoy the journey,
Coach Jay



Cheerleaders: (l to r) Chyann Schreur, Kayla Vande Zande, A.J. Schrock, Megan Bylsma, Alexandra Bandstra, Gabrielle Miedema.

Teamwork



Front row, l to r: Tyrell Hulshof, Heath Kroeze, Dylan Riebeling, Tanner Schouten, Jacob Dragstra, Logan Franken and Clayton Bosma. second row, l to r: managers Jackson Hofland and Jacob Sandbulte, players Devin Bos, Ethan Hulshof, Bo Byl, Caleb Rosenboom, Brody Rens, Ethan Klompjen, Austin Van Donge and manager Lane Dekkers.

by Cliff Warner

The Unity Christian men's basketball team finished the 2019-2020 season with a record of 12-10 overall and 7-3 in the War Eagle conference. Unity Christian's season came to an end in a double overtime loss to Sioux Center. This year's team was a great example of how hard players should play and how they should play for one another. As a head coach for the last 6 seasons I haven't had a team who played as hard as this group did. The coaching staff received numerous compliments from referees, opposing coaches and fans, and Unity Christian fans about their effort and sportsmanship, the way they played together, and the way they conducted themselves on and off the court.

Our season took a hit before it even got started after senior, Austin Van Donge, suffered a torn ACL tear in September. Our team was able to rally around Austin and find a way to win early on. The young, inexperienced team got off to a great start with a road win over Cherokee. The boys rode that win to a 6-1 start and as high as 8th in the polls. Unity again faced one of the toughest schedules which resulted in some tough losses to highly ranked teams. Those big games also gave way to some big wins. A homecoming game versus Spirit Lake in front of a packed

crowd was a great midseason win. The highlight of the season was a home win over in-town rival, and highly-ranked MOC Dutchmen. Our team trailed most of the night, however, a late run and clutch free throws put the Knights in a position to win. The Knights executed a perfect defensive possession to snatch victory away for the Dutchmen. The final game of the Knight's season was a double overtime, post-season loss to Sioux Center. It was one of the best played high school games I have ever seen. Each team made big plays down the stretch to force two overtimes.

The team had numerous individual accomplishments as well. Ethan Klompjen was selected First Team All-Conference, Logan Franken was selected Second Team All-Conference, and Clayton Bosma was selected Honorable Mention All-Conference. While it was great to see these players receive individual awards, the success of this team was built upon the number of different players we could rely on to contribute on a nightly basis. We played 12 different guys who all had key moments this season where they helped the team win a game. We also were led in scoring by 5 different players. I was very proud of the way this team competed and worked all season long.

I want to say a special "thank you" to our senior class—Ethan Klompjen, Devin

Bos, Dylan Riebeling, Ethan Hulshof, Brody Rens, Lane Dekkers, Jackson Hofland and Austin Van Donge. Your hard work, fun-loving attitudes, and leadership will be missed next season. Thank you for all your work and the time you spend with Unity basketball. A special thank you to Austin Van Donge for the effort to help coach and encourage the team even though he could not play. Austin showed what being a great teammate and Christian man was all season long.

I would also like to say "thank you" to all of our fans and parents for your support and encouragement throughout the year.

Lastly, "thank you" to my fellow coaches—Cody Harskamp and Kevin Van Donge. Your long hours, encouragement, and "behind the scenes" help does not go unnoticed. You are truly a blessing to this school and the players you coach.

Since this will be my last season as a coach and teacher at Unity I want to thank everyone for the encouragement and support they have shown me and my family while I have been at Unity. Thank you to all my former players for your efforts and commitment to Unity Christian and Knights basketball. I will miss all of you. I have loved my time at Unity and could not have asked for a better place to start my coaching career. Go Knights!



Little Women cast and orchestra

May We Never Forget the Journey

by Janie Van Dyke

Little Women, the musical, was supposed to celebrate opening night on March 19. But due to the covid virus, the cast, orchestra, light and sound crews were able to squeeze in one performance almost a week early. This group of young people rose to the occasion and did an amazing job!

Our journey began in January with rehearsals, learning blocking, songs, and dance. We grew as we unraveled this very familiar story of family, love and learning. While Jo's dreams did not always turn out as she expected, ours didn't either. But we grew. We formed new friendships, tried new things, and learned more about our own stories.

We are thankful for the journey we could take together. And this journey includes many folks along the way. We are thankful for a stage designer and builders, actors, actresses, a choreographer, a costume designer, back stage managers, program and poster designer, light designer and workers, sound designers and workers, the orchestra, Mrs. Van Beek who put in countless hours and practice, Mrs. Scholton who played piano at many rehearsals and for the show, and make-up/hair workers. It was tremendous traveling and creating with all of them.

When I knew the virus was going to shut us down, I grieved the loss of performances and the amount of work it takes to get to the performance part of a production. But then a good friend of mine reminded me that most of the good stuff happens in the journey. And it did. We were blessed to travel with each other for three months, learning, growing, sharing, laughing, and seeing life just a bit clearer through the story of *Little Women*.



Marmee reads a letter to her daughters.

Thanks for the great response to our plant sale!! This summer our high tunnel produce will be given to the Pioneer Home.





God is Good: Marla Vande Kamp

by Mark Kauk

Job Description: Great listener and ability to carry on multiple conversations and tasks within short time periods. Expect to be interrupted in your work. Mentor and disciple teenagers. Encourage and pray with those who are anxious. Greet others with a smile. Work at resolving conflicts between students. Communicate with others when it's easy. Communicate with others when it's hard. Find subs when one teacher is gone. Find subs when six teachers are gone. Size and fit cheerleading uniforms. Show up even when you've lost your voice and you have to do announcements. Be a reflection of the love of Christ because you know you are his child.

If you guessed this is the job of a school secretary you are right. If you guessed this is a brief description of Marla, you are also right. Yes, and I mean brief. A complete list would quickly grow to pages long. Marla is one of those people who remind all of us that God's calling on your life is more than a job, it is as a willing servant in the kingdom of God. She starts each morning at Unity realizing her day may intersect with many who God brings into her path who may need a word of encouragement or admonition.

When you enter into the lives of others, you find time to live life as they experience it. Marla has done that. You help plan and go to Jr-Sr banquets, coordinate ticket sales and recruit faculty to help with music concerts and plays, you stand up in the middle of basketball crowds and get the adults to their feet to cheer, you enter into the grief and anxiousness of students with hugs and prayer, and you challenge others with "you can do better than this."

For many years after starting at Unity Christian in the spring of 1977, Marla worked as the only secretary of the school, providing effective communication between administration, faculty, parents, alumni, students, newspaper reporters, and community members. She has been responsible for countless phone calls and letters to

those she was tasked with calling or writing. Keeping track of absences and days off from school required being a detective, nurse, and parent. As for excuses, she has heard and seen them all. Did you save any of them?

As paperwork gave way to electronic record keeping and information delivery, Marla learned with us all. Each year brought new changes to adapt to and Marla was always up to the task. During her time at Unity Christian, she has worked with six principals, David Van Someren, Ivan Groothuis, Glenn Vos, Gordon De Koekkoek, Harlan De Vries, and Wayne Dykstra. Working closely day by day, she brought timely wisdom and perspective to new changes that came and events that continued from season to season. Marla worked as the only secretary of the school until 2007, when she began job sharing with Laura Malenke for the next 12 years. This past year Marla began job sharing with Gina Zylstra, teaching her to become the next full-time secretary.

Besides being our secretary, Marla has found time to make regular trips to California and Sioux Falls to visit her children, and be an awesome grandma to her grandchildren as they grow up, get married, and start families themselves. Besides her children Grant and Renae, she has gained the addition of a son and daughter-in-law, 6 grandchildren, five "in-law" grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren.

Marla has continued to help Unity Christian maintain a healthy sense of respect for the past and a faith filled look to the future. When our school wide speaker system went down for over a month this year, bells and announcements went quiet. But we knew that sooner or later, that voice that addressed us as if we were one of her family would be back. Mar, you have rejoiced with us, cried with us, laughed with us, were sad with us, shared your faith with us, and brought glory to our Savior through the person he created you to be. May God bless the investment you have made in each of us and our children.

Side by Side

by Jenna Dekkers

As a member of the Dance Team for three years, I have come to love dancing even more. Our season starts in early August before school and ends with Homecoming during basketball season, making it one of the longest sports seasons at Unity. As a sophomore, I tried out for the dance team with no professional dance class experience. For tryouts, all dancers are required to come in, learn the choreography of a dance that day, and then perform it for judges. When it was my turn to dance I got so scared and stood in the middle of the floor petrified for half of the song. I do not know what the judges saw in me but I made the team. Looking back on the seasons I have had with the Dance Team



L to R: Kate Zwart, Rachel Stoub, Aimee Hulstein, Sydney Krommendyk, Jenna Dekkers, Brooklyn Van Otterloo, Elaina Ammons, Michaela Gray, Kaitlyn Ammons, Kayda Vanden Berg

I can not say that it was all rainbows and butterflies. We had our ups and downs but what remained at the end of the day was our friendships with each other. Dance Team is unique from other sports because not only do we have to dance in time together but we also have to look uniform. This means that we all have to do our makeup and hair the same way. So being on the dance team we have lots of time to hang out and get ready for

performances. This is the time when we get to laugh and talk together as a team. During this time we really get to know each other well. I would say that the Unity Christian Dance Team is way more than a team, it is a family. No matter what, I always have these girls by my side. At the end of the day, we have each other's backs no matter if we need a laugh or a shoulder to cry on.

Senior Reflections

by Jackson Hofland

In 2016, Mr. Dykstra addressed the class for the first time at our freshman orientation. During his presentation, he noted that our class would be special because we graduate in the year 2020, a number combination that wouldn't be seen again for over 1000 years. Little did he know, our graduating year would be memorable for a very different reason.

After that night ended, high school life became normal. Sitting in classes with friends became normal. After school practices took place daily. Performances and games were regular events we looked forward to. Through these common events, many memories were made and relationships were formed. Other special events allowed us to make more memories. Trips to state events, prom, homecoming, and others provided more times where memories were made. Our high school lives, in the many different forms they took, were a great and unforgettable time.

And then came the second half of senior year. Our final play, sports season, or quarter of spending days with friends came to a complete and sudden stop. Unfortunately, this left us without the time to soak in the final joys that high school brings. However, it has brought the ability to reflect on and appreciate the time we were given. God has blessed us richly in our 4 years at Unity. He has presented us with many opportunities to use our different gifts and abilities at school. We would like to thank all of the teachers, coaches, mentors, and friends who made Unity Christian a great place to learn and grow. So, while we will always note the memorable finish to our high school time, we will also remember the time, events, and people who made our whole experience special.

Walking in the Way of Love: A Meditation and a Mission

by Joya Schreurs

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children, and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." As a senior class, we selected these words from Ephesians chapter five to serve as our class verse, the text to summarize our career as Unity students and to set the framework for our graduation. Of course, both our time at Unity and our possibly-on-the-way graduation ceremony did not occur as originally intended. Like countless others across the globe, we feel the sour ache stemming from separation from those we love and cancellation of long-anticipated events.

However, the words we selected from Ephesians deliver the challenging truth that we are not to expect paths of ease. "Follow God's example," Paul says, "just as Christ loved us and gave himself up." As surely as we know Jesus is our Savior, we know the road he took was arduous, fraught with affliction and grief. And that is the road we are called to walk. Our current discomforts range from trivial to heart-wrenching, and they are equally—divinely—placed before us, training us to live as God's "dearly loved children". Our years at Unity have planted the seed of this truth within us. Now it's our time to show we believe it. Thank you, teachers, mentors, and friends, for your devotion to our growth. And thank you, God, for loving us enough to call us to the way of love.