

COSSO Newsletter

Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)

2009

Summer

From the Director's Desk

Rev. Diane Turner-Sharazz



Greetings to all in this season of Pentecost, and as we enter the summer months!

It seems as though this year has flown by (the older I get the faster time seems to pass!). Here we are in the middle of annual conferences already. And at COS, we have completed our winter and spring sessions and are fast approaching the summer weekends and intensive.

Since our last newsletter, one hybrid (part online and part on-campus) course has been completed, and two more are in progress. This new and different approach seems to be initially working well, according to faculty and student evaluations from the first course. Dr. David Whitford, the Assistant Director of COSSO and Professor of the History of Christianity at United Theological Seminary (UTS), administers the hybrid program at UTS. He is assisted by Phyllis Nesselroad.

While new things are happening in the teaching arena, we are also experiencing change in our COS staff. Our very able coordinator, Terri Litchfield, is taking a different position at MTSO, and therefore, will not continue in her present position with COSSO. She will help us with our work with the COS database, but will not be involved in the day to day workings of our program. Over the past year and a half, Terri has made the COSSO operations run smoothly and more efficiently. We are grateful for all that she has done, and will surely miss her.

As of June 10th, Karen Gee will take Terri's place as coordinator of COSSO. Karen is a capable, long-time staff person at MTSO, and is well-respected by students, faculty and staff. We are pleased that she will be joining us. Robin Wells will be continuing as assistant, picking up a few more responsibilities. We expect this to be a smooth transition, with Terri's help. (Terri will be around for the first summer weekend registration, so please be sure and greet her).

It is my hope, even in the busyness of all of our lives, and with the many changes that we face in the future, that the Spirit of God that came down on Pentecost will rain down upon us, will anoint us, will fill us, and will empower us to do and to flourish in the ministry of our God.

Blessings,

Diane

MORE THAN PRAYER: Spiritual Formation-

From Rev. Rebeka Maples, Ph.D., Director of Spiritual Formation



Vacation! We all need it. We plan for it. We wait for it. We love it. And then it's over, and everything returns to the way it was. Or does it?

I just returned from a wonderfully refreshing trip to England. It was a time of relaxing and reconnecting with family and friends. I went on retreat at Holy Island (Lindisfarne), off the northeast coast, and I preached at churches where I served when I lived there. It was a time of many blessings, but before I got to our home in Carroll, I was already in work mode, worrying about what I had not done and needed to do. The work is still there when we return; that's why we have to get away.

Vacation is important for our spiritual lives, as well as for physical and mental health. As I look at my journal from Holy Island, I realize what a blessing it was to get away and just sit by the sea or walk along the shore, listening to God and being present when the sun rises...

*Awaken, O rising sun,
Streaks of light announce your glory,
Casting hues of color across the sky,
Shining through shadows, sending warmth.
All creation is witness to your beauty.
Birds sing their morning chants.
Flowers bow in the wind, opening their arms to you.
All creation awakens to your glory.
Awaken me, O rising sun.*

Holy Island is an ancient site where St. Cuthbert and St. Aiden established a Christian abbey in 634. You can only get to the island at low tide, so when the tide comes in, the island is cut off from the mainland. Residents and visitors quickly tune into the ebb and flow of the tide. One day at low tide I walked across the causeway, which is a prayerful way to pray and reflect. Christian pilgrims have walked the causeway for centuries, tracing the steps of saints and receiving inspiration from the island's serenity –

*Walking the causeway, stepping on what the tide left behind. Wind blowing without relief, finds the weary traveler, giving lessons only life can bring.
Walking the causeway, tracing the way life unfolded, stepping in muck, searching for another path, a better way. Aware of my wanderings, I return to the guideposts, companions on the soul's journey to its island home.
Walking the causeway, the whole world looms before me, touched by nature's wisdom, held by winds of the spirit, I am different now, if only slightly...*

When is your next vacation?

FACULTY FOR 2009 SUMMER SESSION



Jeff Jaynes

Jeff Jaynes -
Teaching 212

Ph.D., The Ohio State University; Professor of Church History, MTSO; 212- Theological Heritage: Early and Medieval.



Paul Kim

Paul Kim -
Teaching 411

Ph.D., Claremont; Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at MTSO; Presbyterian elder, 411 Hebrew Bible II.



John Lepp

John Lepp -
Teaching 511

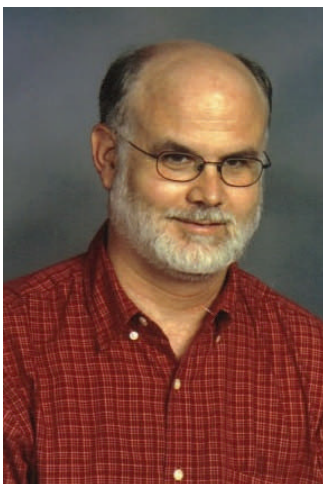
Ph.D., Bowling Green State University; 311, New Testament I



Randy Stearns

Randy Stearns -
Teaching 313

D.Min., United Theological Seminary; Ohio River Valley DS, West Ohio AC; 313 Our Mission: Evangelism.



John Wallace

John Wallace -
Teaching 514

M.Div., Candler School of Theology; Ph.D. studies; elder, West Ohio Conference; 514 Theology and the Practice of Ministry.



Robin Knowles Wallace

Robin Knowles Wallace -
Teaching 413

Ph.D., Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary/Northwestern, Professor of Worship and Music, MTSO; 413, Worship and Sacraments.

FACULTY FOR 2009 SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION



Judy Craig

Judy Craig -
Teaching 114

M.Div., Union Theological Seminary; Post-graduate studies in religious education of Adults; Visiting Professor of Church Leadership and Bishop in Residence, MTSO; 114-Pastoral Leadership and Administration.



Randall Haase

Randall Haase -
Teaching 513

M.Div., MTSO; Adjunct Instructor in Ethics at Terra State Community College. Elder, West Ohio Conference; 513, Our Mission: Transforming Agent.



John Lepp

John Lepp -
Teaching 311

Bowling Green State University; 311, New Testament I



Kendall McCabe

Kendall McCabe -
Teaching 413

Ph.D., Univ. of St. Andrews, Scotland, V.P. Professor of Evangelization, UTS; 413- Worship and Sacraments.



Paul Schrodt

Paul Schrodt -
Teaching 512

Dr. Theology, University of Munich; MLS, Syracuse University. Retired Research Professor of Historical Theology, MTSO. 512, Contemporary Theology.



Ervin Smith

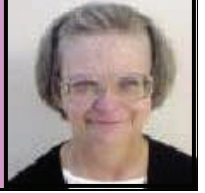
Ervin Smith -
Teaching 414

Ph.D., Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary/ Northwestern; retired Professor of Christian Ethics, MTSO; elder, West Ohio AC; 414 Personal & Social Ethics.

Jim Parnell- Teaching 512 (See story on page 6)

Words Words Words

From Margaret VanSickle, Writing Coach



WHEN IS A SENTENCE NOT A SENTENCE?

Just a reminder that it takes more than a capital letter at the beginning and a punctuation mark at the end of a group of words to form a complete sentence. Sentence errors include fragments, comma splice, and run-ons.

(1) A **fragment** is a group of words that is not a complete sentence because it lacks a subject, a verb, or both.

Fragment: Lettuce all over the table.

Problem: There is no verb.

Corrected sentence: Lettuce spilled all over the table.

Fragment: When George served the salad.

Problem: This is not a complete thought. Notice that there is both a subject (George) and a verb (served); having a subject and a verb does not guarantee the existence of a sentence.

Corrected sentence: When George served the salad, lettuce spilled all over the table.

Fragment: Audrey asked, "Is that what you call a tossed salad?" Laughing and scooping up the lettuce.

Problem: The second "sentence" actually belongs in the first sentence.

Corrected sentence: Laughing and scooping up the lettuce, Ann asked, "Is that what you call a tossed salad?"

Generally, there are countless alternative ways of correcting a sentence fragment. It is best to change the fragment to a sentence that clarifies what you are trying to say within the context of your writing assignment.

(2) A **comma splice** occurs when two independent clauses (a group of words with a subject and verb that could stand as complete sentences) are joined using only a comma.

Splice: The day was hot, we went to the beach.

Corrected: The day was hot, so we went to the beach.

Corrected: The day was hot; we went to the beach.

Corrected: Because the day was hot, we went to the beach.

(3) A **run-on sentence** occurs when two sentences are written as one without adequate punctuation.

Run-on: I thought the ride would never end my eyes were crossed, and my fingers were numb.

Corrected: I thought the ride would never end. My eyes were crossed, and my fingers were numb.

How can you avoid these errors? Read your paper aloud. Read your paper several hours (or even a day or two) after you have written it. Send your paper to me to check for sentence errors and other problems in your writing.

SUE DAVIS IS RETIRING



Sue "Susie" Davis, our food service assistant in Dunn Dining Hall, retires on June 1. She has helped nourish the MTSO community for 10 years. She has been a steady presence in the dining hall, and her work is held in high regard by all in our community, including Course of Study students. We wish Sue the best in her new endeavors.

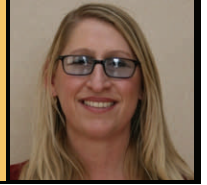
KAREN GEE JOINS THE COS STAFF



As of June 10th, Karen Gee will take Terri's place as coordinator of COSSO. Karen is a capable, long-time staff person at MTSO, and is well-respected by students, faculty and staff. We are pleased that she will be joining us.

Student Life

From Robin Wells, COSSO Assistant



The end of the spring semester is an exciting time on the MTSO campus. The campus has been abuzz with springtime graduations, pastoral appointments, summer travel, and staff changes. Friends stay and reflect on their wisdom gained throughout the year. Friends go on to new and challenging ministry. Some go home to family and will be back again in the fall. There are joyful tears of parting and the remembrance of things good and holy. There is the satisfaction that comes with accomplishment, and the anticipation that comes with a new journey.

Here in the COSSO office there is the excitement of having nine COS graduates for the 2009 Summer session! It is a great accomplishment to complete COS. As you know, it takes sacrifice, dedication, and self-discipline to complete the COS coursework amongst all the other day-to-day tasks that fill one's ministry.

As a student, myself, I know it is easy to forget the reason I am reading these books and writing these papers. Life is already so full of things to do, that studying can easily take a back seat to whatever else is going on. But it is during those times that I want to be distracted away from my studies the most, that I know I need to stop, take the time to focus, and listen for God. Because what I do in my studies at MTSO should ultimately be for the glory of God. It is when I treat my assignments with reverence and my study time as a spiritual discipline, that I know am giving my best to glorify God.

It is a blessing that so many people have come before us to tell us about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: prophets, professors, students...and I am thankful. We may not always see eye-to-eye, but the beauty is in listening and accepting how others view God's word and world. They challenge us and stretch us into new ways of thinking and growing. And that is always a good thing. May the Lord be with you in your studies so that you may grow in ways that yield a bountiful and continued harvest.

Report of Nigeria Volunteer Trip by Jim Parnell

After completing the MTS degree in December 2008, I had the opportunity to visit Nigeria in April of 2009 as a guest of a friend, Rev. Liatu Kane. We met during my time at The Methodist Theological School in Ohio. After several months of putting together my itinerary and getting my visa, I made my way to Nigeria. My goal was to visit the UMC schools and seminary with the hope of finding out what their needs were and how I might be of some future help. After a long 13-hour flight, several in-country flights, and a four hour road trip, I made it to the UMC mission compound in Jalingo in eastern Nigeria. After my return, I began a mission or campaign called "Change for Changes." It directs small donations to the greatest needs of the UMC Nigeria schools, their teachers, and their pastors. It is also a call to make a change in how we view the people who work and live in places like Nigeria. It is my belief that some small monetary (change) can make meaningful changes in all peoples' lives.



James Parnell

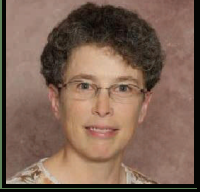
James Parnell-
Teaching 112

M.T.S.,
MTSO. 112 –
Theology in the
Wesleyan
Spirit.

Jim Parnell formerly served as Assistant in the COSSO program

Views from the Coordinator

By Terri Litchfield



To all COS students:

COS CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES!!

There have been changes made to the 2010 COS schedule:

2010 COS at UTS (hybrid classes):

2010 Winter	COS 313	COS 412	
2010 Spring	COS 113	COS 414	
2010 Summer	COS 112	COS 214	COS 311
2010 Fall	COS 213	COS 314	COS 411

2010 COS at MTSO (CHANGES):

2010 Winter COS 113 **cancelled**

2010 Winter COS 512 **added**

2010 Summer COS 212 **added**

Always check current schedule as posted on the website when registering for classes.

100-Level and 500-Level Course Restrictions

Reminder – ALL 100-LEVEL CLASSES MUST BE COMPLETED FIRST **BEFORE TAKING UPPER LEVEL COURSES. The 200/300/400-LEVEL CLASSES may be taken in any sequence. Additionally, ALL 100/200/300/400-LEVEL CLASSES MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE TAKING 500-LEVEL CLASSES.** Students must contact the director, Rev. Diane Turner-Sharazz (dsharazz@mtso.edu) with questions or to discuss schedule conflicts arising from this policy. **Registrations cannot be processed for classes outside of compliance with this policy without Diane's written pre-approval.**

COS Assistant, Robin Wells, now responsible for processing registrations

Robin Wells processes incoming MTSO COS registrations. Remember that all signatures are required on registration forms and the registration fee must be submitted with the registration form. Forms without signatures or the registration fee will be returned to students. Robin can be contacted at rwells@mtso.edu.

Make sure you use the appropriate registration form for MTSO and UTS classes. Registrations must be sent to the respective addresses; see the bottom of registration form for details.

Registration deadline for 2009 Fall COS at MTSO is 7/15/09.

Registration deadline for 2009 Fall COS at UTS is 9/17/09.

COSSO Lost and Found

Jesus once told a parable of a lost coin:



"...[S]uppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin,'" (Luke 15:8-9.)

In the same way, your friends at COSSO would like to rejoice with you as you claim the items you have left behind at MTSO. The sweater pictured was left in the hallway of the lower level of the library during the 2009 Winter session on Feb. 21. All other items pictured were left in dorm rooms during the 2009 Spring session.

If you recognize any of these items as yours, please let us know! Otherwise, we will have to dispose of these items and give the reusable items to charity.

SPRING GRADUATION



DO YOU REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE?

Another graduation has come and gone, and yet we will always remember those with whom we journeyed through COSSO.

They leave us with memories and "words of wisdom..."



Richard serves Parish & New Haven UMC – two country churches that have very big hearts.

"Be open to the lessons and many ideas which will expand your mind to greater things."

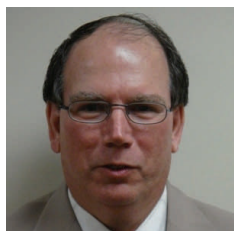
RICHARD BARLEY



Virginia ministers with LPs in Haiti and works with VIM teams.

"Seize every opportunity... take advantage of the summer intensive... I always considered it Sabbath time."

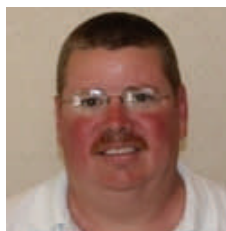
VIRGINIA BELL



Terry serves the Five Mountain Charge in Central PA Conference.

"It can be done! It seems like a long road, which it is... Enjoy the time and the great friends you make at COS."

TERRY HUGHES



Rob serves Bedford Grace UMC in Indiana.

"Yes, it is possible to live through COS..." He will miss new found friends made during his COS years.

ROB KIRTS