

SCARRITT & NATIONAL COLLEGES ALUMNI/AE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST
2011

*"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland."
Isaiah 43: 18-19 (NIV)*

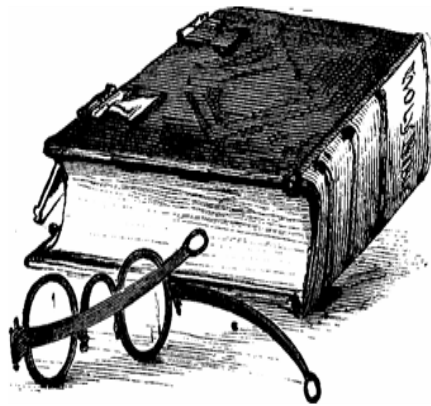
A NEW THING!

By MIKE HODGE
SCARRITT, 1977

I don't appreciate being told to "forget the former things." Some important things have happened in my life, and I want to remember them, to honor them. Even my mistakes and blunders have made me who I am. Alums of Scarritt and National Colleges have a lot to remember—a lot that we don't want to forget—about our professors, our friends, and the ways that we were shaped and challenged.

The people of Israel also had a lot to remember. The prophet Isaiah reminds them that God "made a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters" for them to escape Pharaoh. So what's all this about "forgetting the former things" and not "dwelling on the past"? Why does Isaiah bring that up?

Isaiah proclaims that God is about to act again to deliver the Hebrew people, who are in exile in Babylon – but it will be a NEW act of deliverance. God is not limited to acting in the same old ways. In the past, God



had turned the sea into dry land for the escape from Egypt.

Now, the Israelites have been in exile in Babylon—a long "dry" wilderness time for them. They are coming home to their own land—which to them will be like rivers bursting forth in the desert. God is "making a way in the wilderness" for them to return from Exile.

God's love is timeless

We don't need to limit God to past actions. God's love and forgiveness can not be proclaimed in the past tense. It was wonderful when it was announced yesterday, but yesterday's gospel often becomes today's law. We need to hear the gospel anew, every day.

As alums of National and Scarritt Colleges, we treasure our time in these schools, the relationships that were formed, the ministries that have come forth. But God

calls us to be about more than holding onto the past. God's call is to a new thing.

The same call from God that we felt at our schools is now being lived out in a "new" way at the Scarritt-Bennett Center (SBC). SBC houses the records from our two colleges— but it also holds the spirit of Scarritt and National and expresses that in new ways for a new time.

Legacy continues

As alums, we have the opportunity to be a part of that spirit in whatever way we choose. Our colleges both fought racism and segregation, and students were educated about different cultures, languages, and traditions.

Both colleges had a special ministry in training women as missionaries and leaders. SBC has organized "Diversity in Dialogue" sessions for over 2,500 people to broaden their understanding of race relations, diversity, and faith traditions and practices.

"Wisdom House" fosters inter-religious understanding and community sharing in the wisdom of the world's religions. "The Women's Table" brings special programs of empowerment of women.

Overall, SBC is committed to ministries of justice and reconciliation, eradication of racism, empowerment of women, education of laity, and spiritual formation.

When we graduated from these schools, we went and did "new things" in ministry – things that we had never dreamed of. We were missionaries, social workers, deaconesses, educators, pastors, teachers, parents, business persons, and more. Might God now be calling us to other "new things" – at SBC and beyond?



Buddy Mason and Becky Waldrop, April 2011

SBC STAFF CHANGES AFFECT ALUMS

BY BUDDY MASON
SCARRITT, 1968

As most all of you already know, Becky Waldrop recently retired from her position as VP of Development and Alumni Affairs after 15 years of dedicated service to the Scarritt-Bennett Center.

Her contributions to the life and mission of this place can never be overestimated and the legacy she leaves behind will remain a high water mark for all who attempt to match her efforts to publicize and promote the programs and ministries of the Scarritt-Bennett Conference and

Retreat Center.

If you haven't done so already you may want to drop Becky a line and let her know how much she has meant to you and to your connection to Scarritt-Bennett.

An alum myself, I will be picking up a portion of Becky's extensive work assignments by becoming the SBC representative to the Scarritt and National Colleges Executive Committee of the Alumni/ae Association. In this capacity I will be working closely with the

*Alums
(Cont'd on page 2)*

What's Y-O-U-R

"New Thing"?

Your Executive Committee would love to hear from you!

Contact Phyllis Wolfe

Newsletter Editor

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SCARRITT & NATIONAL COLLEGES ALUMNI/AE NEWSLETTER

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Your Executive Committee

Alums

(Cont'd from page 1)

Alumni/ae Executive Committee and with President Sharon Howell to insure that the activities and plans of the alumni/ae are well publicized and that there will continue to be an open and active relationship between alumni/ae and Scarritt-Bennett.

At some point we want to develop a web site solely for the purpose of highlighting the alumni/ae and to keep a record of the historical information that cannot be found in books or magazines. This means that you will be encouraged to write up your own memories and descriptions of your time at Scarritt and National and provide further documentation of the work you have been involved in that you were trained to perform while attending these schools.

At some point we want to place these materials in storage in our research library in order to have a repository for these resources available for researchers and for interested parties who may want to read about their family members.

Finally let me say I am excited about working with the alumni/ae and want to help in every way I can to insure that not only do we stay in touch with each other, but also that the service and commitments rendered by Scarritt and National alumni/ae will be recognized, even down to the smallest detail. You can reach me at the Scarritt-Bennett address (1008 19th Ave. S. 37212-2126) or by email at (bmason@scarrittbennett.org) or by telephone (615-340-7500).

Class of 2011

Winona Campbell
National College 1956

Richard Davy
Scarritt College 1964

Michael Hodge
Scarritt College 1977

Class of 2012

Warren Day
Scarritt College 1960

Rev. Jean Marie Grabher
Scarritt College 1964

Phyllis Wolfe
National College 1956-59

Class of 2013

Joaquin Garcia
Scarritt College 1964

Mary Pless Hicks
Scarritt College 1965

Mark Stewart
Scarritt College 1966



Seated l. to r.: Mary Pless Hicks, Becky Waldrop & Mark Stewart.

Standing l. to r.: Buddy Mason, Phyllis Wolfe, Winona Campbell & Mike Hodge. Jean Marie Grabher also attended in April but had to leave before photo was taken.

Ex-Officio Members

Buddy Mason
SBC, Alumni Relations
Scarritt College 68

Sharon Howell
President, SBC

Lynne Westfield
Chair, SBC Board

A VERY CONDENSED HISTORY OF NATIONAL COLLEGE

BY REV. JEAN MARIE
GRABHER
SCARRITT, 1964

In January of 1900, Fisk Deaconess Bible Training School was founded in Kansas City, Kansas. It was to provide the Bishop's Course of Study for Deaconesses for the nurse deaconesses at Bethany Deaconess Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas. When Fisk opened in two rented rooms in a private home there were two deaconess students and 18 nursing students.

In 1904, the first building was erected on donated land at 15th (now Truman Road) and Van Brunt Blvd. The name was changed to Kansas City National Training School For Deaconesses and Missionaries. In 1933, the name was again changed to Na-

tional Training School for Christian Workers.

In 1942 the two-year course was extended to four years and the process was beginning for National to become a liberal arts college.

In 1961, the newly organized seminary, National Methodist Theological Seminary shared facilities with National College. This continued for two years when the seminary, renamed St. Paul School of Theology moved to other facilities.

The Women's Division of Christian Service decided they could not support a liberal arts college and worked to close National College and cede the facilities to St. Paul School of Theology. They hoped that this would allow National's original

mission of providing lay professional training to continue at St. Paul.

From the beginning representatives of the Woman's Division and National College alumni were an important part of the St. Paul Board of Trustees. For a number of years, the National College representative was Louise Dutcher Johnson. She not only was a deaconess graduate of National, but also served on the faculty.

Dr. Don Holter, first president of St. Paul, was very intentional about making sure that the heritage of National College would be included in the history of St. Paul. The first sign at the front of the seminary grounds read: "Formerly National College for Christian Workers."

NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Your Executive Committee has been working hard to change the "selection of committee members," into the "election of committee members."

But that relies on folks who agree to be nominated!

At the April meeting it was decided to start the process—which takes time with notifications, ballots prepared and sent out, and then tallying results—in August, which is now.

So, please be thinking about whether this is something you might like to do yourself, or whether you know of someone who would be a great addition to this group. We need your input!!

Although our twice-yearly meetings can be jam-packed, we still have fun. See the grins on our faces in the picture at the top of the page?

Read more about our April meeting and some of the exciting possibilities we're considering on page 3. Please be sure to see the ballot request form there and the election info on the back page.

Rev. Grabher thanks Maggie Mueller, archivist at St. Paul for her help with this article.



**Three 2010 Regional Gatherings
Equaled Three Great Times for Attendees**

By all accounts we've heard, the three regional gatherings last year at Lake Junaluska, Kansas City, and Nashville were a huge success.

Scores of folks came from near and far to share memories of their time at the colleges and to give updates on the roads they've travelled since then. The parallels were astounding as we listened to times past and values shared at both schools and in the lives of the alums no matter what their vocations.

Videos were taken at all three events as individuals told their stories. Some of these are still being edited but others were available for viewing in Kansas City and Nashville as part of the programs there. DVDs will be produced.

But some of the best times at each place were simply the informal "catching up" that went on before, during and after the programmed events. The photos at the left show some of that at St. Paul School of Theology (top photo) and at Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville (bottom photo).



Condensed version of Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting April 7-8, 2011

PRESENT: Mark Stewart, Mary Pless Hicks, Rev. Jean Marie Grabher, Winona Campbell, Phyllis Wolfe, Mike Hodge, Buddy Mason (SBC Volunteer), Becky Waldrop (SBC staff)

Reviewed 2007 Guidelines for the Alumni/ae Association and discussed our mission. An alumni organization had existed immediately after SBC began, but became inactive. SBC invited former officers to join a transition team to re-organize the alumni association, but none participated. Transition team wrote guidelines, replacing previous bylaws.

Working with SBC, we held regional reunions at Lake Junaluska/Brook-Howell Home in May, in Kansas City in September, and a Christmas Gathering at SBC in December. Get great video interviews at all of these. SBC is working with us to create DVDs of these videos.

Election of Alum Exec Com Officers/Ex-Officio

Members:

Convener – Mark Stewart. Mike Hodge will be chair, a new position to simply run our meetings together.

Secretary/Treasurer – Jean Marie Grabher

Alumni Relations Secretary/Newsletter Editor – Phyllis Wolfe

Alumni Voting Rep on SBC Board – Mike Hodge (Convener is on board without vote.)

Scarritt-Bennett Ex-Officio – SBC President and Board Chair are on our executive committee as ex-officio, as is a designated SBC alumni relations person, which is now Buddy Mason.

We began planning for our next election to replace 3 members who rotate off.

Meditation on Gifts - Phyllis Wolfe led us in special meditation on gifts and the gifts we bring to our work together.

Newsletter – We outlined possible articles for our newsletter (two issues per year) and who should be asked to write them. We will work with SBC in printing and mailing.

Planning Other Possible Ideas for Alums:

Have next Exec Com meeting in Kansas City (bridging with National Alums) in September.

Place markers at Wightman Chapel about MLK's preaching there

Possibly hold 2012 Reunion on Labor Day weekend (Sept 1,2,3); Have dedication of MLK markers.

Explore idea of a fountain or other object at St Paul's (Kansas City) to be National College memorial

Newsletters out twice this year and coordinate with The Cornerstone, SBC's alum e-mail.

Explore setting up web site

Hold a "pilot" small group reunion for Middle Tennessee that others may copy

Becky shared with us her decision to retire from Scarritt-Bennett, expressing great appreciation for SBC, and outlined a few possible new directions for her. The Alum Exec committee expressed our love and appreciation for her and her work.

BALLOT REQUEST / NOMINATION FORM

YES, please send me a ballot to vote on the Alumni/ae Exec. Bd.

My Name _____ Phone () _____

My Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My E-mail Address (if any) _____

YES, I have someone to nominate to be on the ballot & they have agreed to run.

Nominee's Name _____ Phone () _____

Nominee's Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Nominee's E-mail Address (if any) _____

**MAIL FORM TO: Mark Stewart, P.O. Box 128; Arrington, TN 37014.
OR E-MAIL THIS INFORMATION TO: austew1960@gmail.com**

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

All persons who attended Scarritt College, Scarritt Graduate School, or National College are considered to be members of the Alumni/ae Association. There are no dues for membership.

Some of the purposes of the Association are:

To initiate and develop long-term connections between alumni/ae of National College and Scarritt College – and between alumni/ae and the Scarritt-Bennett Center;

To insure the involvement of the National College and Scarritt College Communities in the emergent vision of the Scarritt-Bennett Center;

To preserve artifacts of National and Scarritt Colleges in the Laskey Research Library at Scarritt-Bennett Center;

To inform Alumni/ae about the mission and program of the Scarritt-Bennett Center.

Our work together on these purposes is guided by an Executive Committee of 9 people.

Our guidelines set 3 classes of 3 members, with each class serving for 3 years. It's time for nominations for 3 people to fill this year's openings.

Important points:

Four of the total Committee will be from the Nashville area to help build a close working relationship with the Scarritt-Bennett Center. As far as possible, at least one National College Alum shall serve in each class. The Executive Committee normally meets 1 or 2 times per year, as well as using phone and e-mail conversations to communicate.

Next Steps for Our Election:

By **Sept. 15th** Send in the form at the bottom of page 3 to request a ballot, and to nominate yourself or someone else. (Make sure your nominee agrees to be nominated!!) Postage costs prohibit us from sending ballots to ALL alums, when all will not vote. **SO PLEASE REQUEST A BALLOT.**

By **Oct. 1st** Ballots will go out to those who have requested.

They need to be back in with vote by **Nov. 1st** so results can be tabulated before the end of the calendar year.