

# 2015 Thrive! The NCHE Homeschool Conference

## Speakers and Workshops

Note: The number in front of the workshop is the session number for that workshop. The letter are for the interest codes.

- G General Interest to All Parents
- T Teens
- B Beginners and Inquirers
- L Parents of Struggling Learners
- Y Parents of Young Children Preschool to Early Elementary
- O Parents of Older Elementary Age (may include middle school)
- P Parents of Teens (and possibly teens)
- D Dads
- M Moms

### Featured Speakers

**Debra Bell, Ph.D.**, is the best-selling author of the award-winning *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*, *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens* and the Ultimate Planners for moms, teens and students. *Writers-in-Residence: A Writing-Focused Language Arts Program* and *Readers-in-Residence: A Literacy Program* will be released in 2015. Debra and her husband, Kermit, home educated their four children K through 12. All four are now married, degreed, employed, and they also love Jesus! She has been a keynote or featured speaker at numerous international and national venues for more than twenty years. Debra and her sons were featured on *NBC Nightly News* for a story on homeschoolers and their participation in scholastic sports. After homeschooling, she completed a Ph.D. in educational psychology at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Her research interests include identifying how, why and when homeschooling works; and she looks forward to using her training to better serve the homeschool community well into the future. A pioneer in online education, today she is executive director and lead teacher for Aim Academy, which provides online college prep and AP® courses for seventh through twelfth graders. More information about her online classes, books, forthcoming curriculum and speaking schedule can be found at [DebraBell.com](http://DebraBell.com).

Leaders Dr. Debra Bell, **Twenty-first Century Homeschooling: What Leaders Need to Know**—Homeschool demographics are changing and so are homeschool practices. The digital age and technology have lowered the barriers, contributing to the worldwide expansion of homeschooling. But this century's homeschoolers have different motivations, expectations and needs. This session will explore these changes and equip you with the knowledge and resources that will help you steer your organization through these changing waters. Content is drawn from Debra's dissertation study of 450 homeschool families and her experience from twenty-plus years of leadership in several homeschool organizations.

2 G Debra Bell, **Eight Reasons Kids Learn Best at Home**—If we started with what the research tells us about how kids learn best and built a school from the ground up, we'd build a home! Learn the critical factors that help explain why homeschooled kids succeed—and what you can do to keep the windows of wonder open in your home.

5 G Debra Bell, **Education by Design: Understanding God's Blueprint for Your Child**—The human brain is the most complex creation in the universe, and it is hard-wired by God for learning. In the same way that aerobic exercise keeps our hearts healthy, intellectual activity keeps our brains healthy. This session provides an overview of how our brain processes and organizes information and the individual differences we should recognize and accommodate in each of our children. We will look at ways to build conceptual

understanding and talk about the three essential ingredients necessary for optimal learning. By the end of the session, you will have a deeper understanding of God's eternal purposes in His design of each of your children.

8 G Debra Bell, **Cultivating a Love for Learning in Our Homes**—A love for learning is a blessing God has for His children—a blessing that is meant to enrich our lives, give us purpose and draw us into a quest to know the Creator. This workshop will give you a biblical foundation for safeguarding a child's natural curiosity and joy of discovery; and will suggest ways to approach homeschooling that keeps these important elements alive and growing in your child.

9 G Debra Bell, **The Six Traits of Great Writing**—From academic papers to creative writing, from poetry to prose, great writing has these six characteristics. Once you know what they are, you will know how to respond to and assess your child's writing at every stage in the process. Rubrics and other handouts from the *Writers-in-Residence* program will be provided.

11 G Debra Bell, **Developing Motivation and Interest in Kids of All Ages**—This seminar covers the importance of intrinsic motivation and interest in learning. Research shows motivation to be an inherent characteristic of young children. However, studies indicate that most students in a traditional setting show a steady loss in academic motivation during the time they are in school. Homeschooling is an antidote to this decline. Learn practical ways to help your children and teens develop and retain motivation and enjoyment in academic pursuits.

**Jon Erwin** and his brother, Andrew, are a writer/director duo. Together they have created feature films, TV series, documentaries, reality television, music videos and commercials. These unorthodox artists are anything but traditional. They focus on innovative ways to produce a diverse portfolio of work—from their multi-award winning documentaries such as *The Cross and the Tower* to the dramatic and reality TV series, *Life After* and *Real Strength*, to their feature films *October Baby* and *Mom's Night Out*. Jon began his career working as a camera operator for ESPN. He eventually worked on everything from ESPN College Football Primetime to FOX NFL. In 2005, he began to venture into directing commercials and music videos. He found his greatest success in the world of music, directing music videos and producing concerts and television programs for platinum artists like Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Switchfoot, Skillet and Montgomery Gentry. He has received ten nominations and three consecutive wins for Music Video of the Year at the GMA Dove Awards. From second grade on Jon was homeschooled and frequently credits his career in the film business to this. He is now a homeschool dad and an advocate for the benefits of homeschooling.

**Friday Keynote** G T Jon Erwin, **Teaching Your Kids to Dream**—“*Dream big. Dream bold. Dream the impossible.*” These are the words my father constantly reaffirmed as I grew up. In an age of fierce competition and a rapidly changing world, it's never been more important to instill in our kids an early belief that they can pursue and achieve their dreams. In this session, Jon will go over how his parents didn't give him his dreams but supported the ones he had, why homeschoolers have a unique competitive advantage in the marketplace and how we have unprecedented opportunities as Christians in the workplace. He'll also share his dream for the future of the Christian film business.

5 T Jon Erwin, **How to “Break In”—Getting a Job in the Entertainment Business**—Many young homeschoolers have a dream of working in the film business as an actor or filmmaker. In fact, they have a unique competitive edge to work in film—if they know how to use it. In this session, we will explore the fastest and most effective path into the business, how to stay strong as a Christian and how to develop character traits that will make you indispensable.

6 T G Jon Erwin, **The Importance of Storytelling**—Dan Pink, in his book *A Whole New Mind* points out that our brains are literally wired for story. Is it any wonder that over 60% of the Bible is in story form? In this session, learn the basic parts of a story and why stories have such an incredible emotional impact.

8 G T Jon Erwin, **The Incredible Influence of Film and Television**—Did you know that more people buy movie tickets in America than all sporting events and concerts combined? Did you know ten movie theaters opened in China today? Did you know that entertainment is America's second largest export? In this

session, we will go over the incredible global power of the entertainment industry and how we, as Christians, can harness it to share the gospel worldwide.

**Elyse M. Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson** are a mother-daughter speaking team. **Elyse** is a retreat and conference speaker and is the director of Women Helping Women Ministries. She has authored numerous books, including *Give Them Grace: Dazzling Your Kids with the Love of Jesus* (co-authored with her daughter Jessica) and *Found in Him: The Joy of the Incarnation and Our Union with Christ*. **Jessica** speaks at women's conferences and other events. She is the author of a devotional book for families, *Exploring Grace Together*. Jessica has a bachelor's degree in theology. She and her husband have three children ranging in age from elementary school to high school.

3 G Elyse M. Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson, **What Makes "Christian" Parenting Christian?**—We long to parent from hearts of love for our Christian faith, but are we missing the heart of our Christian faith in our parenting? In this workshop, you will learn how to bring that faith into your parenting.

4 G Elyse M. Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson, **How to Raise a True Believer Instead of a Pharisee**—We all long for obedient children, but is mere obedience the goal of truly Christian parenting, or is there something more? In this workshop, you will learn about the different types of obedience and the one true obedience that matters.

6 G Elyse M. Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson, **Good Parenting in, Good Kids Out**—Are parents ultimately responsible for the salvation of their children, or is that a burden no parent should carry? If we believe that God saves our children, then how does that affect the focus of our parenting? If our focus is not fear for their souls, what should it be?

7 G Elyse M. Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson, **Practical Help for Christian Parents**—In this workshop, Elyse and Jessica will give you practical helps to share the gospel with your children in every day circumstances. Sharing the gospel is more than devotional; it is the very core of all that we should be doing with our children.

**Steve Lambert** and his wife, Jane, have been married forty-three years and have two daughters and six grandchildren. They began homeschooling in 1981, and today all six of their grandchildren are also being homeschooled. Jane Claire Lambert wrote the award-winning curriculum "Five in a Row" and together they have been traveling the country and encouraging homeschoolers for more than twenty years. Each year Steve speaks to thousands of homeschoolers offering the perspective, wisdom and insight that comes from nearly forty years in the homeschooling field. Steve's mixture of inspiration and information will leave you better prepared for the wonderful adventure we call homeschooling. Without PowerPoint presentations or thick handouts, Steve simply shares from his heart, telling stories that will have you laughing and crying and thankful for the priceless gift you've been given: the privilege of teaching your own children with faith and confidence.

2 D Steve Lambert, **For Men Only**—Literally, this workshop is for men only. We'll deal head on with adult topics as we talk about how you can provide the kind of support and atmosphere that will help your wife become the teacher she was called to be—and how to help your children become the men and women they were called to be. At age sixty-five, veteran homeschooler Steve Lambert shares the straight and sometimes not-so-pretty truth that we men need to hear. The truth is simple: How you interact with your wife and your children, and how you carry yourself, will have a tremendous impact on your children and your grandchildren.

**Thursday Keynote** G Steve Lambert, **Raising World Changers**—Do you want your children to achieve something greater than simple academic proficiency? Are you shaping lives that can impact our culture? Do you pray for your children to accomplish greater things than you've accomplished? Do you have gifted children who have unimaginable potential? Veteran homeschooler Steve Lambert brings thirty-five years of experience to bear on the subject of how to help your children to change their world. Learn how to pass the baton to the next generation with hope and expectancy in a world that grows darker by the day.

7 G Steve Lambert, **Becoming Your Child's Favorite Teacher**—Conflict creates heartache for both student and teacher. Is every day a battle? Has your school become a struggle of wills? While there are no magic formulas, veteran Steve Lambert offers some ideas to help you and your student forge a positive relationship so that learning can flourish and you can enjoy one another's company. Steve and his wife began homeschooling thirty-five years ago, and he brings the freedom that comes with age and perspective. You'll find hope for the journey and ideas for your daily routine. Learn to make homeschooling the joyous experience you dreamed it could be.

9 G Steve Lambert, **You *Can* Do Unit Study**—Everyone talks about the magic of unit study as if it were the key that could unlock the learning kingdom. But doesn't it require creativity, preparation and resources? Isn't it easier to just let them use a stack of textbooks and workbooks? How will I know that I've covered everything? You'll learn which subjects are appropriate for unit study, how to create your own unit studies easily and inexpensively. And you'll leave with the confidence that you and your student can make the homeschooling journey into something more joyous and less tedious than what you've been experiencing.

**John Stonestreet** is executive director of the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview. He is a gifted communicator on areas of faith and culture, theology, worldview, education and apologetics and is a sought-after speaker at conferences, colleges, churches, schools and other types of gatherings each year. John is the co-host, with Eric Metaxas, of *Breakpoint*—the Christian worldview radio program founded by the late Chuck Colson; and is the voice of *The Point*, a daily national radio feature on worldview, apologetics and cultural issues. He also serves as a senior content advisor for Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, CO. John holds degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (IL) and Bryan College (TN), and is the co-author of *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*. John is a frequent speaker at homeschool events across the country and is married to the amazing Sarah, who takes the lead in homeschooling their three daughters. (John is in charge of field trips.) Connect with John at [ThePointRadio.org](http://ThePointRadio.org).

1 G John Stonestreet, **How We (mis)Handle the Scripture: Teaching the Bible Biblically**—It's not enough to use the Scripture; we must also handle it rightly. In this session, John walks through some common bad habits in how we read and teach the Bible and then offers a framework for understanding and teaching it to our students.

3 G T John Stonestreet, **Same-Sex Marriage: What Now?**—More people now live in states with same-sex marriage than those that live in states without it, and with this social revolution comes a lot of questions for people who adhere to the biblical definition of sexuality and marriage. In this session, John offers a framework to understand the issue, as well as answers to many of the practical questions we all now face.

4 O P John Stonestreet, **About the "Talk": Preparing Students for a Culture of Sexual Brokenness**—We live in a sexually broken culture that is claiming a lot of victims. Is it possible to help students be sexually whole? In this session, John walks through some must-know facets of our culture and offers guidance for mentoring students with truth, hope, and goodness.

6 T John Stonestreet, **Discovering God's Will: How to Know What to Do with Your Life**—What should I do with my life? What does God have planned for me? The journey of pursuing God's will must take into account who He's made us to be, where we live, and our closest relationships. In this session, John helps students pursue a life, not just a living.

8 G T John Stonestreet, **Living What We Believe: How to Connect Belief and Behavior**—It's one thing to know the right answers, it's another to live consistently. In this session, John explores what it means to cultivate virtue in the next generation.

**Saturday Keynote** G T John Stonestreet, **Have We "Lost" the Culture? God's Command to Be People of Hope**—It's tempting to look at everything happening in the world and despair. We may want to escape or capitulate, but Christians are called to truth and hopeful engagement. This session offers a practical theology of culture that can guide families as they raise the next generation to make a difference in the world for Christ.

10 T John Stonestreet, **Amused to Death: Living in a Culture of Perpetual Distraction**—

Entertainment, entertainment, entertainment. It dominates everything. But there's more at stake than just what we see and hear. In this session, John clarifies how entertainment culture changes how we think and know; and then offers a way to thinking and living well amidst all the noise.

**J. Warner Wallace** is a cold-case homicide detective, a Christian case maker and an author. Jim was a conscientious and vocal atheist; he always considered himself to be an "evidentialist." His experience in law enforcement served to strengthen his conviction that truth is tied directly to evidence. At the age of thirty-five, Jim took a serious look at the evidence for the Christian worldview and determined that Christianity was demonstrably true. After becoming a Christ follower, Jim continued to take an evidential approach to truth as he examined the Christian worldview. He created the PleaseConvinceMe.com website, blog and podcast as a place to post about his discoveries related to the evidence supporting Christianity. Jim has appeared on television and radio, explaining the role that evidence plays in Christian *faith* and defending the historicity of Jesus, the reliability of the Bible and the truth of the Christian worldview. Jim's professional investigative work has received national recognition; his cases have been featured on *NBC's Dateline*. Relying on over two decades of investigative experience, J. Warner provides readers of his book *Cold-Case Christianity* with the tools they need to investigate the claims of Christianity and to make a convincing case for the truth of Christianity.

1 T G J. Warner Wallace, **The Cold-Case Reliability of the Gospels**—Are the Gospels reliable accounts of the life, ministry and death of Jesus? In this presentation (utilizing examples from his investigative work), Jim examines the reliability of the Gospels in a broad overview of his book, *Cold-Case Christianity*. This session will teach the difference between direct and circumstantial evidence as it makes a four pronged case for the reliability of the eyewitness Gospel accounts. Participants, after applying the template jurors use to confirm the reliability of the Gospels, will emerge with greater confidence in the reliability of the accounts.

2 T G J. Warner Wallace, **Belief That vs. Belief In**—In this workshop, you will discover the power and confidence of evidence What is the difference between believing *that* something is true and actually trusting *in* it? Jim describes how to deepen one's confidence and trust in the Bible and Christian worldview. This session utilizes several pieces of equipment from Jim's law enforcement career (including his bullet proof vest) to illustrate the difference between belief that and belief in. Participants will be encouraged to take an additional step of commitment and trust as they learn the important relationship between evidence and confidence.

4 T G J. Warner Wallace, **The Cold Case for God's Existence**—Is there enough evidence to conclude that we are living in a universe created by a personal God as described in the Bible? Jim examines lines of evidence from the Cosmological Argument, the Teleological Argument and the Axiological Argument. This session will demonstrate the circumstantial case for the existence of God. Participants will learn how to make three cases for God's existence and respond to common objections.

5 P T J. Warner Wallace, **Who's Waiting for Your Kids?**—Why do so many young people walk away from Christianity in their college years? What are the challenges they will face in college? Is there something we can do as the Church to help young people hold on to the truth? In this presentation, Jim illustrates the challenge facing young college-aged Christians. This session will also provide an important and unique approach to addressing the dilemma. Participants will learn how to protect themselves and their children from being unduly persuaded by the errant secular worldview.

7 T G J. Warner Wallace, **Cold Case Resurrection**—Why should we believe that Jesus truly rose from the dead? Aren't there other more reasonable explanations? In this presentation, Jim examines abductive reasoning and provides a template for examining the Resurrection of Jesus. This session will examine the competing explanations for the resurrection and provide guidelines for inferring to the most reasonable conclusion. Participants will develop a proper understanding of the difference between possible and reasonable as they embrace important critical thinking skills.

9 T G J. Warner Wallace, **The Case for Truth**—In a relativistic, pluralistic world, how can we claim anything is objectively true? In this presentation, Jim investigates the nature of truth and tolerance. This

session will examine alternative theories of truth and provide a “truth test” to illustrate the difference between material truth claims, moral truth claims and metaphysical truth claims. Participants will learn how respond to relativism in their culture as they come to understand the classic definitions of truth and tolerance.

11 T G J. Warner Wallace, **The Cold Case Problem of Evil**—How can we reconcile the existence of an all-powerful, all-loving God with the tremendous evil that we see in our world? In this presentation, Jim examines five forms of evil (moral evil, natural evil, bodily evil, theistic evil and Christian evil). This session will examine the Christian response to these forms of evil and their relationship to an all-powerful, all-loving God. Participants will better understand the role of evil and how to respond to those who cite evil as an objection to God’s existence.

## Additional Conference Speakers

**Diane Allen** and her husband have graduated three homeschooled students into adulthood and lived to tell about it. Their youngest is now in college, and their oldest two are married fathers of two grand-girls. Active in the homeschool community for over twenty years, Diane still provides achievement testing and consulting for homeschoolers. She also teaches online science classes. She shares information and encouragement on her blog [www.dallenhomeschoolreviews.com](http://www.dallenhomeschoolreviews.com).

1 O P T Diane Allen and Marjorie H. McIlvaine, **Online Instruction: The New Frontier**—Online education is exploding! It can work hand-in-glove with homeschooling, or it can be an expensive error and a time-waster. What are the pros and cons? Some classes are free, and some are costly—what’s the difference? Are they worth the cost? And maybe the most important question—can we go to class in our jammies? Between them, Diane and Marji have homeschooled nine children, and both have graduated their last student. Their experience with online instruction extends from the parent side to the teacher experience. They have seen the pros and cons from both sides. They can offer information only a handful of people can.

5 B Diane Allen and Mari Fitz-Wynn, **Elements of Style: How to Homeschool in the Twenty-first Century**—Are you confused while considering or contemplating homeschooling your children? This workshop is designed to help guide parents in making the decision to homeschool. We will discuss the variety of pathways available to help families make solid choices and arrive at their destination. Tradition—techie—tutors: What is the right fit for your family? What fits your lifestyle, your budget or your education goals? This workshop, presented by two veteran homeschool moms, will provide guidance, suggestions and recommendations on what's available to help you to become skilled, satisfied and successful with homeschooling in the twenty-first century!

**Angela Highsmith Armstrong** has been happily married to Toriano for over fourteen years. They have three sons. During their homeschool journey, they have experienced several milestones including graduating their oldest son in 2012. They have homeschooled over ten years. During their years of homeschooling, they used their trucking company as an educational tool by schooling over the road on the big rig. This gives their sons, an opportunity that's like no other: to be able to understand geography by exploring the highway. Angela enjoys serving in the homeschool community as a local support group leader and as the volunteer coordinator for Heart for Home School Ministries, Inc.

1 G Angela Highsmith Armstrong, **Getting Unstuck! Moving from Surviving to Thriving!**—Are you working hard and getting things done but still feeling like giving up? Or maybe you’re finally “surviving,” but you still don’t feel satisfied and aren’t sure where to go from here. Stop grinding your wheels and find out how to get your homeschool moving in the right direction again. Angela will share strategies on how to move from just surviving to thriving.

**Dr. Brent J. Aucoin** and his wife are homeschooling their four boys. He is associate dean of the College at Southeastern and associate professor of history at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

He earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Arkansas in 1999. He specializes in American history, with an emphasis on race relations and African-American history, and he has authored two books.

5 P Dr. Brent J. Aucoin, **Preparing Your Children for College-Level History Courses**—A history professor who has taught at a large state university and currently teaches at a Christian college provides advice on how homeschooled students can best prepare for and successfully complete college-level history courses. In addition, this workshop examines the advantages and disadvantages of majoring in history and the career prospects for those who do so.

**Cathy Barnett** and her husband, Morris, graduated from Bryan College and have been married thirty-six years. They are blessed with ten children, ages fourteen to thirty-five, five by birth and five by adoption. Morris and Cathy began homeschooling in 1996, convinced that God had called them to teach their children from a biblical worldview and with academic excellence. Cathy is a homemaker and has been active in her local homeschool group, serving on the advisory board for several years and teaching Latin and other classes for their enrichment day.

5 M Cathy Barnett, **Let's Get Organized!**—Feeling overwhelmed with the clutter and chaos? Do you wish you could just hire a maid to handle the laundry or vacuum the floors? Do you lose valuable time hunting for things that have been misplaced? We all know that it is hard to keep a house clean and neat when we are homeschooling with all the projects and everyday messes. As a mom of ten, Cathy will share some strategies that will help you conquer the clutter and find a sense of peace in your home.

**Dee Black**, senior counsel at HSLDA, has been the lawyer responsible for matters involving our member families in North Carolina for the past twenty-four years.

9 G B Dee Black, **Legal Issues Affecting North Carolina Homeschoolers**—This workshop addresses the most frequent legal problems that HSLDA assists our North Carolina member families with each year and how to avoid them. It also addresses the effect of the changes to the law that were enacted in 2013 by the North Carolina General Assembly.

**D. Kevin Brown** and his wife, Pam, have been married twenty-four years and are parents of four children (two adopted from China) and have one grandchild. They have been homeschooling for eighteen years and have one married daughter (a homeschool graduate) and three children still in the home. Kevin pastors Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Wilkesboro, NC, and has written, *Rite of Passage for the Home and Church—Raising Christ-Centered Young Adults* and *To Date or Not to Date—What the Bible Says about Premarital Relationships*. Brown has a passion to transfer the gospel and the principles of Scripture from one generation to the next. His books are thought-provoking and challenge families to consider whether the culture or the Bible is having a greater impact on the family.

6 G T D. Kevin Brown, **Why Don't They Believe Like I Do?**—Can our children grow up in a homeschool environment and still reject what we've taught them? The answer is: yes. How does this happen? Why do some children reject biblical teaching and develop an unbiblical worldview and what can we do about it? We'll identify those factors in this session and look at ways to equip our children to be able to combat and overcome the attacks on a Christian worldview.

**Janice Campbell** and her husband Donald homeschooled their sons from preschool into early college using a lifestyle of learning approach influenced by Charlotte Mason, classical learning and the Thomas Jefferson method. Her books and resources reflect Janice's focus on twaddle-free, active learning (she did have boys, after all!). Janice speaks at conferences nationwide on subjects including literature and writing, parent training, high school records and transcripts, and, also, microbusiness for homeschool families. She is author of the Excellence in Literature curriculum for grades 8-12, *Transcripts Made Easy*, and *Get a Jump Start on College*. Whether teaching high school students to love literature, parents to be more effective teachers, or

families to create multiple streams of income, Janice's focus is on sharing the joy of the journey. Her website, [www.Everyday-Education.com](http://www.Everyday-Education.com), offers inspiration, resources, and a free e-newsletter.

2 M Y O Janice Campbell, **Become the Mom You Want Your Children to Remember**—Before we ever begin homeschooling, our children are learning life lessons from the way we live. Join me to consider timeless ideas from Charlotte Mason and others on developing noble character, good habits and helpful routines, not just for children, but also for parents. Learn to focus on things that truly matter in order to become the mom you want your children to remember.

10 M Y O Janice Campbell, **Be the Learner You Want Your Child to Become**—Homeschooling moms have a unique opportunity to learn not only what we missed in school but also anything we've ever wanted to know. Join me to learn how you can model a learning lifestyle that will speak louder than words. We'll talk about personal learning goals, strong study skills, keeping a commonplace book, cultivating a beautiful memory and more. No matter what you study—genealogy, horticulture, Latin or art—your children will benefit from seeing exactly how to make learning a lifelong joy.

**Debbie Crawford** is a widowed, single homeschooling mom of two. Her daughter, who is twenty, graduated from homeschool in 2012 and is currently at NCSU where she is studying industrial design. Her fifteen-year-old son is a sophomore. Debbie enjoys reading, Tae Kwon Do, church activities and hanging out with her family. She became widowed in her first year of homeschooling and now has ten years of homeschooling experience. She looks forward to completing her schooling with the graduation of her son. She is excited to encourage those who are on the solo parent and homeschooling journey!

3 M Debbie Crawford and Joanne Giff, **Single, but Not Alone!**—This workshop is for moms who, due to unforeseen circumstances in their lives, are now single and struggling with all of the trials and challenges that come with the decision to homeschool. Debbie and Joanne are going to share their stories about God's hand on their lives, and encouragement, and ideas for ways to homeschool as a single parent. The focus will be on moms. Also, we will have a Q&A time to learn more about what is needed by single parents.

**Andrea Daley** has been married to her knight in shining armor for twenty-three years. They have ten children, ranging in age from twenty-two to seven. They have homeschooled for twelve years. Their oldest is adopted and three children are disabled, born deaf and going blind. Three children are in college with yet another preparing to leave for college. She Andrea has been asked repeatedly to share her wisdom and knowledge, and after resisting for years, she is finally giving in.

9 P Andrea Daley, **High School Smorgasbord**—Big family or small, whether high school is on your plate right now or just on your radar, this talk is for you! Glean from the wisdom and experience a mother of ten—everything you need to know for organizing and planning your child's high school years. We will discuss topics ranging from organizing credits, dual-enrollment, GAP year, college, transcripts, SATs, application essays, to what you can expect emotionally as your senior leaves for college.

**James and Tanya Dickens** have been married for seventeen years. They are the proud adoptive parents of five children, ages nine (almost ten), nine, eight, six and four and have been homeschooling since 2009. James is an attorney and Tanya is the treasurer of NCHE and the president of their local homeschool co-op, High Point Home Educators. They have written multiple articles that have been published in the GREENHOUSE magazine.

1 Y James and Tanya Dickens, **Striving Past the Culture of Mediocrity**—Our kids need our support and encouragement but not to their detriment. If we're not careful, we can unintentionally set our kids up for failure. Our homeschools should challenge our children to do their best in whatever activity they choose to pursue and to set high, yet achievable standards for themselves that far exceed average expectations.

8 G James and Tanya Dickens, **The Thrill of a Thriving Marriage**—Why settle for a run of the mill marriage? A successful marriage is within your reach and well worth the effort. This workshop will discuss keys to developing a thriving marriage relationship rather than one that simply endures.

**Kristen Eckenwiler** graduated with honors from the University of Central Florida, where she earned a master's degree in reading. She has taught first, second and fourth grades in the public schools, as well as a variety of courses in elementary education at the collegiate level. Additionally, she has taught writing and literature classes for the homeschool community. For the last eleven years, she has stayed home to homeschool her two sons, while also staying busy testing, tutoring and collaborating with her husband, Dr. William Eckenwiler, as they provide a variety of products and services through their educational business, The Struggling Reader. Kristen brings both a wealth of knowledge and a visible passion to all of her workshops.

1 G B Kristen Eckenwiler, **Seven Things about Homeschooling I Have to Keep Re-learning**—Whether you are a beginning homeschooler, or a seasoned veteran, you have core truths that call you back to your greatest success. Join Kristen as she shares her personal list of seven insights she wishes someone had told her about homeschooling. Her passion for homeschooling and encouraging spirit are sure to help you move forward with renewed enthusiasm.

4 L Y O Kristen Eckenwiler, **Do You Have a Struggling Reader?**—Does your son or daughter seem to be faltering in her or her efforts to learn to read? Is it the curriculum? Is it you? Based on current research, Kristen and her husband have designed this workshop to help parents better understand the most essential elements of the reading process, along with those critical ingredients that must be emphasized to produce a successful, capable reader.

6 L Y O Kristen Eckenwiler, **Strategies to Teach a Struggling Reader**—By request, this workshop is offered to provide practical application of the five key elements of reading discussed in the workshop, "Do You Have a Struggling Reader?" Whether you attended the earlier workshop or not, you will be blessed by learning about teaching strategies and innovative activities that not only give you fresh ideas for more effective teaching but will also help you better understand the essentials for reading success.

10 L Y O Kristen Eckenwiler, **Teaching the Learning Disabled Child**—A learning disability presents many unique challenges to any teacher as they search for the most effective way to teach their child. Based on solid research, the teaching strategies and adaptations Kristen and her husband present in this workshop have been shown to effectively meet the needs of students who struggle with various learning disabilities.

**Mari Fitz-Wynn** has nearly twenty years of experience as a leader in home education. She published her first book, *Take Heart 29 Steps to a Healthy Home School* in June 2014 and has published a myriad of articles for NCHE GREENHOUSE magazine and various other home education newsletters. She is a home education consultant and president of Heart for Home School Ministries, Inc. Her blog is Heart Matters. ([www.heartforhomeschool.org](http://www.heartforhomeschool.org)). She is the former lobbyist for NCHE.

5 B Diane Allen and Mari Fitz-Wynn, **Elements of Style: How to Homeschool in the Twenty-first Century**—Are you confused while considering or contemplating homeschooling your children? This workshop is designed to help guide parents in making the decision to homeschool. We will discuss the variety of pathways available to help families make solid choices and arrive at their destination. Tradition—techie—tutors: What is the right fit for your family? What fits your lifestyle, your budget or your education goals? This workshop, presented by two veteran homeschool moms, will provide guidance, suggestions and recommendations on what's available to help you to become skilled, satisfied and successful with homeschooling in the twenty-first century!

**J. Mark Fox** has been married to his best friend, Cindy, for nearly thirty-three years and has been the pastor of Antioch Community Church in Elon, NC, for twenty-eight years. Mark and Cindy have seven children and three grandchildren and have homeschooled for twenty-seven years. The Foxes enjoy running, traveling and just sharing life together. Mark and Cindy have been to Colombia with their children, and Mark has traveled to Kenya or Ghana with six of them. Mark is the author of six books, including his latest, *A Faithful Man*, published by Xulon Press in 2012. He writes a weekly column for the local newspaper and has taught public speaking at Elon University since 1990. He hosts a weekly podcast at [www.healthychurchradio.com](http://www.healthychurchradio.com). You can read his column and find out more about Mark at [www.jmarkfox.com](http://www.jmarkfox.com).

4 G Mark Fox, **How to Raise Kids To Be Best Friends**—Mark and Cindy Fox have raised six of their seven children to adulthood, with their youngest closing in fast at nearly sixteen years old. All seven are best friends today and enjoy close fellowship, but it wasn't always that way. Mark and some of his adult children will share how God worked in their family to develop good relationships that will last a lifetime. You will hear stories of how they dealt with the inevitable sibling rivalries and conflicts and how they learned to love and serve each other in a busy homeschool.

7 G Mark Fox, **How to Do Church Where Homeschoolers Thrive**—Can a church survive and even thrive if it doesn't separate families at the front door? Where do homeschoolers go and what do they do if they desire a church that supports age-integration in its ministries, believes fathers need to be equipped to lead their homes and encourages vibrant worship and missions? Mark has pastored the same church for twenty-eight years and will share what he believes are the essentials of a healthy, thriving church.

**Jessica Frierson** is a second generation homeschooler now teaching her own nine children. She has experienced firsthand the explosion of homeschooling from the handful fighting for the opportunity, to the thousands embracing that freedom today. She and her husband, Ernie, knew from the time their first child was born twenty years ago that home education would be their only choice. They moved back home to North Carolina in 2000 to take advantage of the less restrictive homeschool laws here. When told she would never walk again after an injury in 2012, she testified to the doctors that she served a big God who could do big things and that she was confident He planned to enable her to hike her beloved mountains again. Last Mother's Day, she was able to join her family as she gave Him praise from the top of a beautiful waterfall in South Mountain Park. She joyfully serves the Lord through ministry to her family, serving in her local church, writing and encouraging others with the testimony of the treasure of love she has discovered in our Lord Jesus Christ.

3 G Jessica Frierson, **Order in the Heart, Order in the Home**—In order to homeschool effectively, there must be order in the home. With a household of eleven, Jessica has had the opportunity to learn by necessity how to keep (relatively) clean clothes on the children, get three healthy meals each day, have school time and still stay sane (again, relatively speaking). From the age of two, her children are assigned a weekly chore. Whether training one child or a houseful, you will find helpful ideas in this workshop on how to organize your home, life and homeschool. The heart of this workshop is to teach how to reach the hearts of your children in order for them to become self-disciplined, considerate, responsible, individuals who pursue God.

**Joanne Giff** graduated from the UNC Chapel Hill with a degree in international studies. She worked for the federal government for ten years both domestically and abroad. Approximately two years after her first child was born, she decided to abandon her chosen career to be at home with her daughter. She now has four children, two in college and two still at home. She has been a home educator for fourteen years and singly homeschooling for approximately seven of those years. She has been trained in the Orton-Gillingham approach to dyslexia, and is currently working toward certification with the Academy of Orton-Gillingham practitioners.

3 M Debbie Crawford and Joanne Giff, **Single, but Not Alone!**—This workshop is for moms who, due to unforeseen circumstances in their lives, are now single and struggling with all of the trials and challenges that come with the decision to homeschool. Debbie and Joanne are going to share their stories about God's hand on their lives, and encouragement, and ideas for ways to homeschool as a single parent. The focus will be on moms. Also, we will have a Q&A time to learn more about what is needed by single parents.

**Kathryn (Bell) Gomes**, the third child of Kermit and Debra Bell, was homeschooled K-12. A Commended National Merit Scholar and AP Scholar with Distinction, she earned a full tuition scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh where she double majored in French and mathematics with a minor in Arabic. She then continued her studies at the University of Pennsylvania where she earned a master's in education. A Teach for

America alum, Kathryn spent seven years teaching mathematics in urban Philadelphia schools. Now a stay-at-home mom, she teaches math and French online through Debra Bell's Aim Academy. Kathryn and her husband Jason, live in an ethnically diverse neighborhood on the outskirts of Philadelphia with their one-year-old son, Joseph.

1 P Kathryn Gomes, **Six Secrets of a Successful College-Prep Math Program**—High school math at home can be an intimidating endeavor. How are you going to teach your kids algebra, trigonometry or even calculus? Further, will they be prepared by the time they graduate for college-level work? In this session, Kathryn provides practical solutions to some of the common pitfalls of teaching math at home. She also shows you how to harness the strengths of homeschooling to create a competitive high school program. Whether your child is STEM-minded or focused on the humanities, you'll leave this session with a concrete four-year plan.

4 T P Kathryn Gomes, **Homeschool to Campus: Ten Things You Should Know Before You Leave Home**—Based on interviews with other homeschool graduates, this seminar will help you prepare for the great transition from home to a secular, Christian or community college campus. Learn from the experiences of others and get a more realistic picture of what the transitional years ahead might hold for you. Here are the important practical, social, academic and spiritual skills to focus on now so that you are prepared. Bonus: Kathryn also throws in her perspective on dating, courtship and choosing a spouse!

7 T P Kathryn Gomes, **Five Ways God Used Homeschooling to Strengthen My Faith and Prepare Me to Engage the World**—There will always be a math lesson, science project or research paper clamoring for your immediate attention. But are you seeing the bigger picture? How is God using homeschooling to work in your child's heart? In this session, Kathryn shares how God used homeschooling to build her faith and develop her character. Drawing on examples from her own life, she'll bring a fresh reminder of how the challenges that your child is facing today are preparing him or her for a life of service in God's kingdom.

10 G Kathryn Gomes, **What Our Mom Did Right; What Our Mom Did Wrong**—What will your kids think about homeschooling when they're adults? Now that Debra Bell's four kids have grown up, graduated and started families of their own, her oldest daughter reflects on her experiences and those of her siblings. In this tell-all session, Kathryn shares six things she's grateful for and four that she would go back and change.

**Dara Halydier** has five boys and homeschooled over twenty-one years. They are now launched and doing well! She is the author of *Practical Proverbs for Older and Younger Students* and *As They Sit and Stand: A Resource and Guide for Teaching Your Children the Bible*. Dara is the executive director of Abiding Truth Ministry, Inc., a non-profit organization that uses biblical training to mentor, train and teach life skills to young people and families. Dara speaks at homeschool conventions and women's retreats all across the United States.

3 P Dara Halydier, **Gracefully Letting Go: Preparing You and Your Teen for the Next Step**—You've raised them to know right from wrong. You've schooled them through history, math, reading and science. You've driven them to practices and games, competitions and ceremonies. You've fed them, wiped their tears and showed them the way. You have introduced them to Jesus and encouraged them to have a relationship with their Lord. Now it is time for them to fly on their own. Are they ready? Are you ready? Dara will address concerns of teens and their parents as they enter the next phase of life called adulthood.

6 P Dara Halydier, **High School Fun! All the Subjects without All the Textbooks**—Textbooks have their place, but all textbooks and no fun makes a lot of homeschoolers want to throw schooling out the window! Dara will share ideas about how to carry on the spontaneity of homeschooling fun through the high school years without compromising the necessary knowledge needed to get into college. Having five boys in or through college, she has insight and experience about what is really required to attend college. She will inspire your creative genius to think outside the textbook box and enjoy the last few years your teenager will be at home.

9 G L Dara Halydier, **Raising Exceptional Children: Geniuses to Those with Learning Disabilities**—Let Dara encourage you that God has a purpose for your child just the way he/she is and that God did not make a mistake! She will cover how to accept each of your children and their individual challenges, and ways to help

them reach their potential. Dara and Tracy raised two boys with genius IQs and homeschooled them successfully! One of these children also had ADHD, dyslexia and Asperger's syndrome. The other three boys were of average intelligence and successfully graduated in spite of dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADD and ADHD. Each is on his own unique path, but all are becoming the men that God created them to be.

**Caryn Hommel**, homeschool mom and author, holds a degree in Spanish language and literature from NCSU and taught Spanish in public schools for ten years. Her delight with teaching Spanish using Total Physical Response (TPR) and Total Physical Response Storytelling (TPRS) motivated her to develop a unique DVD-led curriculum to help other homeschoolers benefit from wonderful, brain-friendly approaches to foreign language instruction. She has designed and implemented a summer school ESL curriculum and made presentations to both the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina and the Johnston County Second Language Network. She assists families in the homeschool community by offering private and co-op classes, conducting free seminars and speaking at homeschool conventions. The Hommels have homeschooled since 2003 and have graduated two students. Caryn continues to teach her younger two children and thinks that exploring life and learning as a family is the most fulfilling way to spend your days!

7 G Caryn Hommel and Marjorie H. McIlvaine, **Foreign Language and Homeschooling—the Adventure Begins!**—From kindergarten through high school, foreign language study can be an effective and fun part of your homeschool. Marji and Caryn will give you the tools to figure out which methods of teaching are used by the various curricula so you can make an educated choice and avoid expensive mistakes. We will talk about the common questions homeschoolers have: What should you look for in a curriculum? What level of proficiency can you expect? Is my kindergartner too young? How can we handle high school credit? Why isn't my child speaking the language? Come experience some of the different methods and learn about a revolutionary approach homeschoolers often overlook.

**Brian and Susan Jerby** are the parents of ten children, five of which are from Ethiopia, and have been homeschooling for twenty-two years. They have graduated three of the children and will graduate their last two in 2027. Brian is a surgeon and farmer, and Susan is a former operating room nurse who has found great joy in educating their children and assisting her husband on the farm. Homeschooling has been a great blessing in their adoption endeavor.

11 Y O L Brian and Susan Jerby, **Adoption and Homeschooling: One Family's Experience**—Adoption is becoming more prevalent, especially among homeschooling families. Many are adopting school-age children and worry about how to educate a child who is behind academically and who very often doesn't understand our culture and language. We have found that homeschooling is *the* best way to integrate your new child(ren) into the family. We give reasons that homeschooling is the best fit for the adopted child and their adoptive family, as well as some methods to integrate the new child into the family and achieve education at the same time.

**Andrew Kern** is founder and president of the CiRCE Institute, the founding author of *The Lost Tools of Writing*, a co-author of the best-selling book *Classical Education: The Movement Sweeping America*, which he wrote with Dr. Gene Edward Veith. He is also on the board of The Society for Classical Learning (SCL).

2 G Andrew Kern, **What Is Christian Classical Education (and How Do I Do It)?**—Is it just another passing educational fad, or does it express something essential? Is it only for a select few, or is it for everybody? Arguing that Christian classical education is for everybody who wants an education, this presentation strives to define what the words mean and to provide initial (often surprising) guidance on how to bring it home.

**Laurie Lollar**, a single mom of five, has homeschooled all of her children from the beginning. She just graduated the youngest in 2014. Although she has a bachelor's degree in nursing, she was privileged to stay at home to raise all her children and homeschool them, even after being abandoned by her former husband in

1999. Laurie has endured many fiery trials and known God's provision, mercy and grace through them all. Although life did not turn out the way Laurie had planned, she has learned and has known a deep intimacy with God. This workshop will encourage other struggling moms in God's Word and His ways.

7 M Laurie Lollar, **Homeschooling in the Furnace**—Homeschooling can be stressful even under ideal conditions. But when the storms of life hit, it can feel impossible. Laurie wants to encourage you in persevering through the most painful trials of life and share how to prove God's grace in the unexpected disasters, both great and small.

**Elizabeth Macdonald** runs the US branch of Crossbow Education, a family run British company, founded nearly twenty-five years ago by her father, a special education teacher, and her (dyslexic) mother. Crossbow has become one of the leading British suppliers of educational resources, supplying to over 60% of all schools and colleges in the UK. Elizabeth has focused her attention on visual stress in the last year, a syndrome which affects over 20% of the population, and is dedicated to ensuring that all of the latest research carried out in Europe is successfully brought to the US.

7 L O Elizabeth Macdonald, **Struggling Readers—Fonts, Color and Visual Stress**—Do your children struggle to read for prolonged periods, struggle with tracking, suffer from headaches, complain of moving text or generally dislike reading? They may be one of the 5% of the population who suffer from visual stress. In this hands-on workshop, Elizabeth will walk you through the causes of visual stress, provide you with useful hints and tips for alleviating the symptoms and give general advice to make reading more comfortable.

**Mike and Ronda Marshall** are the parents of six (ages twelve to twenty-nine) and, so far, have graduated four children from their homeschool in Asheville, NC. They are in their twentieth year of homeschooling. Mike is an electrical engineer, working as an engineering consultant to the electric utility industry. They have served on the board of NCHE since 2003 where Mike has served as president and regional director, and Ronda is currently the homeschool helps director. Together they have established and coordinated local homeschool support groups, email groups, co-ops, enrichment classes and conferences in their area. Ronda is presently serving as the director of Biltmore Baptist Church Homeschool Ministry that serves families in western NC. Over the past few years, they have had the privilege of speaking at various support groups and state conferences where they love having the opportunity to encourage fellow families in this wonderful, yet sometimes challenging homeschooling journey.

4 B Mike and Ronda Marshall, **Choosing Curriculum**—Whether you're a rookie or have been teaching for a few years, choosing curriculum can be daunting. A former curriculum junkie will share experiences to help you avoid wasting money on things that won't work for you. How do you make sense of all the choices and find the best options for your family? If you want to maximize your homeschool dollars and end up with the best materials for your child, join us for this session.

11 B Mike and Ronda Marshall, **Getting Off to a Great Start**—Are you new to homeschooling or within your first three years? Homeschooling is an adventure, a new lifestyle and a journey like no other. Feeling nervous and unsure is completely normal. Come learn the things that we wish we had known when we began homeschooling twenty years ago. This seminar covers the basics of homeschooling, the common pitfalls for beginners, and includes important tips to get off to a great start!

**Debbie Mason** and husband, Spencer, have four adult children who were homeschooled from birth. Alexa graduated from UNCC and is a homeschooling mother of four. Scott graduated from Grove City College and Regent School of Law and is a lawyer in the Army. Levi has his master's and bachelor's from NC State and is a computer engineer. Mereda graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with a degree in dramatic arts and creative writing and has just finished her first novel. An NCHE board member since 1988, Debbie has coordinated the conference speakers/workshops since 1990 and been the editor of the GREENHOUSE since 1995. She is the new events director. She directed a large homeschool support group for over twenty-two years. Debbie has a B.S. in secondary education, mathematics, and a M.Ed. in counseling. She is a consultant for homeschoolers

and has written a five-year, grades eight through twelve, curriculum, *The Mason Plan*, integrating all the humanities. She speaks on a variety of homeschool subjects.

2 P Debbie Mason, **Homeschooling High School**—The thought of teaching high school can be intimidating for many homeschoolers, causing them to question their competence. Debbie will show you how you can accomplish this challenging task. She will cover topics such as what to do before high school starts, what courses your student needs and where to get them, what the law says and how to deal with co-ops and testing. She will touch on what to do along the way to prepare for college.

4 G Debbie Mason, **Avoiding Burnout**—Burnout is a common problem for homeschooling moms. If we want to thrive and persevere in homeschooling, we need to avoid this syndrome. Debbie will explain what it is, what causes it, its symptoms and how to prevent or remedy it.

11 P Debbie Mason, **Parenting the Homeschooled Teen**—Debbie will share ideas for parenting homeschooled teens. As our children grow into and through the teen years, the way we parent them changes. We want to keep a good relationship with them but we don't want to be an irresponsible parent either. The letting go process is hard but necessary.

**Kevin McClain** and his wife, Brea, started homeschooling in 2002. Kevin has a master's in education, instructional technology, from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in educational studies from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he works as an educational technologist. In 2010, he joined NCHE's board as education vice president. In 2012, he was elected NCHE president.

2 G B Kevin McClain, **Homeschooler Identities: Looking at Research**—You are a homeschooler, sure, but to what degree is homeschooling part of your identity? Research indicates that the significance placed on the role of parent-educator by homeschoolers varies greatly. This workshop looks at sociological research focused on the homeschooler's identity as a way to discuss and evaluate the diversity that exists within the homeschool movement. This information is useful for developing one's own practices and understanding the practices of others.

**Matthew McDill** and his wife, Dana, homeschool their nine children in Creston, NC. Matthew is the new NCHE region 3 liaison. He has a Bible teaching ministry, Truth to Freedom, and is a pastor of Highland Christian Fellowship in Boone, NC. You can read his blog and listen to his podcast at [truthtofreedom.org](http://truthtofreedom.org). Matthew regularly teaches marriage and family retreats at Cherokee Cove Family Retreat Center in Mountain City, TN ([www.cherokeecove.org](http://www.cherokeecove.org)). He is also president of High Country Christian Home Schoolers and taught communication at Appalachian State University. Matthew holds a B.S. in communication, two master's degrees and a Ph.D. in biblical studies.

8 G Matthew McDill, **How to Stop the Fighting in Your Home**—Are you fed up with the ugly talk and fighting in your home? It's amazing that it is easier to be polite and patient with those outside the family than those we love the most! A major part of preparing our children for life is teaching them how to interact with others. In this session, we will apply biblical conflict resolution principles to the relationships in your home. You will receive practical tools for teaching your children to handle conflict (and practicing it yourself!).

9 P T Matthew McDill, **Ten Ways to Teach Your Children to Know God's Will for Their Lives**—How can you know God's will for your life? Many Christians want to know God's will for their lives, but feel unsure how to discern it. Our children have their whole lives in front of them. They have the opportunity to avoid many mistakes and live for Christ. You can give them the understanding and encouragement necessary to know and follow God's direction and calling. Come learn ten basic biblical principles for discerning God's will that you can pass to your children.

**Marjorie H. McIlvaine** and husband, Rick, have homeschooled for twenty-six years and in four states. All six of their children have graduated from homeschooling. They now have two college graduates, one son employed locally and three in college classes plus working and volunteering in their church. Marji's heart is to encourage other parents in the homeschool journey. She is on the board of Henderson County Homeschool

Association, administers the Woodcock-Johnson test in WNC, teaches with Landry Academy and BBC tutorials, and has a passion for foreign languages, science, writing, history, oh, the whole of God's incredible creation!

1 O P T Diane Allen and Marjorie H. McIlvaine, **Online Instruction: The New Frontier**—Online education is exploding! It can work hand-in-glove with homeschooling, or it can be an expensive error and a time-waster. What are the pros and cons? Some classes are free, and some are costly—what's the difference? Are they worth the cost? And maybe the most important question—can we go to class in our jammies? Between them, Diane and Marji have homeschooled nine children, and both have graduated their last student. Their experience with online instruction extends from the parent side to the teacher experience. They have seen the pros and cons from both sides. They can offer information only a handful of people can.

7 G Caryn Hommel and Marjorie H. McIlvaine, **Foreign Language and Homeschooling—the Adventure Begins!**—From kindergarten through high school, foreign language study can be an effective and fun part of your homeschool. Marji and Caryn will give you the tools to figure out which methods of teaching are used by the various curricula so you can make an educated choice and avoid expensive mistakes. We will talk about the common questions homeschoolers have: What should you look for in a curriculum? What level of proficiency can you expect? Is my kindergartner too young? How can we handle high school credit? Why isn't my child speaking the language? Come experience some of the different methods and learn about a revolutionary approach homeschoolers often overlook.

**Robert M. Nelson** is division chair of arts and sciences at Montgomery Community College with sixteen years' experience teaching psychology and advising in the NC Community College System. He is also an adjunct professor of psychology at Liberty University and has past experience working in public mental health, DSS and the YMCA. He has his M.A. in counseling and B.S. in psychology from Liberty University and a graduate certificate in sociology from Appalachian State University. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a National Certified Counselor (NCC). Robert is a NC homeschool graduate and a firm believer in home education. He has been married to his wife, Dana, for eighteen years, and they are homeschooling their three children, ages four, six and eight.

10 P Robert M. Nelson, **NC Community College Opportunities for Homeschoolers**—This seminar includes a review of the Career and College Promise (CCP) program available to high school students in North Carolina. Special attention will be given to admission criteria, costs and transfer of credit to senior institutions. A brief overview of college transfer options will be discussed as it relates to the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). Robert will leave time for questions and answers.

**Charles Nettles** and his wife, Sarah, who have eight children, are in their twenty-ninth year of homeschooling and have always homeschooled. Their children range in age from thirty-five to twelve. Their four oldest have completed college with a master's degree. Their fifth is a college junior, and the sixth is a college freshman. As a family they take extended field trips across the country visiting national parks and monuments—one year going all the way to Alaska. Charles is active in their church where he is a deacon and teaches Sunday school. He is involved in 4-H on the local, district and state levels. He and his wife, Sarah, are on the board of their local homeschool support group (which they co-founded over twenty-five years ago). In his *spare time* he works for Duke Energy at the McGuire Nuclear Station.

3 B Charles Nettles, **Getting Started and the Homeschool Law**—Deciding to homeschool is a big decision for a family and you will have many questions. Where do I begin? How do I start? What does the law say? Do I need a classroom? Do I have the ability to teach my children? Will they listen to me? *Yes*, you can homeschool successfully! These and many other questions will be answered by a veteran homeschool dad. This workshop is designed to help you get off on the right foot with your homeschool. Come learn from our experiences!

**Kelly Rogers** is the mother of four wonderful daughters, two of whom are graduates of the Rogers Academy. One holds two bachelor's degrees (digital media arts and photography), and another is pursuing her degree in

wildlife management. The two youngest are still enrolled in high school, while one is also attending a cosmetology program as a dual enrollment student. Kelly has a B.A. from Marshall University. For the last twenty-four years, Kelly has served our nation as a military wife and mother, and the last twelve years she has homeschooled these four very distinct young women. Kelly taught in a private school prior to deciding to homeschool her family. Kelly and her family also own and operate The Pilgrim's Journey Bookstore in Fayetteville, one of the state's largest homeschool bookstores.

6 G Kelly Rogers, "**We're in the Army Now!**" **Homeschooling and the Military Life**—Military moves, deployments, missing friends—can we homeschool in the military environment? You certainly can! See how home education is very advantageous to the military life, and explore the many ways you can discover the benefits of travel, a relaxed schedule, forging new friendships and realizing the richness in new locations you will visit. We will cover the benefits of home education while enjoying the advantages of the military lifestyle.

**Dr. Marcus Ross** is a geologist, paleontologist and leading young-Earth creationist. He serves on the faculty of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he is associate professor of geology and assistant director of the Center for Creation Studies. Dr. Ross has collaborated with each of the major creation organizations (including Answers in Genesis, the Institute for Creation Research and Creation Ministries International) on research, outreach projects, videos and is a regular contributor to *Answers Magazine*. Dr. Ross is also the CEO of Cornerstone Educational Supply, which produces fossil, rock and mineral kits designed specifically for Christian educators and students.

10 G T Dr. Marcus Ross, **Noah's Ark: Where Scripture Meets Geology**—Do creationists believe in plate tectonics? What do they think about Pangaea? Get up-to-date on the current views and research about Noah's Flood and how it relates to the geological features around us and the topics covered in our science books. Dr. Ross will present key biblical parameters and provide a crash-course on catastrophic plate tectonics.

**Jonathan Paul Shockey, Lt. Col. (retired)** and his wife, Joy, are the homeschooling parents of Savannah and Landen. Joy earned a B.A. in visual arts from St. Andrews University. Jonathan earned a B.S. in finance from Virginia Tech and a master of aeronautical science from Embry Riddle. When Savannah was two years old, they accepted an invitation from Joy's sister to attend the 2001 NCHE Conference. By the end of the conference, they knew that homeschooling was part of God's plan for their family. After living and being active in several communities and churches while serving in the United States Air Force, including six years in Germany, the family now resides in Sanford. Jonathan is currently an assistant director of operations at Pope Army Airfield and serves as NCHE region 7 liaison.

2 T P Jonathan Paul Shockey, **If Considering Military Service, Prepare for Battle**—Whether to satisfy a desire to serve in the military or to attain personal development and future benefits, volunteers need to prepare to meet requirements and to increase chances of serving as envisioned. Preparation is especially needed if the applicant desires to be a special operator or a commissioned officer, and even more so if the hope is to obtain an ROTC scholarship or an appointment to a military academy. This seminar will identify the requirements associated with many of the options available and will suggest preparations that will increase a home-educated student's chances of achieving specific aims.

**John Smoak** is serial entrepreneur and father of five boys who has homeschooled for the past fourteen years. He is a keynote speaker, author, consultant and humorist. He is also the creator of The EarnSum Money & Envelope System and the founder of EarnSum.org. John has learned a few things from his successes, and he has learned a lot from his mistakes. He has a heart for families and for equipping entrepreneurs and budding entrepreneurs to fulfill their dreams and have kingdom impact. John began his career as a design engineer and quickly realized that was not his passion or purpose. He has spent eighteen years in roles with increasing responsibility in sales, sales management and general management for two Fortune 100 companies. He also has extensive experience as a serial entrepreneur having founded businesses in construction, service, consulting and retail. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and an MBA and is currently

pursuing his PhD in Christian business. He has been awarded licenses in professional engineering, general contracting, electrical contracting and residential building.

11 P T John Smoak, **Teaching Critical Life Skills through Entrepreneurship**—Teaching teens to start and operate a business will help them learn valuable life skills: work leads to earning money, creativity, financial skills, organization skills, customer service, etc. Entrepreneurship ties together all of the previously learned core educational competencies into practical application.

**Robby Stanley** is an award-winning science educator with nearly twenty years of experience teaching physics, chemistry, biology, algebra, physical science, astronomy and more! Among other tasks, he creates amazing science videos and catapult designs at Discovery Place in Charlotte. He and his wife, who was homeschooled, are homeschooling their two children. Hiking enthusiasts, the Stanleys enjoy hiking to waterfalls or other scenic spots.

10 O P Robby Stanley, **Kitchen Table Science: From Catapults to Giant Air Zookas**—From catapults and giant smoke shooting air zookas to bullwhips and jet-powered ping pong ball shooters—what can you use to make science interesting at home on a budget? Veteran teacher, science demonstrator and homeschooling parent Robby Stanley will show you some of his favorite science demonstrations and *makes* that you can create at home to liven up your science lessons. Free project plans and more for attendees!

**Amanda Wares** and her husband, Michael, have been on the NCHE board for five years, four of those as region 5 directors, and Amanda currently serves as activities director. They make their home in Greensboro, where Michael owns a cold-storage warehouse, and Amanda homeschools their four busy children! Susannah, eighteen, is their first homeschool graduate and is a freshman at Belhaven University, studying dance. The three children at home are Killian, thirteen, Katrielle, eleven, and Deacon, five. This is the Wares' tenth year homeschooling. Michael's background is in computer engineering, and Amanda was a sign language interpreter. Now, she enjoys teaching sign language at their local homeschool enrichment classes. Amanda is also passionate about encouraging new homeschool moms.

6 M B Amanda Wares, **The Girlfriend's Guide to Homeschooling or "All the Things No One Tells You"**—You've read the books, researched curriculum, talked to other homeschool parents—you're ready, right? Or maybe you've started homeschooling and discovered that the reality doesn't necessarily match up to what you thought. Should you quit? Come, be encouraged from a mom who has been there, done that, and is still homeschooling after ten years!

9 Y B Amanda Wares, **Homepreschooling: What to Do with Our Smallest Students**—When does homeschooling really begin? Do you need a curriculum to homeschool your preschooler? Do you need some advice on keeping those busy little guys occupied while you are schooling the older kids? This workshop will be a practical look at these youngest members of our homeschool.

**Brian Wasko** has worked with teenagers his entire adult life. He taught public high school English for ten years and served as a youth and family life pastor for twelve years. He has been a wrestling coach, a summer youth camp speaker and a rapper with two professional recordings in the early 90s! He currently directs Centerville Homeschool Academy in Chesapeake, Virginia, where he also teaches literature classes. He is the founder and president of WriteAtHome.com, a revolutionary writing skills development program. Brian has worked as a freelance writer, is the author of WriteAtHome's proprietary curriculum and manages the WriteAtHome Blog (blog.WriteAtHome.com). He graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in English. Brian's personable, humorous and enthusiastic speaking style is popular with audiences young and old. Through his speaking, Brian is able to communicate his infatuation with words, his passion for learning and his love for teenagers. Brian currently lives in Virginia Beach with his wife Melanie and his four home-educated, teen-aged daughters.

3 P T Brian Wasko, **The Most Fascinating Discussion of Grammar in the History of the World (or Your Money Back!)**—There is perhaps no subject more intrinsically boring than grammar. Maybe that's why

students don't get it, and we hate teaching it. In this workshop, you'll learn that grammar *ain't* so hard, and that it can actually (sometimes) be (sort of) fun(ish). Brian will answer the most common questions: why we should teach it, when we should teach it and how we should teach it. Plus, you'll get to take the World's Trickiest Grammar Quiz. But wait! There's more: Brian will reveal the secret that guarantees that your students will never make a grammar error in their writing again! How can you pass that up?

**Jim Weiss** has been a storyteller for over thirty years. In 1989, Jim decided to do something more with the craft than he had been practicing solely for pleasure. He and his wife, Randy, formed a production company, Greathall Productions, and have thus far produced over forty-eight storytelling recordings. A sampling of titles includes *Greek Myths, King Arthur and His Knights, Tales from Cultures Far and Near* and *Sherlock Holmes for Children*. Jim's Greathall line is the recipient of over 100 national awards from organizations such as *The American Library Association, Parents' Choice Foundation, NAPPA, the Parents' Council, The Oppenheim Toy Portfolio, The Film Advisory Board, Parents' Guide to Children's Media Award* and has received the highest acclaim from countless homeschool journals and leaders. Greathall's motto is, "Intelligent entertainment for the thinking family." He and Randy live in Charlottesville, VA, and are proud parents of their married daughter and son-in-law.

1 G Jim Weiss, **George Washington, Role Model: Teaching American History**—America's remarkable Founding Fathers all agreed that George Washington was the greatest of them all. What personal characteristics set him apart? How did Washington's choices affect the situations and the people around him? How can we use his example to teach our children to identify and use their unique gifts and to make wise, ethical decisions? In this inspiring session, Jim Weiss tells true stories of the man who led a revolution, refused a crown, played an essential role in writing and ratifying the Constitution, permanently shaped the American presidency and our system of government, and then left it all behind for a private life. Here is an analysis of Washington that will serve as a lifelong, useful inspiration to you and your children.

5 D Jim Weiss, **The Loving Father: The Why and How of Dads Telling Stories**—In an age in which children receive many competing and confusing messages, stories are among the greatest gifts that a father can give his child. Long before Jim Weiss turned his passion for telling stories into a profession, he told stories to his own child. A generation before that, Jim and his brother listened to stories from their father and grandfather. The results were a lifelong love of reading, an unquenchable thirst to learn, a passionate ability to listen, and a profound sense of passing along the central beliefs of those who came before us. In this session meant especially for dads, Jim will share his own experiences and demonstrate clear ways to transmit our beliefs and credos, as well as show our children how much we love them through the stories we share.

**Michele Wilcher** is a homeschooling mom who has worked in higher education on and off for over thirty years. Her higher education experience is in admissions, financial aid and student services at four colleges. Michele has three children, all homeschooled, one now a graduate with a master's in speech and language pathology; one a graduate of JMU's School of Theater and Dance and working in New York City and one currently a senior at Regent University. Michele offers a unique perspective as she has *been on both sides of the desk* when it comes to college admissions and financial aid, and she regularly gives presentations designed to help homeschooling families prepare their children for college entrance.

8 P T Michele Wilcher, **College Preparation and the Homeschooled Student**—This workshop will cover the basics of college selection, admissions, financial aid, the homeschool transcript and the various options for acquiring college credit while in high school. A college preparatory handbook will be emailed to all in attendance.

**Angela Wilkinson**, M.Ed. has homeschooled for eighteen years. Previously, she had thirteen plus years of teaching in public school (*Teacher of the Year* honors three times), chairing the exceptional children's department; overseeing other educators, developing individual strategies/modifications for students, and initiating/leading the first *inclusion teaching* model in her school district. Currently, she is an educational

consultant, specializing in LD, dyslexia, autism, behavior modification, ADD/ADHD and also is a certified Woodcock-Johnson IV administrator and also administers other assessments. Angela is passionate about her faith and the ministry opportunity of walking alongside homeschool parents. She offers encouragement through educational strategies, teaching tools and identification of learning styles, and thereby helps students/parents to discover the keys to unlocking their unique doors of learning. Married to Kent for twenty-seven years, Angela homeschooled all three children throughout their educational journey. Their youngest is a senior graduating in May.

5 L Angela Wilkinson, **Learning Differences: Teaching to Your Child's Unique Learning Style**—One of the freedoms of homeschooling your children, is that it can be completely individualized in an excellent learning environment. Learn how to identify your child's primary learning modality and incorporate interventions, strategies and curriculum choice to best address your child's unique learning style.

8 L Angela Wilkinson, **Let's Modify!**—Everything is good, but not everything is right. The basis of modifying curriculum is to make use of whatever it takes for a student to internalize a concept. Sometimes what you think will work, doesn't. Don't give up—take courage! Come learn different approaches and modifications for success that will make modification of curriculum easier for you!

**Hal and Melanie Young** are the parents of eight children who were homeschooled from the beginning (with three of them graduated so far). Their first six were boys, which led to their first book, *Raising Real Men: Surviving, Teaching and Appreciating Boys*. They have spoken in thirty-two states and three provinces about the challenge and blessing of *making biblical family life practical*, which is also the name of their weekly podcast on the Ultimate Homeschool Radio Network. Hal and Melanie served over ten years on the NCHE board and now live in noisy familial bliss in Smithfield.

8 P Hal and Melanie Young, **Passing the Baton**—It makes no sense to pour our lives into homeschooling only to stumble at the finish line. Passing the baton of Christian adulthood to our children can't happen overnight. Hal and Melanie talk about this critical time in our children's lives and how to transition from the Benevolent Dictator our eleven-year-olds need to the Trusted Advisor of our adult children. Let's all finish well and prepare our sons and daughters to be servants of the Most High, even when we can't make them anymore!

10 G Hal and Melanie Young, **Ballistic Homeschooling: The Art of Teaching Boys**—Is your son bouncing off the walls—or is he driving you there, dear teacher? Find out why Thomas Jefferson wrote at a standing desk, how a white board can turn on a light bulb and why in the world your son does the things he does in school. Make home education more fun for everyone and equip your boy with the knowledge he needs for manhood. Here is real-life advice from parents who have homeschooled six boys at the same time.