

# Wordwrights – OKC Christian Writers

www.wordwrights-okc.com

Darla Hunter, Editor

## Summer Renewal

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect  
Romans 12:2



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Welcome to the good ol' days of summer.

It's my favorite season, with various outdoor activities: swimming, biking, tennis, volleyball, camping, and vacationing. The great outdoors stimulates the writer in me more than anything else—besides the Lord, that is.

To hook the reader, there's the challenge of using vivid descriptions that enable him to see what I see, hear what I hear, and delight in God's creation with me. This month, I observed the molting process of a cicada (or locust) firsthand and wanted to share my "story" with you. Hope you enjoy the read and the remainder of your summer.

### The Molting

I noticed you slowly crawling on the sidewalk  
On a sizzling summer evening.

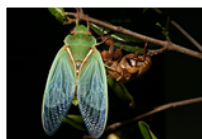
I knew you because I'd seen others like you,  
But they were just empty brown shells,  
The former home of a summer cicada.

I love your sound, after you've changed.

I picked you up and took you to a nearby tree.  
It had rough bark  
So that you could cling  
And do your thing.  
You climbed up the tree  
Until you reached a short, dead twig.

You attached yourself to the twig  
And seemed to be moving on the inside,  
While slightly swaying on the outside.  
It was like change was fixing to burst out.  
Adult cicadas were serenading  
Your process of transformation.

I grew weary of looking up.  
Darkness enveloped us.  
I decided to go inside rather than become covered with mosquito bites.  
Tomorrow when I check on you,  
I expect to find your old home empty.



But I'm sure I will hear you singing for joy,  
Your change complete with wings to fly.  
Thanks for crossing my path  
And allowing me to help you  
Reach your place of release.  
I understand, for I too am in process.

~ Barbara Zimmerman

## Rejuvenating the Children of God

At our August meeting, Donna Le, Vice-President of Wordwrights, will lead the membership in a discussion of **tips for writing**, covering a range of genres.

The topic is **Rejuvenating the Children of God** and will address the need to persevere in all forms of Christian writing.

Topics will include pre-writing (selecting topics), writing for all ages, ways to polish our writing, marketing, and promoting. Attendees will also be given writing prompts, time to write, and an opportunity to share their writing.

These are the dog days of summer. Come be a part of Wordwrights Christian Writers. Rejuvenation is a crucial step for Christian writers.

**Saturday**

**August 14**

**10 a.m. – noon**

**"The Last Drop"  
Coffee Shop  
5425 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK**

**(Details on Page 2)**



**~ Masks Recommended But Not Required**

**~ Room for Social Distancing**

**Wordwrights  
OKC Christian Writers 2021  
Officers**

President: Barbara Zimmerman  
Vice-President: Donna Le  
Secretary: Victor Driver  
Treasurer: Open  
Asst. Treasurer: Open  
Publicity: Jean Reed  
Newsletter: Darla Hunter  
Website: Barbara Shepherd

**Membership Dues**

January-December club dues provide an honorarium for speakers, needed materials for club meetings, and a portion of the cost for special events, etc. Dues may be paid at monthly meetings or by mail.

**No payment due if you paid in 2020.**



**Aug 30:** Deadline for submitting articles, poems, etc., for September newsletter.  
**Please send as attachment in Word.**

**Wanted Monthly:** Seasonal/Holiday poems or short prose.

**Recognition**

**Wordwrights Members:**

**Thank you** for sending in your news about publishing, awards, etc., so we can all support and encourage one another.

**Darla Peake Hunter:** Her new book, *Backward and Forward, My Life in Stories and Poems*, is available on Amazon! It is a 290-page book, complete with images. She may have a few copies available for sale at our Saturday meeting.

**Dana Tramba:** Published article in *Edmond Life & Leisure*, "Luau rhythms enchant Touchmark residents."

**Barbara Shepherd:** Won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for a Tri-cube poem, "Blue's Future Turns Blue," and an HM for the NLAPW Prose category, "Calling Mrs. Goodwrench," in the Arkansas Writers' Conference contest. She presented a program to the Norman Galaxy of Writers, via Zoom, on "The Business Side of Writing."

**Meeting Place**



**The Last Drop  
5425 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK**



**Looking Ahead**

**August 15, 2021:** Deadline for free registration, Voice of the Fair Poetry Contest, Oklahoma State Fair.

**Sep 3-6:** Oklahoma City Writer's Conference (WriterCon), Skirvin Hilton OKC, Live and Streaming.

**Sep 17, 2021:** Voice of the Fair Poetry Contest, 7 p.m. Check-in 6:15 – 6:45. Oklahoma Children's Theatre Art Annex. (Details on p. 5)

Please send news about publishing, awards, etc., as well as articles and/or poems, to:  
[darla4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:darla4@sbcglobal.net) Thank you!

We're on the Web!  
[wordwrights-okc.com](http://wordwrights-okc.com)



Our new website should be completed soon. Check it out:  
[www.WordwrightsOK.com](http://www.WordwrightsOK.com)

**Wordwrights still needs a  
volunteer for Treasurer!**

**Duties:** Handle club finances, collect dues, and maintain membership lists.

**The café will have coffee & other drinks & snacks available. Cost is by donation.**

**We hope you will join us!**

**NOTE:** Although the mask mandate has ended in OKC, masks are recommended in indoor group settings for those who are not vaccinated, as a precautionary measure to protect one another.

Although some of our members have not gotten the Covid vaccine, there is plenty of space in the coffee shop for social distancing.

Thank you!

**Masks will be available at the meeting if you should need one.**

Meeting Minutes: July 10, 2021

Meeting began at 10:06am at The Last Drop coffee shop.

Welcome & Prayer by Barbara Zimmerman

Members introduced themselves to guests

Announcements - None at this time

Brags - Dana Tramba published an article in Edmond Life & Leisure about the retirement community, Touchmark at Coffee Creek, entitled "Luau rhythms enchant Touchmark residents." (<https://edmondlifeandleisure.com/luau-rhythms-enchant-touchmark-residents-p21476-113.htm>)

Barbara Zimmerman ministered at her church with the topic of "Miracles in the Midst of the Bible."

Devotion - Jean Reed spoke from Matthew 26:74-75.

She talked about her survival of shingles and then spoke about Peter:

Why would he deny Jesus?

Jean continued speaking about Judas (the opportunist) from Matthew 27:3-5. Then she compared the actions of Peter and Judas. "If Judas had done what Peter did and truly repented, I believe that Jesus would have forgiven him and taken him back."

Jean continued, "If you don't want to be with Jesus, then Jesus will allow that. We should tell our non-Christian unsaved friends what they have to look forward to."

Business - Website news from Victor, who assisted members with the link to the website and discussed the progress of the website. A photo usage authorization sheet was passed around for members to sign.

Break - 10:40am-10:50am

Special Presentation - Donna Le had a giveaway presentation of three framed photos of Sunrises and Sunsets at Yonderland. There was a drawing pulled from the stack of members' names on small pieces of paper. Winners for the drawings (in succession) were John Wolfe, Dana Tramba, and Barbara Zimmerman.

Donna encouraged members to write book reviews for one another ("partner up with someone to get something done") and to think about doing presentations. She distributed a handout with links and resources for writers, marketing ideas, places that need submissions, and author website ideas.

Guest Speaker - John Dolezal (introduced by Donna Le)

Mr. Dolezal's blog is called A Bohemian's Rhapsody (<https://www.johndolezal.com/>).

John writes book reviews for Sooner Catholic (<https://archokc.org/sooner-catholic>). His wife, Mary Louise, got him interested in doing this and often edits his writing. Mr. Dolezal prays before reading books that he reviews and has no pre-laid format for reviewing books. "We are qualified to do the work that God calls us to do because He qualifies us - gives us what we need," he said. His presentation walked us through various ways to think about the world of possibilities in work, in writing, and in living. Other writing specifics included having a hook, communication with images, relating experiences, understanding the audience, and how to be a change agent.

Questions/Discussion - Members interacted with Mr. Dolezal during his presentation with specific questions that he answered in detail. They also shared enriching ideas.

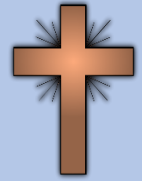
Closing Prayer -

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05pm

Attendance included: Barbara Zimmerman, Donna Le, Jean Reed, John Wolfe, Darla Hunter, Elizabeth Engle, Dana Tramba, Shelley Stutchman, Connie Sorrell, Darlene Sorrell, and Victor Driver; guests, Jeanie Olinger, Mary Louise Dolezal and John Dolezal; and the staff of The Last Drop coffee shop.

~Minutes by Victor Driver

WELCOME: New Wordwrights member, Jeanie Olinger!



Next Meeting

August 14

The Last Drop Coffee Shop

10 a.m. - Noon

Come Join Us!



We write this to make our joy complete.



## A Tale of Two Men . . . By Jean Reed



**Matthew 26:74-75; 27:3-5**

**First, we have Peter.** We all know Peter was gung-ho, dedicated to Jesus. But Peter had a deep soul issue. Let's call it fear. On this occasion he'd already been through a lot. It had been one of the worst times of his life when they captured Jesus. But Peter, faithful Peter, followed even into the high priest's courtyard where they were accusing his Lord. And then that teenage female brat pointed her finger in Peter's face.

"You were with Him," she sneered.

Fear did something to the usually confident disciple. He lied, lied to the girl, to another female and a third time to a group. This time he swore and cursed himself. And then the cock crowed. Jesus said he would deny even knowing Jesus three times before the cock raised his voice.

Peter went out weeping. He'd meant to see if there might be some way to help in Jesus' hour of great need. Instead, he had debased himself and brought more pain to Jesus. How could Jesus ever forgive him?

### **The second man is Judas.**

Judas had always been an opportunist. Jesus came along offering this new kingdom to the Jewish world. Of course, he got on the gravy train.

But lately the wheels seemed about to fall off Jesus' chariot. Judas decided to bail. But he could make a little money off the debacle. What would happen to Jesus? Judas must have thought He would get a good tongue-lashing from the high priest, maybe a few whip-lashings as well. Then He'd go back to Nazareth and his carpentry business. It was the best for everyone, especially for Judas.

But then Judas heard that they were going to kill Jesus. Judas was an opportunist, but he was also, to his own mind, honorable. To contribute to an innocent man's death in this way was not in any way honorable. He took the money back to the temple and tried to get them to stop this tragic injustice. He tried to stop what he had started.

It didn't work, of course. Jesus couldn't ever forgive him, he thought.

(The Greco-Roman culture was widespread in Palestine. One part of that ethos was that an honorable way to go into nothingness was to commit suicide. Judas, as a good member of that culture, went out and hanged himself.)

He made several mistakes. 1. It's not honorable to murder yourself. 2. The human spirit does not disappear or die. It continues forever. 3. I am positive that if Judas had lived and asked Jesus to forgive him, Jesus would have done it. God is that good.

### **Both men made grave errors. One lived to be forgiven; one believed his culture's lie and died.**

I would like to address the lie that killed Judas because it's becoming common in our world: the lie that nothing is on the other side of death. Since God put His spirit in these human bodies, that means our spirit can't die.

However, our God is incredibly good. He is also more polite than we can imagine. If a human decides they don't want God, and they die in that decision, then God will let them go away. That means that since God is light, love, hope, and everything else that is good, desirable, and appetizing, they go away from everything that is even slightly pleasant—even a hope of companionship.

Hell is where God is not. That means they will fall away from heaven forever. In the dark, (God is light, so hell is darker than night.) they will never touch another person (Companionship is from God. Genesis 2:18) or hear any voice except their own screams. When they have been falling ten thousand years, they might forget their fears long enough to realize they will still be falling when the next ten thousand years have passed.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord God, please enable those to whom you have given the gift of writing to be more energetic in getting Your message into the minds of those tragic souls who have believed the devil's lies.

**"Your Lovingkindness Is Better Than Life" . . . By Elizabeth Engle**

"Because your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You."  
Psalm 63:3

This verse convicted me today. I do not praise Him enough.  
Too often I complain rather than thanking the Lord.  
How many loving kindnesses can I count for today?

His mercy is everlasting.  
He is patient with me.  
He gives me each breath.  
He designed my heart and keeps it beating, 24/7.  
He intercedes for me.  
He sends beautiful people into my life to encourage me.  
He gives me hope for tomorrow.



Sunset in OKC

Do you know Him as your Savior? He created you to be YOU! There is no one else in the world with your life history, your personality, your hopes, your dreams and your gifts. He loves you more than anyone else. He knows your struggles and the tears you cry when no one else is there. The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, came from the highest heavens down to planet earth. He came to die a cruel death on a cross. Why? Because our sins separate us from a Holy God. He is sinless and pure. Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between us and God. He is the one true God.

The time is short. Soon He is coming back. Are you ready to meet Him face to face?

"that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."  
(Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV)

**VOICE OF THE FAIR: POETRY CONTEST Division 3525 Friday, September 17, 2021**

Check-in: 6:15 - 6:45 p.m. (NO LATE CHECK-INS) Judging Begins: 7 p.m. Location: Oklahoma Children's Theatre Art Annex. Anyone age 14 and older is welcome to enter. Registration will be limited to the first 30 entrants. A printed copy of the poem must be submitted at check-in. The Oklahoma State Fair retains the right to publish portions of the poems for promotional purposes. Poems may be up to 2 minutes in length. The performer will be warned at 1:50 and stopped at 2 minutes. Subject matter must be G-rated with no profanity. The style may be of a rhyming or non-rhyming scheme. Order of appearance will be done through a random draw prior to competition. Audience Favorite ballots will be distributed prior to the first contestant in each class. Those voting must be present for the entire contest. AWARDS Ribbons will be awarded through 10th place

- BEST OF SHOW.....Rosette & \$100
- People's Choice.....Rosette & \$50
- Most Inspirational.....Rosette & \$25
- Most Entertaining .....Rosette & \$25

**Note: This is a wonderful opportunity!  
We have had several of our members enter this contest and win awards in the past.**

## A Bench and a Duck Pond

By Barbara Zimmerman

When I saw the memorial bronze bench,  
Dedicated to a fellow duck lover,  
It took me back.  
It took me back to a lake  
Near our home in Kansas.

My parents and I would  
walk around that lake in the evenings  
And enjoy watching the Mallard ducks  
Gracefully perform splash and ski  
Landings onto the lake,  
And then wiggle their tails  
Before paddling about their business.  
We saw several broods of ducklings  
Hatch and grow up.  
What a delight when the families  
Streamed behind each other effortlessly  
On the surface of the water.

Memories of peace,  
Memories of joy,  
Memories bringing comfort,  
All because of the memorial bronze bench  
Dedicated to a fellow duck lover.



## Singing Trees

By Barbara Zimmerman

They're here again.  
Some people hate the sound they make.  
Others, like myself, enjoy their sounds.  
They make the trees sing like no other insect.  
Their songs are so strong  
That other sounds are simply not heard.

They are here again.  
Some people hate the sound they make,  
But I welcome their songs,  
And take time to soak in the cicada serenade.  
Summer sounds, soothing songs.  
Thankful for the singing trees of summer.

