

Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

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May 2015

May 11, Sam Crabtree

Write Well, for the Love of God



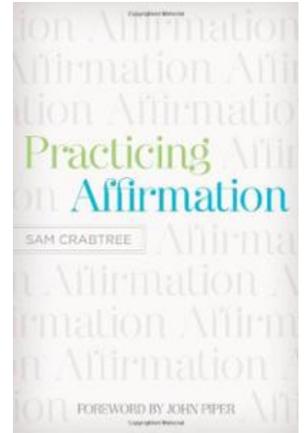
What makes good writing? What is at the heart of all our written communications? How do influences on our lives impact the way we write?

Bethlehem Baptist's beloved executive pastor, Sam Crabtree, will talk about the purpose and basis of good writing.

Sam Crabtree is a former public school teacher and has served as executive pastor and "vision keeper" at Bethlehem

Baptist Church since 1997. In 2011 he published *Practicing Affirmation: God-Centered Praise of Those Who Are Not God*. His book gives insight into how people can be refreshed and influenced by those who affirm the character of Christ in them.

Join us for our season finale to discover influences and practices that have shaped Sam Crabtree's writing and could shape yours.



Upcoming Guild Events

September 14 — New 2015-16 Guild Season begins!
Speaker and topic to be announced.



Exciting Plans for Fall

Get ready for some changes! The Board of Directors has listened to your comments, concerns, and suggestions. As a result, your officers are taking a fresh look at all we do to serve you better. Next year's meetings will have more opportunities for members to interact and share industry insights with each other. As part of our 501(c)(3) non-profit status, we hope to combine writing opportunities with community service.

To broaden exposure for our members, we've decided to change the location for our fall book sale. At the May 11 meeting we will announce the new venue.

Please pray as your officers select speakers and topics and finalize programs for the year. Send suggestions to us at info@mnchristianwriters.com.

Stay tuned this summer for meeting details and the exciting plans for the 2015-16 MCWG season!

Who knows? We may give sneak-peek hints on Facebook.

2015 MCWG Annual Writing Contest:
Magazine Articles Highlighting Relationships
Results will be announced at the May 11 meeting.

2014-15 Theme Verse: Romans 15:4-6

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MCWG Bylaws Revised and Updated

The proposed revisions to the Minnesota Christian Writers Guild Constitution and Bylaws were read at the April 13 meeting, discussed, and approved by majority vote. Thanks to all for participating in the process.



Visit our Website

www.mnchristianwriters.com

Contact us: info@mnchristianwriters.com

 "Like" us on Facebook: [MinnesotaChristianWritersGuild](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaChristianWritersGuild)

Elections for Board Officers May 11, 2015

Minnesota Christian Writers Guild Board Officers are elected for two-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms in the same position. With the restructuring of the Bylaws, two board positions are up for election. After prayerful consideration, the 2014-15 Board recommends the following people for the positions of Communications Director and Events Director. Elections by majority vote will be held at the May 11 meeting.

For **Communications Director**: **Marianne McDonough**, freelance journalist and creative arts ministry director, has been a member for more than ten years and has been the MCWG Treasurer for the past four years. Her passion to exalt Christ and draw people to Him, combined with her eye for detail, will serve the Guild membership well as Communications Director.



She specializes in human interest stories and historical pieces, publishing primarily in magazines and community newspapers. Marianne has produced DVDs and direct mailings. She also leads the Great Commission Artists, a fellowship and educational collaborative for visual artists.

For **Events Director**: **Joyce K. Ellis** is an award-winning writer and editor. She has published hundreds of articles and more than a dozen books. She writes a grammar column for the *Christian Communicator* magazine. Joyce mentors writers, teaches at writers' conferences, and speaks for women's events around the country and internationally. Joyce has been a Guild member for decades and has served in many capacities throughout the years, most recently as Seminar Director.



Grateful thanks to Vice President **Lotis Key** for her four years of dedicated service to the Guild membership, for her encouraging words, and great rejected-author stories.



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

With One Heart and Mind

Each month we have considered a portion of this year's theme verse, Romans 15:4-6. It's fitting that the final phrases declare our goal and purpose for gathering writers together: *so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

MCGW members come from many different communities, span at least six decades, and write in a variety of genres. Nonfiction writing includes e-zines, blogs, magazine and newspaper articles, devotions, newsletters, curriculum, memoirs, humor, and books. Fiction writing includes short stories, novels, and children's stories. Other writing forms include dramas, songs, and poetry.

Yet, we band together in our differences and learn from one another. We discover effective ways for our work to catch the attention of editors and agents. We learn how to self-edit and tighten our writing. We gain motivation and courage to tackle blogs — or even Twitter. Learning from and encouraging each other, we are able to impact more people with skillfully written words than we could on our own.

This summer talk about the Guild to friends who write and invite them to join us. Invite your church staff. Invite your critique group.

The 2015-16 season begins on September 14. Watch for meeting details in late summer on our Facebook page, in the mail, and by email.

Across all genres and generations the Minnesota Christian Writers Guild will continue to glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the written word.

Keep writing! Have a productive summer!



2014-2015 Officers

President

Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

Vice President

Lotis Key themessengersfeet@comcast.net

Membership Director

Jason Sisam jason.mcwg@gmail.com

Interim Publications Director

Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

Seminar Director

Joyce K. Ellis joyce@joycekellis.com

Treasurer

Marianne McDonough
mariannemcdonough7@yahoo.com

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are the second Monday of each month, September through May, 6:30-9 p.m. in the lower level Youth Room at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 720 13th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The meeting room is handicap accessible.



Parking for Guild Meetings

Bethlehem Baptist Church is located in downtown Minneapolis, between South 7th and 8th Streets. Free parking for Guild members/visitors is accessed off South 8th St. When the lot is full, parking is available across 7th Street for a nominal cost.

Entrance doors adjoin the main parking lot.

Come early. Share a ride.