

First Church Unity hosts “Unlock Your Writing Potential”

by Wanda Clay

Members, friends, and the community with an interest in writing are invited to a class entitled “Unlock Your Writing Potential” on February 26. From 10 am-4 pm author Carol S. Batey will teach, inspire, empower others and share her insights for writing books from her 17 years of experience. Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch, pen and paper.

In Nashville since 1916, First Church Unity’s mission is to be a healthy, vibrant, growing expression of Spirit providing educational workshops and world-class authors/speakers. Their workshops and classes are opened to the public. They hope to fulfill their mission with this workshop.

“Do you lack computer skills? Don’t let this hold you back. Are you afraid of committing your stories to paper? This is the class for you. First Church is a teaching ministry offering many instructional classes in their Unity-Versity Catalog by seasons,” said Batey.

Batey, the author of five books with her last one being “What’s Cooking in Your Soul?” has developed a writing workbook that will be used during this session. Participants will gain knowledge on how to combat their fears and doubts in order to start their writing.



Carol S. Batey

Creativity will be unleashed as Batey inspires the writers to open themselves up to God and start to write. Maybe you are one who is afraid you do not have the skills and know how to write.

In 17 years, Carol Batey has written and published five books and numerous articles. God has blessed her with the ability to tap into infinite wisdom in order to write her books. In return, she trusted the unseen pow-

ers of God to help and guide her without any doubts and fears.

“Each book has been a different experience and I know that divine angels were assisting me along the way with God’s presence,” Batey said.

The last hour of the class will be dedicated to the discussion of marketing.

First Church Unity is located at 5125 Franklin Rd. For registration information, call 615 485-4548.

NRB 2011 Convention & Exposition to be held at Gaylord Opryland

MANASSAS, Va. – The 68th annual Convention & Exposition of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) is just around the corner. This exciting event will take place February 26-March 1 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville.

“The annual NRB Convention & Exposition is the largest nationally and internationally recognized event dedicated solely to assist those in the field of Christian communications,” said Dr. Frank Wright, NRB president/CEO. “As the nation’s preeminent association of Christian broadcasters, this event brings together the most influential communicators in the community of Christian broadcasting, giving attendees unparalleled access to them in one place, at one time, in a unique and creative setting.”

Registered attendees at NRB 2011 will spend four days hearing from high-profile individuals like world-

renowned apologist Ravi Zacharias, media strategy guru Mark Ramsey, and NRB Hall of Fame member Chuck Swindoll. Sunday night’s invitation-only Media Leadership Dinner gathers the principals of NRB Member organizations and other VIP guests, and will feature a speech by House Speaker John Boehner.

The Exposition Floor offers access to more than 200 vendors who showcase their products on 130,000 square feet of exhibit space. NRB 2011 also offers unique educational opportunities, including sessions designed to teach broadcast essentials, leadership, management, and the most effective use of social media.

Other popular venues include the Innovation Exchange, which allows participants to develop new ideas or solve existing problems by networking in peer-led discussion groups.

The Public Policy Debate will feature a lively discus-

sion between major leaders on both sides of the gay rights issue. Geared for international attendees as well, the International Exchange will allow convention participants from around the world to network and swap ideas.

NRB 2011 will also offer performances by nationally-recognized entertainers, including: comedian Michael Jr., multiple Dove Award winner and Grammy nominee Nicole C. Mullen, Natalie Grant, Nathan Tasker, Denver and the Mile High Orchestra, and the Integrity/Hosanna worship group Geron Davis and Kindred Souls.

The National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) is a non-partisan, international association of Christian communicators whose member organizations represent millions of listeners, viewers, and readers. Its mission is to keep the doors of electronic media open for the spread of the gospel. Learn more at www.nrb.org.

Faith of a mustard seed

by Barbara A. Woods
Washington, M. Div.

It is again in ‘HIS OWN WORDS’— ‘The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.’ that Dr. King makes historical note of the circumstances surrounding the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and his election as founding president.

“On January 9, 1957, Ralph Abernathy and I went to Atlanta to prepare for a meeting of Negro leaders that I had called for the following day. In the middle of the night we were awakened by a telephone call from Ralph’s wife, Juanita. I knew that only some new disaster would make her rouse us at two in the morning. When Ralph came back, his sober face told part of the story. “My home has been bombed,” he said, “and three or four other explosions have been heard in the city, but Juanita doesn’t know where yet.” I asked about Juanita and their daughter. “Thank God, they are safe.” Before we could talk any more, the telephone rang a second time. It was Juanita again, saying that the First Baptist Church had been hit. Ralph’s home and his church had been bombed in one night. I knew no words to comfort him. There in the early morning hours we



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prayed to God together, asking for the power of endurance, the strength to carry on.

Ralph and I arranged to fly back, leaving the meeting of Southern leaders to begin without us. From the Montgomery airport we drove directly to Ralph’s house. The street was roped off, and hundreds of people stood staring at the ruins. The front porch had been almost completely destroyed, and things inside the house were scattered from top to bottom. Juanita, though shocked and pale, was fairly composed.

The rest of the morning was spent in a grim tour of the other bombings. The Bell Street and Mt. Olive Baptist churches had been almost completely

destroyed. The other two churches were less severely damaged, but nevertheless faced great losses.

That afternoon, I returned to Atlanta to make at least an appearance at the meeting of Negro leaders. There I found an enthusiastic group of almost a hundred men from all over the South, committed to the idea of a Southern movement to implement the Supreme Courts decision against bus segregation through nonviolent means. We wired President Dwight D. Eisenhower, asking him to come south immediately, to make a major speech in a major Southern city urging all Southerners to accept and to abide by the Supreme Courts decisions as the law of the land. We further urged him to use the weight of his great office to point out to the South the moral nature of the problems posed at home and abroad by the unsolved civil rights issue. Before adjourning they voted to form the Southern Leaders Conference (later the Southern Christian Leadership Conference or SCLC), a permanent organization to facilitate coordinated action of local protest groups. I became the groups president, a position I still hold.”

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by Robin Kimbrough

Most of us remember the heart wrenching lyrics to Lionel Richie’s love ballad ‘Still.’ The song is about two people who have fallen in love, with both making some mistakes along the way. Sometimes romantic love, falling in love with another person, can leave one in a painful place. But the songwriter reveals the truth that in spite of the pain, he is in love—still:

“So many dreams that flew away. So many words we didn’t say. Two people lost in a storm. Where did we go? Where’d we go? We lost what we both had found. You know we let each other down. But then most of all, I do love you—still!”

In other words, the love he has is more important than the pain. Many people will exchange Valentine’s Day gifts expressing their love for someone special. However, we have to remember that love is not always as sweet as it is on Valentine’s Day. In any type of relationship, the people we love may not live up to our expectations. We might not live up to their expectations. We let each other down. But if we are willing to love like Jesus Christ loves, we can still love them. While Jesus hung from the Calvary’s cross, bleeding, betrayed, and beaten, he uttered these words: “Forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

These words let us

Still



Robin Kimbrough

know that regardless of how much we have let down our Savior down; in spite of the pain we have caused him; in spite of the games we have played with his love and grace, he loves us—still. This is wonderful news for those of us in need of forgiveness, feeling like no one loves us. Jesus still loves us! We need Jesus to love us still so that we can still love like him. As soon as we make a mistake, run out of money, gain a little weight, or reveal some kind of imperfection, the people that we thought loved us unconditionally, kick us to the curb. And they cannot say, “Most of all, I do love you—still.” It takes the grace of God to have a love that forgives, looks beyond faults and sees needs, and endures all things.

For this reason, many have been guilty of using the word ‘love’ too loosely. We say we love, but we really like. We say we love, but we really lust. We say we love, but we really

loathe. A ‘still’ love constitutes more than lip service. It’s God’s love in action. Jesus shows us that he still loves us by blessing us when we do not deserve it; calling us into relationship with him even when we run away; and believing in us even when we have lost faith in him. Jesus still loves us. On Calvary, Jesus interceded on behalf of humanity, and loved the people who sinned and who would sin—because that is the essence of who he is. Jesus still loves us because he is love.

Humans struggle with responding to Jesus’ love and love from other people, because we are always looking for a reason not to love—rather than giving into it so we can experience what it is really like to be loved. Jesus’ love demands that we forgive and serve. It does not demand that we stay in unhealthy, abusive, relationships. It does not demand that we allow people to use and take advantage of our love. It does not demand that we trust everyone we meet. It does mean that we forgive people who have hurt us. It does mean that we love the disadvantaged to the extent it does not violate the love we have for ourselves or the love we have for Jesus Christ. It does demand that we allow everyone we meet to create opportunities for us to put our love into action. We are able to love this way, because Jesus loves us—STILL.

You’ve Got Mail!

A Note from Lady’s Card Ministry

“Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.” *Philippians 3:13*

As we flick the calendar to a new year, we come face to face with the fact that our days on earth are numbered. As the Psalmist wrote, “teach us to number our days, that our hearts may not wander away.”

As we have entered into another year, giving God all

the praise, we have the opportunity to look back over our failures, mistakes, and missed opportunities, and vow that we will make better use of our time during the coming year.

Let us take the time to be pleasant, to smile, to extend the small courtesies we often omit and show love to our families.

Happiness in the New



Lady Card

Year, Black History Month, and Much Love for Valentine’s Day



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8 am	11 am
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