

COMING UP at TRC . . .

## ***TEACHERS TOOLBOX 2011: Taking Faith Home***

Saturday, September 24 9 AM - 3:30 PM

Location & Host: Trinity United Methodist Church

903 Forest Avenue Richmond, VA 23229 804-288-6056

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Blessed to Be A Blessing

**Marilyn Sharpe**

As God once called Abram, God now calls you .(yes, you! ) to a wondrous, audacious ministry that transforms lives. God announces, "I have blessed you ... to be a blessing.

Through you, all of the families of this earth will be blessed." (Genesis 12:2-3) Yes, God has given you the gifts for this amazing ministry, so that you can bless others. Like the

loaves and fishes that Jesus blessed and multiplied, Jesus will bless your efforts and loving presence to stir up faith in those you teach ... and in you, too! And, by God's surprising work through you, all of the families of this earth will be blessed.

Join Marilyn Sharpe to discover how God is using you in ways you have yet to imagine or understand.



TRC is located  
In Virginia Hall  
on the campus of  
Baptist Theological  
Seminary at Richmond

*Satellite Locations:*  
Pleasant Grove  
Baptist Church  
8175 Pleasant Grove Road  
Mechanicsville  
&  
Manakin  
Episcopal Church  
985 Huguenot Trail  
Midlothian

*Mailing Address:*  
1209 Palmyra Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227

*Phone:* 804-358-8306  
*Toll-free:* 888-241-5132  
*Fax:* 804-358-6366

*E-mail:*  
[resourcecenter@cavtel.net](mailto:resourcecenter@cavtel.net)

### **10 WORKSHOP CHOICES**

for all who are involved in the teaching ministry of the church:  
teachers, leaders & pastors of all denominations

See workshop descriptions and leaders on pages 3-5

Registration Fee \$35 (includes lunch) Register by September 16

### **NEW THIS YEAR**

• **Round Table Discussion** - An extended session for discussion led by our keynote speaker has been added. You will have the opportunity to write questions that you would like discussed. These questions will be compiled and addressed after the afternoon session is completed.

• **.5 CEU Credit** - This is a great opportunity for those who pursue Continuing Education Units. Make sure you check "Yes" on the registration form.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Change is everywhere, it seems, and it elicits so many different reactions from churches. Some are excited by its challenge and are meeting it with creative new ideas, fresh new programs. Others are frustrated, bewildered, paralyzed, living in denial.

The liturgists at St. John's pulled out more stops in their St. Francis Day celebration than I can ever recall experiencing in a Roman Catholic celebration . . . For several glorious hours, the immense cathedral, over 600 feet in length, seemed to be transformed into the lost Garden of Paradise. . . A standing-room-only crowd of over 3,500 men, women, and children - - with dogs, cats, gerbils, turtles, parrots, and other pets at their sides - - worshipped and praised their loving Creator with song and dance and colorful banners. The Spirit of St. Francis was truly alive in that holy space . . . It struck me that the immense throng . . . were worshipping God in one symphony of praise. They had become one family of creation.

Jack Wintz  
*Will I See My Dog in Heaven?*

The trouble is, denial is costly. Kathleen Norris wrote recently, "Disconnecting from change does not recapture the past; it loses the future." That is true for churches, and I am sure it is also true for resource centers. The ecumenical resource center that reaches across denominational lines to serve leaders from various branches of the Christian church, is a child of the larger ecumenical movement in this country. And that very movement is searching out those ways that will help it find new life, reinventing itself in this new world in which we live.

That is why TRC will be looking at its vision and mission over coming months, listening to those who use our services and those who do not, those who are our partners in ministry and those who don't know we exist. What is the future for resource centers? How can we best serve people of faith in this internet era when e-book sales now outstrip hard copies? Do we have anything unique to offer?

We dare to believe that our consultation services can save the valuable time of educators and pastors, and our wonderful collection still represents faithful stewardship of costly resources. But, if churches are going to look different in the years ahead, so, too, must resource centers. Our Board of Directors will be looking ahead, searching for clues, and listening to those who currently use our services. We'd love to hear from YOU!

Faithfully,  
*Judy*

Judith FaGalde Bennett, Executive Director, TRC

IMPORTANT REMINDER

It is now necessary to have a parking permit for your dashboard when parking in the Baptist Theological Seminary parking lot. Pick one up the next time you come to The Resource Center to avoid having your car towed!



HOME of The Resource Center, on the ground floor of Virginia Hall, extending to the right and left of the entrance pictured here. While our mailing address is 1209 Palmyra Avenue, our entrance is from Lamont Street, now the BTSR parking lot, between Palmyra and Westwood Avenues. Go through the double doors in the picture and you will find yourself in The Resource Center.

## TEACHERS TOOLBOX: Taking Faith Home — Workshop Selections

### **#1 AM & PM      *Family Stories* by Denise Bennett**



*How stories can enrich family life, help create family rituals and traditions, and play a role in nurturing faith.. Learn how to find your own stories and learn techniques for "interviewing" other family members to find their stories too.*

Denise Bennett is Chaplain/Educator at The Hermitage in Richmond, a published poet & songwriter, and professional storyteller & musician. An M. Div. graduate of Union-PSCE, she performs and teaches at professional conferences, in schools, churches, libraries and retirement communities. She is a long-time member of TellTale Hearts, a Richmond performing group, and appears regularly at storytelling festivals.

### **#2 AM & PM      *Kids Living Their Faith* by Beth Christian**



*From Pre-school to Pre-teen, children of all ages can make a difference in this world. We will look at hands-on mission ideas that kids can do. It is also fun and important for families to serve together. We will talk about ways that families can work side by side and how your church can creatively offer events and ministry that is mission-focused.*

Beth Christian is in her 10th year as Director of Children's Ministries at Woodlake UMC. She also serves in the Virginia UMC Conference in many different roles. Beth is always looking for new ideas to bring to ministry and to help children to know, love, serve and share Jesus.

### **#3 AM & PM      *The Faithwalk* by Geraldine Berry Johnson**



*At Home, At Church, At School, At Work!!! How visible is your faith?!! Remember, the only Christ some people will see is the Christ that's in you!*

Geraldine Berry Johnson is the Founder/Director of St. James's Children's Center (the first pre-school in the metropolitan area to introduce *inclusiveness*: the acceptance of children with learning, emotional and physical challenges in a traditional setting. She received her Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Virginia State College; her Masters Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and her Bachelor of Science in Christian Theology from Virginia Bible College. She has received several awards for her contributions to children and the community.

### **#4 AM only    *Social by Nature: How to Approach Technology Today* by Jon Messer & Sammy Frame**



*Technology, in particular social media, has inundated our society. Families are on Facebook, Twitter, texting and other forms of electronic communication. What is the family's role in this technology? What are the advantages for families? How should families connect? What is the role of the church?*

Jon Messer is an academic technology consultant for the University of Richmond and a Ph.D. student at the College of William and Mary studying Curriculum and Educational Technology. He has worked in the church as children's minister, education minister and family ministry consultant. He also created a children's magazine to help families learn about Baptist heritage.

### **#5 PM only    *Social by Nature— but What About Nurture?* By Jon Messer & Sammy Frame**



*Online all the time could be the motto of the family today but at what cost? How is social media impacting families? Do social media and mobile devices enhance our connections as family or have they become a liability? What, if any, impact do these social technologies have on our relationships with our kids and parents? Do spiritual (and biblical) notions like solitude, study, and assembly have a place in our increasingly virtual world?*

Sammy Frame is small groups pastor at Powhatan Community Church where he creates and implements strategies to help people do life in small groups. He also leads a 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade small group for boys where he learns firsthand the impact of technology on our youth.



## TEACHERS TOOLBOX 2011 (continued)



### **#6 AM only    *And What About the Caregivers? Equipping Adults to Be Faith Formers* by Marilyn Sharpe**

*The Bible tells us often that it was God's idea to make faith formation a robust part of everyday life, done most powerfully by those primary caregivers for all of God's children. When we baptize children, we in the congregation promise to surround and support not just the child, but those who will raise the child. Research tells us that ministry to children & youth is most powerful when it partners home AND congregation ... but most of us have no idea how to do that. How can we give youth both a Christian peer subculture AND a family that is close, supportive, faith-filled & fun?*

Marilyn Sharpe is our Keynote Presenter

### **#7 AM & PM**

#### ***Engaging Adults in Meaningful Bible Study* by Emerson Shelton**



*This workshop will offer tools for teachers to help their adult students better understand scripture and its relevance to their lives as Christians today.*

Emerson Shelton is a retired pastor in the United Methodist Church. Now at Welborne United Methodist Church, he is still often asked to lead classes for adults.

### **#8 AM & PM**

#### ***Using Music & the Arts in Christian Education* by Sandy Shelton**

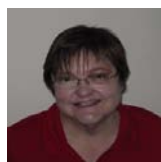


*Come experience a mini "EXULTA" session where Sandy and other staff members will lead participants through a Bible lesson, choir, and two choices from a violin lesson, a ballet lesson or an art lesson.*

Sandy Shelton is a retired Christian educator in the United Methodist Church. She is a part of the staff of the EXULTA ("Experience Ultimate Love Through The Arts) Fine Arts Academy for elementary-aged children at Welborne United Methodist Church.

### **#9 AM only**

#### ***Praise God by Protecting His Gifts* by Harriet Thomas**



*This workshop will help members learn new ways to be a better guardian of God's Creation. We need to be supporters of the environment. There are alarming new statistics about the state of our earth. Discover simple ways to protect God's Creation and experience a hands-on activity. Bring your own ideas for helping to care for God's Creation.*

Harriet Thomas has a lifelong interest in the natural environment and preserving what God has given us. Educated at James Madison University, University of Virginia, University of Edinburgh (Scotland), and University of Kent at Canterbury (England), she is a long-time professional educator on elementary, high school, community college, and university levels, and a passionate member of the Operation Earth Committee at Trinity UMC.

### **#10 PM only**

#### ***Strengths, Spiritual Gifts and Passions* by Desda White**



*Everyone has gifts, talents and strengths to use as they do God's work. Do you know what yours are? Find out how knowing more about yourself allows you to work at your maximum potential in areas you love. Build teams and work groups that will soar!*

Desda White is a Certified Strengths Consultant, trained by the Gallup Corporation to "help individuals define, understand, and more fully utilize their God-given talents to achieve extraordinary results in their relationships, careers, and community involvements." In addition to heading up Trinity's Living Your Strengths Ministry she has been a resource for other churches and local businesses in the field of Strengths Building.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** If your church is currently a member of The Resource Center, now is a good time to make sure your membership is in place in your church's 2012 budget!

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We need the Bread of Life  
to feed our souls.  
Your people hunger, Lord.

Hear the prayer of the mother  
whose breasts have run dry,  
who holds a sickly child,  
praying for the miracle  
that will keep her breathing.  
Hear the prayer of the father  
whose back is bent from  
working long hours  
for small coins to feed  
at least one open mouth.  
Give her strength,  
give him hope.

Hear the prayer of the young  
child whose parents  
were stolen by death,  
who hungers for education  
and dreams of a future  
in a place where the ring of  
death's bell is far too familiar.

Hear the prayer of the faithful  
who love you  
and who love your people.  
Keep them dreaming.  
Keep them near.

Ciona D. Rouse  
*Like Breath and Water:  
Praying with Africa*

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## More About Marilyn Sharpe

Marilyn Sharpe knows it's all about faith! She is the principal of Marilyn Sharpe Ministries, LLC, dedicated to helping congregations equip households to nurture faith in all of the generations, all of the time, wherever they are. A Certified Family Life Educator, Marilyn has been a parent educator for 32 years, committed to helping parents become the best and most effective they can be. Formerly a high school English teacher and a confirmation teacher and director for 23 years, Marilyn has a passion for kids and their families. With a BA from Wellesley College and an MA from Harvard University, she takes extraordinary joy in both learning and teaching. Marilyn is adjunct faculty at Luther Seminary and Concordia University, St. Paul, MN.

Marilyn has written her first book, *For Heaven's Sake! Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully*, and an accompanying study guide. She also wrote a monthly column, "Positive Parenting," for five years for *The Metro Lutheran*; a series of articles on children, youth, and family ministry for *The Clergy Journal*; and articles for *Lifelong Faith Journal*, *Lutheran Partners*, "Seasons of the Spirit," *The Advocate*, *Home Base*, and *Connect*. She has done a series of podcasts on faithful parenting for Common Good Radio.

TRC is grateful to Trinity United Methodist Church for their financial support in bringing Marilyn to Richmond, and to Teachers Toolbox!

## TRC RESOURCE DISPLAY at 2011 UNITED METHODIST LICENSING SCHOOL



A time for newly-licensed United Methodist pastors to take classes, meet new friends, learn about the many resources available to them as they begin ministry.



TRC was one of several Conference-related agencies that had resource displays at the week-long event at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk.

Virginia Conference staffers were present to help orient the "newbies" to programs and services of the Annual Conference.

Linda Rhodes (right), Director of Communications for the Virginia Conference, was on hand to distribute materials about United Methodist Communications. Linda is Conference staff liaison for TRC.

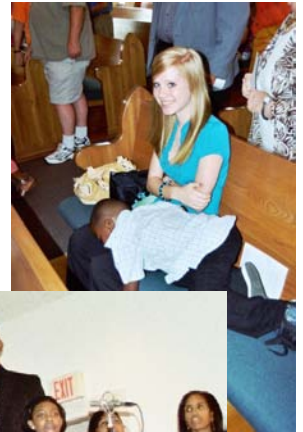


## Is YOUR church a member of TRC?



# INCLUSION . . .

The choir that, for a weekend, embodied the vision of The Resource Center - - a vision of the multi-ethnic diversity of the family of God - - joined with guest choirs to sing their joyous praise on Sunday, June 5th. Guest conductor Tom Baynham wove together the musical gifts of the Inclusion Mass Choir; Sylvia Cooper conducted the Shady Grove UMC Sanctuary Choir, as well as the church's Children's Choir, and Marlene Fuller conducted the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Choir. Jim Bennett served as accompanist, backed up by instrumentalists. Ms. Fuller and the Inclusion Mass Choir drew the congregation into the afternoon's powerful conclusion - - the singing together of Hezekiah Walker's affirmation of unity: "I Need You to Survive."



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Father Paul Schroeder of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Portland, Oregon, tells this story from his time at Holy Cross Seminary.

“On a trip to Mount Athos, at one of the monasteries there was a young monk who had formerly been a fellow student at Holy Cross. We visited his monastery, and had an opportunity to speak with him privately. At one point, one of my classmates named George asked him, in a mock serious tone, “So, have you found peace here?”

Without a moment’s hesitation, the young monk leaned over and touched my friend on the chest and said,

“George, peace is in your heart. If you don’t find it there, you won’t find it anywhere else.” Pastoral ministry is not the place to look for peace of mind.

It can be satisfying, inspiring, and gratifying at times.

But the peace of mind we receive from ministry will be the peace of mind we bring to it.

We need a sense of self apart from the response we receive.

When we are less dependent on the approval of others, we can be more effective in our ministry.

Margaret J. Marcuson  
*Leaders Who Last:  
Sustaining Yourself  
& Your Ministry*

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## TRC ON THE ROAD

Here’s where TRC staff and resources have been in recent days:

United Methodist Ministers’ Convocation at Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone,

Celebration of African American History - Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Mechanicsville

Youth Ministry Academy at United Methodist Building in Richmond

Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference at the Civic Center in Roanoke

Baptist General Convention Annual Session & Congress of Christian Education at the Marriott Hotel in Richmond

African American Roundtable at United Methodist Building in Richmond

Faith & the Arts interactive art exhibit at Centenary United Methodist Church in Richmond.

United Methodist Five Talents Academy: Faith Development at Williamsburg Community Chapel, Stewardship at Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon

“The Journey” exhibit on African American history at North side Crusaders Baptist Church in Richmond

Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond Clergy Breakfast at Roslyn Conference Center in Richmond

## NEW MEMBERS AT TRC

Congregations: Anointed New Life Baptist, Renewal Ministries (Baptist), Thirty-First Street Baptist, Westhunt Baptist.

The following Presbyterian churches have requested and received membership under a new arrangement with the Presbytery of the James: Ampthill, Ashland, Chester, Colonial Heights, Fairfield, First (Richmond), Ginter Park, Grace Covenant, Lakeside, Mattoax/Pine Grove, Mechanicsville, Mitchells, Mobntrose, Olivet, Sandston, Second (Richmond), Southminster, Three Chopt, Trinity, Woodville.

New United Methodist congregations include: Anderson Chapel (Danville), Bethel (Hanover), Bethia (Chesterfield), Calvary, Cashville Charge (Onancock), Centenary, Central (Mathews), Community (Virginia Beach), Corinth (Sandston), Covenant (Chesapeake), Craddocksville (Belle Haven), Crenshaw (Blackstone), Culpeper, Duncan Memorial (Ashland), Galloway (Falls Church), Grace (Newport News), Great Falls, High St. (Franklin), Ivy Creek (Charlottesville), Kenwood (Ashland), Lane Memorial (Altavista), Miles Memorial (Norfolk), Mt. Pisgah, Parrish Court (Covington), Procidence (Quinton), Rehoboth (Beaverdam), Reveille, Rocky Mount, St. Peter’s (Montpelier), Shady Grove (Mechanicsville), Silverbrook (Lorton), Stephens City, Sudley (Gainesville), Wesley Foundation at UVA, Westhampton, Westoer Hills, Zion (Spotsylvania)

Agencies: Camp Hanover (Mechanicsville), Prebyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands (Wytheville), Richmond Peace Education Center

Individuals: Midge Falconer, B.K. Jain, Dr. Lerla Joseph, Gerald Stewart, Mary Hood, Susie Stone, Sallye Hardy, Grace Taylor-Davis, Nancy Plott Williams, Frank Smith, Michael Stone, Brenda NeSmith, Eleanor Meleski, Annette Khan, Kathleen Kenney, Denise Honeycutt, Winnie Canup

# LUCINDA'S TOP 20

## New Resources at TRC



*Adventures in Missing the Point*: Brian McLaren & Tony Campolo  
(Emergent YS)

*Albert Schweitzer Called to Africa* (DVD): Martin Doblemeir, director  
(First Run Features)

*Bread of Angels*: Barbra Brown Taylor (Morehouse)

*Dear Children of the Earth*: Schim Schimmel (North Word)

*Diet for a Hot Planet*: Anna Lappe (Bloomsbury)

*Don't Invite Them to Church*: Karen Wilk (Faith Alive)

*Dream-Keepers*: Harvey Arden (Harper Collins)

*Dream; Think; Be; Do* (Set of Four DVD'S): David Felten & Jeff Procter-Murphy, editors (Living  
The Questions)

*FunNomenal Fellowship*: Tony Peterson, editor (Cokesbury)

*Healing Israel/Palestine*: Michael Lerner (Tikkun Books)

*In the Path of Virtue: The African American Moral Tradition*: Robert K Samuels (Pilgrim Press)

*Listen to the Children* (Bilingual, English/Spanish): Elizabeth Conde-Frazier (Judson Press)

*Long Ago God Spoke*: William L. Holladay (Fortress Press)

*Making Marriage Work* (Four DVD's with Leader's Guide): Les & Leslie Parrot (Bluefish)

*Mudhouse Sabbath* (DVD): Laura Winner (Paraclete Press)

*She* (DVD, NOOMA SERIES): Rob Bell (Zondervan)

*Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*: Deborah Hopkins (Alfred A Knopf)

*The Year of the Bible* (Leader's Guide & Participant Book): James Davidson (Witherspoon)

*Was America founded as a Christian Nation?*: John Fea (Westminster John Knox)

*When Mothers Pray*: Cheri Fuller (Multnomah Publishers)

### EVENT REGISTRATION

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want lunch? Circle one; if yes, include in fee below: YES NO

Registration Fee Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL form with check by the registration deadline to:  
The Resource Center, 1209 Palmyra Ave., Richmond, VA 23227



IS YOUR CHURCH A MEMBER OF THE RESOURCE CENTER?

www.resourcingchurches.com

WEBSITE:

resourcecenter@cavtel.net

E-MAIL:

(804)358-6366

FAX:

Toll-Free (888) 241-5132

(804) 358-8306

PHONE:

by appointment

1:00—5:00 p.m. &

Monday—Thursday

1209 Palmyra Avenue

Theological Seminary at Richmond

Virginia Hall on the campus of Baptist

CENTRAL LOCATION:



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Mechanicsville, VA 23116  
(Monday, 1-5 p.m.)

MANAKIN EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
985 Huguenot Trail  
Midlothian, VA 23113  
(Wednesday, 1-5 p.m.)

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

# *Gleanings*



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OUR MISSION is to resource  
congregations, schools, agencies,  
and individuals for ministry in a  
diverse and ever-changing world.

REGISTER NOW: Teachers Toolbox, Saturday, 9/18 (See p. 4)