



# TODAY

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## "God is Faithful"

by Elwood Yoder

When asked about her 32 years teaching art at EMS, Barbara Gautcher responded by saying that "God is faithful." In the mid-1980s, former EMS guidance counselor Michael Shenk casually asked Barbara's father if he knew of anyone who could teach art. When Reynold Simmons told Michael that his daughter Barbara was looking for a teaching position, it led to over three decades working at EMS.

Barbara believes she was "called to work here." Citing Isaiah 43, Barbara stated that God called her by name, and has been faithful in her career. Mrs. Gautcher's faith in God has bolstered and supported her teaching of hundreds of students, from 1985 until her retirement in June 2017.

Barbara has noticed changes over the years in teaching art. Virginia has been a national exception, she commented, by including significant amounts of art teaching in the K-12 curriculum. She notes that by the time students reach her classes, they have had art classes several times in earlier grades. With that foundation she has been able to offer electives in pottery, stained glass, watercolor, printmaking, and photography. Another big difference noted is that students are more technologically based today and do not look things up in books. "But you don't get depth or details" that way, Barbara reflects.

Interacting with students, faculty, and staff has been a highlight of working at EMS for Barbara. She's made lifelong friends with former students and faculty. Everywhere she goes in the Harrisonburg area she runs into people she knows through her years of teaching art.

Barbara has traveled to Europe nine times as an art teacher, either with Touring Choir or leading her own E-Term experience for students. It was during a sabbatical in Romania at an art symposium that Barbara made contacts that led to the Touring Choir eventually travelling there for music and service. Later Jay and Sherri Hartzler moved to Romania in order to do mission work.

Stateside, Barbara has served on Rockingham Fine Arts Board, taught summer school at JMU, and served on the Spitzer Art Gallery Board for 25 years. She is an artist member of the Oasis Gallery in Harrisonburg, and she has served on Inter-Church Board since 1994. Her service on the Inter-Church Board is what has kept her in long-term contact with friends Myron and Esther Augsburg. Esther pioneered and established the art program at EMHS in the 1970s, and for many years Esther and Barbara have worked together in a variety of ways and places (see page five).

Whether leading the EMS Evening at the Gallery, or through helping Juniors design the Junior/Senior Banquet, or taking art field trips locally and around the state, Barbara has loved working with students. "It's been pure pleasure to work here," Barbara concludes. Godspeed and thank you Ms. Gautcher!



Karissa Sauder '17 works with Barbara Gautcher during pottery class.  
(Photo by Andrew Gascho)

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for these events -  
details at [www.emhs.net](http://www.emhs.net)

Aug. 14 - New MS/HS Student  
Orientation

Aug. 15 - EMES New Family Orientation

Aug. 17 - EMES Back to School Potluck

Aug. 20 - MS/HS Back to School Bash!

Aug. 22 - First day of school

Sep. 18-22 - Spiritual Renewal  
Week



faith excellence integrity service

[www.easternmennoniteschool.org](http://www.easternmennoniteschool.org)

# Welcome New Faculty & Staff!

We're excited to be joined by the following new faculty and staff. Join us in welcoming them!



Hannah Bailey  
(Courtesy Photo)

**Hannah Bailey '08, First Grade** - has an education degree from Eastern Mennonite University and several years teaching experience in Rockingham County Public Schools as a first grade special education aide and Kindergarten and second grade classroom teacher. Hannah has a strong sense of call to give back to and to be part of the EMS community.



Kevin Carini  
(Courtesy Photo)

**Kevin Carini, Science** - has a B.S. in Physics and Chemistry from Bridgewater College and comes to EMS with 12 years experience in teaching science curricula up through AP levels in environmental science, chemistry, and physics. Kevin spent seven years teaching at Luray High School and his last five years teaching at Stuart Hall School. Kevin has extensive experience in robotics and associated language programming and is building a new Makerspace for EMS students.

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Malea Gascho  
(Courtesy Photo)

**Malea Gascho, Secondary Art** - has both a bachelor's of art and a bachelor's of science in Fine Arts Education from Eastern Mennonite University. Most recently, she has been a long-term substitute art teacher at Blue Ridge Christian School and Harrisonburg City Schools. A native of Pigeon, Michigan Malea had rave reviews from her references regarding the breadth of her work, including excellent endorsement

from former EMS art teacher, Barbara Gautcher.



Bethany Gibbs  
(Courtesy Photo)

**Bethany Gibbs, Grade 4** - is a graduate of Central Christian School in Ohio and has a B.S. from Bethel College. She has been teaching 10 years in Augusta County School District and is eager to further her career for a Mennonite institution. Bethany has a passion for math and science instruction and loves the variety all subjects bring to the elementary classroom. She lives with her family in Port Republic.



April Hepler  
(Courtesy Photo)

**April Hepler, Counselor** - April has an M.A. in Counseling from Eastern Mennonite University and has several years experience as a mental health therapist, an Associate Pastor of Care at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, a youth pastor, and as a guidance counselor at a Christian school. April has nearly completed her LPC residency hours which will be of great benefit to EMS.



Erin Kennedy Hess  
(Courtesy Photo)

**Erin Kennedy Hess, Advancement Assistant** - Prior to joining EMS, Erin worked at the Harrisonburg City Preschool as a lead teacher. Her previous work as a substitute teacher for RCPS, a private consultant for BabyZone and as a client services manager for Merrill Lynch gave Erin the detail-oriented, project management and customer service background highly sought for this position. Erin has a bachelor's degree from EMU in History and Social Science.



Joanna Moyer Diener  
(Courtesy Photo)

**Joanna Moyer Diener, R.N., Health Coordinator** - Joanna has a Master's in Community Health and will work on a part-time basis as our Health Coordinator, facilitating health needs of community. Joanna and her husband David have served overseas as missionaries and have two children who attend EMS: Phil '22 and Naomi '23.



Kierra Sauder  
(Courtesy Photo)

**Kierra Sauder '10, Secondary English** - Kierra has a B.A. in English Education from Eastern Mennonite University. Kierra has three years experience teaching English at Blue Ridge Christian School and has been instrumental in creating curriculum guides for their English department. Kierra will also be involved with drama direction. In case you don't know, Kierra also has another great connection to EMS ...

her father is EMS English teacher Curt Stutzman.



Gini Trotter  
(Courtesy Photo)

**Gini Trotter, Counselor** - Gini has a M.Ed., Ed.S. in School Counseling degree from James Madison University and has been working most recently as a school counselor substitute at Turner Ashby High School. She has also served three years with Mennonite Central Committee as a Resettlement Facilitator in Guatemala and served years as Program Manager for Harrisonburg/Rockingham Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Welcome

# In the News

## VISION:

*Eastern Mennonite School aspires to reflect Christ's light as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives, and lives God's call.*



A time-honored tradition at our 5th grade elementary graduation is the "high five receiving line." Younger students and EMES faculty go through the line congratulating each 5th grade graduate on their accomplishment. (Staff Photo)

Mathematics teacher Laura Hershey (right) is the third generation EMS teacher in her family. Laura's grandmother Dorothy Lehman Kreider (left) taught math at the school 1956-58. Ms. Hershey's mother (center), Jeanette Kreider Hershey '81, taught Family and Consumer Science for two years while FCS teacher Gloria Lehman was on sabbatical, 1985-87. (Courtesy Photo)



On May 2, 2017 Girls Varsity Soccer played VES. We thank all who keep our Main Campus fields the pride of the Blue Ridge and Virginia Independent Conferences. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)





## Girls Varsity Soccer: Putting Faith into Action

(Photos by Andrew Gascho)



On April 26, the Girls Varsity soccer team took an afternoon off from regular practice to volunteer at Ridgeway Mennonite Church's Kids Club. The afternoon was full of playing soccer, pushing kids on swings, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, crafts, getting to know children in the neighborhood, and sharing the love of Christ with them.

Coaches Andrew Gascho and Curt Stutzman model the EMS mission of faith and service by ensuring these types of events round out the players' team experience. Thank you Varsity Flames for putting faith into action!



# Centennial Spotlight

## Esther '49 and Myron Augsburger



Esther Augsburger assists a student at the pottery kiln. (Photo Credit: EMU Archives)

Esther Augsburger established the arts program at EMHS in 1971 and taught art at the school for the next nine years. During her teaching years Esther earned a Master's in Sculpture from James Madison University in 1979. Esther has long supported the arts program at EMS, often helping and encouraging Barbara Gautcher's work at the school.

In 1998 EMHS student leaders asked for a commissioned work from Esther, which is called *Shalom*. It is prominently displayed

on the Dining Hall wall at the school. Esther will have art work displayed in the joint EMS/EMU Centennial Homecoming celebration October 12-15, 2017.

When Dr. Myron S. Augsburger served as fifth president of Eastern Mennonite College, 1965-1980, he also supervised EMHS as chief administrator. He became president of EMC and EMS at the age of 35. It was under Augsburger's leadership that EMHS worked toward a separate charter and Board of Directors, which happened two years after he left office. Augsburger often spoke in EMHS chapels, has preached widely around the world as an evangelist, and has long been a friend of EMHS, supporting the school in many ways.

The extended EMS community extends many thanks to Myron and Esther Augsburger for serving and encouraging the ministries of EMS!



Myron Augsburger making plans for the school's future. (Photo Credit: EMU Archives)

*Today* is published six times a year for families, alumni and friends of Eastern Mennonite School. We value your input. Send your feedback and story ideas to: [today@emhs.net](mailto:today@emhs.net).

Look for previous issues of *Today* online at <https://issuu.com/easternmennoniteschool>

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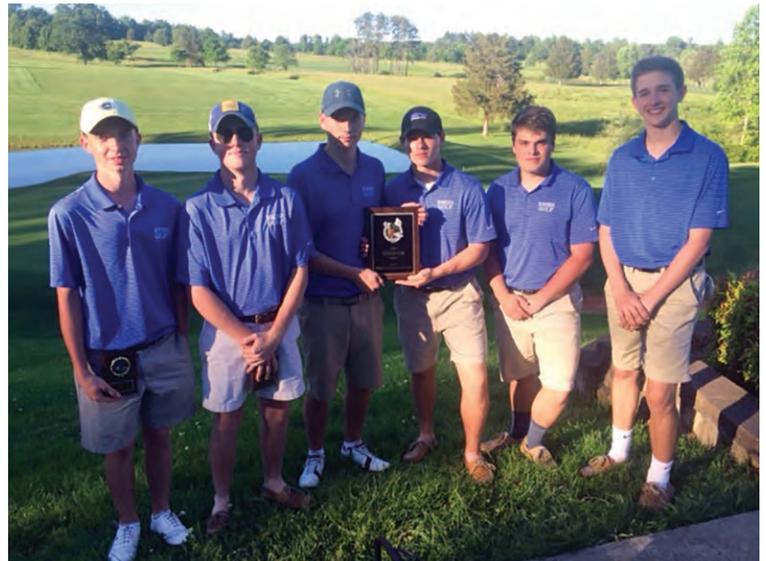
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## MISSION:

*Eastern Mennonite School joins home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world.*

## Eastern Mennonite Golf Earns First VIC Title!



The Eastern Mennonite High School Golf team won its first Virginia Independent Conference boys golf championship on May 15, 2017, in Appomattox, VA. The Flames played in the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Division II state tournament on Monday May 22, at Meadowbrook Country Club in Richmond. Congratulations Coach Slonaker and team!

Pictured here, left to right are teammates Meade Slonaker '20, Mark Slonaker '18, Bailey Reimer '17 (who made a hole-in-one at the tournament!), Jack Pisk '20, Stuart Weaver '18, and Collin Gregory '20. (Photo by Mary-Kaye Slonaker)



**EMS proudly awarded diplomas** to the 43 members of the Class of 2017. The class commitment to academic excellence is evident students earned over \$3,000,000 in college scholarships and grants. Twenty-eight students qualified for Academic Honors (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Cum Laude) by achieving a 3.5 Grade Point Average of higher. To achieve such honors, these students chose the most rigorous courses throughout their high school career, including AP curricula and university level work and or research. Additionally 11 Seniors earned an Honor Scholar Award by completing specific criteria set by the academic departments. We are also honored to have one National Merit Finalist (Elijah Powell) and two

commended National Merit Scholars (Grace Brega and Lucas Wenger). The Class of 2017 plans to continue deepening their learning through full-time work, gap years of service, and by attending the following institutions:

- The American University of Paris
- Anderson University
- Belmont University
- Blue Ridge Community College
- Bridgewater College
- Eastern Mennonite University
- Franklin and Marshall College
- Gordon College
- Goshen College
- Hesston College
- James Madison University
- Messiah College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- University of Alabama
- University of California San Diego
- University of Georgia
- University of Miami



Left: We will miss the Class of 2017! (Photos by Jaden Hostetter '16)

Below: EMS Faculty and staff continue their time-honored tradition of applauding for newly-minted graduates as they leave the ceremony.

- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Tech



We wish each student God's blessing as they depart for the next phase of their journey! For more information on joining the K-12 EMS community, contact (540) 236-6021 or [admissions@emhs.net](mailto:admissions@emhs.net).



Left: Life-long friendships are a cherished part of the EMS experience!

Below: The Class of 2017 celebrates at the end of Commencement.





*Save the Date for*  
**Centennial Homecoming**  
**October 12-15, 2017**

*Our Goal, God's Plan*

(times subject to change)

Log on to [www.easternmennoniteschool.org](http://www.easternmennoniteschool.org) for the latest details.

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

8:30 a.m. EMS History Day Featuring EMS Centennial K-12 Campus Groundbreaking followed by all day events for K-12 students

**Friday, October 13, 2017**

9:30 a.m. Chapel and reception honoring 2017 Young Alumnus of the Year Matt Weaver '92, EMS Auditorium

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Touring Choir Reunion rehearsal led by Jay Hartzler, EMS Auditorium

5:00 p.m. Booster Club Tailgate before Volleyball games, location TBD

6:00 p.m. JV Girls Volleyball v. Harrisonburg High School

7:00 p.m. Varsity Girls Volleyball v. Harrisonburg High School

**Saturday, October 14, 2017**  
**Reunion Classes "2" and "7"**

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
EMS Founder's Brunch honoring the 2017 Lifetime Service Award winner Dr. Robert Eshleman '52 (reservations required, RSVP to [alumni@emhs.net](mailto:alumni@emhs.net))

10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Alumni Open House – tours of EMS available

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Touring Choir Reunion rehearsal, led by Jay Hartzler, EMS Auditorium

11:00 a.m. EMS Booster Club Tailgate before Soccer Game, EMS Soccer Field Parking Lot

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Relive "Walk to Lunch" @ EMU. Reminisce about the good old days by walking as a reunion class to lunch "up the hill" at the EMU Dining Hall. Shuttle buses available as needed.

1:00 p.m. EMS Varsity Boys Soccer v. Virginia Episcopal School - EMS Soccer Field  
Recognition of Boys and Girls Soccer State Championship Title Teams at halftime

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Centennial Festival featuring live concert by The Steel Wheels at 4:00 p.m., local food trucks, inflatables and more, EMU Front Campus Lawn

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
EMHS Instrumental Concert, followed by intermission and stage change

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
EMS Centennial Concert, EMS Auditorium, featuring Touring Choir Reunion Concert led by Jay Hartzler. Touring Choir members of all years are invited to participate!

**Sunday, October 15, 2017**

9:00 a.m. EMS Centennial Worship Service, EMS Auditorium, honoring 2017 Alumnus of the Year Beryl Jantzi '77, special seating for the classes of 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967.

10:30 a.m. EMU Centennial Worship Service, Lehman Auditorium