

renew. refresh. revive.

In today's turbulent world, we search for answers and hope in our Christian faith. Come for a day and renew your faith, refresh your mind and revive your life.



Welcome Dr. Mel Bringle

Dr. Mel (Mary Louise) Bringle is professor of philosophy and religious studies and chair of the humanities division at Brevard College in Brevard, NC. She is the author of two books of pastoral theology — “Despair: Sickness or Sin?” and “The God of Thinness: Gluttony and Other Weighty Matters”. Since beginning to write hymn texts in 1998, she has won numerous international text writing competitions and been recognized as an “emerging text writer” by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, an organization which she now serves as president. Her original hymns and translations from Spanish (particularly of the works of Pablo Sosa) appear in a variety of denominational hymnals and supplements, as well as in her own single-author collections — “Joy and Wonder, Love and Longing” and “In Wind and Wonder”. She is currently serving as chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song.

Mel is an inspiring speaker, writer and scholar. Her array of gifts has been described as: a deliciously sense of humor, quiet grace, a largeness of imagination, a rare combination of scholarly rigor and deep compassion.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Information

- **Early registration discount. \$30.00 per person until September 15, 2010** after September 15, 2010, registration is \$40.00 per person. Walk-in registration will be accepted at the conference.
- All registrations must be accompanied with payment and confirmations will not be sent.
- The FOCUS Committee reserves the right to cancel classes for which there are not sufficient registration by the deadline.
- No refunds will be given but registrations are transferable within congregations.
- View course descriptions, print additional registration forms and register online by going to the Presbytery website www.pbyofnewcovenant.org and clicking FOCUS on the homepage.
- Morning snacks, coffee and lunch are included in the registration fee.
- **FREE childcare** is available for children under five whose parents are attending the conference but you must register no later than September 15, 2010. **Parents should pack a meal and a snack for your child.**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Rev. Dr.

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Church _____

Home Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Special needs: _____

Child name Age Child name Age

Please use one registration form per person. You may copy as many forms as needed. Send registration form with payment to:

Carrie Walker
The Presbytery of New Covenant
1110 Lovett Blvd.
Houston, TX 77006

Make check payable to: The Presbytery of New Covenant

ONLINE: www.pbyofnewcovenant.org to register online. Look for FOCUS REGISTRATION and follow the link on the homepage.

GOT QUESTIONS? Call Carrie Walker at the Presbytery office 713-526-2585, ext. 205 or email cwalker@pbyofnewcovenant.org

WORKSHOP SELECTIONS

Please indicate below the workshops you wish to attend. Choose one workshop for the morning and one for the afternoon.

Please note that workshop B213 is for the children who register and attend workshop A109.

MORNING WORKSHOPS - choose one

- A101 A Time of Change: Immigration and the Church
- A102 Bamboo, Babies, and Banquets
- A103 Bible Study with a Twist
- A104 Daily Bread: How to Join the Fight Against Hunger
- A105 Millennial Leaders: Creating Principled Christian Leaders
- A106 Putting Words (or the Word) to Music
- A107 Spirituality and Social Justice
- A108 Talking with Young People about Dating, Mating, Relating and Creating
- A109 The Family that PLAYS Together Stays Together
(This is a family workshop - see B213 for children's workshop)
- A110 @SocialNetworks join #Social Justice
- A111 What Does the Lord Require of You?
- A112 What in the World is Our Doing?

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS - choose one

- B201 Dig a Little Deeper
- B202 Fear Not! Taking Risks to Serve the Needs of a Risky World
- B203 Habitat for Humanity and What it Can Do for You and Your Members
- B204 Human Trafficking / Modern Day Slavery
- B205 Mission: And a Little Child Shall Lead Them ...
- B206 Re/Connecting with the Needs of Our Changing Community
- B207 Recreation Without Boundaries
- B208 Revelation: A Journey of Hope and Transformation
- B209 Ten Healthy Practices for Family Life to Keep You Out of Therapy
- B210 Writing as Spiritual Practice: The Art of the Written Word
- B211 Why Civility Matters - Skills for the Journey!
- B212 Yoga for the Inflexible
- B213 Created Creative Art Workshop *(Children's workshop)*
(Children must register for A109 to attend B213)



FOCUS 2010 WORKSHOPS

B212 Yoga for the Inflexible

What is yoga? How can I do yoga if I can't even touch my toes, or balance on one foot? Is yoga for Christians? How do I choose a yoga class? Is yoga different from pilates? Discover the answers to these questions and many more as we demystify yoga in this workshop, and provide an introduction to the invaluable benefits of this ancient and approachable practice. The participatory portion of this workshop will be very user-friendly... leave with the confidence to try a yoga class on your own.

Meredith Montgomery is a Yoga Alliance RYT-200 certified yoga instructor, artist, and publisher of Natural Awakenings magazine in Fairhope, AL.

B213 Created Creative Art Workshop

This special experience is for those children who are registered for workshop A109 in the morning. We will enjoy creating artwork in a variety of media that celebrates God's good creation.

Elder Mary Marcotte is a Certified Christian Educator and serves as Associate General Presbyter for the Presbytery of New Covenant.

FOCUS TEAM MEMBERS

Elder Mary Swan

First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena (Moderator)

Elder Jo Ann Currie

St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston

Elder Anne Wilson

Northwoods Presbyterian Church, Houston

Elder Taffy Daussin

First Presbyterian Church, Tomball

Educator Rhonda Haskins

First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena

Rev. Kristy Forbes

St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston

Rev. Shawn Kang

Pathways Presbyterian Church (NCD), Houston

New Covenant Staff Support provided by

Elder Mary Marcotte

Elder Carrie Walker

EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010

8:00 a.m.

Registration and Coffee
Conference Cokesbury Bookstore open

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and
Keynote Presentation
by Mel Bringle

10:00 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m.

Workshop A

12:00 p.m.

Lunch, Fellowship
and bookstore shopping

1:15 p.m.

Workshop B

3:00 p.m.

Closing Worship
Mel Bringle preaching

4:00 p.m.

Bookstore closes

See you next year!



Do good and live green at the same time

Bring your used cell phones to the event and they will be donated to **The Bridge Over Troubled Waters of Pasadena** - a shelter for women, children, and men in crisis, especially those who are victims of domestic violence.

FOCUS 2010 WORKSHOPS

A101 A Time of Change: Immigration and the Church

Immigration to the United States has impacted the church in many ways. This workshop will focus on the current immigration situation in the US, how the church is involved and ways we can respond in our churches and communities.

Julia Thorne serves as Immigration Counsel and Manager of Immigration Issues for the Office of the General Assembly in Louisville, KY.

A102 Bamboo, Babies, and Banquets

Come meet four generations from one family who have made living green a priority. From remodeling a house to raising a baby, from cups made out of corn to composting, we know you'll come away with new ideas for yourself, your family, and your church to make going green a gradual and affordable process rather than an all-or-nothing plunge. Green Door Prizes!

Anne Wilson is a member and former Director of Children and Family Ministry at Northwoods Presbyterian Church. Marion Takehara is her 85 year old mother who still works out 5 times a week. Meredith Montgomery is her 30 year old daughter and proud mother of baby Mays.

A103 Bible Study with a Twist

Looking for creative ways to approach studying scripture? Come join in as we use all of our senses to grow in our faith. From exploring the artistic side to group projects to personal spiritual growth activities, you will take back ways to help your youth learn more about God through creative bible study.

Beth Gunn is a recreation leader from Western North Carolina where she is the Associate for Youth for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina with a particular emphasis in the field of Recreation Ministry.

A104 Daily Bread: How To Join The Fight Against Hunger

Each day in southeast Texas, 53,000 children, women and men suffer from hunger while more than 900,000 are at risk of having no food. People of faith are called to take action, "For the poor will never cease to be in the land." (Deuteronomy 15:11) Learn how to get involved.

Betsy Ballard is chief communications officer for the Houston Food Bank, the largest source of low-cost and free food to hunger relief charities in southeast Texas.

A105 Millennial Leaders: Creating Principled Christian Leaders

God-centered leadership forms the basis of the future successes of our churches. Despite its importance, we often fail to prepare the leaders of the future. Millennial Leaders is a Biblically based leadership program that prepares youth to lead while engaging in mission through partnership with local organizations.

Ken Odom, a committed community servant, is the founder of Ken Odom Leadership Development and a co-creator of Millennial Leaders. Eric Pugh, co-creator of Millennial Leaders, is the youth director at John Wesley United Methodist Church.

A106 Putting Words (or the Word) to Music

After learning a few fundamentals of hymnody, participants will get hands-on practice at the craft of hymn text writing, experimenting with techniques for matching words to the rhythms and moods of simple melodies. No prior experience as a poet or a musician is required.

Keynoter Mel Bringle

A107 Spirituality and Social Justice

In the context of Christian discipleship, we will explore how prayer, spiritual formation and scripture may impact one's understanding of people, of social issues, and of the world—locally and globally.

Rev. Glynden Bode is a United Methodist pastor, and is certified in Christian Education and in Spiritual Formation.

A108 Talking With Young People about Dating, Mating, Relating and Creating

Talking with youth and children about love, relationships, and sex is both absolutely essential and frequently difficult. This course will look at effectively communicating with young people about faith, responsibility, boundaries, grace, and sexuality and their powers to fill or break hearts.

Paul M. Thompson is a Presbyterian Minister, Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice, and co-author of God's Gift of Sexuality curriculum for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

FOCUS 2010 WORKSHOPS

A109 The Family That PLAYS Together Stays Together

Whether it is the family that lives in your home or the church family, we are challenged to play meaningfully together. How do we do it in this technologically fast paced, overly scheduled world? Come play and share games, stories, musical movement, simple puppets. **Parents and grandparents - bring your elementary school aged children to this one!**

Glenn Bannerman is a retired professor of Recreation and Outdoor Education at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education and is an internationally known instructor of creative play and folk dancing.

A110 @SocialNetworks join #Social Justice

Ever wonder if there are better uses for Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, etc than finding out what your friends did over the weekend (pictures included), or what they ate this morning (pictures included)? Spark your imagination as we explore the realm of Social networks and how they can be used to move, inspire, challenge people to join in God's ministry of justice, peace and reconciliation in this world.

Rev. Shawn Kang is the organizing pastor of Pathways NCD.

A111 What Does the Lord Require of You?

As we remember the Micah response to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God," we will seek to answer the specifics of this command in our own time. The church is the ONE place where we all expect to not only give, but receive respect, understanding and to be accepted for who we are, equal in God's eyes. This workshop will explore the most effective ways that churches can apply these concepts to better reach OUR neighbors.

Rev. Mauricio Chacón serves as Associate Pastor at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston in his role as organizing pastor of Iglesia Fuentes de Esperanza.

A112 What in the World is Our Church Doing?

It is really amazing when you discover just what the Presbyterian Church (USA) is doing on your behalf, with you, and in the name of Jesus Christ. Every day, in places you may never dream of going yourself, you are saving lives, feeding the hungry, providing clean water, and giving hope where once there was despair. Come learn what your church is doing and how you play an important role in Presbyterian mission!

Rev. Jon Brown serves you as Director of Mission Interpretation at the General Assembly Mission Council in Louisville, KY.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

B201 Dig a Little Deeper

This workshop will focus on ways to use games and activities for fostering deeper relationships among youth. After discovering each other's favorite desserts, middle names and vacation preferences, now's the time to dig a little deeper and build some meaningful relationships. These 10 games will take you beyond name games.

Beth Gunn is a recreation leader from Western North Carolina where she is the Associate for Youth for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina with a particular emphasis in the field of Recreation Ministry.

B202 Fear Not! Taking Risks to Serve the Needs of a Risky World

For many of us, our churches are sanctuaries in otherwise chaotic, unpredictable, and unsafe worlds. However, we are called to be in ministry to others, many of whom are not members of our church communities. This calls for embracing a certain element of risk in meeting the mandates of God's earthly ministry. This workshop will illustrate the importance of taking risks, highlight the Biblical foundations for risk-taking, and identify ways in which to manage ministry risk.

Ken Odom, a committed community servant, is the founder of Ken Odom Leadership Development and a co-creator of Millennial Leaders. Eric Pugh, co-creator of Millennial Leaders, is the youth director at John Wesley United Methodist Church.

B203 Habitat for Humanity and What it Can Do for You and Your Members

Habitat for Humanity works by faith to change lives and empower families by building homes in partnership with God and people from all walks of life. For over two decades, Houston Habitat has worked to help neighbors move from substandard housing by building simple, decent homes where they can live and raise their families. As our community continues to grow, more and more families need affordable housing. Come learn more about the ways we can make a critical difference in providing affordable housing and also learn about options for Deconstruction and Recycling.

Elder Gary Aiken (Northwoods) has worked as a volunteer with Habitat locally, nationally and internationally for over 17 years. Carolyn Stevens heads up the local Habitat Deconstruction and Recycling program.

FOCUS 2010 WORKSHOPS

B204 Human Trafficking / Modern Day Slavery

Men, women and children around the world are victims of human trafficking. They are deprived of freedom, income and right to live as beloved children of God. Congregations are urged by PC(USA) General Assemblies to: Learn about human trafficking, –Advocate for the elimination of all forms of human trafficking –Witness to the fullness of life that God desires for all people.

Elder Phyllis Freeman is chair of the Outreach Ministries Team at St. Johns. Maria Trujillo is the Executive Director of Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition.

B205 Mission: And a Little Child Shall Lead Them...

Mission is too important to be left only for adults. Discover how children are changing the world through mission and how you can cultivate that same involvement in your congregation. Explore resource, programs, and models that engage children in mission in ways that are age and developmentally appropriate. And you might just learn a thing or two about mission yourself along the way!

Rev. Jon Brown serves you as Director of Mission Interpretation at the General Assembly Mission Council in Louisville, KY.

B206 Re/Connecting with the Needs of Our Changing Community

When St. Giles was founded almost 50 years ago, our congregation reflected the demographics of our neighborhood. Now we find ourselves challenged to meet the needs of people we don't know. Being sent into the community has been scary, and fulfilling. Our story is ever changing as we grow in relationship with our new friends. Come learn specific strategies and hear inspiring stories.

Rev. Lynn Hargrove is constantly amazed by the wonderful congregation she serves, St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Houston.

B207 Recreation Without Boundaries

Play should be available to and fun for all populations - seniors, the physically challenged, Alzheimer's patients, those economically disadvantaged and more. Come learn activities, games and dance, how to lead them, and how to make your own no cost/low cost equipment. Great ideas for mission trips, too!

Glenn Bannerman is a retired professor of Recreation and Outdoor Education at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education and is an internationally known instructor of creative play and folk dancing.

B208 Revelation: A Journey of Hope and Transformation

Contrary to much contemporary thinking, the Book of Revelation is one of hope that encouraged and strengthened the early church and brings that same message to us today. This year's Horizon's Bible Study is adaptable for use in adult education classes and small groups. Come and examine this exciting study together.

Elder Connie Nyquist is a member of Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, a Certified Christian Educator and former Associate General Presbyter for New Covenant Presbytery.

B209 Ten Healthy Practices For Family Life to Keep You Out of Therapy

Obtaining driver's license requires training but we are left on our own with the two most profound tasks in life, parenting and forming healthy life-long partnerships. It's little wonder we find ourselves struggling occasionally. This course considers several basic principles to increase joy and avoid difficulty while living our lives.

Rev. Paul M. Thompson is a minister, Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice, and co-author of God's Gift of Sexuality curriculum for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

B210 Writing as Spiritual Practice: the Art of the Written Word

"To write is to embark on a journey whose final destination we do not know." (Nouwen). But the act of writing often brings anxiety as one approaches the empty page. Come explore how journaling, poetry, and prose can lead to new spaces within our souls, and take home practical ways to form a writing group in your own congregation.

Elder JoAnn Currie is a member of St. Philip Presbyterian and an Educator who serves the larger church.

B211 Why Civility Matters – Skills for the Journey!

How do you handle conflict in your church, at work, at home? We will see how essential civility is to life in community and explore some of the skills we need when true disagreement sets in.

Rev. Cassandra Dahnke serves Woodforest Presbyterian and Rev. Tomas Spath serves First Presbyterian Church in Crockett. They are co-founders of the Institute for Civility in Government.