

WTS Scotland Candlelight Service--Vol. 8, No. 52--12/26/2014



Dennis Koontz

This past Sunday evening Winebrenner Seminary hosted its second annual "Christmas at the Chapel" on the Scotland campus in Pennsylvania. People from the greater Chambersburg area came, but there were quite a few others from further away, like Harrisburg, Lancaster and Maryland. All told, about 250 attended. David Newell, Scotland Campus director, led the service. Dennis Koontz served as song leader with Mike Walker, Steve Dunn, Dave, and me as readers. Phil Shuman from Shippensburg played the organ with assistance from Mark Wilson who played the flute, piano, and trumpet at various times.



David Newell

The order of worship originated in 1880 and became known as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Coming from an Anglican tradition it follows a formal liturgy that incorporates readings from both the Old and New Testaments. Over the years the celebration retained the nine readings and the opening song, but otherwise witnessed flexibility in song choices, special music, and prayers. The order of service also includes



Mike Walker

a homily which Mike delivered this year on the angelic message given to the shepherds of Bethlehem.

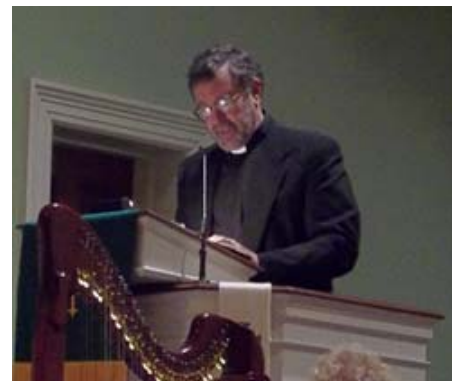


The Blythe Spirit Trio

People began arriving early for the 7 p.m. start time. As you entered the sanctuary a large Christmas tree was up front and window sills were decorated with greens and lit candles. Best of all the air resounded with the sound of classical strings and harp by the Blythe Spirit trio. I took some photos, but none do justice to the experience of being there. This event is becoming a highlight of the Christmas Season. In many ways it's a grand reunion, like coming home to friends and family. I talked with folks from across the Eastern Region and visited with some I've not seen in years.



Sarah Walker Baumgardner



Reading through the texts, with intermittent carol singing, presented the Christmas story in a moving way, connecting Old Testament passages with their New Testament fulfillment. Times of quiet reflection and the special music accentuated the significance of Christ's humble birth and his world changing mission. This year Sarah Walker Baumgardner, Mike Walker's daughter, sang two vocal solos including one of my favorites, "O Holy Night." In addition a select choir from Global Vision Christian School (our Korean students) led the congregation in "Lo, How a Rose." The music filled both the hall and the soul as well.



Global Vision Christian School Choir



The service concluded with a traditional candle lighting by the congregation, all singing Silent Night. From the front of the sanctuary it was a grand and awesome sight to see the room aglow with the warm yellow light. Before the closing blessing, I led the congregation in a dedication moment for the new bell pavilion in front of the church building. It was dedicated in memory of Melinda S. Walker and in honor of the Walker family. Mike secured the 1853 bell from our Harrisburg First Church when they sold their bethel earlier this year and had it transported to the Scotland Campus. It provides an appropriate link for the Churches of God mission then and now. I offered the closing blessing and we five worship leaders recessed to greet the congregation. I suggest readers plan to come next year. I certainly will!



In other news concerning Winebrenner's Scotland Campus, registration for classes in the coming winter session is currently in progress. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved Winebrenner Seminary to offer its masters degree programs at the Scotland location. Go to www.winebrenner.edu to see what's available and call either 800-992-4987 or 419-434-4245 and ask for Shari Brandeberry to enroll. In addition the Scotland Campus is being used more and more by the local community for sports events, conferences, and social occasions. In November Scotland issued its first newsletter which can be accessed at the Scotland Campus website www.wtsconference.com under the News & Events tab. The website also provides additional information and activity updates, so check it out.

Please be in prayer for developing ministry opportunities at Scotland Campus and the work in Findlay, OH. If you want to make a year-end donation to Winebrenner Seminary whether for operations in Findlay, OH or the Scotland Campus, go to www.winebrenner.edu and under the heading "Friends, Church Partners, and Alumni" click on "Donate Online" to do so. God bless WTS and Merry Christmas!
ONE Mission with you,

Ed

Soli Deo Gloria!



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox List

If your church collected shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child but is not on listed below, please send in your church name, region, and number of boxes collected to Rachel at communications@cggc.org. We'll run the list for another week or two and would like to have as complete a list as possible.

Region	Church	# of Boxes	Volunteers
ERC:	Brunswick First	42	
	Camp Hill	100	
	Carlisle	121	
	Central Manor	133	
	Country Meadows Retirement Community	60	
	Eberly's Mill		X
	Elizabethtown First	156	X
	Germantown	98	X
	Hanover First	1009	
	Kennedy's Valley	110	
	Mechanicsburg	104	
	Mt. Holly	20	
	Mt. Pleasant	60	
	Newburg	228	
	Newville First	252	
	Shippensburg First	480	
	Shiremanstown First	77	
	Swatara	41	
GRC:	Catalyst	75	
	College First	253	X
	Mt. Carmel	100	
	Mt. Tabor		X
	Pathway Community	26	
	Shawnee	25	
	Union Chapel	12	
	Vanlue Community	8	
ARC:	Buchanan	300	
	Center Bethel	352	X
	Garman	550	
	Kennerdell	47	
	Orchard Ridge First	314	
MRC:	Berreman & Pleasant Valley	240	
	The Crossover	924	X
	Mt. Pleasant	121	
	Zanesville		X
Total		6438	

The Gem Writing Contest Deadline is Almost Here!

Do You Enjoy Writing?
Share your gift by entering the 10th Annual
GEM WRITING CONTEST

Open to all ages in three levels:
Adult, Youth, & Child

Two categories: Short Story and Poetry
Plus Coloring Page for Children under age 7)

Deadline: Postmarked by December 31, 2014

For Rules and Entry Forms see your church office,
contact Rachel Foreman at the CGGC office
(419) 424-1961, or go to the website at
[http://www.cggc.org/ministries/
denominational-communications/
gem-writing-contest/](http://www.cggc.org/ministries/denominational-communications/gem-writing-contest/)



Train Your Church Leaders

In the fall of 1988, my last semester of college, I filled in as the youth pastor at a local church. I was given a key to the church and wished the very best of luck. Truthfully it was a fairly frustrating few months.

I didn't know how to engage volunteers. I didn't know how to turn the youth into an effective team. I didn't know how to develop young leaders. I was young and available. Luck wasn't enough. I needed training. I wasn't the only one.

I have built a solution for developing leaders in your church. You may want to start with yourself. You may want to train your staff or key volunteers. There are three steps to this solution.

Step # 1: Take our "Foundations in Christian Coaching" class. During January and February of 2015, we are offering it at three different locations (Mattoon, IL, Findlay, OH, and Pittsburgh, PA), AND we are offering this class for the first time online.

Step # 2: Take "A Coach Approach to Christian Leadership" class. This class will be taught in Findlay, OH on March 23-24 (Mon-Tue) by Bill Copper, a seasoned ministry coach and teacher.

Step # 3: Take our Mentor Coaching class and hone your coaching skills to a level of confidence.

These three steps will also make you eligible for the Certificate in Christian Leader Coaching from Coach Approach Ministries.

It is very frustrating to be want to lead for your church and not know how to do it. These three classes will give your leaders confidence and tools to lead your church into the vision God has for it.

Can you imagine how much less frustrated and more effective your church leader could be by May of 2015?

To sign up for any or all of these classes, click here: <http://www.coachingclarity.org/become-a-coach/>

Because you are with the Churches of God General Conference, use the Promo Code "CGGC" for a 30% discount on any or all classes.

Listen to my interview with author Reggie McNeal, as he speaks about the importance of building a coaching culture in your church: <http://www.coachingclarity.org/?p=917>

Thanks!
Brian Miller