Through the Eyes of a Child

Workshop Schedule for Thursday

Thursday, November 5

8:00  **Doors are open**
* Pick up Registration Packets outside the Sanctuary
* Continental Breakfast available in the Fellowship Hall
* Displays and Vendors in the Fellowship Hall

9:00—10:00
* Gathering and Announcements in the Sanctuary
* **Keynote Address** by our featured presenter, the often requested MR. AL, famous children’s presenter, singer, and storyteller

10:00—10:30
* Break for refreshments in various places
* Displays and Vendors’ Booths are open in the Fellowship Hall

10:30—12:00  **SESSION 1** in your assigned classroom

12:00—12:45  **Lunch** served at various places (locations TBA)

12:45—2:15  **SESSION 2** in your assigned classroom

The Displays and the Vendors’ booths will be open until 3:00 today.
Through the Eyes of a Child

Workshop Schedule for Friday

Friday, November 6

8:00  Doors are open
    * Pick up Registration Packets outside the Sanctuary
    * Continental Breakfast available in the Fellowship Hall
    * Displays and Vendors in the Fellowship Hall

9:00—10:00
    * Gathering and Announcements in the Sanctuary
    * Keynote Address by our featured presenter, Teacher’s and Children’s Advocate, Pastor Dawn Hand

10:00—10:30
    * Break for refreshments in various places
    * Displays and Vendors’ Booths are open in the Fellowship Hall

10:30—12:00  SESSION 3 in your assigned classroom

12:00—12:45  Lunch served in various places (Locations TBA)

12:45—2:15  SESSION 4 in your assigned classroom

The Displays and the Vendors’ booths will be open until Session 4 begins.
Meet Our Keynote Speakers

MR. AL
Al Rasso, better known to his young fans as Mr. Al, has written and recorded 20 albums filled with up-tempo music catered to the smallest of music listeners. Mr. Al earned his Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education and his Masters in Early Childhood Education. For 25 years he has served as an Early Childhood Consultant. Mr. Al believes that children are very active learners, and it has been a mission of his over the years to make that connection between activity and learning.

On Thursday, Mr. Al is going to join the adults at our Preschool Conference and present “A Good Beginning with Mr. Al”. Come join us at his Keynote address for a fun and music-filled presentation that both celebrates the importance of teachers and helps revive and rejuvenate their creative sides!

PASTOR DAWN HAND
Pastor Dawn Hand was the Keynote Speaker at our Conference a few years ago. Everyone loved listening to her humor and to her talk about her love of preschool children and her support and affirmation for those of us who work with them. Since she spoke at the Conference, many teachers have asked for her to be invited back.

Pastor Dawn is an ordained elder of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. She was an Associate Pastor at Matthews UMC for five years and in 2011 she was appointed as Associate Pastor/Chief Program Officer to the historic Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, DC. Today, she is the Executive Pastor/Chief of Staff at Foundry. Pastor Dawn is a native of Charlotte where she attended Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools and graduated from West Charlotte High School. She earned a Baccalaureate Degree in Mass Communications form Winston-Salem State University and a Master of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary.

Among the things that Pastor Dawn enjoys during her “down” time are traveling, sports, the NFL and the WNBA, cycling, and music. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, especially those she calls her “three heart-beats”, her nieces Ashlee and Michah Dawn and her nephew Walter D III. She loves to laugh and believes that God has a wonderful sense of humor for calling her to ordained ministry!
## Weekday Workshop Committee Members

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Cork</td>
<td>Davidson UMC</td>
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<td>Barbara Jackson</td>
<td>Matthews UMC</td>
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<td>Blair Luther</td>
<td>University City UMC</td>
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<td>Kim Myers</td>
<td>First UMC</td>
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<td>Betsy Sink</td>
<td>Fairfield UMC</td>
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<td>Susan Sumpter</td>
<td>Wesley Memorial UMC</td>
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<td>Debbie Swartzel</td>
<td>Williamson’s Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Mooresville</td>
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Through the Eyes of a Child

Sessions 1 and 2 are on Thursday.  
Sessions 3 and 4 are on Friday.

You will find a biographical sketch of each presenter immediately following the Workshop descriptions.

* Around We Go—Directors’ Roundtable  
Kim Myers
Once again, our favorite game—Jeopardy—will help to start our discussions on all things PRESCHOOL! All Directors are invited to join this workshop to share information and gain valuable insight from other Directors.
Sessions 1 and 3  
For Directors

* Art-A-Doodle  
Sidney McCrory
Learn to love art again. This class will have fun projects that educate and help little hands grow strong! Rejuvenate your soul through laughter and fellowship as we learn to use our hands, recycle with art, shine with colors, and get messy! There will be lots of take-homes and hands-on activities!!!
Sessions 1 and 3  
For teachers of all age groups

* Books that Boogie and Stories that Sing  
Meleah Farlow
Giraffes that Dance, Animals that Boogie, and Very Busy Spiders are among the many characters who bring music into the classroom. Discover new books that sing as well as old favorites that have been adapted to music. The imagination that develops through reading books is enhanced through singing, dancing and interpretive movement.
Sessions 1 and 3  
For teachers of 2's through 5's (TK)

* Brain Gain—The Role of Nutrition in Learning  
Cathie Broocks
What is lost in brain development when children lack good nutrition? Learn the effects of obesity on the young child and how this impacts your classroom. You will take away simple, low-cost/no-cost ideas to add nutritional education to your literacy, math, and science centers. Ideas will include ways to enlist parent support, field trip ideas (for older preschoolers), and books to bring a giggle to learning about food.
Sessions 2 and 4  
For teachers of 2’s through 5’s (TK) and Directors
* Bring Puppets Alive in One Easy Session: Smooth Moves and Silly Voices
  Pamela Shook
This wildly fun hands-on workshop will leave your inhibitions behind and have you wowing your class of preschoolers like a real pro. You will learn character voices and movement tricks which will make it easy! Puppets are provided or feel free to bring your own.
**Sessions 1 and 2**
**For teachers of all age groups**

* C Yoga C Growth
  Cece Biesecker
This workshop will focus on giving teachers the tools to use yoga techniques in the preschool classroom. Yoga at an early age encourages self-esteem and body awareness in noncompetitive physical activity. Yoga for preschoolers fosters cooperation and compassion instead of opposition. Physically, it enhances their flexibility, strength, coordination and body awareness. Their sense of calmness, concentration and relaxation improves. It brings their marvelous inner light to the surface!
**Sessions 1 and 3**
**For Directors and teachers of all age groups**

* C Yoga C Peace
  Cece Biesecker
This workshop will provide steps and movements to help with de-stressing the mental, physical, and emotional bodies of those who work in the field of education. It will help provide for healthier, happier living within to promote healthier, happier living to those we teach.
**Sessions 2 and 4**
**For Directors and teachers of all age groups**

* Classy Puppets on the Cheap
  Pamela Shook
Puppets can break your budget if you let them. In this class you will learn how to turn stuffed animals, dolls, and other things into lovely puppets in a variety of styles. Rod puppets, small hand puppets, large “Muppet-style” puppets and simple shadow puppets will all be demonstrated. This workshop will be a combination of lecture and demonstration plus you will receive patterns for making your own puppets.
**Sessions 3 and 4**
**For teachers of all age groups**
* Communication Made Simple (Welcome to My Window)  
Jody Monkus
Maximize your communication at work, school, and home. Have you ever walked away from a conversation feeling like you just were not heard? This engaging workshop helps educators and administrators gain tools to ensure better communication with all stakeholders.
Welcome to My Window…
- Exposes the differences in how people process information
- Teaches you how to understand and interact with others more effectively
- Presents a perception model to identify individual communication styles
- Demonstrates practical applications with students 4 years old and older

Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4  
Teachers of 4’s and 5’s (TK) and Directors

* Creating a Preschool Memory Book  
Jennifer McMasters
Have you ever found yourself rushing to tape pictures into plain memory books for the end of the year parent gifts? This former chore will be a joy with tips on creating, organizing and decorating memory books. In this hands-on workshop, you will also create four scrapbook-style pages to duplicate for your own classroom students. So…capture those memories and preserve them in an end of the year gift that shows all the fun and growth your students have had all year.

Sessions 1 and 2  
For all Preschool Teachers

* Everyday Science  
Beverly Warkulwiz
Science is all around us, but it’s more than an appreciation for nature or isolated hands-on experiments. Science is a tool that we use to make sense of the world…a way of thinking. In this workshop, teachers will explore how to integrate scientific thought and processes into everyday experiences for young children.

Sessions 2 and 4  
For teachers of 3’s, 4’s, 5’s (TK)

* Even You Can Do Music!  
Lin Bratcher
In this workshop, you will learn songs you can use practically in your classroom to gain the attention of your students and control situations before they become problems. We will look at how music can be used to teach concepts in math, language and reading comprehension. In addition, we will use some simple manipulatives to enhance the learning experience. Be prepared!! There will be lots of group participation in this workshop!

Sessions 1 and 3  
For teachers of all age groups
* Fine Motor Fun
  Jennifer Waid
  Activities, activities, activities! You will leave this session with numerous activities that you can implement in your classroom immediately using materials you probably already have on hand. The presenter will also discuss developmental milestones and the necessary components for building excellent fine motor and eye-hand coordination skills in your children so that you understand the “why” behind the activities you choose.
  Sessions 2 and 4 For teachers of 3's, 4's, 5's (TK) and Directors

* From Bookshelf to Church Chats
  Jenny Reilly
  Children’s books are a wealth of wisdom and can be a great starting point for Biblical discussions or Chapel Time. Come see how to turn a great and seemingly “unchurchy” children’s book into a time of worship. Preschool stories contain great treasures that help us learn about God’s world or how we can be more faithful followers of Jesus. We will focus on church chat themes, but will also look at ideas that can be used throughout the daily classroom curriculum. Be sure to bring some of your favorite books for some brainstorming time.
  Sessions 4 For teachers of 2’s, 3’s, 4’s, 5’s (TK) and Directors

* God’s World Is a Science Lab
  Jenny Reilly
  God’s world is amazing! Simple science experiments can make the world even more exciting for young children and help them better understand Biblical concepts. Come ready to experiment and see God’s world in a bright, exciting way that makes the Bible and God’s world come alive!
  Sessions 1 and 3 For teachers of 3’s, 4’s, and 5’s (TK)

* Gross Motor Groovin’
  Jennifer Waid
  “I’m too tired!” Is this a statement you hear too often during school? Do you have students who are lying down in circle time rather than sitting up and listening? Do you have children who are struggling with fine motor skills and no matter how much practice you give them, they still can’t seem to make significant improvements? Our society is becoming more and more sedentary—and that includes our kids! Let’s get our children up and moving! Developing gross motor skills like core strength, upper body strength, and balance in fun and exciting ways will enhance many aspects of development for the kids in your classroom.
  Session 3 For teachers of 2’s through 5’s (TK) and Directors
**Handwriting: What's Appropriate in Preschool?**
Heidi Tringali
Children either have a successful handwriting foundation from Preschool or they have an unsuccessful handwriting experience in Preschool. This workshop helps teachers and Directors determine the best handwriting for your Preschool, what is developmentally appropriate, how to most successfully teach handwriting, and how to ensure successful handwriting for your students for years to come.

Session 3 For teachers of 3’s, 4’s, 5’s (TK) and Directors

**Integrating Math into Everything You Do**
Mr. Al
Teaching math concepts to young children can be difficult for teachers. Children are on different developmental levels and often not ready for the symbols associated with traditional math. Since research points to the importance of play, using math in relevant everyday situations would seem to be a logical step in teaching math skills. Music, games, fingerplays and literature that children enjoy so much can help them learn language and concepts that they need to foster positive attitudes about math.

Session 1 For teachers of 3’s, 4’s, and 5’s (TK)

**It Is More than Music!**
Lin Bratcher
Participants in this workshop will learn a practical and developmental approach to using music, movement, chants, drama and simple sign language in the classroom and in large group settings like Chapel and Special Seasonal events. This workshop will give you resources that you can immediately take back to your classroom and put to use.

Sessions 2 and 4 For teachers of all age groups

**Navigating the Referral Process to Get Help For Exceptional Children**
Heather Skeen
In this workshop, participants will learn how to talk to parents about obtaining help for their Exceptional Child. The instructor will discuss the EC process from referral to placement. Participants will have a better understanding of eligibility for the 13 disabling categories and how they can assist with interventions.

Sessions 2 and 4 For teachers of 3’s, 4’s, and 5’s (TK)

**Not the Ceiling, Not the Door—Everyone Have a Seat on the Floor!**
Sidney McCrory
Come to this class to learn games that make kids think, keep their attention, and use their hands! Regroup and refresh as we remember how important circle time is! Hop, hop, hop...how to catch bugs...and oh the things we can do during circle times!! This is a crazy class, lots of laughter and lots of take-homes!!

Sessions 2 and 4 For teachers of 3’s, 4’s, and 5’s (TK)
* **Optimizing Infant-Toddler Environments and Interactions**  
  Dr. Lisa Godwin  
  This workshop will examine appropriate environments and interactions that support healthy growth and development during the infant-toddler period. Through video observation and role play, attendees will examine current research on infant brain development and the importance of the environment and teacher-child interactions. They will learn and have an opportunity to create learning materials, using free or inexpensive materials.  
  **Session 3**  
  For teachers of Infants, 1’s, and Toddlers

* **Planning for the Developmental Needs of Toddlers and Twos**  
  Dr. Lisa Godwin  
  Research on brain growth and the importance of the early years highlights the need for specialized education and training for those working with Toddlers and Twos. Toddlers and Twos are no longer infants but they are really not preschoolers, either. Their needs are unique. According to Erik Erikson, these children are striving for independence and require an environment this is both nurturing and challenging for them to feel successful.  
  **Session 4**  
  For teachers of Toddlers, 1’s and 2’s

* **Purposeful Classrooms**  
  Beverly Warkulwiz  
  Expand your vision and perspective about the early childhood classroom through this interactive workshop. Participants will engage in personal and collaborative activities as they discover what it means to design intentional environments and experiences.  
  **Sessions 1 and 3**  
  For teachers of 3’s, 4’s, 5’s (TK) and Directors

* **Ready or Not! The Secret to School Readiness**  
  Heidi Tringali  
  Many children arrive at school not ready to learn, follow directions, interact, or participate. For these children, typical classroom management strategies fail. This workshop will help you recognize optimum learning readiness and give you practical, fun and easy to use tools that will maximize each child’s classroom performance.  
  **Session 1**  
  For teachers of 3’s, 4’s, 5’s (TK) and Directors

* **Safety at School: Protecting Children and Staff**  
  Dick Riedel and Greg Venn  
  It is undeniable--violence in the workplace, including our schools, is increasing. Greg and Dick will teach you how to be safer at home, in public, and especially at school where you are also responsible for the safety of our children. This informative, interactive session will be filled with the practical Do’s and Don’ts of Safety. You will be given and educated to the tools necessary to make practical safety decisions for yourself and your students. Dick and Greg will share their knowledge and experience to help you identify unsafe situations at school and offer practical, effective solutions, including lockdowns, to uninvited and unruly individuals in and around school property.  
  **Sessions 1, 2, 3 and 4**  
  For Directors and teachers of all age groups
* Sensory Processing in the Classroom  
Jennifer Waid
Do you have a child in your class who just can’t sit still—ever? Falls out of his chair? Unintentionally knocks over his friends? Or maybe you have a student who cowers under the table when someone new enters the room? Flinches when you touch her? Covers her ears and cries during music? In this class, learn about sensory processing: what it is, behaviors that are normal and those that are not, fun activities to use with all kids to enhance sensory development, and strategies to help kids with Sensory Processing Disorder succeed in your classroom.

Session 1  
For teachers of all age groups and Directors

* Science for Little People  
Suzanne Couillard and Angie Garner
Come to this workshop and be prepared to be amazed by the wonders of science! We will have a fun time learning many experiments that you will be able to take back and use in your classrooms. It will be a time of ooh’s and ahh’s!

Sessions 1 and 3  
For teachers of all age groups

* Sensational Sensory Experiences  
Jennifer McMasters
Are you stuck in a rut using just sand and rice in your sensory table? Are your kids bored with the same old toys and materials? In this collaborative hands-on workshop, you will learn how to customize your sensory table contents for any theme and gain tips on engaging children in safe, active and educational sensory play. The importance of the sensory table in a preschool classroom will also be discussed, as well as how to construct your own table if necessary. You will leave with great ideas on how to make your sensory table the most popular center in your classroom.

Sessions 3 and 4  
For teachers of all age groups

* Shake, Rattle and Roll  
Meleah Farlow
This session is not for the couch potato! This energetic class calls for moving, dancing, and singing even for those who say they can’t dance or sing. Musical activities include simple dances, songs that you may already know with a “twist”, incorporating props such as puppets, scarves, hoops and instruments to enhance your daily classroom lesson plans. This class is geared to the non-musical teacher who wants to bring music into the classroom.

Sessions 2 and 4  
For teachers of 2’s through 5’s (TK)
Shaped to Serve
Jenny Reilly
Pottery is a beautiful form of art, but what can it teach us about ourselves as teachers and leaders of children? Come reflect on God’s lessons for you and your call as a preschool leader by looking at the stages a piece of clay goes through before being usable. This will be a great time to renew yourself and share with others who lead God’s precious preschoolers. And of course, we will play with some clay. This workshop is wonderful for renewing and refreshing preschool teacher’s spirits!

Session 2 For Directors and teachers of all age groups

* Sing Me Some Sanity, Please!! Mr. Al
If children have ever driven you just a little crazy this workshop is for you! This session will explore techniques that utilize music and movement to help smooth the routines of the day. Children throughout the ages have been drawn to music and that is why it is so useful in the classroom. Learn how to use music (You are not required to sing!) throughout the day, not just at circle time, to create a successful, manageable and sane classroom.

Session 3 For teachers of all age groups

* Squint, Wiggle, and Squirm Dr. Philip Bugaiski
Do you work with a child who squints, squirms, or just can’t sit still? Does he constantly run into things? Does she try to kick a ball and miss? Does he swing a bat and not connect with the ball? Are drawing, coloring, and other childhood activities just no fun? These could be signs of a hidden vision challenge. In this hands-on workshops, attendees participate in a variety of visual activities that make learning about the Basics of Vision in Life meaningful for them. By the end of the session, you will learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms of learning-related vision problems.

Sessions 2 and 4 For Directors and teachers of all age groups

* Technology in the Preschool Classroom: Too Much or Too Little? Kim Myers
As Directors, it is difficult to know how much technology we should incorporate into our preschool programs. How much is enough? Are we adding too much technology or too little? The presenter will give examples and ask participants to share ideas and ways our preschools are plugging into the world of Technology.

Sessions 2 and 4 For Directors

* The 4 R’s of Classroom Management Mr. Al
This workshop will explore four techniques to help manage your classroom more effectively by utilizing proper room arrangement, routines, rules and consequences and rewards.

Session 2 For teachers of all age groups
The ABC’s of Preschool Vision  
Dr. Philip Bugaiski
In this lively and interactive workshop, attendees will learn why 20/20 vision is not enough when it comes to visual skills needed to be ready for reading and writing. Attendees will participate in various visual activities designed to make learning about vision easy. Screening techniques will be taught, tell-tale signs of vision problems will be demonstrated and activities to develop visual skills will be presented. Dr. Bugaiski will give participants a chance to ask questions.

Sessions 1 and 3  
For Directors and teachers of all age groups

The Baby and the Bathwater  
Cathie Broocks
Amid the push for technology and more “academics” in preschool classrooms, stands research-based evidence for what new methods to embrace, what developmental practices to preserve and what, in either area, to shelve. Information and pragmatic ideas provided will focus on these three areas: (1) what activities truly promote reading readiness; (2) what is executive function and how your classroom organization can support its development; and (3) how to “grow” focus, the essential building block of learning.

Sessions 1 and 3  
Teachers of all age groups and Directors

The Unique World of Transitional Kindergarten  
Kelly Morlacci and Jana Barnett
Beyond the four’s class, some children benefit from an additional year in Transitional Kindergarten. But what does this special year look like? How does it build upon four year old skills yet remain a preschool program? The presenters are experienced TK teachers and they will share instructional lessons and organizational ideas that have worked well in their classrooms. Participants are also asked to bring any of their own successes to share. Gross motor, fine motor, language, math, science—everyone will leave with an assortment of great activities.

Sessions 1 and 3  
For teachers of Transitional Kindergarten

Think INSIDE the Box  
Suzanne Couillard and Angie Garner
A box, a box—oh what can it be? In this workshop, we will use cardboard boxes for play and to create drama. You will also learn how to write a short dialogue that can be used in your classroom for dramatic playtime or even for a Parent Night. Join us and be prepared to laugh and have fun!

Sessions 2 and 4  
For Teachers of all age groups
* **Toddler Tango**  
Toddlers are growing physically and cognitively at a tremendous rate but cannot yet fully express themselves verbally. They try to be more independent but are still very dependent on their caregivers. This leads to much frustration on the part of the child and the teacher. This workshop will show how a little knowledge, patience and understanding can completely change the way we view this age. Toddlerhood is a very exciting time. Come find out why!  
**Session 4**  
For teachers of Toddlers and 2’s

* **Typical Speech and Language Development and How to Facilitate Growth**  
Heather Skeen  
In this workshop, typical speech and language skills of Preschoolers will be presented. There will also be a discussion about ways teachers can support development of speech and language skills during play and center times.  
**Sessions 1 and 3**  
For teachers of all age groups

* **When Timeout Doesn’t Work: How to Successfully Reduce Challenging Behaviors!**  
Bob Egelson  
To address challenging behaviors, the presenter will explain why timeout and other consequences do not work for some children. Attendees will also learn how to teach their children a better way to get what they want instead of acting out, hitting or biting. We will discuss the difference between consequences which teach what not to do and teaching better ways to get along.  
**Sessions 1 and 3**  
For teachers of all age groups and Directors

* **Why Does My Student Act That Way and How Do I Tell Their Parents?**  
Bob Egelson  
In this class, teachers will learn why some children appear to forget skills recently learned, have odd responses to sensory input, throw tantrums that seem to have no cause, or have significant speech delays. The presenter will also discuss how to let the child’s parents know that their child may need more help to resolve a particular issue. The presenter will discuss how first time parents process development and delays as well as how to assist them in getting the very best help possible.  
**Sessions 2 and 4**  
For teachers of all age groups and Directors
* Wonder-filled Theme Days in Fall and Winter!  
Susan Sumpter  
The world of pretend and imagination is such a special place for children! Teachers can effectively tap into this world to enrich, inspire, instruct. In this workshop, a wealth of new ideas awaits for planning exciting hands-on learning centers based on four curriculum themes: *Autumnfest, Home on the Range, Christmas/Epiphany, and Winterfest*. Participants will explore the importance of “wondering” alongside the children as they guide foundational learning in math, science, literacy, and the creative arts throughout each theme.  
Sessions 1 and 2  
For teachers of 2’s, 3’s, 4’s, 5’s, (TK)

* Wonder-filled Theme Days in Spring and Summer  
Susan Sumpter  
The world of pretend and imagination is such a special place for children! Teachers can effectively tap into this world to enrich, inspire, instruct. In this workshop, a wealth of new ideas awaits for planning exciting hands-on learning centers based on four curriculum themes: *Invitation to a Royal Ball, Animal Safari, Spring into Action Super-Heroes, and Commotion in the Ocean*. Participants will explore the importance of “wondering” alongside the children as they guide foundational learning in math, science, literacy, and the creative arts throughout each theme.  
Sessions 3 and 4  
For teachers of 2’s, 3’s, 4’s, 5’s (TK)
Meet Our Presenters

Mr. Al  (See Keynote page)

**Jana Barnette** is a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher. She is presently teaching at Sharon Presbyterian Weekday School and she has previously taught many years in public schools.

**Cece Biesecker** is a Registered Yoga Teacher at the Advanced Level, a Certified Fitness Instructor, and a Certified Personal Trainer. Cece is a former teacher with a Masters of Arts in Teaching. She is the owner and director of Cyoga Studio in High Point.

**Lin Bratcher** is an ordained minister and has been serving churches in North Carolina for 40 years. He holds a BS in Music Education from Atlantic Christian College and an MDiv in Church Music from Southeastern Seminary. Rev. Bratcher has been the Developer of Traditional Music, Worship and Arts at Williamson’s Chapel UMC in Mooresville since 2011. There his ministry incorporates all age groups with a special emphasis in the area of children.

**Cathie Broocks** currently serves as the Admissions Director of Charlotte Christian School. She has 30+ years experience in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Broocks is a contributing writer to the *Charlotte Observer*, the *Independent Tribune* and *Charlotte Parents* magazine. Cathie is a certified Gesell examiner and is passionate about treasuring childhood through honoring developmental ages and stages of early childhood development. She was a recent invitee to the Oxford Roundtable on Early Childhood in England and participant and panel leader at last fall’s Learning and Brain Conference in Boston.

**Dr. Phillip Bugaiski** was born in New York and first developed an interest in optometry as a result of childhood vision challenges requiring vision therapy. He graduated from Penn State and attained his Doctorate from State University of New York College of Optometry. In 2005 he founded **The Developmental Vision Center**, the first optometric clinic in Charlotte dedicated to Vision Development, Vision Therapy, Pediatric Optometry, and Vision Rehabilitation.

**Suzanne Couillard** has worked with three year olds at Wesley Memorial for the past two years. Before that, she taught in a preschool in Cary, NC, teaching two through four year olds. While there, she worked with children writing and performing small dramas.

**Bob Egelson** is a licensed Psychologist with a M.A. in School Psychology and 35 years experience successfully helping children with challenging behaviors, autism, ADHD, seizure disorders, selective mutism, and rare diseases. Bob has presented at numerous conferences and for the Guilford County School District.

**Meleah Farlow** has been teaching Early Childhood Music and Movement Classes since 1999 and is the owner of **Baby Grand Music Instruction** in High Point.

**Angie Garner** has worked with Toddlers, 2’s, 3’s and 4’s at Wesley Memorial for the past 14 years. She also teaches Sunday School and the Elementary Summer Camp at Wesley Memorial.

**Lisa Godwin** has MS and PhD degrees in Family and Child Development. She has experience teaching infants and toddlers, directing child care facilities, and more than 20 years’ experience in higher education. She has completed the Foundations of Infant-Toddler Care training for Community College Instructors.
Sidney McCrory is the Director of First United Methodist Child Development Center in Waynesville, NC. This is her sixth year as Director of the Preschool. She attended Mississippi State University and William Carey College, earning degrees in Fine Arts and Secondary Education. Before moving to North Carolina, she was a preschool Director for five years in Mississippi. She has taught 3, 4, and 5 year olds in Preschool and 5th and 6th grades in Elementary School. Sidney also taught Art in the public school system and she teaches Art classes to grown-ups and children on the side.

Jennifer McMasters has been the fun, zany art teacher at University City UMC Weekday School for eleven years. Jennifer holds a B.A. and Masters in English and a NC Teacher Certification. She has taught many workshops on creating process art.

Jody Monkus has a passion for assisting others in building better relationships through improved communication. She is a trainer and coach for the Institute of Leadership Development and is an Elementary School teacher. With over 20 years of experience and a Master's degree in Elementary Education, Jody offers a unique perspective on communication both inside and outside of the classroom.

Kelly Morlacci is beginning her 30th year of teaching. Her experience includes middle school math and science and elementary gifted programs. She is currently teaching Transitional Kindergarten at Carmel Presbyterian in Charlotte.

Kimberly Myers is the Director of Child Enrichment at First United Methodist in High Point and has recently accepted the role of Children’s Ministry Coordinator for Nursery and Preschool. Kimberly says that she has been blessed to be a part of Child Enrichment at FUMC for 20 years. She has also taught 3’s, 4’s, and Pre-K.

Jenny Reilly is the Director of Christian Education at Salem United Methodist in Denver, NC. Jenny holds BA degrees in Math and Religion from Greensboro College and a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Pfeiffer University. Her experiences include being a Preschool Director, an Afterschool Director, a Director of Children’s Ministry, and a Director of Christian Education, working with children of all ages in these endeavors. Jenny is a workshop and retreat leader for district, conference, and local church events.

Dick Riedel and Greg Venn are both retired Sergeants with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Together they have over 65 years in law enforcement experience including Patrol, Investigations covering child safety issues, personal security, Sexual Assault, Burglary and Missing Persons. They are co-owners of SECURUS and teach safety and security to schools, preschools, and other groups.

Pamela Shook has been a professional puppeteer and storyteller for 27 years. After receiving her BA in Theatre from Presbyterian College, she learned puppetry with a touring children’s theatre. Later she toured with Atlanta’s Piccadilly Puppets for six years before moving to Charlotte and founding Blue Moon Puppets. Pamela has been in venues such as Piccolo Spoleto, N. Charleston Arts Festival, and the Henson International Festival of Puppet Theatre.

Heather Skeen earned her Undergraduate Degree from Appalachian State University and her M.Ed from NCCU. Heather previously taught preschool at University City UMC and also worked in public education with Preschool Children for 10+ years. She is now a Lead Speech Language Pathologist.

Susan Sumpter has served for 17 years as Director of Wesley Memorial School at Wesley Memorial UMC in High Point. She is a graduate of High Point University with a degree in Early Childhood Education and a teaching certification Birth—3rd Grade. Prior positions during her 38 years at WMUMC have included roles as Assistant Director and Kindergarten Fives Lead Teacher.
Heidi Tringali is an Occupational Therapist with 25 years of experience. She is the owner of Tringali Occupational Therapy Services. Heidi provides OT and ST services to private and independent schools in the greater Charlotte area. She also provides teacher and parent seminars on Childhood Development.

Jennifer Waid is a Pediatric Occupational Therapist. For the past 20 years she has practiced in a variety of settings including a special needs daycare, inpatient child psychiatry, and private practice. She now runs a series of developmental groups for 3, 4, and Pre-K preschool classes called “Play ‘n’ Progress”.

Beverly Warkulwiz has worked almost 20 years in the field of education, with a specialty in Early Childhood Curricula. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a minor in Vocal Performance from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and has a Master’s Equivalency in Education. Beverly was nominated for Disney’s American Teacher Awards and is the published author of three resource books for early childhood educators, a K-4 math activity kit, and seven board books for babies and toddlers.
Hotel Information

The Drury Inn and Suites Charlotte Northlake is offering very special rates to our Conference participants. To receive the special rate, you must identify yourself as being a part of the Western North Carolina Conference and book by October 17. Our group number is: 2239394

To make reservations, do one of the following:

- Use the toll free number 1-800-325-0720. Specify the hotel location (Northlake Charlotte) and reference our group name (Western NC Conference) and the group number 2239394.

- Call the Hotel directly at 704-599-8882, using our group number, 2239394.

- Reserve online, by going to www.druryhotels.com. Click on “Reservations” and then click “Group Reservations” then enter group number 2239394.

Room choices that are available are:
- 1 King Bed Deluxe ($78.00)
- 2 Queen Beds Deluxe ($78.00)

The rates are for 2 people per room. If you have a 3rd or 4th person in the room, the rate will increase by $10.00 per person.

Amenities include:
- Free hot breakfast;
- Free 5:30 Kickback—beverages and hot food from 5:30—7:00
- Free High-Speed Internet in each room
- Free Long Distance (one hour per room per night)
- Soft drinks and popcorn from 3:00—10:00 in the lobby

Please call before October 17 to get the special rate. Unreserved rooms in the block will be released at that time.

There are a number of other hotels in the area but we do not have a special rate with those hotels. Some of them are:

- Hilton University Place—8629 J.M. Keynes Dr.—704-547-7444
- Comfort Suites—7735 University City Blvd.—704-547-0049
- Courtyard by Marriot—333 West WT Harris Blvd.—704-549-4888
- Drury Inn—415 West WT Harris Blvd.—704-593-0700
Conference Site

The Conference will be held this year at University City United Methodist Church. The address is: 3835 W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269

We are not including directions to the church. If you cannot access directions on line (MapQuest or GoogleMaps), please call Blair Luther at 704-369-8010 or University City UMC at 704-597-0083 for help.

If you need further information, call one of the people listed below…

- Questions about University City UMC?
  Call Blair Luther at 704-369-8010 or email her at bluther@ucumc.org

- Questions about registration?
  Call Debbie Swartzel at 704-660-8268 or email her at debbieswartzel@willchapelumc.org

- Questions about a scholarship?
  Call Barbara Jackson at 704-846-2708 or email her at barbara@matthewsumc.org

- Questions about the Conference, the classes, or general questions?
  Call Barbara Jackson at 704-846-2708 or email her at barbara@matthewsumc.org