

# COSSO Newsletter

*Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)*

2010

Summer

From the Director's Desk



Greetings!

Here we are at our summer sessions. It seems that this time has again come quickly. Annual conferences have come and gone. I am sure that, for many of us, there were memorable moments as we gathered together with the saints to carry on holy work in our various conferences. For some of us, we are also approaching a time of moving or have already moved – into a new appointment, a new parsonage, and are meeting and getting accustomed to new people. I find myself in that position this year. I am moving from pastoring a church in Dayton, OH to pastoring one in Springfield, OH. I look forward to this new God-venture. However, it's the getting there that is tedious – throwing out *stuff*, giving away some books and clothes, and packing all those boxes. And then having to *unpack* on the other end. In spite of the drudgery of moving, I know it is just another step in living out God's call, and the journey is always worth the effort.

My work here at Course of Study School of Ohio, along with the ever-steadfast and faithful God, keeps stability in my life while other aspects of my life change. It is always a joy to greet each incoming class, meeting new students while saying hello to the "old" students once again. I also know that we will be saying good-bye to a number of students who will be graduating this year. But before they go, we hope that the experiences of this summer will be filled with good teaching and learning, along with meaningful and inspirational worship, good fellowship and joy.

We are grateful for the faculty who are teaching this summer, and always for the faithful staff who are here to serve.

May your summer be blessed and fruitful.

Peace,  
*Diane*

**The UPDATED  
Course of Study  
Handbook**

**is now online  
at:**

[http://www.courseofstudyschoolofohio.com/  
handbook.pdf](http://www.courseofstudyschoolofohio.com/handbook.pdf)

## MORE THAN PRAYER: Spiritual Formation-

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



*“Because of the Lord’s great love for us we are not overcome, God’s love never fails, it is new every morning, Great is thy faithfulness...”*  
*Lamentations 3:22-23*

How many people do you know who, no matter what the circumstances and no matter how they feel, will always do exactly what they say they will do every single time, and do it with such thoroughness and perfection, that you never have to worry about anything they say or do, because you know if they say it, they will definitely do it without fail, without change and without excuse? Okay, how many people like that do you know?

The answer, of course, depends on how you ask the question. Most of us probably think we know some people who do exactly what they say. That is, we all know some reliable people who are very dependable. But in the end, the question is not about reliable or dependable people, it is about God. Only God can be faithful 100% of the time, and some of us might question that, since we live in a world where promises are always broken, and sometimes they seem to be broken even by God.

That is not intended as a negative statement but simply a statement of the kind of world in which we live - a world of broken promises. Men pledge peace but they break their promise, and then they make plans for war. That’s why all countries need military forces because human beings cannot be expected to keep their promises. The men and women who join the military provide a great service to ensure our safety and stability, as do those who serve in law enforcement. It is the sign of a modern civil society. So it is a good and noble thing that we have people who help the rest of us keep our promises and when we don’t, they are there to restore peace and ensure our safety.

That is why it is good to have days like Memorial Day, to honor and remember those who serve in the military. Some gave their lives, some served overseas or in this country, some are serving now, some returned home wounded and broken and are neglected by the very people whom they were serving. So it is good to honor and remember them, because sometimes promises are broken or forgotten.

Memorial Day reminds us to honor the people who protect us, at least one day of the year. Lamentations reminds us that we are under the protection of a loving God every day of the year. When our faith fails, when promises are broken, God is there 100% of the time, helping restore peace, picking up the pieces when we are broken. “God’s faithfulness never comes to an end, it is new every morning...” And so, as we honor the veterans, let us also honor the song writer’s words – “great is thy faithfulness.”

God is faithful when we are not. God is there when we are busy doing other things. Memorial Day is a secular holiday, but God does not separate people and God does not separate the days of the years. May we be faithful everyday of the year, and may we have the grace to keep our promises.

## FACULTY FOR 2010 SUMMER SESSION



Roger Grace—  
Teaching 111: Pastor as  
Interpreter of the Bible

Rev. Roger Grace received his M.Div. from MTSO. He is currently Athens District Superintendent for the West Ohio Conference



Jeff Jaynes—  
Teaching 212:  
Theological Heritage:  
Early and Medieval

Rev. Dr. Jeff Jaynes received his M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University and is a Presbyterian elder. He currently teaches at MTSO.

Jeff Jaynes



Chuck Zimmerman—  
Teaching 312:  
Theological Heritage:  
Reformation

Rev. Dr. Chuck Zimmerman received his M.Div. from the Candler School of Theology and his Ph.D. from Emory University. He currently serves as chairman and professor of religion and philosophy at Otterbein College.

Chuck Zimmerman



Wayne Albertson—  
Teaching 412:  
Theological Heritage:  
Wesleyan Movement

Rev. Dr. Wayne Albertson received his M.Div. from MTSO and his Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is currently a UM pastor at First United Methodist Church in Ada, OH and an adjunct professor at Ohio Northern University.

Wayne Albertson



Paul Schrodt—  
Teaching 512:  
Contemporary Theology

Dr. Paul Schrodt received his M.Div. from Passionist Seminary and his Dr. of Theology from the University of Munich. He is a retired Research Professor of Historical Theology, MTSO.

Paul Schrodt



Elizabeth Rand—  
Teaching 513: Our  
Mission: Church as  
Transforming Agent

Rev. Elizabeth Rand earned her M.Div from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and an M.Ed from DePaul University. She is an ordained deacon, currently serving at Concord UMC in Englewood, Ohio

Elizabeth Rand

## FACULTY FOR 2010 SUMMER INTENSIVE SESSION



Susan Bowman

Susan Bowman—  
Teaching 111: Pastor as  
Interpreter of the Bible

Rev. Susan Bowman re-  
ceived her M.Div. from  
MTSO. She was a Dis-  
trict Superintendent in  
East Ohio and is currently  
a retired elder in Full  
Connection with links to  
the Iowa and East Ohio  
Annual Conferences.



Arlene Webb

Arlene Webb—  
Teaching 211: Hebrew  
Bible I

Arlene received her M.Div  
and Master of Theological  
Studies from MTSO. She  
is currently serving in a  
specialized ministry setting  
with outreach to our coun-  
try regarding our particular  
and urgent Early 21st  
Century challenges.



John Lepp

John Lepp —  
Teaching 311:  
New Testament I

Rev. Dr. John Lepp re-  
ceived his M.Div. from  
UTS and his Ph.D. from  
Bowling Green State Uni-  
versity. He is currently a  
retired elder in West Vir-  
ginia, and serves on the  
Northern District Commit-  
tee on Ordained Ministry.



David Cleaver-Bartholomew

David Cleaver-  
Bartholomew—  
Teaching 411: Hebrew  
Bible II

Dr. David Cleaver-  
Bartholomew received his  
M.Div from Yale University  
and his Ph.D. from Clare-  
mont Graduate University.  
He has served as a professor  
and is currently serving as a  
sabbatical supply pastor for  
Trinity UCC in Rome, New  
York.



Vergel Lattimore

Vergel Lattimore—  
Teaching 113:  
Pastoral Care for  
Spiritual Formation

Rev. Dr. Vergel Latti-  
more received his M.Div.  
from Duke University Di-  
vinity School and his  
Ph.D. from Northwestern  
University. He currently  
teaches at MTSO.



Brad Binau

Brad Binau—  
Teaching 314: Pastoral  
Care and Counseling

Dr. Brad Binau received  
his M.Div. from Trinity Lu-  
theran Seminary and his  
Ph.D. from Princeton  
Theological Seminary. He  
is currently an Associate  
Professor and Director of  
Supervised Clinical Minis-  
tries at Trinity Lutheran  
Seminary.

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# Words Words Words

From Margaret VanSickle, Writing Coach



## BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY/WRITE....

Many of you may remember a Sunday School/VBS song titled “Be Careful, Little Eyes” that you learned as a child. The lyrics cautioned us to “...Be careful, little eyes, what you see...” and “...Be careful, little ears, what you hear...” and “...Be careful, little tongue, what you say....” All these precautions were/are important because God is “...looking down in love....”

The words that each of us uses, whether they are spoken in a sermon or in a counseling session or in a random conversation, should demonstrate the careful approach described in the children’s song above. Our generation is becoming less careful about our use of language, and technology with its text-messaging and abbreviated language (LOL, for example) trivializes the standards of speaking and writing in “correct” formal English that our elementary and high school teachers insisted were very important to “educated” people.

Here are two of the most abrasive errors to my eyes and ears:

*Two or more pronouns as objects in a sentence:*

A sentence such as this is incorrect:

I want to thank both Tom and she for helping with the dinner.

We would never say “I want to thank *she* for helping with the dinner”; we would say, “I want to thank *her* for helping with the dinner.” Use the same pronoun form you would use if there was only a single object in the sentence. *Who or whom* in questions/clauses:

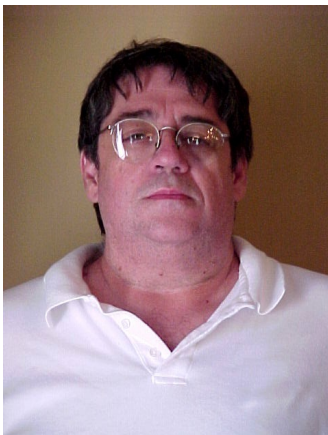
A sentence like this is incorrect:

Who did you address?

I think the easiest way to be sure of your choice in this kind of sentence is to pair “who” and “he” (or “she”) and to pair “whom” and “him” (or “her”) and turn the question into a statement. You would not say, “You did address he”; you would say, “You did address him”; therefore, “whom” would be the correct choice.

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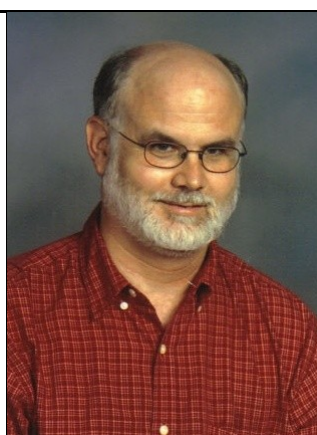
## 2010 Summer Intensive Faculty continued...



Jim Parnell

Jim Parnell—  
Teaching 412: Theological Heritage: Wesleyan Movement

Jim did his graduate work at The University of Findlay and at MTSO. He is currently serving at Harmony Chapel in Mount Gilead, Ohio and is on track for ordination as a Deacon.



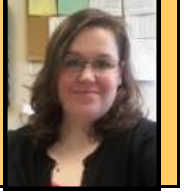
John Wallace

John Wallace—  
Teaching 514: Theology and the Practice of Ministry

Rev. John Wallace received his M.Div. from the Candler School of Theology and engaged in Ph.D. studies at Chicago Theological Seminary.

## Student Life

From Megan Coggins, COSSO Assistant



As we all know, new beginnings can be a bit intimidating. After earning a BA in Religious Studies with a minor in Philosophy from a women's college in south Georgia, I prepared to continue my theological education at MTSO. In January of this year, I moved from sunny and warm Georgia (where I was born and bred) up to Ohio to begin classes--in the snow! It was a bit startling to realize that I was expected to get out and function in the snow. At home, a hint of snow cancels everything. Those first cold and gray months, I learned a great deal about holding on to friends so I didn't slip down a hill walking to class and about the joy that comes with the sun--for a while, I wasn't sure I'd ever see the sun again! But I did, and oh how I appreciated those early days of Spring.

In April, I started with COSSO the day before the second weekend of Spring Term--which was also a bit intimidating in terms of timing. Thank you to those of you I've had a chance to meet and talk with and those that have welcomed me. I look forward to getting to meet many more of you over the course of my time here! I have a passion for COS and a perspective on it that comes from being a local pastor's daughter. My father became a local pastor when I was just about to graduate high school--so his COS time has corresponded with my theological education in some interesting ways. He's a COS student at Candler/Emory down in Atlanta, GA now, gearing up to take Fall classes and working hard to find time for his family, his job, church, school-work, and every now and then, pausing to take a breath.



Those brief moments of rest, when we can slow down for a moment and catch our breath, are often what makes this busyness worth it. I know in my own life, I tend to stay busy—it's how I function best. Within the busy days, there are moments of grace, beauty, and reflection. Catching those moments enough to be still and listen, feel, and see is a different story, but I am constantly trying to get better at that. As we move into Summer, my prayer for each of us is that, in the midst of busy lives, we find time to be still—even if only for a moment—and listen for God. May your summer be one of reflection and drawing nearer to God.

Y'all be blessed this summer—

*Megan*

### CHOIR MEMBERS ALWAYS NEEDED!

Even if you did not sign up to be part of the COSSO choir for worship, please feel free to come to rehearsal! Check with Margaret, Karen, or Megan for dates, times, and locations of practice! As most of you have found, there is strength in numbers; so don't hesitate to be part of the choir—even if you have not been offered a multi-million dollar recording contract for your singing.

All are welcome!

# Views from the Coordinator

By Karen Gee



## ***Greetings Students and welcome to Summer Term 2010!!!***

Things have been very busy in the COS offices; we said a fond farewell to Robin Wells the first of April, and we are pleased to welcome Megan Coggins as our new COS Assistant. Megan has done an excellent job in getting us caught up with our daily/weekly COS tasks. As we move into the Summer Intensive and Fall terms for 2010 and into the 2011 & 2012 COS terms, there are a few things I would like to remind everyone:

- The \$30.00 Registration Fee is non-refundable and non-transferable. Your registration fee for each class must accompany your registration form
- Please be sure to check the COS Website Schedule for registration deadlines. It takes approx. 7-10 days for the District Superintendent and Local Pastor Registrar to get your registration form signed and forwarded to our office. We no longer offer late registration for the courses so please plan ahead when registering for classes.

**If you are planning to graduate from the program within the next year, please let us know!**

### Housing:

- Students are responsible for housing reservations and charges. In addition to area hotels, a limited number of on-campus rooms are available. On-campus rooms are single occupancy only. If you are planning to stay on-campus, please be sure to register at least 6-9 months in advance.
- If you are planning to stay on-campus, the housing deposit must also accompany your registration form. The list of housing deposits is noted on the registration form.

### Meals:

- Weekend Session Meals: Friday night dinner, Saturday morning breakfast and Saturday afternoon lunch are provided for students who are attending weekend classes.
- Summer Intensive Session Meals: Breakfast and lunch (Monday – Friday) are included for students with on-campus housing.
- Students staying off campus during Summer Intensive Session can purchase a meal ticket for \$55.00 (Breakfast and lunch – Monday – Friday).

### Curriculum:

- All 100 level courses must be completed before moving on to the 200-400 level courses
- All 200 – 400 level courses must be completed before moving on to the 500 level courses

We hope your time with us will be meaningful and rewarding. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail or phone; or if you have questions while you are on campus please stop by my office (Werner Hall room 219).

Blessings,  
Karen Gee, COS Coordinator

## Be Careful What You Say/Write cont.

Please send your papers or questions for upcoming course assignments to me at [mvensickle@mtso.edu](mailto:mvensickle@mtso.edu) or [margaretavansickle@msn.com](mailto:margaretavansickle@msn.com). If possible, allow at least two days for my suggestions on improving your paper and e-mailing it back to you.

Happy writing! See you soon....

### MUSIC REQUESTS?

Do you have a favorite hymn that you never hear when you come to campus for Course of Study weekends? Is there a choir anthem that has been a blessing to you and your congregation? I am always looking for new hymns and anthems for use in worship and with the choir; so please let me know if you have requests! Thanks...



### Spring Images...



As we celebrated Easter in Worship, COS students also took part in a service to remember their baptisms.

