

*The Charlotte Mason Education Center*  
**2010 Charlotte Mason Education Conference Speakers**

updated 6/3/10

**Joel R. Agate, Ph.D. Candidate**

Joel Agate is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at Clemson University and has completed his Master's in Business Administration in Clemson's College of Business and Behavioral Science. Joel currently serves as the Administrator of the US Play Coalition: A partnership to promote the value of play throughout life. While earning a Master's Degree in Youth and Family Recreation at Brigham Young University, Joel explored family recreation as a means of increasing life satisfaction. Through his current research, Joel seeks to understand how leisure, recreation, and play behaviors contribute to positive emotions, psychological well-being, and overall quality of life.

Session Topic: The Renewal of the Value of Play in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America (Thursday afternoon)

**Jack Beckman**

Jack's thirty years of school experience include serving as a teacher, Principal, school-starter, and professor of education, and have encompassed master's degrees in both Curriculum and Instruction, and Educational Research, and a Ph.D. in Teacher Education from the University of Cambridge. Charlotte Mason's model of teacher training drew him to the UK to complete his dissertation on that topic. In collecting data, Jack spent a full year driving from the South Downs to the Lake District of England interviewing Charlotte Mason-trained teachers ranging in age from 101 to 78 -- listening to their stories of life in college and in the classroom. At present, he is Associate Professor of Education at Covenant College. Jack and his wife Barbara have two lovely daughters, Kara and Anneliese.

Session Topics: Books That Changed My Life, Wednesday evening plenary and following chat  
Comparing Curriculum Panel (Friday morning)  
Friday lunch in the Bailey discussing curriculum panel

**Susan Carlisle Bell**

Am I a painter who teaches or a teacher who paints? For over 30 years, I have had a wonderful time doing both. Some of my paintings are done as a response to the design problems I give my students. Others are visual records of my travels. My workshops with contemporary masters and studies as an art historian challenge me to continue to grow and learn as an artist. Michelangelo's epitaph was "I am still learning" I love that! Exploring different techniques and media (watercolor, acrylic, pastel) are a way for me to re-visit familiar motifs with new eyes. Collage is a life parable for me: the parts (light and dark, pretty and plain, trash and treasure) enrich the whole and add another layer of meaning to the work.

Landscapes and florals are metaphors for family and belonging for me. My grandmother's flowers filled our home and garden, my mother's college drawings of trees amazed me as a child. And my father's Virginia farm is an inexhaustible subject, connecting the love of a place with the love of the father. Places and faces, the character of the land and the individual are exciting to explore.

I have two master degrees, one in Christian Education and one in Art Education as well as many studio hours of post-graduate work as well as intensive museum studies in the US and 10 foreign countries. I have taught studio, art history and education classes for Gardner-Webb University since 1985. I am available for lectures on many Art topics including Art and the Bible.

Susan Carlisle Bell, Associate Professor of Art, Gardner-Webb University

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Session topic: Beauty, Perseverance, Civil Rights, Biblical Hope: The Art of Henry Owassa Tanner, (Thur. evening)  
Anything About Art fireside chat (Thur. evening)  
Drawing for Dummies ((Fri. morning)

**Amber Benton**

Amber met Charlotte Mason on the coffee table of her sister in law in 1998. This sister in law invited her to the first meeting of four ladies who were beginning a Charlotte Mason study group in Charlotte, NC. Those four ladies soon grew into CMLearn - a group encompassing many counties, towns and cities surrounding Charlotte and serves a few hundred families. Out of this group has grown schools, coops, and deep and encouraging relationships.

Amber has a passion for reading, and loves pattern wherever it may be found - math, nature and all things fiber related. She and her husband David take their 5 boys, Jonathan, Jesse, James, Joseph, and Nathan as often as possible to the mountains where they grew up.

Amber grew up with a daddy who lived in two worlds. His grandfather was born in 1899 and died in 1994 the year Amber graduated from highschool. Her daddy even met his great, great aunt who was a little girl during the Civil War. He is a collector of oral stories, and of objects of the past. During Amber's childhood he learned to blacksmith, shoed his own horses, hand tooled leather holsters and braided bridles. He restored a doctor's buggy, built a wooden sledge from scratch, logged timber with a horse, designed and built a tobacco barn and plowed the garden with a horse, and a few times with a mule. Although Amber grew up in the early 1990's she also lived in the past, in a house and world built by her ancestors. When Bonnie Buckingham introduced her to Wendell Berry a few years ago, she felt that this was someone she understood. Wendell Berry lived in two worlds just like her daddy. And even though the place she grew up in has begun to change, when she reads about Port Royal she is home; part of The Membership. She believes that Port Royal is a fictional place that is real and that we can go home again.

Session Topic: Wendell Berry: A Topographical Survey (Friday afternoon)

### Laurie Bestvater

Laurie has been inspired and captivated by Charlotte Mason's philosophy since the early nineties when friends introduced, *For the Children's Sake*. A long-time fan of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, it was a natural progression to relying on Mason's methods in the home school and classroom as well as in tutorial and adult ESL venues. Laurie is mother to Sarah, now a law student at Queen's University, Ont. Sam, at Covenant College, GA, both home taught, and Caleb who is still in the nest doing high school work. Before moving with husband Bryan to New York in 2006, Laurie co-led a small group studying Mason in Southwestern Ontario and continues to affirm the person-to person spread of Mason's philosophy leading a small group there.

Session Topics: Paper Trails, CM's Ways with Student Work (Thurs. morning)

Literature...a Magic Mirror for the Discovery of Other Minds (Saturday morning)

Thursday lunch in the Bailey discussing Mason curriculum framework.

### Bonnie Buckingham

Bonnie Buckingham, wife to Ken, has homeschooled for 18 years. They have 4 sons, a daughter-in-law, and a daughter, ranging from 26 to 12, and graduated the 4 sons. Bonnie teaches a high school literature and Aesthetics class in Charlotte, NC and is co-leader in the CMeLearn Support Group in Charlotte.

The first book Ms. Buckingham read when she started home schooling in 1991 was *For the Children's Sake* by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay. It ignited a passion for living books, nature study, art and poetry. Home school speaker on Living Books, Reluctant Readers, and Poetry, Bonnie is an avid book collector and art lover.

Currently, her favorite authors are Elizabeth Goudge, Wendell Berry, Luci Shaw, Makoto Fujimura, and lots of blogs!

Session Topic: Wendell Berry: A Topographical Survey (Friday afternoon)

### Lisa Cadora

Lisa Cadora has studied Mason since providentially hearing of her from Randal and Susan Macaulay at a Rochester, MN L'Abri Conference in the summer of 1982, while an undergraduate education major at Covenant College. She found a few of Mason's volumes in the college library upon returning to school that fall, and was entirely swept up in what she recognized as a much needed antidote to the decidedly mechanistic approach to teaching prevalent in most teacher education programs and even Christian education practice in those days. She was blessed to find a school some years later (Intown Community School) that employed Mason's methods and has enjoyed a career of teaching, learning and sharing Mason's ideas and practice with those who endeavor to bring a "sane" education to children and families in diverse settings. Lisa lives in Cincinnati, OH with her husband Matt who is a PCA pastor, her son Alex who is a sophomore in college, and two dachshunds who preside over home security. She currently teaches basic writing and college-level reading at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and children's Sunday School at Faith Presbyterian Church.

Session Topics: Fireside chat Book discussion of *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Comparing Curriculums Panel (Friday morning) and Friday lunch in Bailey discussing panel

Charlotte Mason Today (Saturday morning)

### Susan Crist

Susan Crist is the Lower Elementary Principal at Perimeter School in the Atlanta area. She and her husband, Stephen, found their "home" in the writings and philosophies of Charlotte Mason in 1991. They have

endeavored to raise their 2 daughters—Caitlin and Hannah, and now their grandson--Alexander-- to treasure the delights of nature, living books, great art, music, travel, and the value of persons as image-bearers of Christ. Susan has been blessed to have been able to live out these precious principles in her professional life, as well, most importantly as Principal in Charlotte Mason schools for 8 years. Her first love is the young child, and she feels fortunate to be able to specialize in this area of Kindergarten through Second graders in the covenant school context.

Session Topic: The Theological & Historical Background of Charlotte Mason (Friday morning)

### *Deborah Dobbins*

Deborah Dobbins has taught nearly 400 nature study classes at Perimeter School in Duluth, GA. She currently specializes in teaching Enrichment Day Nature Study classes to 1st and 2nd grade students. She has a Master's in Education from the University of South Carolina. Outside the classroom, she enjoys nature walks, working in her flower garden, and touring USA capital cities with her family.

Session topic: Nature Study I – for beginners (Thursday morning)  
Nature Study II (Thursday afternoon)

### *HollyAnne Dobbins*

HollyAnne Dobbins is a rising freshman at Covenant College and a recipient of the Maclellan Scholarship. Homeschooling during her high school years gave the opportunity for her to be an assistant teacher in the 1st and 2nd grade nature study classes. HollyAnne is passionate about children, education, and all forms of art. HollyAnne will be departing on Saturday for her 4th mission trip to Mumbai, India.

Session topic: Nature Study I – for beginners (Thursday morning)  
Nature Study II (Thursday afternoon)

### *Jennifer Gagnon*

*For the Children's Sake* was the beginning of a passionate 16 year study of Charlotte Mason. This past year has been an intensive review study of Mason's volumes to find out what she said specifically about science and how that translates into the science classroom today. Jennifer has stepped out in faith with the Mason method and is teaching a high school biology course without the use of a traditional textbook. She graduated her eldest from her CM home school and he has just completed his second year studying Nanotechnology Engineering at the University of Waterloo. One daughter is graduating from the National Ballet School in Toronto and her youngest will continue her high school CM education at home. Jennifer runs a Charlotte Mason Education meeting every other month in Southwestern Ontario.

Session Topic: Wonder and Admiration...Living Science (Friday morning)  
Friday dinner discussion in conf. room 250 “CM in the High School Years”

### *Tammy Glaser*

Tammy Glaser, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and Navy Postgraduate School, resigned from the Navy to homeschool her children in 1995. She started transitioning to Charlotte Mason's ideas in 1999. Her insights on homeschooling and autism are published online and in magazines, books, and newspapers. She and her husband Steve live with their children Pamela and David in Manning, South Carolina.

Session Topics: Charlotte Mason's Thinking About Math (Thursday morning)  
Charlotte's Wisdom for Special Needs (Saturday morning)

### *Naomi Heidorn*

Naomi Heidorn is the Director/Head of School of Arborbrook Christian Academy in Charlotte, NC. She has been an educator for the past 26 years. During that time she has been a classroom teacher, a home-schooling mom, a guidance counselor, a children's ministry director for a very large church, and for the past 15 years a private school administrator. Naomi is the founder of three private schools - one in KY, one in NY and one in NC. Naomi has been happily married for 25 years. She and her husband Steve reside in Waxhaw, NC. They have been blessed with three wonderful children: Ryan, age 25, Aaron, age 20 and Siara, age 16.

Session Topic: Planning Lessons Without Losing Your MIND (Friday afternoon)

## Mary Hubbard

Mary Hubbard, a Christian school educator since the early 1980's, has been involved in the Charlotte Mason practices and methodologies for almost 9 years finding them practical, inspiring, and a natural integration with Christian education. Mary has an undergraduate education degree for grades K-8, has a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, and has served as Perimeter Christian School middle school principal for the past 8 years. Mary helped establish a Christian School in Jackson, Tennessee, in the early 1980's from which three of her four children graduated high school. She has led various seminars on middle school education, including "Education is a Discipline." Mary is active in training both teachers and parents for the middle school experience because of her heart and passion for the middle school age child. Through incorporating the practices of Charlotte Mason, she is convinced that this is the best training "for the children's sake." Mary has four grown children: Richard (married with one grandson Smythe and one on the way in July), Holl (teaches in a one-room school house in Montana), Dabney (married and homeschooling her four children-Mattie Van, Carlie, Charles Robert, and Ellis using the Charlotte Mason methodologies), and Elizabeth Anne (married with one daughter, Hayley Grace) Three of Mary's four children are educators!

Session Topic: Education is a Discipline (Thursday morning)

Wednesday chat on The Joy of Nature Notebooks

## Christopher Keene

Chris received his BA in Technical Theatre from California State University, Long Beach, where he studied makeup under the direction of T. William Smith. He worked for several years in the Los Angeles area as a makeup artist and prop master. He was a makeup artist for Knott's Berry Farm's *Scream Team* and a prosthetic and prop sculptor for Six Flag's Magic Mountain. His credits also include makeup for music videos by Danny Elfman and the Talking Heads. From 1987-1994, he served as an Elder and Associate Pastor for Sanctuary Church in Redondo Beach, CA. His work with the church included leading outreach and evangelism teams, drama and arts ministries and providing missionary training in the dramatic arts. In 1994, he relocated to Nashville where he toured and trained mission teams with the mime team "All The World's A Stage." While in Nashville, he also worked as head of the makeup department for Opryland USA's *Howl-0-ween*, as well as a makeup artist for the Nashville Opera's *Aida*. He was the head makeup designer for Christ Church's *Easter Spectacular* and annual *Maundy Thursday* and *Passion Play* services. He also designed props for the Tennessee Repertory Theatre and the Nashville Shakespeare Festival. In 1998, Chris accepted a graduate assistantship at the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, where he received his Master of Fine Arts degree in Stage Properties in 2001. While there, he also worked on productions for the Piedmont Opera, North Carolina Shakespeare Festival and the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem. In 2001, Chris taught as a Visiting Instructor and Technical Director at Doane College in Lincoln, Nebraska. He worked as a guest designer on campus productions of *The Other Heart*, *The Last Flapper*, and *The Hobbit*. In 2002, Chris joined the faculty of GWU. His design work at Gardner-Webb has earned ten nominations by the Metrolina Theatre Association (MTA) for *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Purging Mary* and *Martyr!* and five awards including for Outstanding Set Design and Outstanding Sound Design for *Waiting For Godot* in 2007 and for Outstanding Set Design and Outstanding Production for *The Crucible* in 2009. In January 2009, his production design for *LEAR ReLoaded* was featured in the article, Live Movies by Kirby Malone and Gail Scott White for American Theatre Magazine. Chris and his wife, Mondai, live in Boiling Springs, NC with their two daughters, Kyrin (5) and Kayli (2).

Christopher Keene, MFA

Designer/Technical Director – Associate Professor of Theatre

Gardner-Webb University

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Session Topic: Scientifiction: Storytelling in the Realm of Imagination (Friday afternoon)

Dinner discussion in conf. room 250 "Watching Films with Teenagers" (Friday dinner)

## Nancy Kelly

About 14 years ago, Nancy read *For the Children's Sake* after hearing Susan Schaeffer Macaulay speak at a L'abri conference. Since then, her homeschool journey has been a joy. She has been married to Kent for 23 years and they have 6 children. Her oldest son, Forrest, is a junior at Hillsdale College. Next is Jack, a sophomore at the University of Minnesota and the facilitator for the teen track at this year's conference. She is currently homeschooling Katie-12, Liam -11, Lizzie - 8 and Lauren - 6. She leads CM support groups and organizes the Living Education Retreat, an annual conference that brings educators from southwest Minnesota together in an intimate setting to discuss CM. She believes that relationships are key to successfully implementing CM's methods and enjoys encouraging, supporting and mentoring others. Her newish blog, *Sage Parnassus*, has a CM emphasis. Her favorite authors at this time are Kathleen Norris, Marilynne Robinson, Lauren Winner,

Flannery O'Connor and L.L. Barkat. If you are ever in her neck of the woods, please join her for a latte or a cup of tea at her home in Minnesota amidst her honey pot collection, perennial garden and bookshelves.

Session Topics:

Charlotte's Web - Exploring Resources for Implementing the Charlotte Mason Method (Thursday afternoon)

CM Co-ops: A Panel of Experience (Friday afternoon)

Inspiring Heroism and Claiming Magnanimity: What Charlotte Mason Said About Citizenship

Thursday breakfast in the Bailey with the Kellys

### *Kent Kelly*

Kent Kelly and his wife Nancy have used Mason's philosophy to home educate their 6 children over the past 14 years. Kent had the opportunity to use Mason's views of the child while coaching a varsity boys' basketball team for five years. Kent has been in law enforcement for 20 years. He is a certified computer forensics examiner and is a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children task force (ICAC). He enjoys learning, reading, hunting, fishing and an occasional game of pickup basketball.

Session Topic: PE...Whatever the Law of Gravitation Permits! (Friday morning)

### *Betsy Kester*

Betsy is the Curriculum Coordinator at Redeemer School in Winston-Salem, NC. She has been learning about Charlotte Mason since she began teaching at Redeemer ten years ago, following the completion of a Masters of Education in Language and Literacy at Salem College. She began work with mapping the curriculum at Redeemer shortly after, and has been working with other staff to continue to align the curriculum with Charlotte Mason's distinctive methods and practices. She is particularly passionate about the idea of "Science of Relations" and helping students, parents, and teachers enrich their relationships with God, mankind, and the universe. She has experience teaching in elementary and middle school. She is a wife to a terrific high school history teacher and soccer coach, and mom to two busy sons who are in middle school at Redeemer.

Session Topic: Science of Relations (Friday afternoon)

Thur. lunch in conf. room 250 classification & label of Redeemer's Trees

### *Art Middlekauff*

Art Middlekauff and his wife Barbara have been home educating their three children for seven years. Over this time, Art has been studying Charlotte Mason's writings and attempting to apply her living ideas to his family's homeschool. Art is a member of the leadership team of a growing Anglican church plant. In his spare time, Art leads product development for one division of a Chicago-based software company.

Session Topic: The Theological & Historical Background of Charlotte Mason (Friday morning)

### *Deborah Miller*

Educated in architecture and specializing in school design, Deborah Miller's desire of improving learning environments has been an interest for 25 years. While earning her architectural degree she began studying educational philosophy and environmental psychology. After time in the world of architecture and interior design, she shifted her focus specifically to education when she decided to implement the ideas of Charlotte Mason in the education of her own children. Over the last decade she has been active in Mason study groups, seminars, online resources, co-op groups, home education and in a Charlotte Mason school. In February 2005 she was a co-founder of the organization which, in 2006 developed into ChildLightUSA. Deborah Miller was a contributor to The Charlotte Mason Education Centre Curriculum Project in the area of Fine Arts. She will be presenting a workshop on Fine Arts and later facilitating a discussion on what educators, administrators and students might find as necessary in the architecture and interior design of a Charlotte Mason learning environment for the 21st century.

### *Jan Pearce*

Session Topic: The Distinctive Practices of Charlotte Mason ()

### *Sandy Rusby Bell*

Sandra Rusby Bell loves everything about books: how they smell, how they look on shelves, how they look stacked on tables, the feel of them, how children look hidden behind them and of course the worlds found within them. So it is not surprising that she met Charlotte Mason while snooping through a basket of books at a friend's cottage. While her very understanding husband David took their children hiking through the dunes Sandra devoured every word about nature study

and living books and knew she had come home. She has now been educating her four children (15, 13, 10 and 8) using Charlotte Mason's methods haltingly, stumblingly, imperfectly but passionately for over a decade. She has co-led a Charlotte Mason study group in Ontario, Canada with Deani Van Pelt, Jennifer Talsma and Laurel Aldridge. Every month for over ten years Mason's writings have been actively explored by dozens of vibrant Canadian women applying her ideas in home education settings.

Session Topics: History- The Pivot Upon Which Our Curriculum Turns (Saturday morning)

### *Marcie Saporsky*

Marcie Saporsky, her husband and 4 sons have been a part of Crossroads Christian School in Tyrone, GA, for the last 18 years. When the position as Administrator became available 5 years ago, Marcie felt the Lord's calling to step into the role. Her passion is for sharing the gospel with children.

Session Topic: The Distinctive Practices of Charlotte Mason

### *Gladys Brasher Schaefer*

Gladys Schaefer has been enriched by the teachings of Charlotte Mason on both an educational and a personal level. Her trip last summer to Ambleside, England only strengthened her appreciation of Mason's life and work.

Gladys' work both in the home and in the classroom as a CM educator continues to enrich her life. The last 15 years have been fruitful indeed, as Mason's ideas have proven true time and again. She is a wife, a mother of six and a grandmother of one. There is always something new to learn and she is honored to be sharing her knowledge in this conference.

Session Topic: The Person of Charlotte Mason, As Seen Through The Books She Wrote and The Books She Owned

(Friday morning)

CM Co-ops: A Panel of Experience (Friday afternoon)

### *Tara Schorr*

Tara Schorr has been married to James Schorr for 17 years and has homeschooled her three children, now ages 14, 13, and 12 from the beginning. She began learning about Charlotte Mason ten years ago, where she found God's leading and her heart's home. In addition to homeschooling her own children, she has also homeschooled a teen girl and boy with learning disabilities, and has implemented Charlotte Mason's philosophy and methods in children's ministries, co-ops, a Boys and Girls Club after school program, and with refugee children. She has been ministering to homeschool parents and teaching them how to live out a Charlotte Mason education for nine years as an Advisory Board Member and teacher of the Charlotte Mason weekly chat for the Homeschool Encouragement Center, at Growing Scholars, and as a leader within CMeLearn. She is currently seeing the beginning of her dream to train others to take Charlotte Mason's living education along with missions work to the nations.

Session Topic: CM Co-ops: A Panel of Experience (Friday afternoon)

### *Bobby Scott*

Bobby Scott, headmaster of Perimeter School in Duluth, Georgia, director of the ChildLight Schools Association, and founder of the Charlotte Mason Institute for Classroom Educators, brings 30+ years experience to ChildLightUSA. He is a co-author of *When Children Love to Learn* (Crossway Books) 2004, a Charlotte Mason education book for school educators and preparing *Your Child for Membership* (1990), a manual for parents to prepare their children for membership in the Presbyterian Church. Upon arriving in Atlanta in 1986, he founded or assisted in establishing 4 other schools, all of which are now a part of the ChildLight Schools Association. Bobby has been the headmaster of Perimeter School in Atlanta, GA (a 500+ student school of grades K-8) for 23 years.

Most recently, he has led teacher training teams to Joshua Teacher Training College and the Karanse Christian Academy in Tanzania, East Africa, where he is training teachers and headmasters in Christian Education with an emphasis on Charlotte Mason's methodology. In February 2008, he began leading teams to Guatemala as well. He holds an M Ed in Counseling and an M Ed in School Administration. He and his wife Valerie have a married son, Justin, an engineer in Washington, DC, and 2 daughters, Jessica, an ICU nurse in Macon, GA, and Anna, an IDesign student at UGA. His wife Valerie is accomplished drama instructor and producer of children's plays and musicals.

Session Topics: Education is an Atmosphere (Thursday afternoon)

Wednesday evening chat on Picture Study and Caravaggio

### *J. Carroll Smith*

Carroll Smith has spoken on various topics related to Charlotte Mason. Currently he teaches graduate and undergraduate

education classes at Gardner-Webb University and enjoys working with children, teachers, college students, and developing the Charlotte Mason Education Centre. He was a teacher and a principal for 21 years before coming to Gardner-Webb University where he has been for nine years. Having grown up in eastern North Carolina, he attended East Carolina University for his undergraduate education degree and his master's in school administration. He completed his terminal degree and wrote his dissertation on Charlotte Mason at Virginia Tech. Carroll enjoys reading, gardening, and discussing ideas with friends. He and his wife, Andra, and their two young adult children, Corban and Anna, enjoy living, working and playing in NC.

Session Topic: Charlotte Mason Curriculum Framework (Thursday morning) and Th, lunch in the Bailey  
Comparing Curriculums Panel (Friday morning) and Fri. lunch in the Bailey discussing panel

### Jennifer Spencer

Jennifer Spencer has worked for thirteen years in home, private, and public schools with children in preschool through high school. She has a bachelors degree in early childhood education and a masters in elementary education, and she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree from Gardner-Webb University in curriculum and instruction. Her passion for Charlotte Mason's educational philosophy and practices keeps her involved in a wide range of activities, including research, writing, speaking engagements, consultant work, and curriculum development.

Session Topic: Ears, Mouth, Eyes, Hand--Language Acquisition Theory and Practice part I (Thursday morning)  
Ears, Mouth, Eyes, Hand--Language Acquisition Theory and Practice part II (Thursday afternoon)  
Comparing Curriculums Panel (Friday morning) and Fri. lunch in the Bailey discussing panel

### Pam Stegal

Pam has been an educator in Christian Schools since 1985. She came to Intown Community School in 2005 as Head of School. As soon as she started reading the philosophy of Charlotte Mason she knew she had found a kindred spirit. It has been a blessing to find an organized system of education that respects the child on which to hang her heart.

Session Topic: The Foundations of a CM Education: Her Four Pillars (Thursday morning)

### Jeannette Tulis

Jeannette was introduced to the ideas of Charlotte Mason when her husband, David (then her fiance), gave her a copy of "For the Children's Sake" and said, "This is how I want us to educate our children!" In God's providence, David and Jeannette were blessed with four children. In their home education adventure, Charlotte Mason's philosophy is a constant source of inspiration and challenge. Although Jeannette holds a degree from Auburn University with a major in nutrition, her real education has been acquired as she learns alongside her children. Abigail, 18, is about to graduate and has been accepted at a classical figure sculpting academy/atelier in Manhattan; David, 16, a self directed student in several tutorials; Josiah, 14, doing a variation of a Ambleside years 7 and 8, and Jacob, 6 reveling in the richness of Ambleside year one. Jeannette also helps to lead a Charlotte Mason support group in the Chattanooga area and writes editorials for the area homeschool newsletter, some of which appear at csthea.org. Her passions are wildflowers, art history, British period drama, and an out of control collection of mostly out-of-print children's books.

Session Topics: What Mason Said About Handwork (Friday morning)  
Exploring Charlotte Mason Homeschool Co-ops panel discussion (Friday afternoon)

### Deani A. Neven Van Pelt

Deani Van Pelt, Assistant Professor in the Department of Education at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada, is currently collaborating with Cardus, a Canadian research institute, and University of Notre Dame in perhaps the largest study ever conducted of private religious Christian schooling in North America. She recently defended her dissertation on private schools in Ontario, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario, in London, Canada. Formerly a math and business education teacher in both public and private schools, Deani, with her husband, Michael, home-educated their three children for eight years during which time she authored a master's thesis entitled *Charlotte Mason's Design for Education*. She remains continually grateful to her children who desired, and continue to strive for, a nourishing education.

Session Topics: Digitizing the Charlotte Mason Ambleside Archives (Saturday morning)

Why the farmer doesn't plow continually and other bold assertions from the ancients: Charlotte Mason's *Great Recognition* and its possible implications for education today (Friday afternoon)

### Melanie Walker

Melanie has been drawn to the ideas of Charlotte Mason since she became an educator in 1984. They informed her as a teacher in traditional schools and in homeschooling her own children. For the last five years, the love of this philosophy has shaped Red Mountain Community School in Downtown Birmingham, Al., where Melanie serves as Head of School. She has four children, Madeleine (Birmingham Southern College), Anna Claire (Auburn University), Colin (RMCS), and Brennan (RMCS).

Session Topics: "Where? Outside In and Inside Out. Geography That Takes Us There" and Natural History--Reverence and Awe Grow Upon Us (Friday afternoon)  
Education is a Life/Living Books (Friday morning )

### Nicole Williams

Nicole Williams began homeschooling her oldest child in kindergarten six years ago, and has since added to her clan enough to have homeschooled seven children from age 5 to 15. She is one of the founding members of the Tri-Cities Charlotte Mason Homeschool Coop. One of the most enjoyable parts of their week is Friday coop where they learn and play with other like-minded Charlotte Mason inspired families.

Session Topic: CM Co-ops: A Panel of Experience

### Angela Wilson

Angela Wilson, principal of grades JK-8 at Arborbrook Christian Academy near Charlotte, N.C., has been involved in education for many years. She taught English composition and journalism at East Carolina University, as well as to elementary, junior high and high school students. She was a journalist and editor for more than 15 years for several newspapers and corporate publications. Angela holds a master's degree in technical writing, as well as an undergraduate degree in journalism. She homeschooled her two daughters until the creation of Arborbrook Christian Academy five years ago.

As a teacher and administrator, Angela realized that many of Charlotte Mason's philosophies and methodologies could be united with other important educational philosophies concentrating on learning styles, the child as a person, and the need to motivate a child to learn before teaching can begin. She and Naomi Heidorn developed the "MIND Circle of Learning" to assist teachers with the important job of planning lessons that lead (scaffold) students through a series of four incremental learning blocks. As a result, teachers can create exciting lessons to "motivate, investigate, narrate, and disseminate (M-I-N-D)." In the MIND workshop, Angela emphasizes the importance of using primary sources and shows teachers where to find them.

Angela is also the author of *My Little Handbook of Written Narrations*, which guides teachers and students in the art of writing narrations as a means of graded assessment.

Session Topic: The Science of Relations (Friday afternoon)

### Brett A. Wright, Ph.D.

Brett Wright is Professor and Chairman, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at Clemson University. He received his doctorate in Recreation and Natural Resource Management in 1985 from Texas A&M University. Dr. Wright has been actively involved with research pertaining to park and recreation values, play, community impacts and partnerships. He has conducted over 20 community needs assessments pertaining to park and recreation. He has published extensively on the human dimensions of recreation and natural resources management in national and international journals and has conducted social science research for the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and numerous local park and recreation agencies throughout the eastern U.S. He now serves as the Co-Chair of the U.S. Play Coalition.

Session Topic: The Renewal of the Value of Play in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America (Thursday afternoon)