



How to Use *Horizons* Magazine

WHY THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT

“Education” and “Presbyterian”—these two words seem to go together like “bread” and “butter.” Our ancestor in the faith, John Calvin, who was himself very well educated, emphasized ordered education that prepared students for ministry *and* participation in civil government. (For a brief analysis of the educational theory of John Calvin, see www.newfoundations.com/GALLERY/Calvin.html.) In encouraging the development of universal education in Geneva, Calvin displayed his contention that, for people to be adequately equipped to “rightly divide God’s Word,” they must be educated in language and the humanities. Our own 210th General Assembly declared 1998–1999 to be the “Year with Education,” and emphasized five areas: global, higher, public, theological and Christian education.

In this issue of *Horizons*, you’ll be treated to challenging and thought-provoking articles on racial and socioeconomic divisions in public education; the latest applications of brain research to the church’s educational practice as developed in the theory of multiple intelligences; the value of church-related colleges and universities; mentoring as a vital tool in education; women’s varied experiences of theological education and roles in ministry; fundamentals of Christian nurture in the lives of all congregations; and including learners of all abilities in Christian education.

How appropriate that Presbyterian Women focus on access and availability of education in its many arenas and forms! We are, after all, women who “. . . commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study . . .” (PW Purpose). Presbyterians, and Presbyterian Women in particular, have followed Calvin’s example and continue to uphold the intrinsic value of multifaceted education for fulfilling humanity’s chief end: “. . .to glorify God and enjoy God forever” (*Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Q1). So read, discover, and take action, for as God is glorified in your response, your own enjoyment in the learning life grows!

FOCUSING ON THE ISSUES

“Intelligence and Spiritual Gifts” by Kathy L. Dawson

- Which of the intelligences named in this article do you feel to be your particular areas of strength or giftedness? In which would like to grow stronger?
- Ask your Christian education chairperson or Christian educator on staff how your church’s Christian education and spiritual formation programming incorporate multiple intelligences (MI) theory.
- Look at a sampler of the curricula your congregation uses (for everything, not just Sunday school) and either individually or in your circle or other group, see where you find evidence of the use of the MI theory. Be sure to include the PW Bible studies in your analysis!

- The Workshop Rotation Model™ (WoRM™) for children’s education has become widespread and popular among Christian churches of all stripes. See www.rotation.org/Micki.htm for an explanation of how this model incorporates MI theory. A variety of both commercial and “homegrown” curricula have been developed, some of it available for free. The PC(USA) offers the workshop rotation format in its *We Believe* curriculum. You can also order *Rotating Workshops for Grades 1-5 CD-ROM*, which contains four complete units on Baptism, Communion, the Apostles’ Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer or call Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/524-2612 and request item # 123001; \$79.00 plus shipping.
- After looking at resources available for church use today, think back: if you attended church as a child or youth, what materials were used in your classes or programs? Did these materials take different learning styles and multiple intelligences theory into account in any way? What differences do you see in the learning environment in churches today?
- Invite a school teacher to share with your circle, PW or congregation how MI theory is used in her/his classroom and/or school. Be sure to offer prayers of thanksgiving for the teacher’s ministry of education.
- Read and carefully consider the closing paragraph of this article, and then compose a prayer thanking God for and naming the specific intelligences most associated with each person in your circle, group, family, etc. Ask God’s guidance for growing in “weaker” areas, remembering the *1 Corinthians 12* passage cited by the author, along with *Psalms 139:13–14*.

• Look for these books (can be ordered from Amazon or your through your local bookstore):

- *Multiple Intelligences: New Horizons in Theory and Practice* by Howard Gardner, New York: Perseus Books, due to be released August 2006. ISBN: 0465047688
- *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*, by Howard Gardner, New York: Basic Books, 1993. ISBN: 0465025102
- *Intelligence Reframed: Multiple Intelligences for the 21st Century*, by Howard Gardner, New York: Basic Books, 2000. ISBN: 0465026117
- *7 Ways of Teaching the Bible to Children*, by Barbara Bruce, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996. ISBN: 0687020689
- *7 Ways of Teaching the Bible to Adults: Using Our Multiple Intelligences to Build Faith*, by Barbara Bruce, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000. ISBN: 0687090849
- *Start Here: Teaching & Learning with Adults*, by Barbara Bruce, Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2000. ISBN: 0881773034
- *Our Spiritual Brain: Integrating Brain Research and Faith Development*, by Barbara Bruce, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002. ISBN: 0687092663
- *Many Saints, Many Ways: Multiple Intelligences Activities for Grades 1 to 6*, by Phyllis Vos Wezeman and Anna L. Liechty, Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2003. ISBN: 087793973X
- *The Moral Intelligence of Children: How to Raise a Moral Child*, by Robert Coles, New York: Random House, 1997. ISBN: 067944811X
- *Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom (2nd Edition)*, by Thomas Armstrong, Alexandria: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2000. ISBN: 0871203766



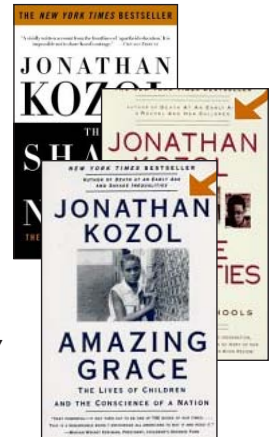
“Ghosts of the Past” by Dee Dee Risher

- Check out the Web site of the film with which Dee Dee begins her story—www.sisters-shoulders.org. You may want to check with a public or university library in your area to see if they have a copy available for borrowing.
- What are the enrollment demographics by individual school in the public school system in your community? Do these figures reflect visible integration or segregation?
- Discuss in your circle or other group your own experiences of racial segregation or integration in your educational upbringing. Did your faith community address racial concerns? What were the attitudes expressed by your family and friends? Have your personal views changed over time regarding racial inequality in public education? What scriptures come to mind when you consider the connections among race, poverty, and inequality of public education?
- Invite an educator who teaches in one of the “less integrated” public schools or classrooms in your community to read and respond to this article, and to share that response in a discussion with your circle, PW, or other group. If the educator is willing to do so, invite her/him to share how her/his faith traditions informs her/his viewpoint.
- What connections do you see between the racial segregation in public education issues put forth in this article, and this nation’s ongoing debate about immigration policies and the enrollment of immigrant children in public schools?
- Borrow or purchase *Free Indeed: Of White Privilege and How We Play the Game*. This 30-minute black and white video with study guide (recommended for grade 9 to adults) is produced by the Mennonite Central Committee; \$20 plus shipping. (To order go to www.thenovgroup.com/MCC/catalog/ and enter “Free Indeed” in the Text Search box). Content: “Four white middle-class young adults play a card game as a prerequisite for doing a service project for a black Baptist church. The game leads to a discussion about the privileges white people have and their attitudes about racism.”
- You’ll find a variety of interesting and pertinent articles on the Web site of the Harvard Civil Rights Project: www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/. See especially:
 - ✎ “Racial Transformation and the Changing Nature of Segregation” (www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/news/pressreleases/deseg06.php)
 - ✎ View or get a copy of “Looking to the Future: Voluntary K-12 School Integration” by following the link at the bottom of the description of this manual for parents, educators, and advocates. (www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/resources/manual/deseg_manual.php)
- An outstanding resource for educators, particularly suitable for public education classrooms, is *Teaching Tolerance*, a program of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The SPLC’s hope page describes *Teaching Tolerance*:

“To combat the causes of hate, the Center in 1991 established Teaching Tolerance, an educational program to help K-12 teachers foster respect and understanding in the classroom. Teaching Tolerance is now one of the nation’s leading providers of anti-bias resources—both in print and online.”

Many resources are available free to churches as well as schools. See www.splcenter.org/center/tt/teach/jsp.

- On a related topic in public education, look at “Bullying in the Classroom,” a new one-session study for adults and older youth, available for purchase (\$5 for a single study, or reduced priced for multiple purchases) and download from *The Thoughtful Christian* (www.thethoughtfulchristian.com).
- When the PC(USA)’s 210th General Assembly (1998) declared 1998–1999 to be the Year with Education, *Presbyterians Today* celebrated with their May 1998 issue. View the 1998 index online at www.pcusa.org/today/pastissues/features/1998.htm and read articles on the five areas of education emphasized. See especially David R. Brown’s article on public education, “Keeping Faith with Public Schools.”
- Look for these books (can be ordered from Amazon or your through your local bookstore):
 - ✎ *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*, by Jonathan Kozol, New York: Three Rivers Press, due to be released August 2006. ISBN: 1400052459
 - ✎ *Savage Inequalities: Children in America’s Schools*, by Jonathan Kozol, New York: Harper Perennial, 1992. ISBN: 0060974990
 - ✎ *Amazing Grace: Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*, by Jonathan Kozol, New York: Harper Perennial, 1996. ISBN: 0060976977



“Faith and Higher Education” by John Williams

- Identify people in your congregation (or in your town or area, if you live in a non-urban area) who are attending or have attended Presbyterian-related colleges or universities. Invite one or more to speak to your circle, PW, or other group to share their thoughts about life on a denominationally-related campus.
- On Higher Education Sunday (for 2006, it’s August 27; but for future years, check the Presbyterian Planning Calendar), distribute a list of Presbyterian-related colleges and universities (see p. 66 in the 2006–2007 calendar or go to www.apcu.net).
- Read “Learning with a Touch of Faith,” the cover story of the September 2002 issue of *Presbyterians Today*. There are links to related topics, including a list of Presbyterian-related colleges and universities.
- Visit with your congregation’s high school sophomores and juniors about the possibility of attending a church-related school. Help them research those institutions in which they express interest. The Association of Presbyterian Colleges & Universities Web site, www.apcu.net, has a convenient “Visit an APCU School Online” pulldown. Also see www.pcusa.org/financialaid/programs/natpresbycollege.htm for details on the National Presbyterian College Scholarship program (criteria, application information, deadlines, etc.).
- In your circle, PW, or other group, discuss John Williams’ application of the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus to addressing and engaging college students in your church or community (“look up,” “address each person by name,” “invite each one to share her/his gifts”). How does your congregation currently do this with college students? With *all* persons?

- Williams reminds us that “It might be well that God will call our children to do and to be things for which we have never imagined or prepared.” Have you had experience of this, either in your own parenting or family life, or in your own college days?
- How can you, your PW and your congregation connect and bring to life in concrete ways the PW Purpose with the statement with which Williams closes his article: “In all of these contexts, the role of the church is to invite, encourage, assist, enable and accompany students in the important and world-changing work of identifying, developing and sharing the gifts that God has given to the whole world through them”?
- For “general” college ministry, regardless of institutional affiliation, if your congregation does not have an explicit ministry with college-age young people, consider becoming a “support” congregation, pairing up with a “host” church that has an existing college ministry. (Be sure to be clear about and agree on expectations for all parties involved.) What a wonderful way to demonstrate unity in Christ rather than competition for bodies! See www.pcusa.org/collegiate/index.htm for general information.

“The Valuable Girl Project” By Doris Abdel Messieh

- For a relatively brief but interesting and helpful introduction to Coptic Christianity, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coptic_Christianity. See also www.copticchurch.net/. Is there a Coptic church in your area? If so you may want to order an extra copy of *Horizons* and share this article.
- See www.mentoring.org for information on mentoring in general and on national programs and partnerships in the United States.
- Many civic and professional organizations, as well as local school districts, have mentoring programs, and others, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, focus on mentoring as their primary mission. Church-related homes for children also frequently seek community volunteers to form mentoring relationships with their young residents. (Note: Consistent with the protection and best interests of children and youth in mind, many mentoring programs require criminal background checks of adults who seek to serve as mentors. So don’t be surprised if you encounter this as part of an application process; it means the organization or agency is being conscientious and doing its job.)
- Does your congregation engage in some form of structured mentoring with children or youth, whether those in the congregation or in the community? For instance, if your church hosts an after-school program for children, you may want to investigate the idea of adding a specific one-to-one mentoring component (be sure to go through proper session committees for approval).
- Have you had a special mentor in your own life? In your circle, PW, or other group, take time to share the greatest gift you feel you received from your mentor. If that person is living, write her/him a note and express your appreciation for the relationship.

- Note that the Presbyterian Church in Egypt observed its sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) in 2005. In the First Quarter 2006 (Vol. 18, No. 1) issue of the PC(USA) publication, *The Racial Ethnic Torch* (available at your presbytery resource center), Magdy Girgis, Moderator of the National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus, shares some information about the work of Presbyterians in Egypt.
- While no longer available for purchase, you may be able to borrow from your presbytery resource center *Grand Friends, Young Friends* (by Pat Roller, Louisville: Bridge Resources, 1998), which comes with a leader's guide and participant's book. It provides helps for establishing mentoring relationships between older and younger persons (as in grandparent-grandchild, but applicable to any similar relational pair).

“Education in the Church” By Elaine McRobbie

- Be sure to share this article with your session's Christian Education Committee. Ask them to use it in an upcoming meeting as an instrument for review and discussion.
- In your circle, PW, Sunday school class, youth fellowship, a gathering of Sunday School teachers or *any* willing group, use this article as an analytical tool to assess what's happening in your congregation's educational life. Be sure to include worship as one of the learning experiences examined.
- If your congregation has no Christian educator on staff and would like help with examining and implementing some of the suggestions in this article, call your presbytery staff and request assistance. Many presbyteries have a staffperson to assist you, or they can refer you to Christian educators who would be willing to do so. You may also call your presbytery's POINT Person(s) (Presbyterian Organized in Nurture and Teaching), who have special training in PC(USA) curriculum resources and their use in congregations. To locate a POINT Person in your presbytery, call your presbytery office or see the POINT Directory at www.pcusa.org/point/directory.htm.
- See Jann Treadwell's article “How Our Reformed Faith Informs Our Teaching,” on pp. 14–15 in the November 1998 (Vol. 28, No.3) issue of *Alert Magazine* (the predecessor of *IDEAS! For Church Leaders*). Call your resource center to locate this article; it may be photocopied for use in Presbyterian churches.
- When a child in our denomination is baptized, the congregation is asked: “Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture ____ by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her/him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of her/his church?” How does this article inform your response to this question?
- Visit the Web sites of the three national conference centers of the PC(USA)—Ghost Ranch (www.ghostranch.org) Montreat (www.montreat.org) and Stony Point (www.stonypoint-center.org)—for information on programming. Also visit the Web site of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (www.apce.net) for information on their annual conference. Church volunteers are warmly welcomed and encouraged to come learn from Christian education professionals and other volunteers. Also check with your presbytery office about learning opportunities in your own area, and don't forget about programming at Presbyterian seminaries—many of their offerings are open to laypeople.

- If your church hasn't done so already, you'll want to take a look at the new online, downloadable curriculum, *The Thoughtful Christian*, from Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (www.thethoughtfulchristian.com). Introduced in February 2006, this curriculum for adults and older youth has quickly become popular among Christian educators, pastors and folks in the pews.

“Fifty Years Later” by Carol Gruber

- How does your circle, PW, or other group support theological education in general? What about support of women candidates and inquirers for ministry of Word and Sacrament under care of your presbytery? You may want to check with your presbytery office for a list of those under care, and pray for each one by name. If you have mailing addresses, notes of encouragement or “thinking of you” cards are always welcome.
- Use the listing of Web addresses included with this article to check for women faculty. Who are they? What are they teaching? If you are geographically close to a seminary, invite a female faculty member to meet with your circle, PW or other group, and speak about the challenges and joys of her work.
- Has your congregation ever called a female pastor? If so, do you perceive that gender has ever been an issue of contention among parishioners? If you answered “yes” to the second question, why do think that is so?
- Share in your circle or other group each person's reactions to Beth McCaw's statement: “There is not one model for a woman in ministry.”

“Whoever Welcomes Me” By Nella Uitvlugt

- Does your congregation have experience with children or adults with cognitive disabilities? If so, share that experience your circle, PW or other group. If not, how could your congregation explore the idea of preparation for such inclusion?
- Read again the third paragraph under the header, “The Power to Include” (“I must confess, this is difficult for me to acknowledge . . .”). Do you identify with the author's words?
- Uitvlugt talks about obscure symbolism in visual art and in liturgy (banners that need interpretation; sermons and liturgy that rely on heavily abstract language). Think over your congregation's customary liturgy and your visual representations of the faith. Discuss in your circle, PW or other group what changes might make your space and your worship service more hospitable.
- Invite cognitively impaired persons (and their parents, if applicable) to share, as they are able and feel comfortable doing so, specifically how they feel included or excluded in your congregation. Listen carefully, non-defensively and lovingly. Pray together about specific needs, and then follow through with action as needed and appropriate.
- See the article, “Accessing the Word: Special Approaches for Individual Needs” by Milton Tyree (www.pcusa.org/phewa/pdf/2004-asr/ideas-for-curriculum-adaptation.pdf), from the Winter 2003–2004 (Vol. 3, No. 2) issue of *IDEAS! For Church Leaders*, pp. 6–7.

- More curriculum and book resources are available on this topic. (Note: the two books by Kathleen Deyer Bolduc are available from most presbytery resource centers)
 - Download *Bridges: A Curriculum for Persons with Mental Retardation* from Cokesbury; \$7.50.
 - *His Name Is Joel: Searching for God in a Son's Disability*, by Kathleen Deyer Bolduc, Louisville: Bridge Resources, 1999. ISBN: 1578951341
 - *A Place Called Acceptance: Ministry with Families of Children with Disabilities*, by Kathleen Deyer Bolduc, Louisville: Bridge Resources, 2001. ISBN: 1578950988
 - *Unexpected Guests at God's Banquet*, by Brett Webb-Mitchell, New York: Crossroad, 1994. ISBN: 0824514408
 - *Exceptional Teaching: A Comprehensive Guide for Including Students with Disabilities*, by Jim Pierson, Standard Publishing, 2002, ISBN: 0784712557
 - *Special Needs, Special Ministry*, by Group Publishing, Loveland: Group Publishing, 2003. ISBN: 0764425471
 - *Human Disability and the Service of God: Reassessing Religious Practice*, edited by Nancy L. Eiesland and Don E. Saliers, Nashville: Abingdon, 1998. ISBN: 0687273161



* Recommended resources are available through several channels—purchase at your local bookstore or online book retailer; some may be available through your presbytery resource center.