

## God's Surprising Wonders

### Certification Courses, Monday through Friday

Two thirty-hour certification courses will be offered Monday, January 30, through Friday, February 3. Cost for attending one course is \$150.

#### Biblical Interpretation

*Jim Brashler*

This course will focus on what Christian educators need to know about the Bible and how Scripture is to be interpreted responsibly and taught effectively. Students will learn how to evaluate translations of the Bible, how to use print and Internet resources to enrich Bible study, and how to lead meaningful Bible study groups.

#### Human Growth and Faith Development

*Kathy Dawson*

What is faith? At what age do we begin to have it or do it? How do we help others grow to faith maturity? Is a scientific view of human development helpful in talking about people's spiritual lives? These are some of the questions we will address in this class.

This course will explore developmental theory from a faith perspective. As educators, we will apply these theories to the way we teach in the church to all ages. Through multimedia and a wide variety of teaching models we will learn together the breadth of the human condition and its relationship to faith. There will be some precourse reading and the requirement of conducting a faith interview with a child or youth.

#### Certification Course Schedule

##### Monday

8:30 a.m.–noon	Certification courses	(3.5 hrs)
1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	Certification courses	(4 hrs)

##### Tuesday

8:30 a.m.–noon	Certification courses	(3.5 hrs)
1:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.	Certification courses	(4.5 hrs)

##### Wednesday

8:30 a.m.–noon	Certification courses	(3.5 hrs)
1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	Certification courses	(1.5 hrs)

##### Thursday

3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.	Certification courses	(3 hrs)
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##### Friday

9:00 a.m.–noon	Certification courses	(3 hrs)
2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	Certification courses	(3.5 hrs)

### Large Church Conference, Tuesday, January 31–Wednesday, February 1

Educators, pastors, and youth directors of larger membership congregations are invited to gather to exchange ideas and discuss issues unique to ministry in the larger church context. This one-day event will be held from Tuesday noon to Wednesday noon. A registration fee of \$100 for members and \$110 for nonmembers will be collected when you select this preconference option during APCE registration. For more information, contact Zeta Lamberson, [billzeta@bellsouth.net](mailto:billzeta@bellsouth.net), or call (678) 575-1218.

### Preconference Seminars, Tuesday, January 31

Two five-hour preconference seminars will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost for attending a preconference seminar is \$50.

#### Things They Never Told Me about Jesus

*John L. Bell*

There are aspects of Jesus' life abundantly witnessed to in the Gospels that are seldom given any prominence in preaching, worship, and everyday reflection. Issues such as Jesus' relationship to women, foreigners, anger, the religious establishment are all opened for perusal.

#### Faith Formation in the 21st Century

*John Roberto*

How can faith formation flourish in churches over the next 10 years? How can churches prepare for the future of faith formation and address the diverse spiritual and religious needs of people today? What are the hopeful signs and promising innovations that can guide faith formation for all ages and generations? We know that the first decade of the 21st century has brought dramatic political, economic, social, and cultural changes affecting virtually every dimension of American religious life. Faith formation will require new principles, models, approaches, and technologies for the 21st century. This workshop will help you understand the new context for faith formation, develop a vision and model for 21st-century faith formation, and explore a variety of strategies for bringing the vision to life.

# God's Surprising Wonders

## Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching (POINT)

Designated POINT Congregational Ministries Publishing (CMP) Regional Representatives will gather for training on Tuesday, January 31, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please join colleagues from around the country who are called to provide specific training and educational assistance in their area this year. All POINT representatives, volunteers, and mid-council staff members will gather on Wednesday, February 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for additional training.

More event details and a link to the [2012 POINT event registration](#), including registration, will be available October 1.

## Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Face-to-Face

"Meeting face-to-face makes all the difference in the world . . . the church becomes alive and real," said one participant at the event. The 2012 APCE Annual Event includes an opportunity for church educators, associate pastors, and youth directors and representatives of congregations to meet face-to-face to discuss where God may be calling. The office of Vocation sponsors this opportunity in conjunction with the APCE 2012 Annual Event. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Jewel McRae](#) or call (800) 728-7228, ext. 5748. Registration information will be posted on the [website](#) at a later date.

## Seminary Gatherings

(Additional details about these events available soon under conference publications at [apcenet.org](#))

Thursday, February 2

Columbia Theological Seminary, lunch  
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, lunch  
Princeton Theological Seminary, lunch  
Union Presbyterian Seminary, focus group and dessert

## In-Depth Seminars, Friday, February 3

Two five-hour in-depth seminars will be held Friday, February 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m. with a break for lunch. Participants may register for one seminar and an additional workshop from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost for attending an in-depth seminar is \$50.

## Wonders, Surprises, and Challenges in the Book of Job

*Dr. Carol Bechtel*

Believers often look to the Bible's book of Job when they're wrestling with the question: "Why do bad things happen to good people?" The character Job, after all, was a very good man who suffered in some of the very worst ways. In this workshop we'll explore what Job's story does—and does not—teach about the problem of suffering. We'll also look at ways we can be faithful Christians even in the face of limited information—that is, when we don't have all the answers!

## Worship and Education . . . As If the Wonders of God Were Our Hands

*Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes*

Is there a relationship between worship and education? Is worship a place for education? Does one educate somebody to worship? How do faith, bodily senses, and ritual connect? How do Christian education and worship help us experience the wonders of God? How does education at home help us worship? Does worship help us create a home? How do we deal with Christian education and the worship/cultural wars? How do we hand the wonders of God to each other and to the next generations? Are the sacraments wonders of God? These questions and more will be explored as we take time to engage each other's knowledge and experiences. We will help each other find ways to experience the wonders of God in our lives and in our communities.