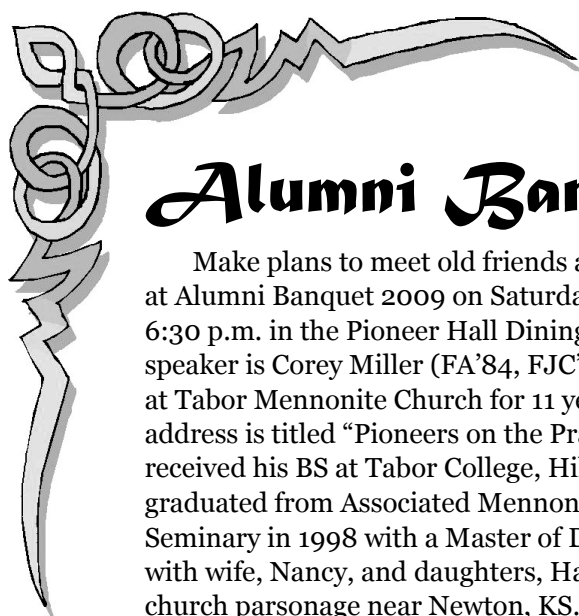
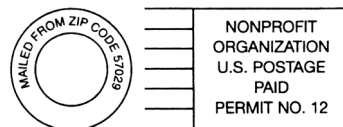




748 South Main, PO Box 1000
Freeman, South Dakota 57029-1000

Return Service Requested



Alumni Banquet 2009

Make plans to meet old friends and classmates at Alumni Banquet 2009 on Saturday, August 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Hall Dining Hall! Featured speaker is Corey Miller (FA'84, FJC'86), lead pastor at Tabor Mennonite Church for 11 years. His address is titled "Pioneers on the Prairie." Corey received his BS at Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS and graduated from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 1998 with a Master of Divinity. He lives with wife, Nancy, and daughters, Hannah (12) and Rachel (9) in the church parsonage near Newton, KS.



Corey Miller

Honored classes include those from 1934, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1984, 1999, and 2009. Advance reservations are needed. Tickets are \$15 each. Please contact the Freeman Academy business office at aneufeld@freemanacademy.org or 605-925-4237, ext. 223 by July 24, 2009.

Coming Events

Rib Feast & Cook-off
June 27

Alumni Banquet
August 1

A Legacy of Giving

Evelyn and Clinton Preheim



By Vernetta Waltner

Freeman Academy held a special place in the hearts and lives of Clinton and Evelyn (Ortman) Preheim. Both graduated from Freeman Academy in 1933 and from Freeman Junior College in 1935. Throughout their years on the farm and retirement in Freeman, the Preheims enjoyed being active in their church and community and, especially, our school.

Clinton and Evelyn supported Freeman Academy in countless ways. Clinton served on our school's Board of Directors and Evelyn was active in the Auxiliary. All three of their children – Carol (Peters), Carita (Juhnke) and Laurel – graduated

from Freeman Academy. Carol also graduated from Freeman Junior College. Clinton and Evelyn are fondly remembered for their faithful attendance at school concerts, plays and programs, their passionate support of athletics and their delightfully engaging conversations with students. In 1996, they were specially recognized as the "Most Faithful Fans" of Freeman Academy's athletic teams. The Preheims' love and enthusiasm for our school and its students were genuine and they were cherished by students and parents alike.

Clinton and Evelyn firmly believed in the value of Christian education and the mission of Freeman Academy. They recognized that our

Continued on page 2

May 2009



*Where Faith & the Arts
Bring Learning to Life*

▶ *Our Mission...*

Freeman Academy, as part of Christ's church, integrates Christian principles into all learning while maintaining a standard of excellence in academics, creative arts and athletics. Freeman Academy is Mennonite in origin and doctrine, but seeks to serve students of all Christian faiths. A safe, caring and nurturing atmosphere prepares students to accept God's call to live a life of compassionate service and discipleship to Christ.

A Legacy of Giving

Continued from page 1



Leron and Carol Peters, Bill and Carita Juhnke, Laurel and Twila Preheim

school's future depended, in part, on its ability to attract new students and to keep tuition affordable for families. After the youngest of Clinton and Evelyn's children graduated from Freeman Academy in 1965, they made a commitment to invest in the students and future of our school. The Preheims quietly began making monetary contributions to Freeman Academy for the specific purpose of helping young families with tuition. Clinton and Evelyn had a special relationship with Freeman Academy administrators who shared with them, in confidence, particular financial needs of prospective and enrolled students. The Preheims generously responded to help meet such needs. Sometimes, they personally knew the recipients of their kindness; other times, they did not. Either way, helping students, families and Freeman Academy in this way gave Clinton and Evelyn great joy. Carita remembers, "Mom and Dad delighted in telling us about special invitations from 'one of our girls' to attend events at Freeman Academy. When I asked them what they meant, they happily replied, 'We're just helping with some of her tuition costs.'" After Evelyn passed away in 2002, Clinton established a scholarship fund at Freeman Academy in memory of his wife. It is very likely that Clinton and Evelyn previously had discussed plans for creating a scholarship fund. Clinton died just two short months later. The Preheims had instilled in their children not

only the importance of charitable giving, but also their devotion to Freeman Academy. After Clinton's death, Carol, Carita and Laurel added to the scholarship fund started by their father. They wanted not only to continue the work of their parents to assist students and families with tuition, but also to acknowledge the significant role Freeman Academy played in each of their lives. Carol, Carita and Laurel continue to make contributions to the Clinton and Evelyn Preheim Scholarship Fund, so that it grows and can help more students experience the advantages of attending a small Christian school. The siblings often return to the Freeman Academy campus for Schmeckfest and alumni gatherings and events. They are inspired by the "talent and spirit of our student body, the selfless dedication of our faculty and staff, and the remarkable loyalty of our alumni." Carol, Carita and Laurel feel blessed to have attended Freeman Academy and are honored to help support our school and its students, in part, by continuing what their parents started. The students of Freeman Academy greatly appreciate their interest in our school and generous support! For more information about giving opportunities at Freeman Academy, please contact Vernetta Waltner, Development Director, at 605-925-4237 ext. 435 or via e-mail at vwaltner@freemanacademy.org.

FOCUS

Requests/Suggestions/Referrals for Focus 2009-10!

I need your help! The "Focus" issues in 2009-10 will continue to feature alumni, their accomplishments, and their contributions to our world. With whom have you lost contact? Which classmates deserve to be recognized by their alma mater? Where have old friends settled? I'd like to help answer those questions and more! Ideally, each issue will "track" 2-4 different persons and I would like to "find" alumni in many areas of life – medical, education, business, technology, pastoral, full-time volunteer, missions, or others that you suggest! Please contact Vernetta Waltner at vwaltner@freemanacademy.org or 605-321-7351 with your requests/suggestions!

1964 FJC Men's Ensemble Reunion

Several of the 1964 Freeman Jr. College Men's Ensemble members recently reunited voices to participate in the Male Chorus Celebration at Weaverland Mennonite Church in East Earl, Pennsylvania on March 29, 2009. This is an annual event that features several male choirs who join voices in a mass choir performance. Each choir also performs three songs. This year's director was Marles Preheim of Newton, KS, also the director of the FJC Men's Ensemble.



This is the second time that members have gathered for fellowship and singing. In 1989, the group traveled to Europe for sightseeing and singing at various churches. Even though not all members have been able to participate, those who have value these experiences of re-connecting with old classmates and friends. Additional FJC alumni recruited for the recent Pennsylvania concert were Rick Schrag and Maylon Peters. Original members of the group were LeRoy Epp, Merlin Preheim, Charles Graber, Gayle Preheim, Larry Schrag, LeRoy Kaufman, Dennis Peters, Ron Waltner, Harold Penner, Lyle Preheim, Orville Ortman, and Roy Kaufman with director, Marles Preheim.

LeRoy Epp, Charles Graber, Larry Schrag, Gayle Preheim, Maylon Peters, Rick Schrag, LeRoy Kaufman, Lyle Preheim, Harold Penner

Sterling Hall Debt Reduction Progress

At the beginning of 2009 the fundraising committee introduced a plan for funding that would pay off loans from USDA and Merchants State Bank totaling \$743,000 plus interest. Our goal: to raise 40 pledges of \$2500 per year for 10 years to erase the debt 5 years ahead of schedule and save on interest costs. Another option is to have more individuals pledging lesser amounts over the same time period. As of this writing, we have collected \$225,000 in pledges and gifts but still need 30 persons to consider this opportunity. We believe God has richly blessed our school and our community and will continue to do so. We ask and challenge you to share part of God's goodness with Freeman Academy, so that we not only may complete Sterling Hall but also may continue our mission of providing quality Christian education.

There are several ways your financial contribution may leave a personal "handprint" on Freeman Academy's future. Giving opportunities include making a cash donation or a pledge for gift installments over a specific period of time.

We are honored to be a part of Freeman Academy's history and invite you to share our excitement about our school's progress! Please prayerfully consider how you can be part of our school's future. Contact Vernetta Waltner at vwaltner@freemanacademy.org or 605-321-7351.

Thanks to the Freeman Academy Class of '58!



Just in time for Schmeckfest festivities, four beautiful, custom-made, wooden benches were delivered to the Link, lobby area of Sterling Hall! Many people used them to rest a bit or wait for friends. We are grateful to the FA class of '58 for donating these benches, constructed by Mark Ewert, as part of their 50th anniversary class gift to the school!