

Lessons and Carols starts the Holiday Season

By Jordon Morgan
Staff writer

The 20th annual Lessons and Carols service last Saturday, Dec. 3, brought beautifully sung carols and spoken benedictions read from The Holy Bible. This tradition is popular for kicking off the beginning of the holidays for those of the Christian faith this season.

Including a multitude of carols, such as "Macht hoch die Tür" by Ernst Pepping and "Deo Gracias" by Benjamin Britten, all were enjoyable. Most pieces were outright beautiful and captivating with an exceptionally-coordinated choir.

The carols were also diverse in their tone and rhythm. Songs such as the aforementioned "Deo Gracias" were fast paced while others, such as "O Little Town of Bethlehem" were very traditional and had a calming presence to them.

Interspersed between each carol were the namesake lessons read by Brevard staff, including Ken Chamlee, Ph.D, Steve Woodsmall, Ph.D. and Brevard College president David C. Joyce, Ph.D. The passages progressively told of the origins of original sin, as told in the Bible, and later going into the story of Jesus' birth and importance in the Christian faith.

Passages included verses from the books of Genesis, Isaiah, Luke, Matthew and John, with each speaker ending with the phrase "Thanks be to God," keeping the audience aware of what the intended message of the evening was. The lack of applause (as requested in the official program) kept the evening at a very reflective and respectful tone.

The "Spirit of the Holidays" means many things to many different people, but for those of the Christian faith, the Lessons and Carols presentation brought everyone together for what it means to them, which is a celebration of their Christian faith.

Correction to 'Climbing Team' article

In last week's issue of the Clarion [Nov. 30], we falsely stated that the new Climbing Team at Brevard College "will compete in the NCAA". The Climbing Team will in fact compete under USA-Climbing in the Appalachian Region.

Brevard Climbing Team getting ready for its first season

By Florian Peyssonneaux
Staff Writer

Brevard College's first ever climbing team is taking shape, as the final roster will be completed shortly. The team will start its season at Western North Carolina University in February and is looking forward to competing in the near future.

The team is a USA Climbing-sanctioned competitive collegiate sports team that will compete in the Appalachian Region.

"The USA Climbing (USAC) organization differs from the NCAA in a sense that the team has different rules and regulations to abide by under the umbrella of the USA Climbing organization which focuses primarily on Youth, Collegiate, and Professional Sport Climbing, Bouldering and Speed Climbing competitions" said climbing coach, Travis Gray.

Concerning the calendar, climbing season can start during the Fall following the USA Climbing Collegiate organization; however, the Appalachian Region has always been a Spring competition series. In regard to the first tournament of the season, Coach Gray said "we look forward to our season opener at Western Carolina University on Feb. 18th, 2017".

Keeping this deadline in mind the students who want to be on the team must give their best in order to be on the final roster. The climbing coach describes the process of recruiting for the team as a "non-traditional tryout."

The most experienced athletes will have their chance to be part of this team just as much as the newcomers. Indeed, climbers have to earn their spot in the team by taking actions such as being committed to team functions, individual

attendance, character, or merits.

Coach Gray also declared that "What makes this team so remarkable is that we can work with someone who is brand new with climbing and helping them step onto the podium with 3rd, 2nd and 1st place finishes in their respective categories."

For the climbing team the main distinction of the club becoming a team is that they are now an officially recognized competitive sports team within the BC athletic department. For the climbers this difference will be very significant as "the distinction is that these incredibly talented and hard-working indoor competition climbers and rock climbers in general can finally get the recognition that they deserve on and off campus as legitimate student athletes" said Gray.

During the preparation for the upcoming season, the team is anxious to start practicing at the Brevard Rock Gym in order to be ready for the collegiate season. The team will also practice on campus, using the athletics facilities for physical training and exercises.

Coach Gray is determined for the team to be successful, and has ambitions to follow the example that the cycling team has set, as it is also a Co-ed sport set.

"Once we finalize our roster, each one of those climbers who will have earned his or her spot has shown to the team that they are not only focused and determined to succeed, but that they are prime examples of what it means to be ambassadors of Brevard College and the Brevard community as a whole. We want leaders in our program and that's exactly what the final roster will show" said Gray.