

COSSO Newsletter

Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)

2012

Winter

From the Director's Desk



Greetings!

Happy New Year! The seasons of Advent and Christmas are such very busy times for pastors. My hope is that you were also able to experience the peace, love, and joy of Christmas, even as you sought to draw others into the true Christmas spirit -- and that now you are able to move forward into this new year with renewed vigor and anticipation to God's movement in your own life as well as the lives of your churches.

For us, we are looking forward to another year at Course of Study School of Ohio. As we look back, we remember that, over this last year, we were blessed to graduate 24 students, and to welcome 26 new students into our program. We also made a few policy changes and worked on increasing our efficiency. It is our hope that we have all gotten accustomed to the changes, and that all will work smoothly in 2012. 2011 was also a time in which we experienced sadness at the passing of our former staff member and instructor, James Parnell. We will miss him.

Looking forward -- The new course schedules for 2013 and 2014 are now complete and available on our website. You will notice that there is a slight increase in the number of courses scheduled each year, to try to accommodate your needs (especially for the 100-level courses). It is our hope that you find these additions helpful.

We continue to value your feedback and suggestions -- anything that will help us to improve the quality of our program and your experience as a student.

We look forward to our time with you this year and in the future. May God's blessings overflow into your lives this year.

Peace,
Diane

The **UPDATED**
Course of Study Handbook
is now online

at:

<http://www.courseofstudyschoolofohio.com/handbook.pdf>

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



MORE THAN PRAYER: Spiritual Formation-

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



January is the season after the season of Light, of angels and stars and Christmas pageants, of excited children and over-stressed parents, of snappy choir directors and over-tired pastors. It is the season after the season of God-with-us. The church does not give the season after the same attention that the two great seasons are given. And yet, the seasons after Advent and Lent are the seasons when we live with what we celebrate on two days - Christmas and Easter. It is the season after that calls us to live with God incarnate, the Word made Flesh. It is in the season after that we live with the risen Christ, the One who comes again and again into our world, and who breaks through again and again into our lives. The seasons after the two great seasons are when our faith is called to face reality – what will we do, how will we live with the Incarnation and Resurrection? Now is the time to discover what our faith is made of, to understand and live into what it means to be Christian. This is the time of prayer and reflection, for we cannot live in a season of celebration all through the year. The season after is the time in between, known as Ordinary Time, when we pause and internalize what we have been given – the gifts of life, now and for ever. It is the time when we practice living the life of Jesus, day after ordinary day, until finally it becomes who we are – Christ followers. Jesus came, and is, and will come again and again. Let us use the time we have in this season after to prepare for the next great season after, so that we may live in the light and love of the One who has called us to a holy calling and who calls us still.



Words Words Words

From Margaret VanSickle, Writing Coach



Writing and speaking are important tools of communication. There are times when the biggest and best words are excellent choices; in other situations, simple, sincere words provide the best options.

Word usage should not be taken lightly. Many people—including pastors—often know a short definition for a word they choose; but words frequently have very precise, limited meanings. How can we be sure that our words are the best we can use?

For more information, see the Writing tab on the COSSO website (www.courseofstudyschoolofohio.com)!

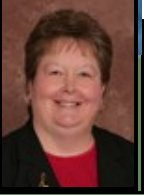
CHOIR MEMBERS ALWAYS NEEDED!

Even if you did not sign up to be part of the COSSO choir for worship, please feel free to come to rehearsal! Rehearsal will be held the **Friday of the each weekend (Jan. 28 and Feb. 25) at 2:30**. 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 and Welcome to 2012 Winter Term!!! I hope everyone had a Very Blessed Christmas and New Years and you are looking forward to a New Year filled with hope and joy!!

We were very blessed to have Megan Coggins, COS Student Worker, with the COS program since April, 2010. She graduated from MTSO in December with a Master of Theological Studies degree and she is returning to her home in Georgia. We wish her the very best in her future journey in Ministry. We welcome Mary Willis as our new COS Student Worker. Mary came to MTSO in August, 2011 and is taking classes for her Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts In Counseling Ministries degrees. She has been training with Megan for several weeks and we look forward to having Mary join our team.

A quick reminder: Please watch the COS Schedule page for registration deadlines, and the 2013 & 2014 classes are now posted!!

Blessings for a Prosperous New Year!!
Karen Gee, COS Coordinator

Student Life

From Mary Willis, COSSO Assistant



This Summer, COS celebrated graduation with 11 students...



(L-R) Sylvia McKibben, Dick Kretchmar, Gail Kitchen, Michael Bodek, Robert Martin, Joyce McKeever, Terry Baltzer, James Hildebrand, Bob Kreger, Tom Charles, and John Leighty

Congratulations, Graduates!

May God continue to bless your journeys.

FACULTY FOR 2012 WINTER SESSION



Lisa Withrow

Lisa Withrow—
Teaching 114:
Pastoral Leadership and
Administration

Rev. Dr. Lisa Withrow received her M.Div from Duke Divinity School and her PhD from the University of Glasgow. She currently teaches at MTSO, where she also serves as the Associate Academic Dean.



Paul Kim

Paul Kim—
Teaching 211:
Hebrew Bible I

Rev. Dr. Paul Kim, received his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, his Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from Claremont and is a Presbyterian elder. He currently teaches at MTSO.



Jeff Jaynes

Jeff Jaynes—
Teaching 312:
Theological Heritage:
Reformation

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.



Robin Knowles-Wallace

Robin Knowles-Wallace—
Teaching 413:
Worship and Sacraments

Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace received her M.T.S. from Candler School of Theology and her Ph.D. from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary/ Northwestern. She currently teaches at MTSO, where she is the director of the D.Min program.



Stan Ling

Stan Ling—
Teaching 514:
Theology and the Prac-
tice of Ministry

Rev. Ling received his M.Div from Wesley Theological Seminary and is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. He currently serves as the Special Assistant to the President for Advancement at MTSO.

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...

