



Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

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March 8, Joyce Ellis

Handling Scripture Carefully and Correctly in Your Writing



Joyce Ellis, a freelance writer and editor for more than thirty years, has published hundreds of magazine articles and more than a dozen books. Joyce also serves as assistant director for the annual Write-to-Publish conference at Wheaton College in Chicago. She is the author of *The 500 Hats of a Modern-Day Woman* and the compiler and editor of *Writing So Heaven Will Be Different*.

Joyce offers a practical presentation on writing for magazines and books which emphasizes a reverence for God's word and discusses the importance of context, research, and proper quotation format. She will also

provide tips on making fact-checking easier for both you and your editor. Her recommendations for Bible reference tools and style manuals, both hard copy and online editions, offer additional guidelines which can save you valuable time and effort when writing.

Joyce is a member of the National League of American Penwomen and the Evangelical Press Association. She speaks at women's events and retreats, lectures at writers' conferences around the country and teaches at local colleges. She also mentors writing students through the Jerry B. Jenkins Christian Writers Guild correspondence course. Don't miss the opportunity to tap into Joyce's wealth of experience at the next guild meeting.

Future Guild Meetings You Won't Want to Miss

Apr. 12, Bob DeWaay
Applying God's Word to the Issues of the Day

May 10, Marva Sheriff
The Art of Writing Greeting Cards

June, July, August,
Enjoy the summer break!

MCWG Annual Writing Contest

The submission guidelines for the Minnesota Christian Writers Guild annual contest were announced at the January meeting. This year's topic is poetry, with two categories, rhyming and free verse. Just choose one. There is still plenty of time to polish your submission. The deadline is 9:00 pm April 12, 2010. You could be this year's winner! See our website for details.



Visit our Website:

www.mnchristianwriters.org

Poetry Corner

Janelle Huston will speak on poetry at the March 10th guild meeting.

Networking Groups

In an effort to facilitate new members connecting with writers of similar material, we will designate areas for various networking groups to gather during the tea and cookie break. This month the following groups will be available: Bloggers, devotional, and fiction.

The Goals of the Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

The Minnesota Christian Writers Guild began in 1954 with nine members. Today our membership includes over 100 beginning and professional writers and editors who write for Christian and general markets.

The goals of the Guild are to:

Bring together those engaged in writing, both part- and full-time;

Encourage the continuing education of writers;

Strengthen the relationships of writers with editors, employers, and clients;

Encourage high standards of professionalism as writers in business practices, assignments, and conduct;

Recognize the work of its members at monthly meetings and through writing competitions.

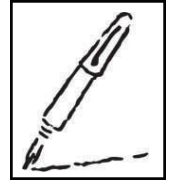
Guild members learn how to hone their writing skills, establish solid marketing procedures, and work with editors and deadlines at our monthly meetings. Fellowship with other writers, optional critique groups, and special programs and seminars are also provided. Members also receive encouragement and inspiration. Guild members receive discounts on current year seminars, and on books and other publications for writers.

MCWG dues for the 2009-2010 season are \$35, \$15 for full-time students. Visitors may attend one meeting free of charge, and others at \$10 per meeting. The Guild meets the second Monday of each month, September through May, from 7-9 p.m. in the Fireside Room of Christ Presbyterian Church.



In Visible Ink

by Janelle Huston



Limericks

At the mention of the word limerick most people immediately think of the Irish and the word “Nantucket” invariably comes to mind. Back in the days before television and the internet, people entertained themselves and others by writing and reciting poetry. Limericks were always good for a laugh as they often contain puns or wordplay.

Specifically, a limerick is defined as a verse of 5 lines where lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme and lines 3 and 4 rhyme. In other words, the rhyme scheme is written as AABBA. The meter is referred to as being anapestic, which means each foot of the poem has 2 short syllables followed by a long one. Lines 1, 2, and 5 contain 3 feet of short, short, long syllables, whereas lines 3 and 4 contain only 2 feet of short, short, long syllables. For example:

Nell

An unemployed writer named Janelle.
Dispensed writing advice for a spell.
Her columns were funny,
but there was no money
in writing about writing. Oh well!

Limerick Contest: Try your hand at writing a limerick. If you have trouble getting started try using “There once was a [blank] named [blank]” as a spring board to get the rhythm started. Submit your original limerick to me at JanelleHuston@hotmail.com by noon on Saturday April 10th and I will announce the winner at the April 12th guild meeting. Have fun!

2009-2010 Officers

President

Mary Heitzman 952-831-7790
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Membership Secretary

Sue Hume 952-470-6181

Publications Secretary

Janelle Huston 612-521-5625
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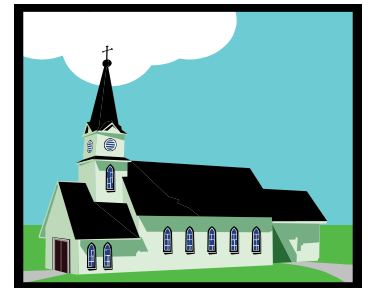
Seminar Director

Pat van der Merwe 763-478-6145

Treasurer

Keith Johnson 952-881-8227

How to Get to Guild Meetings



Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina is located just east of the 70th Street South exit off Highway 100. Go east to the first left turn after the frontage road. There is ample off-street parking. Enter the church through the main sanctuary doors. The Fireside Room is on the main level to the right of the building entrance, and it is handicap accessible.