

June 21, 2012 – News Release

The Bethany College Connection

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Photo by Cora Lynn Carey, Graphic Designer



Bethany College Fall Theatre Play Announced!

Susan J Schmidt Goerz, Drama Director and Instructor at Bethany College, is already preparing for the annual **Fall Dessert Theatre** to be held in November. She has been an integral part of developing this tradition at Bethany College...one that is rooted in a desire for meaningful story-telling as well as mentoring students in the arts.

This year is no exception! The drama Susan has chosen to bring to life is *The Hiding Place*, which is a story filled with love, faith, history and God's grace. When asked how she made her decision to choose this drama, she commented:

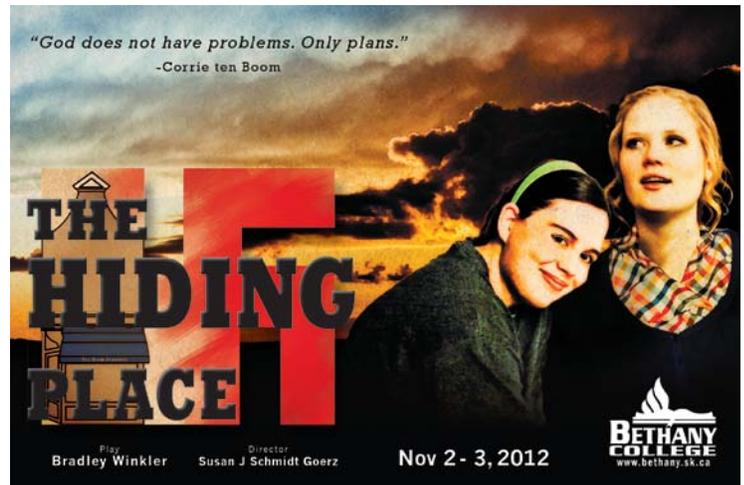
The Lord re-led me to the book *The Hiding Place*, the story of Corrie ten Boom, just a few years ago. As a child, I had seen the movie and the reality of the war situation, and the ten Booms' powerful faith was poignantly etched into my brain. It was a turning point career-wise for me, to realize there was a way for Christians to professionally use the medium of theatre to serve God. Theatre and story-telling allow us to see the faith of others, encourage and lift us up and broaden our understanding.

It seems that all humanity struggles with being understood; when I saw the movie I immediately understood my Great Tante Annie in a new way. As a prisoner in the camps in Poland, she somehow made it out to Canada at the end of the war. After seeing the movie we talked about that time because my picture of her experience was clearer – but she talked more about how God leads now. How His strength is present, and present now! That was, and is, a powerful lesson to me.

Last summer while preparing *Cotton Patch Gospel* for Fall Theatre 2011, the words of Corrie ten Boom stayed present in my mind. The Lord seemed to be saying, 'I want you to work on this story with the students.' Although daunted by the task ahead, I knew this was our next project. God led me to a script that I believe honours our Lord, Corrie, and all who have had their faith and lives tested. And it made me laugh, cry and rejoice!

You will not want to miss seeing *The Hiding Place*, because it is a great story of faith and God's victory in our lives. Humans can be so unpredictable; though we have a depressingly enormous capacity for hurting one another - due to fear or personal entitlement - we also have a huge God given capacity for love. This is a story of a family that, against public and church opinion, put 'the way of the Lord' first in their lives. Willingly surrendering to possible retribution, they acted as they believed God would have them act. That lesson is current and still necessarily vital to our Christian walk. We may not see our 'war' as plainly as the ten Booms did. Certainly, when they began their assistance to those in trouble they had no idea of the severity of what was coming or the enormity of the 'rescue' that their simple hospitality would enact. However, they listened to God and humbled themselves to His will. My hope is that you will laugh, be inspired and blessed, and feel the breadth of God's hand still at work in our troubled world. That alone is a life giving thought.

This year's Fall Theatre performances will be Friday/Saturday (7:30pm); Saturday Matinee (2:00pm). Please visit www.bethany.sk.ca or call 1-866-772-2175 for details and early bird ticket information. We hope to see you!



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