

# Bethany Children's Home Alumni/Archives Newsletter

January 2022



*Jennifer M. Koch, Archivist  
Carl Bloss, Archivist Emeritus*

**A special thank you to everyone who made the holidays merry and bright for the youth of Bethany Children's home!**

**Don't miss your chance to be part of Bethany's legacy!**

**Phase 2 of our Brick Campaign has opened to the Community.**

Become a permanent part of the Bethany landscape, for you, your family, your Church or local business! Add a brick to the walkway of More Memorial Park. The **Legacy Brick Campaign** is in full swing, and you have time to be part of Phase 2! The Legacy Brick Campaign will end June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.



(Bethany Brick Example)

There are several ways to place your order. You can use the link below, you can fill out the sheet provided on the final page of this newsletter, or you can call the Development Alumni Coordinator Jennifer Koch at 610-589-4501, ext. 305 and she will assist you in placing your order.

<https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/bethanychildrenshome/>

**1886 to Present, The Ladies Committee of Bethany:  
Looking out for the needs of Bethany Youth for 136 Years.**

Mr. Carl Bloss, Archivist Emeritus, recently completed transcribing the original handwritten "Minutes of the Ladies Visiting and Advisory Committee." This group is still completing its chosen mission on the Bethany campus. Let's learn a little bit about them.

In 1886, the Board of Managers unanimously approved the formation of a visiting and advisory committee of 15 ladies, "who will meet with the Superintendent and Matron to report on the condition of the Home – acting in an auxiliary capacity to the Board." After years of scandal and in some cases physical abuse of children in Soldier's Orphans Schools, (SOS) and other orphanages; the Bethany Board agreed to have a "mother's gentle touch" to help in

making choices for the welfare of the Bethany children. They were to meet at least 4 times a year, visiting the cottages and other facilities at the end of their business sessions.

This Ladies Committee consistently made recommendations to the Superintendent and the Board of Managers; even raising funds to support many of their suggestions to create safe, comfortable, and efficient living and working conditions at Bethany. (Read many of these works in Supt. Raymond Vandevere's book, Chapter 9, pages 38 – 45) Minutes, notes, and a Progress Report to record their dedication over the years and are preserved in the Archives. The 1<sup>st</sup> volume from 1886 to 1936 was severely damaged, so was not read and thus not mentioned in the Vandevere account.

This group was known under various names such as the Ladies Committee; The Ladies Auxiliary; The Ladies Visiting Committee and even The Women's Organization. Several notable names of the past include Mrs. Matilda Chidsey (1<sup>st</sup> president), Mrs. C. W. Hess, Mrs. Harvey Miller, Mrs. Charles Shafer, Mrs. Charles Wolfretz and Mrs. Edward Fretz. The Matron of Bethany, the wife of the current Superintendent, was most often the Recording Secretary of this group. Their most pressing need was to manage the dinners and lunch on Anniversary Day as well the Bazaar Booths. They worked over the winter months with local church groups to provide needed clothing and comforts of living.

Further work will be completed to recognize those individuals who have served over the years. We have several photographs of this group in the archives. In 2018, this Ladies Committee was recognized by the Board of Managers with the Children's Award for their years of service.



1938



1960-1964



1974



1986



1987 - 1990

Today, the Ladies Visiting & Advisory Committee, although having their efforts hampered by COVID-19 in the last two years, have continued to support the youth of Bethany through: providing cookie trays to each cottage after the annual Hanging of the Greens Ceremony, wrapping donated gifts during the holiday season, sending a birthday card with a monetary gift to each Bethany youth, giving a card with a monetary gift to each Bethany youth who is graduating high school or college, volunteering at the Summer Concert Series; prior to COVID-19 the Ladies would hold an annual staff breakfast in October, they are hoping to get back to that tradition this year. “Primarily, Sandy Kolson, President of the Committee said, we are here to help and focus on the youth at Bethany and what we can do for them to improve their lives.”

The current sitting members of the Ladies Visiting & Advisory Committee are Sandy Kolson, President, Mary Ann Bossard, Treasurer, Diane Campbell, Judy Haluska, Regina Lebo, Barbara Mays, Doris Moser, Susanne Parks, Linda Enders Roxberry, Sue Snyder, Sue Witham, and Judi Wahl.

(This month's article was made possible due to the collaboration of Mr. Carl Bloss, Archivist Emeritus and Jennifer M. Koch, Bethany Archivist.)



Sandy Kolson, Sue Snyder, Mary Ann Bossard, Judy Haluska, and Susie Parks pictured above.



Susie Parks, Linda Roxberry, Sandy Kolson, Regina Lebo, Judi Wahl, and Sue Snyder.



Susie Parks, Linda Roxberry, Sue Snyder, Sandy Kolson, and Judi Wahl.

## Warm You Up Recipes from the Bethany Food Service Director Tony Brochu:

### PA Dutch Chicken Pot Pie

1 each	Chicken cut in parts
1 each	Onion
½ bunch	Parsley, chopped
3 large	Potatoes, dice into mouth size pieces
1 can	Cream of Chicken soup

2 cups	Flour
1 each	Egg
1 tsp	Salt
1 tsp	Baking Powder
1/3 cup	Cool Chicken Broth
1 TBSP	Shortening (Crisco)

Cook chicken parts & onion in large pot with 2 quarts of water, until chicken is tender and falling off the bone. Remove chicken from pot, debone and cut into small pieces. Put flour, egg, salt & baking powder in large bowl. Add 1/3 cup of cooled, chicken broth, a little at a time until the mixture feels like pie dough and can be rolled. Roll very thin. Cut into small squares, 2”x 2”. Bring chicken broth back to a boil and drop your dough squares a few at a time. Add diced potatoes, add parsley. Cook for about 20 minutes, stirring often so it does not stick to the bottom of pot. Add 1 can of cream of chicken soup & simmer until mixed thoroughly. Serve in soup bowls and top with chopped parsley.

### **Beef Casserole**

2 pounds	Beef cubes
1 can	Mushroom Soup
4 ounces	sliced fresh mushrooms
1 envelope	Lipton’s onion soup mix
1 cup	Red Wine

Mix all ingredients together & put into 2-quart greased casserole. Cover and bake at 300° oven for 3 hours. Now pour yourself of that red wine while you wait for this delicious meal to finish.

**BETHANY ALUMNI CONNECTION** – Let us help you reconnect with your Bethany Brothers & Sisters, reach out and let us know who you are looking for; lets search together.

### **ALUMNI NEWS:**

Pamela (Tobias) Anderson, Class of 1961, passed away in December of 2021.

Charles Bingham, Class of 1964, passed away on November 11, 2021, in Florida.

Richard Earl Schlicher, Class of 1941, passed away on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 87, due to complications from COVID. Richard spent most of his childhood at Bethany, he was married to Arlene Dissinger and had three siblings, Shirley, Kenneth, and Ada. Richard served three years in Korea and did two tours in Vietnam, he earned the Nations Medal and two Bronze Stars with

Oak Leaf Clusters, he retired after 20 years of dedicated service. Before his passing he enjoyed bust trips, golf, and puzzles. He was an avid walker and loved the Phillies and Eagles.

**ALUMNI GROUPS AT BETHANY-** Get involved with your peers today. Reach out to our Development Alumni Relations Coordinator for more information: [jkoch@bethanyhome.org](mailto:jkoch@bethanyhome.org)

Make sure you stop by the Bethany Children's Home website! An exciting change: **Alumni & Archives** now has their own tab. Stop there to get all the news and happenings. [www.bethanyhome.org](http://www.bethanyhome.org)

**HOMERS-** The next Homers Breakfast is **February 11th @ 9 AM** at Bethany Children's Home the cost to attend is \$5.00/person, please RSVP to Jennifer Koch at: [jkoch@bethanyhome.org](mailto:jkoch@bethanyhome.org) or 610-589-4501, Ext. 305.



Attendees – Homers Breakfast December 2021

**LOOKING FOR THESE ITEMS TO ADD TO THE BETHANY ARCHIVES:**

**Anniversary Day Programs:** We are missing the following years:  
1891, 1893, 1897, 1913, 1954, and 1957

**Bethany Cookbooks:** We are missing the following editions/years:  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> editions between the years of 1916-1926  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> editions between the years of 1936-1946

**Bethany Anniversary Day Pins:** We are missing the following years: 1901 & 1931-1942

**Do you have any Bethany memorabilia?**

# Legacy Brick Campaign

**We have an exciting opportunity to announce!**

Our Legacy Brick Campaign is a campus beautification project featuring personalized bricks by alumni, team and board members, and our community supporters. The bricks will form a walkway around the fountain in More Memorial Park.  
Be a lasting part of Bethany's campus for years to come!

There are several ways to order!

Go online to [www.fundraisingbrick.com/bethanychildrenshome/](http://www.fundraisingbrick.com/bethanychildrenshome/)  
Or complete the order form below and send along with payment to:

Bethany Children's Home, Attn: Jennifer M. Koch,  
1863 Bethany Road, Womelsdorf, PA 19567

*Make Checks Payable To: Bethany Children's Home*

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Koch at 610-589-4501 ext. 305 or [jkoch@bethanyhome.org](mailto:jkoch@bethanyhome.org)

- 4x8 Brick No Clipart \$100 (3 lines of text, 20 char. per line)
- 4x8 Brick With Clipart \$120 (3 lines of text, 15 char. per line)
- 8x8 Brick No Clipart \$200 (6 lines of text, 20 char. per line)
- 8x8 Brick With Clipart \$220 (4 lines of text, 20 char. per line)

Name:		
Address:		
Phone:		Email:

Clipart #: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Line 1</b>																			
<b>Line 2</b>																			
<b>Line 3</b>																			
<b>Line 4</b>																			
<b>Line 5</b>																			
<b>Line 6</b>																			

Bethany Legacy 4x8 No Clipart 3 Lines-20 Char/Line	Bethany 4x8 W/ Clipart 3 Lines-15 Char	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>1 </td> <td>2 </td> <td>3 </td> <td>4 </td> <td>5 </td> <td>6 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 </td> <td>8 </td> <td>9 </td> <td>10 </td> <td>11 </td> <td>12 </td> </tr> </table>	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 
1 	2 		3 	4 	5 	6 								
7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 									
Bethany Legacy Brick Campaign Order A Brick Today 8x8 No Clipart 6 Lines Of Text 20 Characters/Line	 Bethany Children's 8x8 With Clipart 6 Lines Of Text 20 Characters/Line													