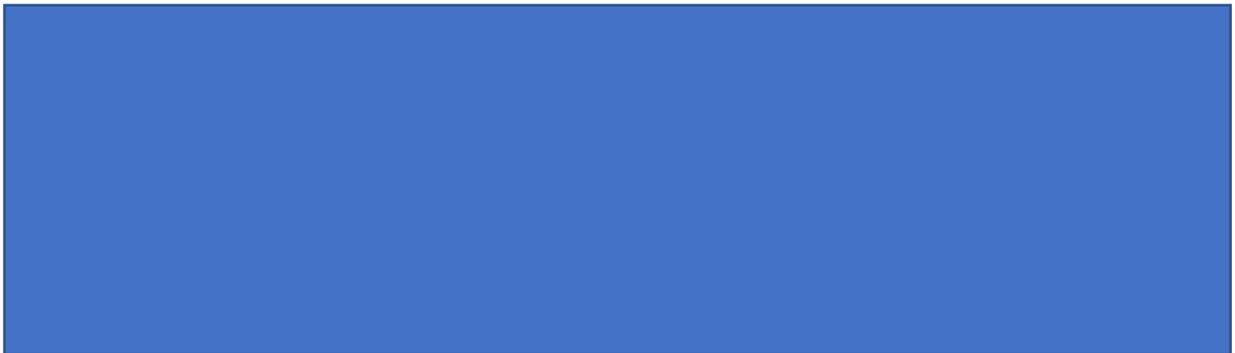


“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) - 2019-20 Verse of the Year



**Class of 1979**  
**FORTY YEARS LATER.....**

Sterling College

Class of 1979

October 2019

Homecoming 2019 marks 40 years since we graduated from Sterling College. A memory book was printed for our 30th year reunion. This summer we solicited biographies from our class to make a digital memory book. The digital memory book is on the Sterling College website under Alumni. Go to the drop down called Memory Books and you will find several other classes as well as ours. We can keep adding to this digital book as the years go on, and certainly as we look towards our 50<sup>th</sup> in 2029.

Although there were quite a number of students attending Sterling College in 1979 there were only 106 graduating. Letters were sent to all students about homecoming but only graduates were asked for biographies and photos to include in the Memory Book.

This book has been set up alphabetically by current last names. Maiden names will show up in parenthesis. Some of you wrote in mini-biographies, while others sent in lists, resumes, or year by year references. We've tried to leave everything as you sent it unless it wouldn't fit the uniform format. We didn't want to leave something out or give misinformation. If, however you find something not to your liking let us know and we will revise it in the next edition.

We decided to just use the photos you sent and not our senior pictures. If you sent more than one photo, we'll include it in a future addendum. If you want to know what we all used to look like, you'll have to find a yearbook. We have started a list of the deceased from our class, but it is only as accurate as the information that is given to the alumni office or to us.

Because of privacy issues, the book is published on the website without contact information even though you included it. Thank you for your help in making this book possible.

The mission of Sterling is being lived out by our classmates. Each of you has a legacy. Pastors, missionaries, doctors, teachers, coaches, and more. The scope of the places we've been and the things we've done is amazing.

Enjoy reminiscing and remembering one another. We made a lot of memories and spent a lot of our formative years together at Sterling establishing lifetime friendships.

Jill (Bleam) Lundgren (for the 30<sup>th</sup>)

Donna (Sonksen) Burns (for the 40<sup>th</sup>)

Class of '79

Burns, Donna (Sonksen)

Counts, Cathy (Catherine Borst)

Crosley, Steve

Davis-Mayo, Bob

Downing, Scott

Duncan, Joy (Haeger)

Ellsworth, Judy (Lehman)

Guhr, Carol

Hickman, Bob

Lundgren, Jill (Bleam)

Miller, Joyce (Bush)

Miller, Mark

Potterf, Toni (Dyk)

Rosik, Joy (Brown)

Smith, Marsha (Hogue)

Starnes, Brad

Tedford, Shari (Apel)

Tillotson, Scott and Debbie (Engle)

Thomas, Colette (Wilcox)

Turner, Elston

Turner, Jim

Topper, Mary (Kerr)

Vincent, Deanna (Courtright)

Wrighton, Scot and Louella (Cuany)

## BURNS, DONNA (Sonksen)



The most asked question at reunions is “what do you do?” The famous social researcher Brene Brown answered at hers, “how much time to you have?” I tend to agree, so here’s my short answer, wife, mother, teacher, musician, painter, writer, quilter, crafter, hiker, cyclist.

Now, the long answer, I transferred to Sterling my junior year after beginnings as a music major. I was not involved in music at all at Sterling though. My parents nurtured my love for Scripture. I decided to choose a major/minor in Youth Leadership/Christian Education/Psychology/Counseling. For years I've been involved in children's Sunday school, youth groups, leading women's small group Bible studies, and mission advocacy. More recently I've participated in God's global outreach by speaking, training, and developing curriculum for children's mission mobilization, writing historical narratives, dramatic presentations and doing prayer workshops. *Kids Around the World* have published two of my contributions in *God's Got Stuff To Do (and he wants your help)* and *Outside the Lines (connecting kids to God's global purpose)*. Both of these endeavors bring the *Perspectives* course to children. Most recently, I've been writing daily devotionals with a team for our church, with three published Advent and Lent devotional books. My wonderful husband, two amazing adult children. their spouses, and two incredible grandchildren share my love for God's word and heart for reaching others for Christ.

My husband and I met during my Sterling practicum and we were married a year after graduation. Both of us love music but had to do something else to make a living. We've played flute and guitar duets for events, receptions, weddings and been in orchestras and praise bands in the music ministry at churches we've attended. Children's Music Academy (a national franchise) has employed me part time for 20 years and Don is a retired electrical engineer. Now we lead the Griefshare ministry at our church in Littleton, Colorado. And God knows, maybe now we'll play our music in assisted living settings!

## COUNTS, CATHY (Catherine Borst )



After graduating from Sterling College, I served as the Extension 4-H Agent in Seward County (Liberal, KS) for two and a half years, and as the Extension Home Economist in Edwards County (Kinsley, KS) for 7 years. In 1986 I married Jordan Counts. We moved to Nebraska in 1989. Our daughter, Sarah, was born in 1990. I was a stay-at-home mom until Sarah was in fourth grade, when I started substitute teaching. I subbed for about 15 years in all classes from kindergarten through twelfth grade. For 5 years I had my own Family and Consumer Science classroom. I was a Speech (Forensic) coach for 4 years, and One Act Play coach for 2 years at the high school level.

For the past 26 years I have been a pastor's wife. My husband is an American Baptist pastor. I have been active in the churches he has served teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, and working with the Women's organizations at the local and district levels. We directed church camps for 15 years, and I have led statewide children's conferences and mission studies.

We currently live in El Dorado, KS where we serve the Park Avenue Baptist Church. I am a paraeducator in a special education classroom at El Dorado High School. Our daughter lives in the Nebraska panhandle with her husband who is a cow/calf rancher. She is nurse/manager in the surgery department at the hospital where she works.

## CROSLY, STEVE



After graduating from Sterling, I began a teaching and coaching career that lasted 37 years. During that time, I completed my master's degree in education from Emporia State and a second master's degree in special education from Southwestern College. During my teaching career, I was blessed to be able to teach K-12 PE, HS Math, 5-12 Social Studies and 9-12 Special Education. My final 30 years were spent at Wichita Heights High School. My coaching career was equally blessed, as I was able to coach high school football (both head coach and assistant, along with 13 years as an assistant at Butler County Community College), head girls basketball/assistant boys basketball, and my final coaching stint was serving as the head track and field coach at Wichita Heights.

In 1984 I was blessed to marry my most amazing wife. After 33 years of marriage God was ready to bring her home and she passed on to her reward after a five-year battle with cancer. We have 3 children, two daughters who are out on their own and our adopted son from Guatemala, who is getting ready to turn 14.

## MAYO, BOB (DAVIS-MAYO)



Bob and Laurel live back-and-forth between Evergreen, Colorado (where we've been over 22 years) and Santa Fe, New Mexico (for the last 8 years, too). Bob is still traveling extensively for his business—a human and organizational development firm (having delivered programs to more than 450,000 people in 48 states, 18 countries and 17 tribal / first nation communities). We try to spend as much time in nature as possible, and traveling personally in our RV. Hi everybody!

Although we won't make it to the October reunion, I trust it will be a warm time for those who will be attending.

Hope you and yours are doing well!

Bob Davis-Mayo (*I took my wife's name 32 years ago when we were married*)

## DOWNING, SCOTT and KAREN (Allan '83)



After we graduated in May of 1979, I never believed that my professional career would begin at SC, crisscross the U.S. and I would return to the Sterling campus 39 years later. Sterling College has had a profound effect on my life. It led me to a wonderful wife, Karen (Allan) '83, 3 sons with 1 daughter-in-law, an education and a 39-year coaching career. SC stimulated my spiritual growth and beliefs and I formed a lifetime worth of meaningful relationships with other Sterling Alums.

Karen and I have had the opportunity to live in numerous states and enjoyed relationships with all sorts of people. From Wyoming to Virginia and many places in between, we have had adventures, good and bad, but our time in Sterling was always special. So, when the opportunity came to come back, it was a no-brainer.

I am proud to be an SC alum and my career as a coach, but prouder of my wife and family. What a blessing they have been. Always a Warrior!

## DUNCAN, JOY (Haeger)



Sterling College Mission: "To develop creative and thoughtful leaders who understand a maturing Christian faith. "My experience at Sterling College was life changing. Some of the values I have carried with me through the last forty years have been to put God first in every situation, build community wherever you live, pray about everything, love and forgive the people in your life, be open to new opportunities, and most importantly, to be a witness of the Gospel. I will always be grateful for Sterling and the education that lead to my degree in youth leadership. Most of all, I am thankful for the life-long friends from my Sterling years that have been such an important part of my life. One of my first stops after leaving Sterling was serving on the staff at Lost Valley Guest Ranch in Colorado. Later, I served as Assistant Director at the Christian Servicemen's Center in Italy, and then as Superintendent of Christian Education at the Navy Chapel in Florida. Through the years, I was able to use my education in a number of settings, working as a children's church director, Sunday school teacher, preschool teacher, Youth Coordinator for the Before and After School Program for the City of Aurora (CO), substitute elementary school teacher, and teacher's assistant. I have enjoyed many volunteer positions, helping with children's activities for Manna Ministries at a large Denver area church, children's church in our house church community, mentoring younger women and assisting youth ministry in church, elder care in homes and as activities assistant for a nursing home, and many other activities in different areas of Christian ministry. The most rewarding and challenging part of life has been as a wife and mother. Some of the hardest years (eight of them) were as a single mom. God was gracious to bring a godly man into my life in a second marriage for both of us. I had two teenagers when we married, JoAnn and Joseph, and the Lord blessed us with a third child, our son Nathanael, a year later when I was 39 years old! This year, we became first-time grandparents to our grandson Wyatt. The most important thing to me is growing in the Lord through every season in life. I have seen God's love and grace reflected in my marriage, my family, and the community He has surrounded me with. I am passionate in serving Him in at every opportunity and loving each person He brings in my path.

## ELLSWORTH, JUDY (Lehman)



I graduated from Sterling College with a BS degree in Home Education. My first job was in Fort Scott, Kansas, as a Home Economist with the Cooperative Extension Service. I was there for 3 years, during which time I met my husband, John, through some friends. We got married in June, 1982. We lived in Lincoln, Nebraska for two years, while I earned a MS in Textiles, Clothing and Design from the University of Nebraska.

1984-1987, we lived in Clovis, California. I developed curriculum for/and taught classes at Clovis Adult School and worked in clothing/accessories retail. 1987-1989, we lived in Roxboro, North Carolina, where I again worked as a Home Economist with the Cooperative Extension Service. From 1989-1991, we were in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, where I taught adult education classes.

I worked as Home Economist with the Cooperative Extension Service for 1 ½ years in Harper, Kansas from 1991-1992.

In January, 1993, our lives took us back to the California Central Valley. We lived there until 2011. I home-schooled our two children from 1995 – 2006. From 2008 to the present, I have worked with our family business, Success Strategies, Inc. as Director of Operations.

In 2011, we moved to the Mid-West again and live in Kansas City, Missouri.

We have two grown children: Spencer and wife, Laralyn, live in Vancouver, Washington. Melanie lives in Overland Park, Kansas.

We have a passion for travel! We visited all 50 states with our children from 1995-2008. Since then, John and I have traveled to 10 countries in Europe, South America and Asia.

## GUHR, CAROL



After graduation, I moved to Wichita and then eventually, to Bakersfield, California where I went back to school to get my elementary teaching credential. For most of my career I taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade with some 6<sup>th</sup> and some 3<sup>rd</sup>. At whatever school site I taught, I became very involved with other activities: student council advisor (which included reward play day, yearbook, school newspaper, student store, and talent show), English as a Second Language through the Adult School, Co-After School Site Director for a lot of years which included being Summer School Principal multiple years and my last years of teaching I spent being the advisor for a competition called Battle of the Books.

The most important part of my life has been my walk with the Lord. For many years, I did that like a yo-yo. Sometimes I was there and sometimes I was doing life my own way. Then, about 20 years ago, I finally truly made Him Lord of my life and let Him heal the broken places in my heart caused by bad choices and the enemy of our souls whose goal is to kill, steal, and destroy. One of the ministries that was a huge part of my emotional and spiritual healing was Cleansing Stream. Since then I have become very involved in this ministry and have seen lots of others healed as well.

Since retiring, I have become even more involved at Church and am able to travel even more. God is Good!

## HICKMAN, BOB



Following a well-deserved graduation from Sterling College in 1979 I moved to Hutchinson. I went to work for Reno County EMS/Hutchinson Hospital as an EMT, progressed to a Paramedic and then supervisor. As luck would have it, I met an RN – Geri Rietcheck and in July of 1988 we married. After nearly nine years of EMS I became the Environmental Supervisor for the Reno County Health Department. My career moved into Mine/Occupational safety for Hutchinson Community College and later as Safety/Environmental Manager for Ash Grove Cement in Chanute, Ks. During this time we had Emily in 1991 and Ryan in 1993 and stayed in Chanute until 2002.

Work called us to return to Hutchinson in October of 2002 when I became the Medical/Safety/Security Director as AGCO in Hesston. I returned to the Reno County Health Department in 2004 as the Preparedness Coordinator just in time for the H1N1 Flu outbreak and began working with local, regional, State and National assets to provide coordination and training for responders and health care workers. In 2010 I began working for Ag Services out of Hutchinson as a Safety Director primarily working with Agricultural operations in fifteen counties throughout central Kansas.

Gerri currently works as an RN for the Health Department. Emily graduated from Sterling with a degree in Education. Ryan graduated with a degree in Business and is a Tennis professional. I am retired due to medical disability and volunteer on boards and schools.

## LUNDGREN, JILL (Bleam)



My next life adventure after graduating from Sterling College began when Gay Lough (fs'79) and I moved to Orlando FL. Our hopes were to work at Disney World. That did not happen, but through a series of God connections we found jobs at the Greater Orlando Youth for Christ. I had clubs at 2 high schools in the area and enjoyed building relationships with the teens.

Later I worked at a church with the high school youth. I enjoyed the smaller 1 on 1 focus I could have on building relationships with the youth. Some lifelong friendships came from this ministry.

I moved back to Wichita and worked at my most fun job ever, Toys by Roy. I enjoyed the customers (even during the Cabbage Patch Kids rage) and helping them find the right gift for their child. I was in charge of the display windows, and the part of the store with collector dolls, stuffed animals and educational toys.

After that I worked at a chiropractic office and became an office manager before moving to my present employer, a medical group in Wichita. Presently, I train and support staff on our registration and scheduling software in the ambulatory clinics.

After moving back to Kansas, I met my husband while walking for exercise at a local mall. We were going to the same church, but had not yet met each other. This started my "Adventures with Eric" journey. We got married and have taken lots of trips around the country exploring, hiking and biking.

When I began to miss the "hands on" care I had experienced at the chiropractic office, God led me to study and train in massage therapy and I became a massage therapist. I love the positive change I see in people as their bodies respond and begin to relax and heal. The therapy of healing touch is a needed one. Life is good; my life is full to overflowing.

## MILLER, JOYCE (Bush)



After graduation, I started teaching Kindergarten through 9th grade Physical Education and 9th grade health at Macksville, Kansas. During my tenure at Macksville, I taught K-9 P.E., 5 - 9 Health, Drivers Education, 6th grade Social Studies and 1 year each of 7th grade Social Studies and 8th grade Social Studies. When I started, I was coaching high school volleyball, assistant high school basketball as well as all three junior high sports of volleyball, basketball and track. Added to that after the first year was cheerleading since I was young, single and going to all the games anyway, ha! After 3 years of all of these, my coaching dropped to high school volleyball, junior high basketball and junior high track. I also helped teach Drivers Education at St. John. Over my 39 years of teaching at Macksville, I quit coaching some of these sports and then started again. On retirement in May of 2018, I was teaching K - 9 health and P.E., and coaching assistant high school basketball and junior high track.

I married Lance Miller in 1982 and we had 2 children, Jessica, 33, and Lyal, 30. My daughter got married in 2017 and currently lives in San Antonio with her husband. My son, Lyal is currently living in Buckeye, Arizona working on Palo Verde nuclear plant and travels with nuclear outages. Lance and I live on a farm outside St. John, Kansas raising cattle. I am currently free to travel to visit family and friends on my retirement. I work part time as an office manager in an office in St. John but still free to help with my parents who still live on

# MILLER, MARK



Being inclined to a somewhat reclusive lifestyle, I've done a very poor job of keeping college relationships alive. With all the great people I knew from college days it's sad that I've not been in touch with anyone from SC for years. I kept up with Lyman Bowling's broadcasting career for quite awhile simply from the radio and through a mutual friend and I still look up Scott Downing's coaching path every so often via the internet (great to see he's back at Sterling!) but that's about it. Whether I make it to campus in October or not, hopefully this little bio will open up some overdue communication with old friends.

#### Family:

Married to **Sandra**, 56, since May 1987

Blessed with three kids:

**Emily** (29), MRI Tech, married to Jordan Gonzalez, son Emerson (21 mo.) Wichita

**Jacob** (27) single, Band Teacher in Dodge City (5th year)

**Whitney** (25), Occupational Therapy program, Albuquerque, NM, married to Scott Hughes

Work History: Social Studies **Teacher**, 9-12 -- Fredonia, KS (82-86) Augusta, KS (86-90)  
Valley Center, KS (90-00)

**USPS Letter Carrier**, Downtown Station, Wichita, KS (June 2000 - present)

Earned **Masters** degree in History from Wichita State University in 2006  
Taught six courses as part-time/adjunct prof. various semesters through 2010

Probably due to age and declining energy I don't golf, fish or hunt as much as I used to, but have been volunteering for two years at "Source Of Light" in Newton, 5-6 hours per month, grading Bible course work and "discipling" (short notes/messages) participants, mostly prisoners around the nation.

Final thoughts: As empty nesters, we downsized last year to the home my parents bought in the fall of 1975. My first visit here came when roomie Mike Madden drove me home that Thanksgiving. Later, Kevin Grant and Tim and Andy Rice (80) were hosted; naturally my thoughts have turned back toward those days more often this past year. Also, I loved the Advent series I saw on the college website this past Christmas. So happy our alma mater still promotes the cause of Christ!

## POTTERF, TONI (Dyk)



Toni (Dyk) Potterf, took a job right after leaving Sterling, in Colorado, at Lost Valley Ranch. Challenging, yet rewarding, this opportunity has become a highlight of memories. I have always liked the mountains, having been on family vacations there when growing up. Manhattan, Kansas was her next place to live, where she met and married Daniel Potterf in 1986. A move to California quickly followed for Daniel to pursue more education. Kristin, our only child, was born while in southern California in 1988. She gave a new meaning to "action-packed" as homeschooling never had a dull moment. After high school, she decided to attend Sterling and did for one semester, another memory to treasure.

California, was a five year stay, and Colorado was calling again. Closer to family in Kansas and choosing to be in a scenic state, has been the best of both, since traveling and being with family are free time interests. Traveling down I 70 is a frequent activity and also drives up into the mountains. Farther away places to go have been a missions trip to United Kingdom and Europe and a business related trip to Cancun. A fun homeschooling outing was to Glorieta, New Mexico for a family camp.

Incorporating faith and a strong work ethic, has lead Toni to different types of work and opportunities to help in a counseling ministry with Daniel. College friendships have been another highlight through the years. So thankful for all the Sterling experience and memories.

## ROSIK, JOY (Brown)



BS Biology & Chemistry (Sterling)  
MA Counseling Psychology (Trinity University)

I have had a full and varied life so far. I worked in college student services for several years in Chicago and Tennessee after getting my masters degree. Later I moved to Charlotte, NC where I was the travel director for Sudan Interior Missions. Spent two years as a teacher in Niger and Benin with SIM and then moved to Fresno, California for additional training at Link Care Counseling Center (specializes in missionary and ministry counseling issues). Met my husband, Chris Rosik, at Link Care (where he is a staff psychologist) and have since worked in a psych hospital, been a case manager for the chronic mentally ill, taught at the University of Phoenix and also taught English as a second language. For the last 13 years, I've been a Realtor.

I have 2 daughters, Annalise and Julianna. Annalise is getting a Masters in Dietetics at USC and Julianna is training to be a nurse at Azusa Pacific University.

I still am involved in music and play the oboe in a local band (of retired folks). I also enjoy volunteering at a local hospital and senior care facility, in addition to volunteer work with the Cancer Society.

Have lots of good memories of my days at Sterling. Unfortunately it is pretty far from California so I haven't been back for years. We are near Yosemite National Park in case anyone is in the area!

## SMITH, MARSHA (Hogue)



Married: Larry Smith (SC '74) Jan 12, 1980

Children: Daniel (SC '2004), Brian, Kimberly

Grandchildren: Blake, Kipton, Harper, Graham, Kingston & one more on the way

Work: Administrative Assistant—First United Methodist Church, Sterling, KS (1982-2002)

Senior Client Service Specialist—Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd, Hutchinson, KS (02-current)

Lived in Sterling since graduation. Larry has been on the SC football chain-gang since before we got married and rarely misses those home games. Son Daniel has recently moved to Sterling with his family and is continuing the tradition on the sideline alongside of his Dad. Hobbies: Reading, quilting.

## STARNES, BRAD



Live in the country just north of Riley, KS. Married to Mari (Ast) since 1983-have 4 grown married kids- Jeremy deceased (2003), Megan-Augusta, Georgia, Dane-Manhattan, KS & Hayley-Manhattan, KS. 2 grandkids both in Manhattan, KS (30 mins from us).

Since graduation, I've taught-coached and been in school administration in Colorado, Texas and Kansas. Serving in public & parochial/Catholic schools at small and medium sized elementary, Jr. High and High Schools. Coached at Sterling College and West Texas State University. Presently, school superintendent at Wabaunsee-Alma, KS.

## TEDFORD, SHARI (Apel)



Before I graduated from Sterling I had married Randy Tedford in my Junior year. He started seminary the next fall after graduation. We had our first child, Andrew, at the end of our first year at Dubuque Seminary. We spent 3 years in Lexington MO. Presbyterian Church where Sarah was born. We moved to Minneola, KS, in 1986, to assist with Randy's family farm operations. While there I returned to school and got my RN license from Dodge City Community College in 1991 and worked for the Minneola District Hospital for 7 years. In 1996 we moved to Cloquet, MN where Randy had a full-time position at a 2-church parish for 3 years. While in Cloquet I completed a Bachelor in Nursing from St. Scholastica, worked in home health, school nursing, private duty nursing, and hospital nursing. We moved to Gardner KS to start a health and wellness products store in 2005 which lasted 3 years. In 2008 I started with the Johnson Co Dept. of Health and Environment and worked in public health education and workforce development for 10 years. I also completed a Practitioner certificate in Homeopathy in 2015 aside from my paid work. Last year we moved closer to our daughter and family. I am currently employed as the Household Nurse Coordinator for a Home Plus with Meadowlark Retirement Community in Manhattan KS.

Randy and I have been married for 41 years and have 2 children and 7 grandchildren.

When I am not working, I love being a grandmother of 7, travel, eat and try new foods and socialize with friends and family, read, cook and garden. Life is good!

## TILLOTSON, SCOTT and DEBORAH (Engel)



### SCOTT

79-1980 Worked in Ulysses while “Sponging” off my parents to fund a motorcycle trip. Toured East Coast from Nova Scotia to Florida with Tom Seaman.

1980-1987 Worked as House parent at Grace Children’s Home in Henderson, NE.

1988-1990 Worked as Youth Director Garden City Methodist Church.

1989 : Exchanged business cards with Debbie Engle at our 10 year reunion !

1991: Moved to Wichita to study Physical Therapy at WSU. Contacted Debbie using business card and went to lunch.

1993: July 10th. We married in Abilene, Kansas.

1994 : We moved to Dodge City working at the local hospital.

1998: Chase Engle Tillotson was born!

2000-2007: Scott took a job in Great Bend, KS. We moved to nearby Ellinwood.

2002: Chase was diagnosed with a rare genetic syndrome causing deafness and dystonia.

2007-Current - Employed at Ellinwood District Hospital, Physical Therapist.

2017 : Chase graduated from Ellinwood High School. We are proud of him. He continues to be a witness to God’s work in his life at the high school, doing a work study program.

We vacation in Colorado. We’ve renovated our home. We help disciple through youth other church ministries. We have been blessed by foundations laid by family and Sterling and continue to grow in the grace and love of Christ. He has taught us disability can carry benefits of growth. Life ain’t easy but God is good. “Lord teach us

To count our days, that we might present to you a Heart of wisdom”

## TILLOTSON, DEBORAH (Engle)



### DEBORAH

1979-1984: attended graduate school at Kansas State University major in nutrition science.

1981-1994: worked at Wesley medical Center Wichita Kansas as registered dietitian specializing in pediatric and neonatal nutrition.

1989: exchanged business cards with Scott Tillotson at our 10-year reunion!

1991: Scott moves to Wichita to study physical therapy at WSU. He calls me up using that business card and we go to lunch.

1993: July 10th. Scott and Debbie marry in Abilene, Kansas.

1994 : Moved to Dodge City we both worked at the hospital.

1998 : Chase Engle Tillotson was born!

2000 : Scott took a job in great Bend in we moved to Nearby Ellinwood.

2002 : Chase was diagnosed with a rare genetic syndrome causing deafness dystonia and optic neuronalopathy.

2002 - 2019 : part time employment, full-time care for Chase with many doctor and hospital visits.

2017 : Chase was able to graduate from Ellinwood High School and we are so proud of him. He continues to be a ray of sunshine at the high school doing a work study program.

# THOMAS, JERRY and COLETTE (Wilcox )



Jerry and I were married two weeks after our SC Commencement, on 2 June 1979, at the church Colette's father was pastoring in Carthage, IL.

We lived three years in Muncie, IN, before teaching took us to Meade, KS, for 35 years! In Meade, Colette taught high school Language & Literature, and Jerry began his teaching career in junior high social studies, then elementary/JH physical education, and finally teaching high school mathematics in the home stretch.

Two daughters were born in Kansas. Both graduated from Sterling College, the third generation of alumni. Katelyn taught mathematics and served as an assistant principal/athletic director in Kansas before relocating to Bloomington this summer where she has returned to teaching. Hilary left teaching after two years to pursue a linguist position with the US Navy, and now is completing her final year of seminary.

In early November 2017, we moved to a condo on Lake Monroe near Bloomington, IN. 97% of Jerry's family lives within an hour and a half of us! The Lord has connected us with a wonderful church family at Hope Presbyterian Church ([hopebtown.org](http://hopebtown.org)), a PCA church plant that just celebrated its 7th birthday.

We return to Meade County twice a year to help a family friend with his wheat and fall harvests. When he's not on the combine, Jerry loves exploring the hilly roads of Monroe and Lawrence counties on his road bike. Meanwhile, Colette continues the never-ending search for the next interesting festival or hometown venue to visit!

## TURNER, ELSTON

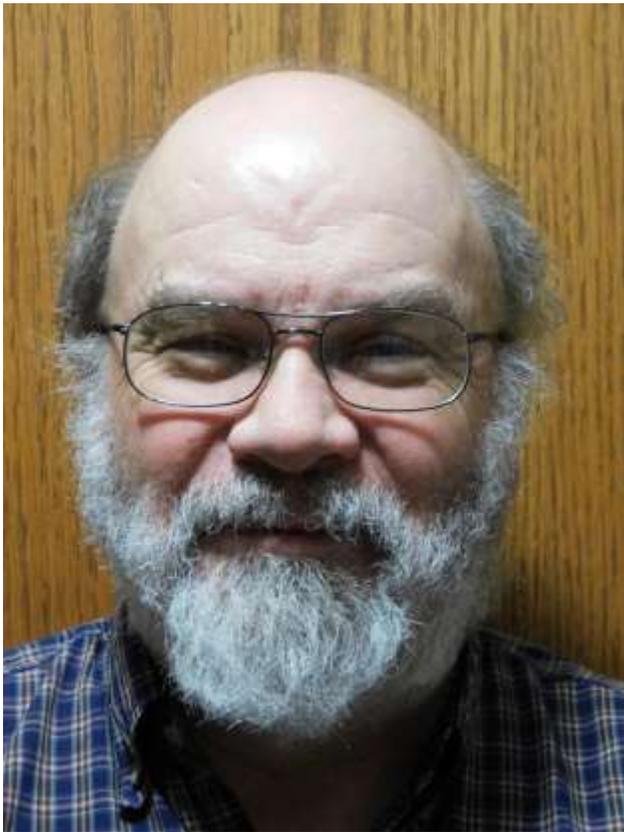


After graduating from Sterling College, I was offered some of the highest Coaching positions in the state of Alabama. .From Westside Jr. High we won City Championship in Football and Basketball for three years. .At Greenville High School we had the best Physical Education Department in the State, also the nation's 3rd best Football team. In JUCO Women Basketball, I was named Alabama Junior Community College Coach of The Year, (12) Times.Winning, (1)State Championship and (1)State Runner-Up. We also had (1) National Junior College Appearance.in an 18-year span.

My wife's name is Yolanda. We have three children, Elston Jr., a graduate at University of South Alabama, majoring in Education, Marsaydees, Jessica and Zoey. I'm retired now and living out my Bucket List!



## TURNER, JIM



I am James (Jim) Edgar Turner. In the summer of 1978 Martha Blockcolsky and I married. We have now been married for 41 years. We have 3 grown daughters, Laura Turner of Olsburg, Ks, Jennifer Wipf of Dodge City, and Maribeth Shafer of rural western Reno County, Ks. I graduated from Sterling with a BA in History/Political Science. In December 1985 I received a BS in Elementary Education from Kansas State University. In May 2010 I received a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. In August of 2014 I earned Master of Science in Math Education from Leslie University. I taught High School Social Science 1981-1984, then Sixth Grade from 2000-2001. I also taught High School Drivers' Ed from 1997 - 2015. I am currently teaching and tutoring for Barton Community College at Fort Riley, Ks. I am the full-time tutor for the Fort Riley Tutor Center, and teach Math and Human Resource Management classes for Barton Community College. I have been recognized as the Distinguished Instructor for 2015 for Barton Community College at Fort Riley. I was nominated by students for faculty and staff as "2009 BARTON DIFFERENCE" and "2019 BARTON DIFFERENCE". This recognizes Barton Community College employees that have a positive influence on an individual student's experience at Barton. I am a model train hobbyist, a member of the Frankfort Subdivision Model Train Club, and the club newsletter editor.

## TOPPER, MARY (Kerr)



I'm beginning my 41<sup>st</sup> year of teaching. First in Powhattan, Ks as a special education teacher for students aged 9-10. I enjoyed fellow Sterling grads Jim & Louise Scoby and Donna and Barbara Brownlee in the area. After 2 years, I started a Masters at KU, teaching students with severe handicaps.

Five years later, I moved back to Winfield, Ks, completing my masters at WSU in Early Childhood Special Ed -continuing teaching elementary students with severe disabilities for 7 years. I switched to Early Childhood Special Ed where I have continued to teach, the last few years with 3-year olds.

I have been married to Jim Topper, a Journeyman Carpenter, for 33 years, with his kids, Jimmie and Hallee and our daughter, Jessie. This year we added daughter-in-law Michelle and 2 grandkids in a Florida beach wedding. We have 3 grandkids—Jimmie and Michelle's 9 and 12 year olds living in Dallas and Hallee's 10 year old living here in Winfield. Our daughter Jessie also lives here. I'm proud that she is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as an elementary special ed teacher in Udall, Ks.

We have been members of the Winfield 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church for most of our married life—now merged as Aviator, a non-denominational church-- helping with Sunday School and leading Worship through the years. Being Boy and Girl Scout leaders and soccer coaches also used to keep us busy.

God has blessed us through great times and hard times!

## VINCENT, DEANNA LYNN (Courtright)



When I graduated from Sterling, I had never traveled east of the Mississippi River and had lived in Kansas all my life, except for a summer internship in Colorado. Since then, I have lived in Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas. After working two years on the youth staff of Village Presbyterian church (Prairie Village, KS), I earned a MA in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary) in Richmond, VA in 1983. That summer, I married William S Vincent, Jr (Bill) who is a PCUSA minister. This July, Bill began his 7<sup>th</sup> call serving as pastor for the yoked congregations of First Presbyterian, Union MO and Pacific Presbyterian, Pacific MO. Over the years, I have worked as a Christian Educator for children ministries, a home daycare provider, a retail clerk, a childcare worker, and a school breakfast/lunch lady. I was also the original writer for Course 2- JESUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS in the Faith for Life curriculum series (available through GenOn Ministries). Primarily though, I have been a mom/homemaker AND a church, school, and community volunteer. Our son Christopher and his wife, Monica, are engineers living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and our daughter Ginny lives in Wichita, KS and works for Wichita State University.

## WRIGTON, SCOT and LOUELLA (Cuany)



Scot Wrighton and Louella Cuany were both in the Class of 1979. Louella went to KU Nursing School to earn her BSN; Scot earned master's degrees at the University of Hawaii, and from KU. We married in 1982 and lived in Wichita; Mt. Zion, Illinois; Streator, Illinois; and Kirksville, Missouri over the next 20+ years while Scot served in city management posts, and Louella was a public health nurse. We started raising our 2 kids during this time—Julia, born in 1992, and Philip, born in 1998. In 2003 we moved to Athens, Georgia, where Scot joined the faculty of the University of Georgia (teaching and consulting on local government topics). In 2009 we moved to Pune, India to be part of a new urban development project being built 3 hours southeast of Mumbai. Our family lived in India for about 5 years, and we travelled widely while we were based in the other side of the world. We returned to the US in late 2014 and Scot took up traditional city manager roles again, first in Streator, Illinois, and now in Decatur, Illinois. We have three grandchildren. We are grateful for the many ways Sterling College prepared us for life's adventures.