

God's Surprising Wonders

Workshop Selection Tips

(Use the registration worksheet provided in the Event Registration Procedures PDF file.)

Information to consider when you make your selections:

- Workshops are scheduled all day Friday, morning and afternoon, including two five-hour in-depth seminars.
- It is important to plan for second and third choices on your worksheet, as popular workshops close early. When you register online, you need only to select your first choice. The system will alert you immediately if the workshop is full.
- Choose carefully! It is important to attend only the workshops to which you are assigned. Rooms have space limitations and leaders prepare materials in

advance based on actual registration numbers. See the event registrar on-site for changes when you arrive.

- Off-site workshops and tours require an additional fee, indicated in the workshop description. The fee covers transportation and entrance fees. If you cancel an off-site workshop after January 6, 2012, there will be no refund. Choose carefully and enjoy!
- A few workshops require a supply fee, noted in their descriptions.
- Learning takes place outside the traditional classroom. Plan time to browse through the Market Place. Come and hang out in the Community area in the Market Place for sharing ideas about resources and for exchanging ideas to take home.

Workshop Schedule—Friday, February 3, 2012

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (In-depth seminars)

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. to noon

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Workshop Categories

General Education—Seminar I, Seminar II, 1, 12, 16, 23, 24, 32, 41, 50, 63, 82

Children—2, 9, 17, 21, 24, 27, 42, 57, 63, 64, 67, 77

Youth and Young Adults—3, 4, 9, 18, 23, 24, 25, 43, 58, 63, 81, 82

Adults—Seminar I, 12, 23, 32, 50, 51, 82

Intergenerational—Seminar II, 10, 38

Family Ministry—Seminar II, 33, 40, 44, 77

Church and Culture—34, 65, 70, 82

Diversity—13, 40, 59, 60, 66, 67

Leadership/Visioning—14, 15, 16, 35, 36, 52, 68, 69, 70, 72, 80

Worship/Sacraments/Music—Seminar II, 5, 21, 26, 27, 28, 42, 44, 48, 49, 61, 63, 72, 75

Multicultural—6, 28, 76

Resource Center—45

Social Justice and Mission—7, 20, 22, 29, 46, 47, 53, 61, 78

The Arts—8, 17, 22, 30, 31, 48, 49, 56, 79

Communication—37, 72, 82

Small Church—9, 53, 61

Stewardship—19, 72

Seasons of the Church Year—73

Spirituality—11, 32, 39, 43, 54, 55, 56, 74, 75

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Friday, February 3

In-depth Seminars

9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

(Choose only one, plus the option of a workshop from 4:00–5:30 p.m.)

Seminar I:

Wonders, Surprises, and Challenges in the Book of Job

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 his 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! **Cost: \$50**

Seminar II:

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

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. **Cost \$50**

Note: In-depth seminar participants lunch on their own noon to 1:30 p.m.

Workshop Descriptions

9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

1. "Give 'em a Break"

George Brown

Highway construction signs declare, "Give 'em a Brake," encouraging drivers to slow down in work zones. Slowing down is a good thing for classroom work zones too. This workshop uses insights from brain research, creativity theory, and counseling to introduce teachers to the importance of a "thinking break." George is the G.W. and Eddie Haworth Professor of Christian Education and associate dean at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. He is the 2012 Educator of the Year.

this workshop we'll look at ways to help children (and others) mine the riches found in the book of Psalms through access points. Robert is professor of education at Calvin College. Laura is the director of children's ministries at Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church. They serve in Holland, Michigan.

2. The Psalms, Kids, and Us

Robert and Laura Keeley

The psalms are the hymnbook of the church. They have been loved by Christians for hundreds of years, but many find the book of Psalms difficult to appreciate. In

3. A New Look for Youth Fellowship

Sandy Safford

Ready for some creative ideas for youth fellowship lock-ins, group gatherings, and mission projects? Come explore and leave with an outline for Minute-to-Win-it Kickoff, Survivor Lock-in, Scavenger Hunts, Mystery Lock-ins, Destination Unknown trips, CSI Lock-in, Game Shuffle Kickoff, Super Sundae, and more. Your youth group will never want to do an ordinary lock-in again. Sandy is the youth and young adult ministry

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coordinator at First Presbyterian Church of Littleton, Colorado and a FAITHSENSE consultant.

4. We're All Wrong, in Thinking We Are Right ■

Nate Heyboer

This world is full of businesses, Christians, churches, and denominations that believe they are right—the right theology, worship, church, and even youth ministry. This workshop will challenge this thought process in regard to youth ministry models, branding, and philosophies. God works in mysterious, miraculous, and surprising ways to help us discover that we are wrong in thinking we are right about the way to do youth ministry. Nate is director of junior high ministries at Community Reformed Church, Zeeland, Michigan.

5. Worshiping with the Whole People of God ■

David Gambrell and Betsy Ensign-George

In Christian worship, children, youth, and adults are called to glorify and enjoy God together. This workshop provides theological background and practical suggestions for planning and leading intergenerational worship services in a variety of congregational settings. Leaders will provide resources and discussion to equip and inspire pastors and educators to embrace this joyful and prayerful work together. David is associate for worship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Betsy is a self-employed contractor and consultant in Louisville, Kentucky.

6. The Harvest Is Plentiful: Reaching Hispanics through Educational Ministries ■

Marissa Galvan-Valle

Exploring different propositions and studies about the learning styles of Hispanic students of all ages will help participants discover ways to enhance the Christian education ministry across their church. Discover how educational settings can become more than places for giving and receiving information. They can provide experiences that transform the lives of the participants. Different exercises and resources will be used as models. Marissa is the Associate for Resources and Relationships with Hispanic/Latino Constituencies for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

7. A Kairos Moment—Seeking Peace in Israel/Palestine ■

Joan Deming

"I am not optimistic but I am hopeful," Rev. Mitri Raheb says about the conflict in his native Palestine. The Kairos Document provides a framework for understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and how God's diverse children CAN coexist. Using this document and other resources, we'll tell this hopeful story and explore ways to share it. Joan is an ordained United Methodist clergy person who serves as director of development for the Pilgrims of Ibillin.

8. Picturing the Word ■

Carol J. Slager

The Bible was crafted using the vocabulary of imagery. Reading and drawing the Bible, reinforcing biblical concepts using visuals when teaching, and solidifying the memory of important truths by "seeing" them is a joyful and profound process. This workshop will explore "pictures" that have been proven to resonate with audiences and classes and will provide opportunity for attendees to explore the Bible visually. Carol is the director of education at Modesto Christian Reformed Church in Ripon, California.

9. Faithful with a Few ■ ■ ■

Carol Stanley

More and more of our congregations are considered small membership congregations. Many other larger congregations have just a few children/youth each week. How can we faithfully minister to these children/youth? What are the challenges? What are the unique opportunities? Carol is the director of children's ministries at Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church, Lake Arrowhead, California. She has extensive experience in small congregations.

10. A Festival of God's Gifts: A Model for Intergenerational Summer Sunday School ■

Nancy Rozak and Susan Ketch

Would you like summer Sunday school to involve the entire congregation, where members offer classes using their gifts and talents? Learn about one congregation's experiences through Faith Booking, Spiritual Flower Arranging, Ellington's Sacred Concert, Church Campfire Songs, Walking in God's Garden, Nourishing Our

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Bodies, and Biblical Mural Painting. Nancy is a certified Christian educator who serves as the director of Christian education at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Durham, North Carolina. Susan is a self-employed educational consultant and curriculum writer.

11. Walk with Prayer ■

Sandee Clark

Walk to deepen your spiritual prayer life as you enhance your physical well-being. Praying is what draws us closer to the heart of God. Praying and walking bring you closer to God and better health. We will make a prayer reminder, memo card, prayer stick, or photo card. Sandee, a retiree from Fort Plain, New York, has hiked the Appalachian Trail, El Camino, and many smaller trails around the world.

12. Where to Begin? Developing Small Groups Ministry from Scratch ■ ■

Joyce MacKichan Walker

Encounter progressive steps to a small groups ministry that fits your congregation. Explore types of groups, ways to do effective research, best practices, and, above all—the most useful resources for leader orientation and support, steering team organization, and small group studies. Walk away with samples to adapt, process possibilities, and stimulate your own thinking and planning. Take a new look at a timeless need. Joyce is minister of education at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey.

13. Come to the Banquet: The Spiritual Life of Persons with Cognitive Disabilities ■

Evelyn McMullen

Jesus' parables open our eyes to the spiritual gifts of persons with cognitive disabilities. How can we give voice to their faith, hope, and love? How can congregations move beyond accessibility to mutually supportive Christian communities? Although the focus is on individuals with lifelong cognitive disabilities, people who minister to those with dementia are welcome. Evelyn, director of Christian education, North Lakeland Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, Florida, recently completed a two-year study of the spiritual gifts of adults with cognitive disabilities.

14. Building Your Ministry Team ■

Diane E. Shallue

Team building involves three important tasks: finding a leader, gathering the team, and leading/maintaining the team. What are the four qualities of an effective leader? How do you recruit, motivate, and equip a team? What are the five traits of effective teams? In what ways can you affirm God's presence in the team? Discover how to build a strong ministry team. Diane is the director of Christian education, University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and an adjunct instructor at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

15. Congregational Hospitality ■

Mary Jane Bisset

Churches need to be welcoming places. Just as restaurants do, churches want to feed hungry people in a welcoming environment. What are the parallels between restaurants, as an example, and churches? As we look at space, first contacts, etc., we will discover what makes our churches welcoming places that people want to return to over and over again. Mary Jane is a diaconal minister at Knox Presbyterian Church in Goderich, Ontario, Canada.

16. It's about Time: Terrific Tips for Christian Educators ■ ■

Phyllis Wezeman

24/7 and 365/52—we all have the same amount of time, but it never seems like enough for the Christian educator! This session introduces ten considerations in time management in a fun, interactive way. Although the leader is not a "time management" expert, she will share some of her secrets! Phyllis is the president of Active Learning Associates, Inc., and the author or co-author of over 1800 publications.

17. Arts Camp: Beauty for the Fallen World ■ ■

Jodi Cole Meyer and Sally Van Ess

Art has amazing power: to move, to empower, to explain, to heal. Yet arts programs are often the first ones cut in our schools, and small communities sometimes have little to offer kids who want arts experiences and education. Enter: the church! We have an opportunity to reach our communities through art in a way that is messy . . . but worth it! Jodi is director of outreach and arts and Sally is director of early youth at EverGreen Ministries in Hudsonville, Michigan.

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18. Introducing *INformed: Adolescent Development Resources* ■

Michael Harper

INformed: Adolescent Development Resources features downloadable articles and lesson plans aimed at helping youth, youth leaders, and parents talk about the challenges of being a teenager from a Reformed theological perspective. This workshop will review this new resource and offer ways to connect the resource to the families in your congregation. Michael is the associate general editor for curriculum development, Congregational Ministries Publishing, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

19. Caring for the Earth from a Place of Faith ■

Katie Holmes

Our faith calls us to care for God's creation and work for justice for all in it. Sometimes the words *environment* and *climate change* become politicized, creating tensions among church members. This workshop explores how

to base Christian education and environmental issues in faith, encouraging church members to live simply, care for the earth, and work for justice for God's people. Participants will receive an overview of curricula in this field. Katie is associate for environmental ministries, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

20. Partnering in Ministry with Your Local Schools ■

Jennifer James

How do we come together and authentically partner with one of our community's greatest assets, our schools? Instead of complaining about the way schools pull children and youth out of the pews, join a conversation about how to build a bridge between the faith community and the educational community. Discover better ways to minister to families through community partnerships. Jennifer is the director of family and adult ministries at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

21. "I Wonder about That, Too": Nurturing Reflective Engagement ■ ■

Jane Schuyler and Lynn Setsma (Advanced)

Following the presentation of a *Children and Worship* story, young children are encouraged to wonder. This encourages children to stand in awe before God, to recognize God's wisdom and knowledge, and to understand that God's ways are a mystery. We invite experienced *Children and Worship* storytellers to join us in a worship center and learn to go deeper with wondering and response time. Jane and Lynn are *Children and Worship* coordinators for the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

22. In the Image—HANDS-ON MISSION ■

(Off-site workshop; limit: 12 people)

In the Image is an independent, faith-based, ecumenical, 501(c3) nonprofit organization. *In the Image* links gently used clothing, housewares, furniture, and appliances with families in need in a manner that fulfills its mission to "enhance dignity, embrace choice, encourage participation, and build a community of diversity." *In the Image* is open for distribution of clothing on Friday morning. Participants in this workshop will sort clothes and help with the distribution of clothing.

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

23. Wiping the Dust Off of Doctrine ■ ■ ■

Leonard Vander Zee

Once the cornerstone of Christian education, teaching doctrine or offering catechism instruction to youth and adults is often neglected in churches today. This workshop will explore why doctrine is important for Christian nurture and discipleship, as well as methods and practices that can help make doctrine come alive

for youth and adults. Leonard is the editor in chief and theological editor for the Christian Reformed Church in North America, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

24. Get Out of the Basement! ■ ■ ■

Jeri Baker

Even with low budgets, there is no reason for "bombshell beige" basement rooms that seem more like cells than

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places of learning. It takes very little effort to create inviting spaces where children love to come and bring their friends. We will look at how to get church leaders on board, involve church members of all ages, and bring new life to Sunday school rooms. Jeri is the director of spiritual growth at Immanuel Community Reformed Church, Vermontville, Michigan.

25. Clustering for Confirmation: Providing a Quality Confirmation Experience for One or Two Youth

Kathryn McGregor

Come and hear how churches with only one or two confirmation aged youth experienced the connectional church by clustering their youth for confirmation. This process, used in Providence Presbytery, resulted in a close-knit group of youth who fellowshiped, played, and learned together. They discovered what it means to be a Presbyterian Christian not only in their church and community but in the wider world. Kathryn is the associate for education and resourcing in Providence Presbytery.

26. Singing into Our Future

Michael Waschevski

The Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song is completing its work on a new Presbyterian hymnal to be released in 2013. This workshop will include background information about the project and process as well as, of course, singing! Be ahead of the curve in your ministry setting as the next generation of Presbyterian hymns and songs are introduced to the church. Michael, a certified Christian educator, is associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

27. A Child Shall Lead Them

Kimberly Tribolet

Children are sitting in the pews on Sunday morning, worshiping with their parents. They are listening and learning about worship by observing the adults around them. Are they ready to do more? Are they ready to be worship leaders? This workshop will explore ways children can lead worship, engaging all of God's children. Participants are encouraged to bring their own ideas to share. Kimberly is director of ministries for children and adults at Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

28. Worship on the Way: Exploring the Need for Asian North American Worship

Russell Yee

This workshop will introduce the first book now published (Judson Press) that focuses on worship in Asian North American (ANA) settings. It will make a case for culturally contextualized worship in general and ANA worship in particular. Russell is an adjunct professor at Fuller Seminary Northern California and teaches in the areas of pastoral theology, worship, and culture.

29. Mission Resources and Media

Rob Moore

Participants will learn about Mission Crossroads, an online resource site that offers podcast interviews and stories from mission co-workers and global partners, a webinar series with mission advocates and experts, and a digital resource library. Learn how to use and create online resources that allow your congregation to share your mission experiences to become more faithful and effective communities of mission practice. Rob is the congregational educator and resource producer for World Mission, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

30. Murder in the Pew

Mary Gillespie

Mystery stories can be religious and deal with theology. Discovering new authors and finding old plots is akin to unearthing clues. Church settings, clergy protagonists, and good writing make the struggles of good and evil memorable reads. In the class we will examine some of these examples. Mary is a retired Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pastor living in Medford, Oregon.

31. Folktales as Midrash

Dan LeMonnier

Can the story of Stone Soup shed light on the story of Elijah and the Jar of Meal in 1 Kings or on how Jesus fed 5000? This workshop will explore the relationship between folktales and biblical stories. Handouts with story learning exercises, discussion starters, and story exploration techniques will be provided. Dan is the youth director at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Munster, Indiana. He is a graduate of the Academy for Biblical Storytelling.

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32. The Transformative Power of Threes ■ ■ ■

Kirsty DePree

Are you looking for a place where your faith can deepen? Are you asking for a place where your fears can be shared, where you can be honest, real, and accountable to one another? You may be searching for an approach to discipleship called triads. This workshop will explore how to implement triads that impact discipleship in a congregation. Kirsty is a pastor who serves as coordinator for discipleship for the Reformed Church in America.

33. Family Connections ■

Karen DeBoer

As educators we know that the primary place to nurture faith is the home. Yet we also know that for various reasons—busy schedules, brokenness, lack of resources, and more—faith nurture is not always happening. Learn about practical ideas you can share with parents and discover exciting resources families can use to walk in the wonder of God's story together. Karen is an early childhood educator, writer, and curriculum editor for Faith Alive Christian Resources.

34. Caught by Surprise: Etiquette and Ethics for Social Media ■

Elizabeth and Krista Lovell

If only there were a "Dear Abby" column with tips for using social media! When is it appropriate to comment or post? Who should be connected? Come and explore practices that guide the use of social media in ministry, with attention to etiquette and to ethical issues of privacy and pastoral sensitivity. Elizabeth is the associate pastor for discipleship and mission, Harundale Presbyterian Church, Glen Burnie, Maryland. Krista is a children's educator, curriculum writer, and educational consultant in Huntsville, Alabama.

35. Women in Ministry . . . First Pastorate . . . The Proving Ground for Your Future ■

Nancy Ryan

This workshop will explore the hurdles that many women face in ministry as they enter their first call. Older members may see you as a granddaughter. Middle-agers want to marry you off to their sons. And what do you do with endearing terms like sweetie, dolly, and kid? This workshop is helpful for pastors, educators, and volunteers in the church. Nancy is pastor of the Reformed Church of Fort Plain in Fort Plain, New York.

36. The HAND of Leadership: Be Nice to the Goose ■

Mickie O'Donnell

Why is it so difficult to be an effective leader in the church? Why do we feel like we are chasing our tails, herding cats, stroking egos, or butting heads? Is something fundamental missing in our leadership style? Learn about a strategy called "The HAND of Leadership" and how to apply a formula to each situation in the church. This is an interactive, self-assessment workshop. Mickie is the director of children and family ministries, First Presbyterian Church, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

37. The Art of Display ■

Tammy Winchip

We use visual displays all the time in our churches and at regional meetings, but have you ever wondered how effective they really are? What about their power to teach or transform? Come to discuss the ways displays can make an impact on the lives of our churches and regional gatherings. Tammy serves at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

38. ME to WE ■

Ruth Vander Hart

Although our areas of ministry may separate learners by age or gender, studies show that significant spiritual growth happens when we live into God's story together. Learn how you can build effective ministry to all ages through intergenerational events in which people aged 3 to 103 eat, play, wonder, worship, and learn with and from each other. Ruth is the managing editor for Faith Alive Christian Resources.

39. Still Waters: A Guide to Writing Your Spiritual Formation Journey Based on Psalm 23 ■

Beth Hayes and Judy Knopf

Have you ever had a desire to share your spiritual story? Have friends asked you to write down meaningful faith events that informed and shaped you? Learn to record significant events and markers along life's path. Uncover insights that can be a lasting gift for others who seek to discover their own song. Beth is director of the Resource Center for Moravian-Salem Presbytery. Judy is director of spiritual development for the Moravian Church and pastor of Good Shepherd Moravian Church.

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40. God's Big Table: Welcoming Difference in Families

Elizabeth Caldwell

Difference in the ways that families are formed offers both challenge and opportunity for ministry today. Families experience diversity in so many ways: culture and ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith tradition, and

children and youth who are differently abled. Bring your own stories and explore possibilities for pastoral and educational ministry as we engage a theology of welcome and hospitality offered at God's table. Elizabeth is professor of Christian education, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois.

2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

41. In Pursuit of Metanoia: Christian Education that Leads to Transformation

Christine Coy Fohr and Tricia Lloyd-Sidle

How can Christian education lead to metanoia or transformation? How can ministries inform, inspire, and change lives? This workshop examines the power of processes that allow transformation to occur. From ancient Christian practices to modern community-building techniques, this workshop will help educators develop ministries that change lives and faith communities. Christine is on the program staff for JustFaith Ministries and First Presbyterian Church, Owensboro, Kentucky. Tricia is coordinator of spirituality and justice for JustFaith Ministries, Louisville, Kentucky.

44. Celebrating Baptism

Jan Williamson

Baptism is an important sacrament in the life of a child. It is often seen as an occasion for celebration or a onetime event and not as an important step in the lifelong journey of faith. Discover how to help families understand the responsibility and privilege of baptismal vows, to equip them to be spiritual nurturers of their child, and to encourage them on the journey. Jan is director of children and family ministry, Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

42. Sing a New Song!

Liz Tolcamp

Music is a powerful tool in children's lives. Why and how we choose worship music for children is important. Using the latest Christian children's music, this session will help participants think intentionally about selecting worship songs for children to sing as well as how to use them during children's worship. Come prepared to sing and move! Liz is the children's pastor at Willoughby Christian Reformed Church, Langley, British Columbia, Canada.

45. Getting the Most Out of ReQuest Manager Software

Karen Harthan

This workshop, of particular interest to resource center directors or staff, offers an overview of techniques for using ReQuest Manager circulation software. There will be time allotted for questions that are unique to your setting. Karen is the director at The Resource Center, Clear Lake, Iowa. She was part of the original planning team and provides support for others using ReQuest Manager software.

43. Spirit of the Living God: Fall Afresh on Youth

Mary-Todd Peters and M-J Junkin

This hands-on, experiential workshop will lead participants through multiple spiritual practices that can be used in youth or young adult ministries. Participants will receive ideas for incorporating these practices into their programs. Mary-Todd is a certified Christian educator and consultant for her business, Creative Educational Ministries. M-J is clerk of session at Faithbridge Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Frisco, Texas, and a former DCE, youth minister, resource center director, camp ministry director, and presbytery educator.

46. Stolen Childhoods: The Impact of Modern Day Slavery on Children

Martha Bettis Gee

Contrary to what we want to believe, slavery is alive and well in the world, reaping human traffickers huge profits. Thousands of children, both here and around the world, are bought and sold every day. This workshop explores the issue and its impact on childhood, offering practical suggestions for people of faith to respond in constructive ways to address this issue. Martha is the Associate for Child Advocacy and Networking for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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47. Words that Exclude ■

Susan Damon

An estimated 32 million adults in the United States, about one in seven, lack the literacy skills to read anything more challenging than a child's picture book or to understand side effects listed on a pill bottle. Canadian figures are similarly disturbing. Workshop participants will explore causes and consequences of low literacy and discuss ways that churches can be welcoming and inclusive for those with literacy challenges. Susan is the program coordinator for The Literacy Group in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

48. The Visual Faith ■ ■

Woong-Sik (Timothy) Chon

The exploration of the creative freedom begins with a theological insight into Michelangelo's fresco painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. The visual journey continues with an interactive theological discussion on liturgical art in the church. This workshop is designed to assist the church community and its leaders with engaging the creative process—a process that is theologically responsible and worshipful. Woong-Sik (Timothy) serves at North Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lansing, Michigan.

49. Creating a Drama Ministry in Your Church ■ ■

Kathy Bruins and Michael Beukema

This workshop will equip participants to apply drama in worship services and other events. Using discussion and examples of God at work in congregations, the spiritual benefits of drama will be explored. Hands-on training in performance techniques and the technical aspects of drama will be shared. Resources will be available. Kathy is a Christian freelance writer and speaker in the Reformed Church in America. Michael is a technical director and co-authored the book *The Acts of Grace*.

50. Bible Study 101 ■ ■

Rachel Schwab

Looking for ways to make basic Bible study more interesting without creating or purchasing new curriculum? Discover how to explore Scripture using the arts, praying through the Scripture, and writing and using themes and good discussion questions. This is a

hands-on class. Participants will move through learning centers to explore different ways of learning the word of God together. Rachel is a pastor, educator, and member-at-large of Lake Michigan Presbytery.

51. Making Faithful Decisions at the Edges of Life ■

Jan L. McGilliard

We all face end-of-life issues with older family members, with ourselves, or with our friends. It is an act of love to plan ahead and much easier to navigate this part of life as a faith community. Proactive congregations offer opportunities for faithful dialogue and useful tools to prepare for the end of life. It is life-giving to prepare! Jan is the executive director of ElderConnections Cooper House, Blacksburg, Virginia, and the acting campus minister at Virginia Tech.

52. Leadership in Perilous Times: Where Are We Going, and How Will We Get There? ■

Jeffrey Japinga

Communities and contexts in which we carry out ministry are constantly shifting, demanding courage and skill to navigate. Building on the framework of adaptive leadership, this workshop will focus on the knowledge and practices that can help congregations, committees, and individuals think more clearly about the future and develop effective visions and strategies. Jeffrey is associate dean for Doctor of Ministry Programs and Continuing Education and director of the McCormick Certificate Program in Executive Leadership, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois.

53. We Don't Have the Resources to Do Large Mission Projects Like a Big Church Does ■ ■

Felecia Douglas

When budgets are tight and the workers few, small congregations often fear the inability to do God's work to usher in a just world. In a "bigger is better" society, smaller congregations can feel like second-class citizens who are less able to make an impact through mission. Explore the possibilities for mission projects in the smaller church through collaborative effort and creative project design. Felecia is the pastor of New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Mechanicsville, Virginia.

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54. Faith Practices

Debbie Gline Allen

Faith practices are all around us with numerous opportunities to experience them. This workshop will examine the online resource *Faith Practices* (faithpractices.org), that provides activities for every age group and setting in your congregation, with a focus on practicing and discussing faith in daily life. Starting with practices such as stewardship, hospitality, and sabbath, this resource opens up flexible possibilities for enriching the life of today's congregations. Debbie is minister of Christian formation, United Church of Christ, North Hampton, New Hampshire.

55. Gardening as a Spiritual Practice

Ellen Ratmeyer

In the process of bringing a patch of earth to life, my life was transformed. The garden is packed with spiritual lessons for the journey. This workshop explores the surprising discovery of the healing powers that are waiting there. ". . . you will be like a watered garden, like a flowing spring whose waters never run dry" (Isaiah 58:11). Ellen is coordinator of consistory training and ministry services, Reformed Church in America, Selkirk, New York.

56. The Lord's Prayer with Beads

Meg Rift

Meditate. Create. Communicate. Using a relaxed rhythm of commentary, guided meditation, music, imagery, and conversation, participants will create an individualized bracelet or prayer cord reflecting the Lord's Prayer and will receive a list of materials and an outline on how to lead this workshop in their own setting. There is a \$15 supply fee. Meg is an avocational beader, artist, workshop leader, and former editor and developer of denominational curriculum for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

57. Wee Children at Church

Candace C. Hill and Mark Hinds

Very young children are full of wonder and agency. They store memories, practice skills, and develop concepts that strengthen their emerging faith. Explore this new early childhood resource from Congregational Ministries Publishing (CMP). Discover how to use this tool to create age-appropriate Bible experiences that are more formative than nursery and less formal than a preschool classroom. Mark Hinds, general editor, and Candace C. Hill, coordinator of educational ministries, support congregations through CMP, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

58. Transitioning Youth from High School to College Age Ministry

Jennifer James

Our churches spend money, hire staff, and invest time in youth ministries, but what happens when these youth graduate from high school and enter the next phase of life? Learn how to transition youth into young adulthood, whether as a college student or into the job market. Come and join the conversation about this important ministry to an overlooked and underappreciated age group. Jennifer is director of family and adult ministries, Bush Hill Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

59. God's Amazing Spectrum

Barbara J. Newman

From a biblical and respectful perspective, this workshop will help participants gain a better understanding of the variety of abilities one may encounter within the church setting. ADHD, Autism Spectrum, learning differences, hearing and vision differences, sensory integration disorders, Alzheimer's disease, to name just a few, will be discussed. Discover how each person, child, or adult is uniquely gifted fits into the body of Christ like a beautiful puzzle. Barbara is a church consultant, author, and speaker with the CLC Network.

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2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

60. Friendship Ministries ■ ■

Nella Uitvlugt (Off-site workshop; limit: 20 people)

Visit the Friendship House at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. This unique housing situation is one of a kind. Six people with intellectual disabilities (ID) live with seminary students in a beautiful, collaborative situation featuring apartment-style pods of two seminary students and one person with ID. Learn how this impacts the residents with intellectual disabilities, their families, the seminary, and the community. The residents will help us host this event. Nella is the executive director of Friendship Ministries.

61. Creative Worship: It's OK to Move Around ■ ■

Dan and Kathleen Hignight

Worship doesn't have to be staid or a spectator sport. Explore creative worship services throughout the liturgical year where participants are actively involved.

These services are designed specifically for small membership churches or retreats, where they have been well received. Come and spark your own creativity for a congregation of a couple dozen, for youth groups, or for other small group worship. Kathleen is an ordained Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) minister. Daniel is pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bossier City, Louisiana.

62. The Grand Rapids Art Museum ■

Carl Horton (Off-site workshop; \$15 fee)

The Grand Rapids Art Museum is a stunning, LEED certified building with an impressive collection of regional, national, and international art. Join us for a tour of the museum and a new application of art in religious education. Carl is the strategic planning and program facilitator for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

63. Is Your Church a Safe Place? ■ ■ ■

Marsha Taylor

Does your church have a Safe Place Policy? What steps have you taken to protect your children and youth from sexual predators? Using resources from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and other sources, learn how to develop a Safe Place Policy. At the same time discover steps to protect your church and its volunteers. Samples will include teacher handbooks, brochures, volunteer applications, and annual training. Marsha is director of Christian education and children's music ministry, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Riverside, California.

coordinators for the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

65. Faith "On Demand" and via Hulu ■

Karen-Marie Yust

Explore the ways in which big-screen movies and small-screen TV shows shape American spirituality. Discover how film clips, episodes off Hulu, and on-demand movie screenings can be part of educational ministries designed to nurture contemporary faith. We will reflect theologically on clips from popular films and TV series and discuss how to design educational events that feature media components. Karen-Marie is an associate professor of Christian education, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia.

64. Let the Story Stand: Introducing Children and Worship ■ ■

Jane Schuyler and Lynn Setsma (Introductory)

Children and Worship is a multisensory approach to worship with young children, enabling children to experience God in a special, age-appropriate setting. Children discover the ways and meaning of worship. They learn to find the quiet place within themselves to listen and to talk with God. To experience and learn more about this approach, join us in a *Children and Worship* center. Jane and Lynn are *Children and Worship*

66. Inclusion from the Inside Out: Welcoming People of All Abilities ■

Cindy Merten

Inclusion happens one person at a time. How can churches welcome and include people of all ages and abilities in worship, education, and the whole life of the church? Learn about the journey of one congregation and take home new ideas for curriculum adaptations,

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worship accommodations, and creating a culture of inclusion in your church. Cindy is director of Christian Education, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Michigan.

67. All God's Children: Teaching Children about Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity ■ ■

Betty Greene Salwak

The headlines of teen suicides reveal the devastating impact of teasing and bullying based on orientation and gender. The Christian community has a responsibility to model respect and offer grace to all people. When is it the right time and what are the right words for teaching about gender diversity and sexual orientation? Open and caring conversation helps children develop a foundation of acceptance of themselves and others. Betty is coordinator of church school curriculum, Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

68. Looking Forward: Musings on the Future of the Church ■

Kevin Starcher

Ever thought about what the future of our church will look like in ten, twenty, or fifty years? If so, you probably know already that you are not alone! In this workshop, we will review writings of ecclesiological observers like Phyllis Tickle, Brian McLaren, and Harvey Cox while musing about what the church of Jesus Christ might look like down the road. Come prepared to think, listen, and share. Kevin is pastor of Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins, West Virginia.

69. Wondering and Wandering: Paths of Discernment for Individuals and Groups ■

Adrian Williams

Many people want to discern God's will, but the church often gives no idea on how to go about doing such a thing or does not even give a definition. This class will focus on listening for and paying attention to God's leading. We will look at individual and corporate discernment in various forms as well as essential pieces that are common to all forms of discernment. Adrian is the director of educational ministries, Harbor View Presbyterian Church, Charleston, South Carolina.

70. Overcoming Terminal Seriousness ■ ■

Deb DeMeester

Do you sometimes feel that you are working harder with less to show for it? Is your congregation suffering from terminal seriousness? Phyllis Tickle suggests that every 500 years the Christian church undergoes significant transformation; scholars think transformation is happening now. What signposts help us navigate and reframe our mission? This workshop explores cultural changes for rediscovering the joy of leadership and mission. Deb is an educator, consultant, and artist, employed by the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

71. Looking Good in Print ■

Joel Winchip

Every publication you produce is a direct representation of your church and its ministry. Whether your publications are produced professionally, by another staff member/volunteer, or by you alone, this workshop will cover creative shortcuts and lesser-known principles of publication design. Joel is executive director of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association and adjunct faculty for Presbyterian College, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Union Presbyterian Seminary.

72. More Than Keeping the Lights On! Creating a Church Budget with a Sense of Imagination and Accounting ■ ■

Deborah Madden

Church budgets are often a place of disagreement in faith communities. What if we look at budgets in a new way, one of story and imagination, without missing basic economic principles of income and expense? What if we explored mission and vision with the finance committee? What if we believe these two sides actually work together for the kingdom of God? Deborah is director of educational ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and a former accountant for a local corporation.

73. Prepare! Fresh Ideas for Advent and Lent ■ ■

Allison Nahr and Charlotte Nance Allbright

Looking for something new? Participants will experience portions of an Advent Festival and a Lenten Tenebrae/Stations of the Cross worship service. Bring ideas home on how to incorporate these services into your own

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congregations' celebrations of these liturgical seasons. Allison is director of Christian formation, Plymouth Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, Minnesota. Charlotte, a certified Christian educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), serves as director of Christian nurture, First Presbyterian Church, Lumberton, North Carolina.

74. Spiritual Practices for Busy People ■

Kathleen Bostrom and Elizabeth Caldwell

How do busy preachers, teachers, and folks of all ages find time for spiritual renewal? Using the new resource *Daily Feast: Meditations from Feasting on the Word*, the editors will explore ways to use the resource to nurture our spirits daily. They will share how this book came to be and their own spiritual practices using this resource. Kathleen is pastor of Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Grayslake, Illinois. Elizabeth is professor of Christian education, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois.

75. Self-Awareness: A Key Component of Discipleship ■

Michael Johnson

"Without knowledge of self there is no knowledge of God." (John Calvin) Self-awareness is a key component of discipleship. This workshop will expand on this concept, exploring some simple self-awareness exercises, while showing various tools for self-awareness. One key tool this workshop will introduce is the Grip Birkman Blueprint. Each participant will receive a free book. Michael is founder/director of Ascending Leaders and adjunct professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, Texas campus, and guest faculty at Calvin Theological Seminary.

76. Worship Renewal: Bringing New Life to Congregations and Communities ■ ■

Betty Grit

From congregations that have received Worship Renewal Grants we have learned that there are basic principles common to all projects in this broadly ecumenical, multicultural, multigenerational search for worship renewal. This session will tell you what we are learning and will provide creative ideas that you could incorporate in your congregation. Betty Grit is manager of the Worship Renewal Grants Program for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

77. Welcome to the Table: Helping Churches Prepare Children for the Lord's Supper ■ ■

Beth Jewett

How do we prepare children for participation in the Sacrament of Communion? What language will help children better understand what is happening? How can congregations help parents nurture their child's participation? This workshop explores these questions and offers ideas for welcoming children to the Lord's Table. We will look at models for parent-child communion workshops in local congregations. Beth is director of children's ministry at Harderwyk Ministries, a Christian Reformed congregation, Holland, Michigan.

78. Let the Afterschool Children Come to Me ■

Arlene Sorce Romaine

Children need a safe and nurturing environment after school. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." What better place for nurture and love than in our church buildings? In this workshop we will discuss the reasons for afterschool ministry and the options and basic ingredients necessary for a successful outreach ministry to families of elementary and middle school children. Arlene is a commissioned pastor in the Reformed Church in America, serving Ponds Reformed Church, Oakland, New Jersey.

79. Words Matter: A Writer's Workshop and Discussion ■

Matt Matthews

Words matter. Sometimes we feel as if our words fall short. This workshop, for writers of journals, liturgies, curriculum, and sermons who believe that writing can be a means of spiritual growth—and a lot of fun—will lead participants through writing prompts that help us share and learn. Matt is pastor of St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Greenville, South Carolina. He is the author of the children's book *Fritz & Christine and Their Very Nervous Parents*, and the novel *Mercy Creek*.

80. The Changing Role of Elders in the PC(USA) ■

Joyce Emery

Elders are called by the community to lead the people of God, not only in the institution but in the world. Trace the historical movement in the Presbyterian Church from Bible teacher, praying leader to institutional and

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membership management position descriptions. See the historical context for these changes. Reclaim spiritual leadership deeply rooted in our Reformed tradition. Joyce serves as Presbyter for the Synod of Alaska-Northwest. Her Doctor of Ministry project at Princeton Theological Seminary was The Changing Role of Elders.

81. Leaders on Horizon ■

Bob Cleveringa

This workshop presents a process of discipling high school youth through a two-year plan of deep relationships, biblical challenge, and personal development with adults walking alongside to help youth discover and remain focused on being a follower of Jesus Christ. The materials used in the workshop are available in hard copy or online. Discover how to help youth develop a faith that sticks. Bob is director of youth ministries, Synod of the Heartland of the Reformed Church in America.

82. What does the church do with all this? ■

Bruce Reyes-Chow

This workshop will be presented by Skype. Bruce will discuss the use and current trends of social media and technology in church life. Now that all this is available, how can we make the best use of it in ministry? Bruce is a former moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the PC(USA) and founding pastor of Mission Bay Community Church in San Francisco.