

Theology Connections

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UPCOMING THEOLOGY EVENTS

- **May 7– Graduate Commencement**
- **May 8 – Undergraduate Commencement**
- **May 11-14 - CU & KBC Contagious Church and Leaders Conference, Sojourn Church, Louisville, KY.**
- **Sept. 23 & 24– Pastors & Church Leaders Conference**
- **Nov. 16-17 - Biblical and Theological Lecture Series with renown New Testament scholar Dr. Simon J. Gathercole, Cambridge Univ.**

THERE ARE MANY “FIRSTS” FOR THE 2009 FIRST CLASS

Campbellsville University’s FIRST CLASS, a program designed to transition freshmen into the college life, is transforming into a new revolutionized program due to the increasing number of freshmen and its rising success. This semester’s FIRST CLASS has the largest freshmen class ever, consisting of over 500 students, and the largest staff FIRST CLASS has ever had.

Dr. G. Ted Taylor, director of FIRST CLASS institute, said, “The changes in the number of freshmen, the passion of the student mentors, the quality of the leadership team, the enhanced large group productions and the engagement of the instructors has raised the standard for FIRST CLASS.”



Dr. Ted Taylor
CLASS Institute Director

FIRST CLASS has two divisions, a large group session which meets on Monday’s at 10 a.m. in the Ransdell chapel, and First-Year Seminars, small groups meeting at various times throughout each week. Each First-Year Seminar consists of an instructor and a student mentor that aid in the students process of transition. Jon Hansford, First-Year Experience director, said the basics of FIRST CLASS can be summed into three words: an intentional, engaged, community.

This semester’s First-Year seminars have also seen changes. The first-year seminars are designed to enhance students’ academic, social and spiritual integration into the CU community. The classes have been newly structured and provided with several engaging activities and formatted criteria. Another program introduced to FIRST CLASS this year is the “Repair Affair.” Campbellsville University and Kentucky Heartland Outreach (KHO) have partnered together to develop this program which gives first-year students hands-on experience in student leadership while also contributing to meet the needs of the community.

Each First-Year Seminar class received different dates to do their projects. The projects have varied from building decks and wheelchair ramps to roofing and painting. Hansford said the program is extremely student centered and designed to set up an environment where freshmen are given the opportunity to meet a real human need.

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**The School of Theology’s Mission is to Produce World Changers
who are**

**Passionately Evangelical ~ Rooted in the Biblical Story ~ Church Connected
Servant Leaders ~ Spiritual Entrepreneurs ~ Partners in Enduring Fellowship**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE

By Doug and Marcie McCammish, members of Columbia Baptist Church

Dr. Ted Taylor of Campbellsville University became the interim pastor of Columbia Baptist Church, Columbia, KY in the fall of 2008. Within a short time, the congregation realized that Dr. Taylor was much more than an average supply preacher and his high energy levels far exceeded the pulpit supply committee's expectations.

One of Dr. Taylor's main themes from the pulpit has been the necessity of the members of the body of Christ to become "servant leaders" and he is an excellent example of this himself. He often preaches on the need for a passion for Jesus in all believers and he is passionate believer himself.

Dr. Taylor's speaking style is "colorful" and he speaks to the whole congregation. He teaches, exhorts, and admonishes within each sermon, so his style might be called "eclectic." He has brought in choirs and speakers from other churches and other cities to expose the congregation to different styles of worship and we have had two joint services with other churches in the area.

He has invited and recognized sports teams from Lindsey Wilson College and Adair County High School to encourage outreach and growth of college and youth programs. His college outreach has also included speaking at a regular evening convocation at Lindsey Wilson as well as introducing our youth to the "First Class" at CU. Our youth program has grown dramatically. We regularly have 30 or more college students in our services.

Even though he is Transitional Pastor and lives and works most of the week in Campbellsville, Dr. Taylor has easily surpassed previous "full-time" pastors in staying on touch with members of the congregation who need prayer and counseling support. Congregants often report that he has been one of the first to call or visit in times of distress. He has set a very high standard in this area for any pastor called to follow him.

Early in his tenure as Interim Pastor, the pulpit supply team asked him to develop a stewardship emphasis. Dr. Taylor enrolled a small stewardship team and brought in, with the team's approval, a young consultant to help with that effort. The resulting 8-week stewardship program was hailed as the most effective in the church's history as well as the most on-target by focusing on talents as much more than monetary giving. Attendance remained high, including at special training session, and giving has been up by \$5000 per month in six months following the campaign. During the stewardship review, the church also examined or developed written staff job descriptions and financial practices that have benefited the church. In conjunction with that was an early goal set by Dr. Taylor was to further develop the existing church staff. Regular staff meetings, encouragement, direction and support have led to increased general staff enthusiasm.

Also, through Dr. Taylor's involvement with Maple Tail Ministry Consultants, a team reworked our Constitution and Bylaws – not just to update or correct them, but to introduce a new way of thinking about ministry teams and to open the church to more flexible organization.

Dr. Taylor continues to challenge the deacon body to leadership development, as well as everyone in the congregation. He continuously raises the bar with respect to anything necessary to either bring more to Christ or to further develop us as Christians. This includes anything from enthusiastically welcoming visitors to changing the appearance of the church to deacon presence at baptisms. His energy and drive have greatly contributed to the addition of 16 new members in the last seven weeks, including several by baptism.

As Dr. Taylor's first year ends, he continues to challenge every aspect of congregational life at Columbia Baptist





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Taylor also noted the changes taking place among the FIRST CLASS large group sessions. He said this year's large group has seen a plethora of various speakers including CU's head football coach, Perry Thomas, a Christian rapper, former mentors and various others individuals outside of CU's campus. In addition, secular music has been introduced as a means to engage all freshmen into the service.

"Our goal for Monday's large group session is to raise the production value so that every person is engaged at least once over the semester," said Taylor.

Not new to the program is the gathering of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas child delivers gift-filled shoeboxes and the Gospel to children in desperate situations all over the world. Last year's FIRST CLASS collected over 150 shoeboxes to be distributed. This year's FIRST CLASS staff is enthusiastic about how many shoeboxes the freshmen class can produce, hoping they will establish a new high standard.

Paige Stoltz, a freshman from Louisville, Ky., said, "FIRST CLASS has helped me to adapt to college life by encouraging social interaction and installing core values that will benefit my years at CU."

Taylor said looking back over the progress of FIRST CLASS it is evident to see that everything "rises and falls with mentors." He said, the mentors of this year continue to raise the bar and are not satisfied with the status quo. He said the mentors are willing to take whatever risks are necessary in order to engage with students.

Taylor said he is very pleased with the respect received and felt from this year's freshmen class strives to provide a distinctly Christian but uniquely welcoming atmosphere for first-year students.

FULL PICTORAL RECAP
of the 2010 School of Theology
HOLY LAND TOUR
in the summer edition of
Theology Connections

Updates from our School of Theology Team



Dr. Jarvis Williams

Dr. Williams announces that Dr. Simon J. Gathercole, Lecturer in New Testament Studies and Fellow (Fitzwilliam College), Cambridge University is the featured speaker for fall 2010 (Nov. 16-17) Biblical and Theological Lecture Series. This noted Pauline scholar will address various aspects of Paul's theology of the atonement.



Dr. John Hurtgen

Dr. Hurtgen preached the Palm Sunday sermon at Stithton Baptist, pastored by Dr. Gregg Curtis, in Ratcliff, Ky. He also presented the Holy Week Lecture (Mar. 29, 2010) entitled, "The Blood of the Lamb in the Book of Revelation."



Dr. Shane Garrison

Dr. Garrison will continue as the permanent pulpit supply for Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown, KY. He will also be a workshop presenter at the Contagious Church and Leaders Conference sponsored by the KBC and CU in May.



Dr. Joe Early

Dr. Early, in his second semester in the School of Theology, gave a presentation at a recent Texas Baptist Historical Society meeting in Fort Worth, TX. His upcoming Christian Church History book for Broadman & Holman is still pending, but looks favorable.



Dr. Dwayne Howell

Dr. Howell continues to prepare for his summer mission trip to Northern Ireland with the student ministry of Campbellsville Baptist Church. He continues to pastor Rolling Fork Baptist Church in Gleanings, KY.



Dr. Scott Wigginton

Dr. Wigginton, working with Dr. Dwight Moody, Director of the Academy of Preachers, reports that five young CU preachers presented their sermons at the 2010 Festival of Preachers in Louisville, KY. Dr. Wigginton was the organizer and team leader for the 29-member group from CU traveling to the Holy Land over spring break.

More updates and information about our faculty available at:

campbellsville.edu/school-of-theology

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