

Following graduation from BMS in 1966, Gerald spent the next five years at Eastern Mennonite College & Seminary, graduating from EMC in 1970, then attending the Seminary for the 1970-71 school year.

The Fall of 1971 was a momentous time for Gerald: he began teaching at BMS at the beginning of September, on the 25th of that same month married one of his BMS classmates, Sue Yoder, and then in November, was ordained to be a part-time pastor at Locust Grove.

After teaching and coaching at BMS for 10 years, Gerald transitioned to pastoring full time at Locust Grove and Mountain View but stayed involved by serving on the board for 9 years. During the 1990's he returned to BMS for another 10 years while also pastoring part-time at Barrville. When his time of teaching at BMS came to a close, he was serving full time at Barrville. He then drove truck for Boring Transport for about five years and served as Chaplain at Valley View for eight years while continuing to support and guide the school as a board member for another 6 years. We still occasionally see Gerald's smiling face on campus as a substitute bus driver!

The 1974 yearbook contains a poem written about each teacher ...

One teacher I suspect  
Covers many subjects.  
The seniors have him for P.O.D.  
In which we learn of our country.  
He is a good Bible teacher  
For he is also a preacher.  
In his class of Accounting  
One can always hear a ticking  
And someone can be seen  
Using the adding machine.  
He is involved in sports action,  
And guys' physical education.  
His coaching has helped the different teams  
For in basketball a good season we've seen.  
Out soccer teams also came alive  
By dribbling around our opponent's guys.  
He also happens to be  
Coach for women's varsity.  
He is medium built with sideburns brown  
And he lives with his wife and daughter in town.

Here also is an excerpt from an article that Gerald wrote about the Athletic Program at BMS for the March 1974 edition of The Quill, monthly newsletters produced by the journalism class that are filed in our archives.

*“Athletics are an important part of a Christian high school education. It is impossible to communicate in the classroom in the same ways that one can communicate with those participating in a physical education class or varsity sporting activity.*

*Actually, athletics are life in miniature. Here one is faced with pressure, forced to work with others, and faced with victory and defeat. Here it can be seen how a student is likely to react when he faces these things in life.*

*A Christian philosophy of athletics is not dependent upon winning or losing. The important thing is how well one plays and how the team members respond when pressure is on. In the future, it is hoped that BMS teams will maintain the winning tradition that they have established this year.*

*It is my concern, however, that the winning tradition does not become supreme. The goal of the Christian is to honor and glorify Christ in whatever he does. Sometimes that can be done by losing with a Christian attitude. A Christian should not try to win at any cost, but he should always do his best in everything he does.*

*Our teams are growing in their Christian attitude and philosophy toward athletics, probably because I, as their coach, am growing in my Christian philosophy of athletics. True, we fail sometimes, but who does not? With God’s grace we will continue to grow.”*

-Gerald Peachey, Varsity Coach, Bible Instructor

As he reflected on his time at BMS as both a student and teacher, Gerald shared, “I have always felt that BMS gave me the foundation that I needed. The small school size and Christian community was invaluable. And God used my experiences here throughout the community. Because I was a coach at BMS, very early in my adult life, I was invited to become a coach in Little League and Babe Ruth baseball in Belleville. During my time at Locust Grove, we went door to door with the Evangelism Explosion program in the Belleville area. As I ended my career at Valley View, I had many opportunities to connect with others in the larger Mifflin County area.”

Gerald & Sue's children, Sheila & Rich, and their granddaughter, Amber, are BMS graduates as well. Rich, who wasn't able to join us this evening, wrote a tribute to share with you all:

*"Dad has spent his entire life impacting lives for the kingdom through education, coaching athletics, community involvement, and ministry. My suspicion is that most, if not all, sitting in this room have been impacted in some way by my father. His life of humble service and faithfulness is highly respected and very commendable!*

*Many of you likely sat in one of his classes, where you had the opportunity to learn from a great teacher, and also hear a wide variety of jokes! Many of you were likely coached by my father. It doesn't matter what sport you played, since it seems there was a time when he coached them all. Many of you benefited from his behind-the-scenes service on the board, as part of a capital campaign committee, or countless other ways he helped make BMS what it is today. You may recall being inspired by my father in chapel and even now, some of you may look out your window and see dad driving up in a big yellow bus to pick up your children or grandchildren."*

Congratulations, Gerald! We honor your life of work and service spent developing minds, building faith, and walking in discipleship. May you experience God's continued blessings!