



## 2026 Workshop and Keynote Schedule

**The letters before the talks represent the following interest codes for talks.**

G: General interest to all parents

B: Beginners and inquirers

L: Parents of struggling learners

Y: Parents of young children preschool to early elementary

O: Parents of older elementary age (may include middle school)

P: Parents of teens (and possibly teens)

D: Dads

M: Mom

T: Teens and alums

### **Session 1 Thursday 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

P Jessica Frierson, **Preparing Teens for the Future: Ethical AI in the Homeschool**—Artificial intelligence has become a sought-after skill in today’s workforce. This session focuses on ways homeschool parents can prepare their teens by incorporating AI into high school learning while maintaining academic integrity, critical thinking, and strong ethics. We’ll discuss how colleges and employers are using AI, what skills businesses look for in new recruits, and how to teach teens to use AI as a tool—not a shortcut. Parents will leave with strategies for modeling responsible use, setting clear boundaries, and helping teens develop real-world skills with confidence and character. (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #1

G Stephanie Smith, **Rethinking the Strong-Willed Child**—If you’re exhausted from raising a strong-willed child, you’ve heard the reassuring words: “She’ll resist peer pressure!” and “He’s a born leader!” These ideas offer comfort—but what if they prove false? Charlotte Mason understood the defiant child doesn’t have a strong will at all but a weak one, dominated by emotions and impulses. As a mom of five sons, some who “qualified” as “strong-willed,” this insight changed everything. Discover the truth popular teaching has gotten wrong and come away with hope and practical methods aligned with Scripture. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #2

G Adelaide Olguin, **Leave the Homeschool Room: Travel the World**—What if travel wasn’t just a dream but one of the most impactful parts of your homeschool? In this energizing and practical workshop, we’ll tackle the seven biggest roadblocks that keep homeschool families from taking the leap into travel. Whether it’s money, fear, scheduling, or logistics, you’ll see how each one can be solved. Learn how to use points and perks to book thousands of dollars in free travel, how to create learning-rich experiences for every age, and how travel can become one of the most transformational tools in your homeschool. (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #3

G Amber O’Neal Johnston, **Teaching Hard History in a Beautiful Way**—Home educators are more motivated now than ever to have meaningful conversations with their children about our country’s complicated past and the forces that shaped the society we live in today. But most of us never learned about the tough topics in school, and the books traditionally read in homeschool circles rarely provide much assistance. During our time together, we’ll discuss how to approach

hard history in our homes with honesty and compassion in an age-appropriate way. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #4

T Kayla Jennings, **One Year Later**—In May of 2025, I completed my homeschool education. In May 2026, I will have had one year of experience under my belt as a college student with a homeschool background. In this session, I share my experiences, the lessons the Lord has taught me, and encourage young people to follow the path God has laid out for them and be content in whatever direction He leads. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #5

G Andrew Pudewa, **Cultivating Language Arts—Preschool through High School**—Listening and reading well, speaking and writing clearly, and thinking and debating effectively are abilities that most parents hope to cultivate in their children. With that goal in mind, Andrew Pudewa explores various environments and activities that accelerate the development of these language skills, beginning with the youngest students and continuing into the high school years. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #6

L Cheryl Vandegrift, **Adapting Your Homeschool for Neurodivergents**—We will go over how homeschooling your autistic child differs from a typical homeschool. We cover a little bit of neuroscience and how stress affects them, and why it's important that they have autonomy over their day and their education. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #7

B Aliyah Daley, **Deschooling through Nature: Healing and Growth in the Garden**—Deschooling is an important step for families transitioning from traditional education. This workshop uses the garden as a metaphor and practice for releasing rigid systems, timelines, and expectations. Participants will explore how time in nature supports healing, curiosity, and natural learning. Families will learn how gardening helps rebuild trust, regulate emotions, and create space for growth for both children and parents. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #8

### **Session 2 Thursday 3:20-4:20 p.m.**

G Leilani Curtis, **How to Connect with Your Kids through Books**—At the foundation of our homeschools, we know we want to invest deeply into relationships with our kids. One of the most effective ways to do this is simpler than you might think. By reading aloud together, we find that we discover more about each other through the stories we share. Join Leilani Curtis from the Read-Aloud Revival team as she shares how to weave a family culture of connection and conversation through books. (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #9

YO Aimee Eucce, **Why Teaching Boys to Read & Spell Is Different than Teaching Girls**—Boys and girls learn differently—it's a fact supported by science! Join us for a deep dive into the unique challenges and opportunities of teaching boys to read and spell. You'll discover why some common strategies fall flat and learn new approaches that will keep them engaged and excited about learning. From what to do and what not to do, this session offers fresh insights and practical tips for keeping your active boys on track. Plus, you'll take home a list of game-based activities that turn learning into a fun adventure. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #10

G Steve Scheibner, **Living on Borrowed Time: The Nine Practices of the Proactive Parent**—As a pilot for American Airlines, Steve was originally scheduled to be the co-pilot on the first flight to be hijacked on 9/11. He was bumped from that flight through extraordinary circumstances. Now, he

tells his deeply moving story of God’s providence on that terrible day in our history. Discover how God now uses him to teach parents worldwide how to train their children with purpose and urgency as he introduces “The Nine Practices of the Proactive Parent.” Intensely practical and Bible-based, these practices give parents the tools and hope they need to build a Christ-centered and character-driven home environment. (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #11

P Dionne Smith, **The ABCDE of High School: Guiding Teens with Love and Purpose**—High school is an exciting and shaping season for teens—and a meaningful one for parents to share. This workshop walks through the ABCDE of parenting: advocating for your student, being present, choreographing opportunities, exploring dual enrollment, and encouraging growth. With gentle, practical ideas for asking good questions, taking action, and fostering accountability, families will leave equipped to guide with love and wisdom—making high school a season of discovery, maturity, and joy, not just requirements. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #12

T Aaron Klemm, **How Ideas Shape Everything**—Everyone has a worldview—a way we see, interpret, and engage with the world. Every worldview is built out of ideas: what we think about God, humanity, purpose, and so much more. Some ideas have good consequences and others have harmful ones. Students will begin to see how ideas shape choices and behavior, both in their own lives and in others. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #13

BO Seann Dikkers, **Carrots, Not Sticks: Designing Learning for Joy**—What drives our learning? What convinces anyone to pursue knowledge, invest, and embark on great endeavors? Is boredom necessary or to be avoided? Why do we learn new skills? This session will explore learning for joy, motivational strategies, and outline practical planning tools that will help you take any content and foster joy in the process. If your child is less than motivated, this session may help answer why and offer key approaches you can use starting tomorrow. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #14

G Karri Iverson, **Science in the Kitchen, Science in the Bathroom, Science in the Car**—Baking cookies creates a mixture; making ice cubes changes the state of matter, and feeding the dog is an opportunity for a biology lesson. Science, and the opportunities to teach it, are everywhere around us. Learn practical tips for keeping your eyes open to the many ways God has designed our lives and the science to back it up, whether you’re in the kitchen, bathroom, yard, or car. Join veteran homeschooling mom and the author of the Mystery of Science series, Karri Iverson, to learn tips and tricks for putting it all together. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #15

L Stephanie Buckwalter, **A Developmental Approach to Teaching Special Needs Students**—Ever wonder why you can’t find curriculum that works for your special needs child? It’s because most curriculum is age-based, not development-based. To choose the appropriate curriculum for your child, it helps to understand the developmental stages of learning and where your child falls along that path. Once you understand that, it opens up a world of possibilities for your child’s learning options. You can address many of your homeschool struggles by looking at them through a developmental lens and applying instructional strategies that support learning. Come and learn practical ways you can adapt your teaching to your child’s developmental stage. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #16

**Session 3 Thursday, 4:40-5:40 p.m.**

G Matthew McDill, **Leading Homeschoolers in North Carolina**—This workshop is designed especially for homeschool leaders in North Carolina. Please join us in the session before the leaders dinner for a time of discussion and encouragement. In addition to receiving some practical tips about leading your groups, you will have the opportunity to share with us how NCHE can serve you better. There will also be experienced homeschool leaders and NCHE board members present to answer questions you may have about leading your groups. We can't wait to talk with you! (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #17

Y Kathy Lee Eggers, **The Early Years: The Science-Backed Benefits of Play for Brain Development**—Play isn't just fun—It's a powerful tool for building strong, healthy brains! In this session, homeschool parents will explore the fascinating science behind how play fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and emotional regulation. Learn practical strategies to integrate impactful play into your homeschool routine, setting your child up for lifelong success. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #18

G Megan Scheibner, **Homeschooling with Simplicity and Sincerity**—Homeschooling days are busy, and it's easy to get caught up in a rush of daily activities! However, if we allow the busyness of our days to distract us, we run the risk of merely raising well-educated children, not spiritually-focused young adults. Join Megan to discover practical ways to make sure that your homeschool days are building fruit for eternity, as she shares truths about the Trasher, the Stasher, and the Catcher! As you see yourself mirrored in one of these three examples, you'll gain the tools you need to homeschool your children with transparent humility and an eternal focus. (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #19

M Amber O'Neal Johnston, **The Inheritance of Homemaking**—For some people, homemaking feels like a thing of the past—something pursued by grandmothers and women who lack opportunities. Full-time mothering and slow childhood are often misunderstood and undervalued in today's hurried world, but the idea of homemaking has been etched into the hearts of many women (and their husbands). In this session, we'll discuss the power of keeping a home and how approaching homemaking as an intergenerational gift and beloved profession can open hearts, minds, and many doors. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #20

T Andrew Morton, **Transposition—Through Narnia to Heaven**—A journey through Narnia and into Heaven that calls us to see earthly goods for what they are: signposts to communion with God. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #21

P Andrew Pudewa, **Hacking High School: Rethinking the Teen Years**—Most of us have presuppositions about what high school is based on our own experience. Times are changing, and the opportunities for home educating high schoolers have grown rapidly. Many of these opportunities will save time, help your family avoid higher education debt, and give your teens a head start on their next decade of life. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #22

B Niki and Thomas Cooper, **Compass: Finding Your True North and Curriculum**—Feeling lost in a sea of curriculum choices? Learn how to find your way back to what matters most: your family's values, goals, and unique learners. Discover a simple "homeschool compass" framework to help you choose and adapt curriculum with clarity, creativity, and confidence. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #23

L Becky MacCredie, **Behind the Spectrum: Treating Cognitive Barriers in ASD**—High-functioning autism (ASD) often comes with remarkable strengths but also hidden struggles that affect daily life. While autism itself is not something to “treat away,” many children face co-occurring cognitive challenges—like processing speed, working memory, attention, and executive functioning—that impact learning and behavior. In this workshop, you’ll learn to recognize these barriers and explore research-based strategies to strengthen underlying skills, boosting confidence, independence, and academic success. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #24

#### **Friday Morning General Session and Keynote 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

Andrew Pudewa, **Renaissance Education or Renaissance in Education?**—Would a Renaissance education help bring about a renaissance in education? What sort of training and life did a young Shakespeare or da Vinci have? What elements of that can we recapture and apply in our tech-driven modern world? Andrew Pudewa contemplates craft, attentiveness, stock, imitation, constraint, freedom, and more! (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #25

#### **Session 4 Friday 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

G Heather Mangum, **God-Centered Homeschooling with Multiple Ages**—The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever—and the one-room schoolhouse helps us pursue this with multiple children. We’ll explore how teaching various ages together strengthens academics and relationships using the classical tools of grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric. Discover practical strategies for integrated learning that keeps Christ at the center, cultivates critical thinking, and nurtures sibling bonds. When we learn together, our homeschools become communities of worship where every child grows in knowledge of God and love for one another. (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #26

G Kathy Lee Eggers, **Beyond Textbooks: Nurturing the Whole Child in Your Homeschool**—Homeschooling goes beyond academics. Discover how to cultivate your child’s intellectual, emotional, social, and physical well-being, fostering resilience, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning. We’ll explore practical strategies to integrate character building, life skills, emotional intelligence, and diverse experiences into your homeschool journey, ensuring your child thrives in every aspect of life. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #27

P Steve Scheibner, **Training Teens to Take the Initiative**—Want to transition your young adults from simple obedience to mature responsibility? Dr. Steve shares the essential phases of growth that teens need to incorporate to take responsibility for their lives. Watch your kids move from childish irresponsibility to responsible young adults who embrace ownership and initiative as they move up the “responsibility tree.” (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #28

G Amber O’Neal Johnston, **Sparking Curiosity and Delight: Balancing Academic Requirements with Passion-Driven Learning**—What if your home atmosphere could ignite your children’s natural curiosity and bring joy to their academic journey? In this session, we’ll explore how to support your kids’ academic growth while embracing their unique passions and interests. Join us as we dive into practical strategies for creating a learning environment where curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm thrive. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #29

TG Mike Tiland, **Tech Talk**—Technology is a hot topic these days and how we navigate the use of that technology as Christ-followers can be a significant challenge for individuals and families. In

this session, we peel back the HD screens and look at what the root issues are that we need to deal with to be able to live faithfully in a world run by technological advances. The stakes are incredibly high, but technology does not have to run our lives and our families. The hope is found in the gospel and in our identity in our God, our creator. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #30

YO Andrew Pudewa, **Fairy Tales and the Moral Imagination**—Are fairy tales good, even important, for Christian students? Where did they come from, what can they teach our children, and should we spend our valuable time reading them? Andrew Pudewa discusses several basic themes in fairy tales and traditional children’s literature (goodness, truth, beauty, hope, honesty, and wishes) as well as key archetypes of literature and their importance to the moral imagination. With the confusion surrounding modern fantasy writing, many parents and teachers feel uncertain in discerning good and important literature from misleading and confusing books, stories, and movies. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #31

L Eve Hullette, **Kids Who Learn Differently and the Parents Who Want Answers**—Teaching math can be tough, especially when your child learns differently. Whether your child has a learning difference, struggles with math anxiety, or simply doesn’t grasp math the traditional way, you’re not alone. In this encouraging and practical workshop, you’ll discover strategies that truly work for kids who need a different approach. Learn how to teach in ways that build real understanding, reduce anxiety, and foster confidence. With the right tools and support, success is not only possible—it’s within reach. Come gain insight, encouragement, and a clear path forward. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #32

B Tracie Marsh, **Homeschooling for Beginners**—Are you thinking about homeschooling? Learn about the laws in our state, reasons to homeschool, and what to focus on your first year. With a firm foundation, homeschooling will be a success. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #33

### **Session 5 Friday 12:35-1:35 p.m.**

OPT Marji McIlvaine, **Online Instruction: How to Succeed!**—So you are homeschooling and you are fully or partially virtual. Why isn’t it working? How can I help my kid succeed here? Marji’s experience with online instruction extends from the parent side to the teacher experience—she has homeschooled her six children both with and without online classes, some online classes (and hated them), some online classes (and loved them)—and now teaches through an online academy. She has “been there, done that,” and seen the pros and cons from both sides—information only a handful of people can offer. These tips are for both students and parents. (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #34

G Aimee Eucce, **End Overwhelm: Making Homeschooling Simple and Fun**—This session covers lessons learned from a second-generation homeschool mom who has been right where you are. Maybe you’ve bought too much, or discovered the curriculum that worked for your friend isn’t working for your child. In this session, we’ll talk about how to cut through the clutter, simplify your homeschool day, and find a rhythm that actually works for your family. You’ll leave with practical tips to help you focus on what matters most—enjoying the learning journey with your kids. Taught by a second-generation homeschooling mom. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #35

G Megan Scheibner, **The A to Z of a Characterhealthy Homeschool**—When we homeschool simply to achieve high academic marks, we are squandering the opportunity to influence our children for Christ. If we spend our homeschooling hours only on academics and activities, we may

win the praise of man, but we risk losing the hearts of our children. Character healthy leaders are those children who have learned to elevate virtues above feelings. In our few short years with our children, we must focus on the first things first, and character is always the *first thing*! Megan will challenge you to use every opportunity to teach your children to serve God by loving others and to love others by faithfully serving God. This talk is from her book. (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #36

G Inga Masek, **Flexible on Purpose: Adjusting Your Homeschool without Losing Direction**—Real life interrupts lessons, moods shift, and plans fall apart fast. This session gives you practical tools to adjust without feeling behind or frustrated. If you need a way to keep going when the day changes on you, this session will serve you well. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #37

T Aaron Klemm, **What Kind of God Is Out There?**—A.W. Tozer once said that what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. Many people say they believe in God, but does it matter how God is defined? Students will learn about theistic religions, how their answers about God differ, and why those differences deeply influence how we answer the rest of life's big questions. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #38

G Mike Dickson, **Chores & Character: Raising Self-Sufficient Children of God**—In a culture that idolizes convenience and where responsibility is often optional, a homegrown life offers something far more lasting—an environment where children grow in strength, purpose, and faith through meaningful daily work. This session explores how gardening, homesteading, and other hands-on acts of provision for others create space for intentional character development. Everyday chores become opportunities to teach discipline, cultivate humility, and root kids deeply in God's truth. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #39

Y Michelle Gano, **Fun Ways to Bring the Bible to Life for Your Kids**—Invite your young children on the greatest adventure of all: discovering the treasure of God's Word! Who says Bible time has to be quiet? Let's make it the heartbeat of your home. We'll bring Scripture to life with active ways to explore God's love, from acting out stories to discovering our world through the Days of Creation. We'll also build a foundation of character using the Fruit of the Spirit. You'll leave with a list of top resources, inspired to skip the lectures and uncover the joy found in Jesus! (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #40

L Stephanie Buckwalter, **Develop a Student Learning Profile**—This workshop will help you identify your child's learning profile so you can apply it in teaching your special needs child or struggling learner immediately. Because you know your child better than anyone, it is easy to tailor your teaching to fit your child's needs and abilities. A documented learning profile helps you be a better teacher and allows you to pivot at a moment's notice to keep the school day going, to keep your child moving forward, and to make learning more fun for both student and teacher. A learning profile can include: academic skills, cognitive skills, communication needs, motor abilities, social-emotional development, sensory preferences, personality traits, love language, learning style, and multiple intelligences. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #41

### **Session 6 Friday 1:55-2:55 p.m.**

P Evelyn Bickley and Diane Helfrich, **The Dos and Don'ts of Transcripts and College Applications**—You are about to launch your student into the workforce or college—and everything

hinges on a strong transcript and application, and likely, scholarship applications. How do you stand out when employers and admissions counselors are buried in the paperwork of a multitude of applications? Evelyn and Diane have reviewed countless homeschool transcripts and scholarship applications—the good, the bad, and the cringe-worthy. In this practical session, they'll share key dos and don'ts that help your student rise above the crowd and make decision-makers take a second look. (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #42

Y Kathy Lee Eggers, **What Every Mother (and Father) of a Preschooler Needs to Know**—Your child's early years are fleeting, yet profoundly impactful. This essential talk for parents will reveal how the seemingly small moments and choices you make today are actively shaping your child's future memories, self-perception, and worldview. We'll explore the science behind early childhood memory formation and offer practical, heartwarming strategies to create a rich tapestry of experiences that foster joy, resilience, and a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning and connection. Bring some tissues as we uncover how your presence and intentionality right now makes all the difference for tomorrow. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #43

OP Steve Scheibner, **Battling with Behavior?**—Do you want your teen to take more initiative around the house? Do you want to reduce the drama level in the family? Do you want to get your pre-teens, teens, and young adults excited about character healthy living? Join “America's Parenting Doctor,” Dr. Steve Scheibner, as he reveals seven practical steps for raising the behavior bar in your home. We all want things to go right in our homes, but here's the help you need for when things are going wrong, instead! (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #44

G Amber O'Neal Johnston, **Worldschooling: Taking the Show on the Road**—Traveling abroad is a dream that many families share but figuring out how to traverse across the continents (or even the next state over) with children in tow while homeschooling can feel overwhelming and even impossible. In this session, we'll discuss what learning away from home entails and how regular everyday families can make it happen on a budget. We'll also consider the question of how to raise globally-minded children when traveling outside the country isn't a realistic possibility. The answer may surprise you! (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #45

TP Levi Mason, **Vocational Philosophy: Understanding God's Plan**—What will you be when you grow up? Where do you see yourself in 5 years? What is your calling? These questions often cause fear and confusion and our answers are often influenced by pride and misguided cultural beliefs. The enemy is heavily invested in spreading lies that keep us from understanding God's plan. In this talk, we will explore God's original design for work, how The Fall has changed things, and what that means for us. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #46

G Andrew Pudewa, **What to Do When Kids Don't Like to Write**—Many children really do not like to write. Why? Andrew Pudewa answers this basic question and teaches a specific and successful method of separating the complex process of writing into the smallest possible steps. This process makes it possible for even the most reluctant writers to produce short but complete compositions so that they will be proud and motivated to write again. Results guaranteed! (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #47

BL Niki and Thomas Cooper, **Shake It Off: Moving from Public School to Homeschool Confidently**—When the traditional system stops fitting your child, it's time to “shake it off” and try

something new! Discover how to transition smoothly from public school to homeschool: create routines that work, foster curiosity, and find joy in the freedom to learn your way. Walk away prepared to manage the emotional shift from grades and schedules to growth and exploration. Whether you're just beginning to consider homeschooling or already making the switch, this session provides calm, clear advice to help you move forward with confidence and joy. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #48

G Aliyah Daley, **Raising Self-Sufficient Learners through Hands-On Education**—This workshop focuses on building confidence, independence, and life skills through hands-on, nature-based learning. Participants will learn how gardening, outdoor exploration, and real-world tasks help children develop responsibility, resilience, and problem-solving skills. This session is ideal for families and educators looking to foster capable, confident learners. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #49

### **Session 7 Friday 3:15-4:15 p.m.**

G Amanda and Killian Wares, **But, What about “That Kid”? (and Are You “That Parent”?)**—If you have one, you know it! Can “that child” be homeschooled successfully? Absolutely! Join Amanda and her “that child,” Killian, as they discuss the journey of homeschooling from both of their perspectives! They will share what worked well, what didn't work so well, and some ideas of how they both could have done better. Leave encouraged, with some practical ideas to make your homeschool days go more smoothly, and for your relationship with that kid to thrive. (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #50

G Dara Halydier, **What Homeschoolers Won't Talk About**—Do you sometimes wonder what in the world you were thinking when you signed up to homeschool? Do you tend to compare yourself and your school and your children with others and find that you are lacking? Dara will address issues like insecurity, feelings of inadequacy, being overwhelmed, not having perfect children and not being a perfect mom. God is able when we are not! (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #51

OP Matthew McDill, **Helping Your Children Develop Self-Motivation**—Many parents feel exhausted by constant discipline, arguments, and reminders—trying to motivate their children to do schoolwork, complete chores, treat others well, and make wise choices. While external pressure may work for a time, it rarely produces lasting change. In this session, Matthew will explore how parenting can move from discipline to discipleship—helping children develop internal motivation rooted in maturity, conviction, and faith in Christ. Drawing from Scripture and real-life stories, this workshop will offer practical, biblical ways to guide children toward taking responsibility. (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #52

YOL Sandy Smith, **Behind the Struggles: The Early Brain Affects Learning & Behavior**—Many children face challenges with learning, behavior, or emotional regulation—but these struggles often begin much earlier than we realize. In this session, parents will learn how early brain development shapes the foundation for attention, sensory processing, and academic readiness. We'll also explore simple, practical strategies that can be integrated into your homeschool routine to support your child's neurological growth. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #53

T Aaron Klemm, **What if There Is No God?**—Many people say there is no God. Yet their answers to life's big questions still vary widely. Students will learn how worldviews built on this

claim arrive at different conclusions, and how beginning with naturalism shapes one's fundamental views of humanity, morality, and purpose. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #54

G Mike Dickson, **How to Make Homesteading and Homeschooling Go Hand in Hand**—Learn how everyday homestead life can become a powerful classroom for your kids. In this session, Mike Dickson shares practical ways chores, gardening, animals, and real work naturally teach math, science, responsibility, and life skills. Whether you live on acreage or in a backyard, you'll discover how to unite learning and daily life while raising capable, confident children. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #55

G Eve Hullette, **Building a Solid Math Foundation—Because Confidence Matters**—Just like a house needs a strong foundation to stand tall, children need a solid base in math to tackle more complex ideas with confidence. Without a solid foundation, things can start to crumble. In this session, you'll learn simple, effective ways to teach math from the ground up, helping children understand the basics in a way that builds their confidence. When kids have a solid math foundation, they don't just get the right answers—they feel empowered to keep growing, trying, and even enjoying math as they advance to more challenging concepts. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #56

LP Stephanie Buckwalter, **Transition Planning for Older Students: Preparing for Life after High School**—The process of education is meant to prepare a child for becoming a productive adult. For typical students, this means going on to a job or further education. For struggling learners, there is additional planning and work involved in preparing them for the future. This workshop provides parents practical strategies for planning the transition to adulthood for students with disabilities, whether they will live independently or continue living at home. Learn how you, as parent, function as both advocate and coach in the areas of goal-setting, building life skills, fostering independence, exploring community engagement and creating a support network. Start now to prepare your pre-teen or teenager for a meaningful and fulfilling life after high school. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #57

### **Session 8 Friday 4:35-5:35 p.m.**

G Sharon Fisher, **Do You Homeschool a Wiggly Kid?**—How can you teach anything to a child who won't sit still? Enjoy some fun, inexpensive techniques that will help your wiggly learners become more focused and help make teaching less frustrating and more of a joy for all of you! (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #58

G Kathy Lee Eggers, **Play beyond Preschool**—As homeschoolers move past the early years, how can we continue to harness the incredible power of play? This talk delves into how intentional, age-appropriate play experiences are not just fun but essential for fostering advanced cognitive skills, innovation, and resilience in your older children. Learn how to integrate “big kid” play—from strategic games and creative projects to real-world exploration and collaborative challenges—to enhance critical thinking, solidify complex concepts, and support emotional well-being, ensuring a vibrant and effective homeschool journey. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #59

G Megan Scheibner, **From Toddlers to Teens: Traditions, Transitions, and Transparency**—Join veteran homeschooler and mother of eight, Megan Scheibner, as she discusses the importance of thoughtfully traveling the road of change and maturity with your children. Discover

the significance of traditions in building security, the necessity of relational transitions for building trust, and the power of transparency to break down barriers of communication. This session helps parents learn how to love their children fiercely while communicating biblical truth fearlessly. (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #60

OP Andi Elliott, **Life Skills: Preparing Kids for Adulthood, Not Just Graduation**—Homeschooling isn't just about finishing textbooks—it's about preparing kids for real life. We'll explore how to intentionally weave life skills into your homeschool, from daily chores and time management to financial literacy, problem-solving, and even entrepreneurship. You'll learn practical strategies to help your children grow in independence and confidence while still pursuing academics. Walk away with a clear vision for raising capable, resilient young adults. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #61

TP Trent Emmack, **How to Kill a Culture and How to Save One**—Let's face it: things out there seem pretty bleak nowadays. In the face of this sort of cultural pollution, it's easy to despair, to resort to cutting oneself off from the culture at large. Our culture is a runaway train, and if we don't try to stop it, we'll just be the last ones to get hit. In this session, Trent takes a close look at the ideologies fueling our culture, identifying the thinkers and ideas that have undermined the western world and brought us to this moment so that we can learn an apologetic for building a future-proof counter-culture. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #62

D Seann Dikkers, **Don't Miss Out: Dads Who Lead**—The spouse that is not the primary home educator is typically out and about earning for the family. Some may feel detached from the education process—but you can actually amplify learning in a number of ways. This session will outline the academic, emotional, and social ways that any working homeschool parent can not only be connected, but a major part of the learning day. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #63

G Carrie Cotten and Briggs Greenwood, **Running an Analog Support Group in a Digital World**—In a world full of misinformation and faceless social media groups, let's talk about how to make genuine and authentic connections to build a true local support system in your homeschooling community. With decades of experience, Carrie and Briggs bring practical solutions and funny anecdotes to the real challenges of building, participating in, and leading an in-person support group/co-op. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #64

L Julia Nalle, **Tips and Tricks for Adapting Curriculum for Special Needs Learners**—What happens when your children don't fit the mold? What happens when books and worksheets send your child into orbit? Join Julia Nalle, mother to three adopted and two biological kids, co-writer of BiblioPlan and teacher for 40-plus years, as she facilitates an honest and heartfelt discussion for parents who are scratching their heads over their struggling or special needs learners. In this session, she will discuss some of the reasons why your child may be struggling and share practical, fun strategies for helping your child. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #65

**Friday Night General Session 7:45-9:00 p.m.**

**The Featured Speakers Answer Your Questions**—Our featured speakers (Stephanie Buckwalter, Kathy Lee Eggers, Amber O'Neal Johnston, Aaron Klemm, Andrew Pudewa, and Steve and Megan

Scheibner) will answer your questions. Come enjoy the fun, information, and inspiration. Send your questions to questions@nche.com. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #66

### **Saturday General Session and Keynote 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

Steve and Megan Scheibner, **Marriage and Parenting Go Hand-in-Hand**—Parenting and marriage have a great deal in common. Both come with great joys but also with challenges and pitfalls. Ephesians 4:22-24 gives us insight into parenting and marriage success by introducing us to the put-off and put-on principle. This joint talk will provide you with the practical tools you need to raise your home's marriage and parenting standards. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #67

### **Session 9 Saturday 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

P Amanda Wares, **Homeschooling High School—You Can Do This!**—Homeschooling High School—those 3 little words can strike fear and anxiety into many hearts, even if you have been homeschooling for years! In this workshop, Amanda will break down the process of homeschooling for high school, discuss graduation requirements, transcripts, credits, college applications, and so much more. She will share what she's learned from her 21 years of homeschooling experience, and graduating 3 kids from her homeschool (so far). You will leave feeling less stressed and more equipped to homeschool high school! (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #68

G Stephanie Smith, **Fuel Boys' Natural Curiosity by Using Brain Science**—You know your son is capable of amazing things—now learn how to teach so his brilliance can shine. Boys hear, see, and process emotions differently than girls. Their prefrontal cortex develops years later, affecting focus and self-control. Their retinas process movement differently, making them crave action-based learning. Without understanding these and other differences, even the most dedicated parent can inadvertently create frustration instead of engagement. You'll gain powerful knowledge on how to help your son thrive. You can ignite a powerful life-long love for learning. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #69

D Matthew McDill, **A Father's Heart Turned toward His Children**—Many fathers want to lead their families spiritually but feel unsure how to do so without becoming authoritarian, absent, or hypocritical. They desire to love their children well, point them to Christ, and leave a lasting legacy of faith, yet often wonder what faithful leadership looks like in everyday life. In this session, Matthew explores Malachi 4:5-6 and the call for fathers to turn their hearts toward their children—leading through love, presence, gentleness, and example, and pursuing the deeper work of winning their children's hearts. (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #70

G Inga Masek, **Margin That Matters: Creating a Homeschool with Room to Breathe**—Margin changes the way your homeschool feels. It looks like space to think, room to be present with your kids, and a rhythm that doesn't leave you stretched thin. This session will help you understand what margin can look like in your home, why it matters, and what tends to crowd it out. You'll leave with simple ways to create more space in your homeschool life so you can lead with clarity and connection. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #71

T Aaron Klemm, **Is Everything Divine?**—"I'm spiritual, but not religious." Most of us have come across this phrase or something like it. What does it reveal about someone's view of ultimate

reality? Students will learn to recognize worldviews rooted in various forms of spirituality, pantheism, and New Age thought. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #72

G Aaron Brewster, **The Four Children: How Your Kids Respond to Teaching**—Using the Parable of the Soils as a starting place, this workshop will provide a biblical understanding of how your children respond to teaching and will provide practical methods for reaching each kind of child. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #73

Y Michelle Gano, **Fun Ways to Teach Foundational Reading and Math Skills**—Tired of tripping over toys? Let's put them to work building the essential foundation for your child's education! In this session, we'll go beyond the workbook to master the "Big 10" reading and math skills using the toys in your home. We'll turn blocks and cars into tools for phonics and addition, swapping tears for laughter. Come discover how to lay a strong foundation using the language your child speaks best: play. You'll leave with a list of fun, easy-to-implement activities to teach these essential skills while they are young! (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #74

L Stephanie Buckwalter, **Teaching a Child with Intellectual Disability**—A diagnosis of intellectual disability often brings with it a host of other learning issues. Not only do you have to move slower, teach differently and build thinking skills, you often have to deal with sensory dysregulation, motor planning deficits, communication issues, and big emotions. That's a lot of things to juggle! This workshop shows you how to use a two-pronged approach to educate your child. You'll learn how to remediate the 3 Rs while moving ahead with age-appropriate concepts to build a foundation of knowledge needed in adulthood. You'll learn specific techniques to make learning engaging and meaningful where you get to nurture confidence, build lasting skill development and celebrate small successes along the way. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #75

### **Session 10 Saturday 12:35-1:35 p.m.**

M Heather Vogler, **Side Jobs for the Homeschool Mom**—Looking for extra income? Learn how to tap into what is already available to homeschoolers without falling for scams, tedious jobs, or full-time remote work that leaves you burnt out. Learn how to find what will work for you so you can help supplement your homeschool. (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #76

Y Kathy Lee Eggers, **The First Three Years: From Distraction to Discovery**—It's a common feeling among homeschooling parents that infants and toddlers are obstacles to "real" learning. This workshop will transform that mindset. We'll provide a clear, practical guide to integrating your littlest one into your family's routine without adding stress. Learn how to use developmentally appropriate activities and play-based opportunities to fuel their development from the very beginning. We'll share plenty of low-prep, high-impact ideas that will not only help your baby grow but also help you feel more connected to them. Stop juggling and start including. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #77

P Steve Scheibner, **Training Young Men to Be Gentlemen in a Feminist Culture**—Is behaving like a gentleman an outdated and antiquated idea? Join Dr. Steve in a discussion focused on training our young men to be masculine in a society that seeks to squeeze them into a feminine mold. Becoming a gentleman starts at home. Discover ways to cultivate a culture of masculinity without raising men who are brutes! (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #78

GT Andi Elliott, **Family Business 101: Teaching Kids Entrepreneurship at Any Age**—Ever wondered how to start a business with your kids? In this hands-on workshop, you'll walk through the basics of launching a small business. We'll start by creating a sample business together, then break down a simple business plan to see what makes an idea viable. Using practical examples we'll explore income potential, legal structures, and the lessons learned from both success and failure. For entrepreneurs or if you want to instill financial and life skills. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #79

TP Beth Thetford, **Charlie Kirk, the College Scam, and Christian Higher Education**—Should the Charlie Kirk assassination change how homeschoolers approach college? Campuses are increasingly opposed to the principles for which we chose to homeschool. Meanwhile, ballooning costs load students with debt and don't always guarantee careers to justify it. Yet there is something valuable in higher education that we cannot completely abandon. What if there was a way to not just survive college with faith and wallets intact, but to be equipped to flourish spiritually and vocationally? Come and hear tips on the college decision and how to afford it. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #80

G Andrew Pudewa, **Mastery Learning, Ability Development, and Individualized Education**—What is mastery learning? How does it relate to education? Andrew Pudewa explains the methods, goals, and benefits of the ability development model as developed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. He also discusses applications to disciplines other than music. Learn how you can create success in areas where you or your students have struggled in the past. (Salem 2) CD/MP3 #81

L Dargan Coggeshall, **Inside a Struggling Learner's Mind: Live Brain Training Experience**—If schoolwork brings tears, slow progress, or power struggles, you're not alone. Many homeschoolers struggle because key cognitive skills need strengthening. Join Dargan Coggeshall from LearningRx for this hands-on, interactive workshop to get a look at the science of how learning happens and what's behind reading, math, and attention challenges—plus what it takes to truly make changes in how your child's brain can think and learn. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #82

G Julia Nalle, **Yes to Charlotte Mason and Classical from a Checked-Out Student**—Despite being an avid reader as a child and devouring hundreds of history-related books, Julia Nalle, co-author of BiblioPlan, dreaded history in school. To her, history classes were a barrage of boring lectures and dates. Come listen as Julia shares her personal journey and how God changed her heart concerning history. Julia will offer 10 reasons why she believes studying history in the Charlotte Mason/Classical style using living books and engaging textbooks is vital to your child's education! (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #83

### **Session 11 Saturday 1:55-2:55 p.m.**

BG Marji McIlvaine, **Achievement Testing? Pfffft! Let's Chill—We've Got This!**—Slay the nerves and fear through understanding the tests and the state requirements! Which test? What are the differences among all the tests? Is one better than the others? What do the results mean? Can my child fail? We will cover all the common major testing options, the differences, the pros and cons of each, getting info from the results, as well as tips for preparing your children for testing so you can make the best choice for your family. Note: This is not about the college tests (SAT, ACT) but the testing required by NC law. (Winston 1A) CD/MP3 #84

OP Dara Halydier, **The Real World: Are They Ready?**—Will homeschooling really prepare your children for life academically, socially, and spiritually? Will they be able to go to college and be competitive in the job market? Will they be able to stand against the world's culture and be able to stand for Christ? Dara will share the latest polls and real-world examples of the success your child can have homeschooling. (Winston 1BC) CD/MP3 #85

M Megan Scheibner, **The Disciple-Making Mom**—Being a mom is about so much more than feeding, dressing, and driving our kids to play-dates. With only a few short years to impart critical spiritual truths to our children, every day becomes an eternity-focused opportunity to teach, train, and model Christlikeness. This session will give mothers the tools they need to disciple their children in the essential areas of prayer, service, Bible study, scripture memorization, and genuine fellowship. Moms will walk away encouraged and strengthened, knowing that although discipling their children seems a colossal task, God is on their side! This talk is from her book. (Winston 2) CD/MP3 #86

G Amber O'Neal Johnston, **Books as Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors**—When children are unable to see themselves reflected in their schoolbooks, they fail to develop positive feelings of self-worth. And when they lack occasions to examine similarities and differences between themselves and others, they miss out on valuable opportunities for recognizing the shared humanity that binds all people together. A mirror is a story that reflects your own culture and helps build your identity, a window is a resource that offers you a view into someone else's experience, and a sliding glass door invites you to enter another's world. In this session, we will examine the use of all three types of books in our homes as we educate our children while embracing their individuality and honoring others. (Winston 3) CD/MP3 #87

T Aaron Klemm, **Only One Story Is Big Enough**—No matter how we answer life's biggest questions, a worldview must ultimately explain reality as it truly is in order to be true. This talk examines how major worldviews attempt to explain the world and why Christianity is the only worldview *big enough* to make sense of life, purpose, and the way things really are. (Salem 1) CD/MP3 #88

YOB Jessica Embry, **To Co-op or Not Co-op**—Homeschool co-ops can bring energy, enrichment, and community to your homeschool—but with so many types out there, how do you find the one that fits? In this fun, practical session, we'll explore co-ops through four lenses: teaching support, community, expenses, and time. With real examples and encouraging guidance, you'll leave confident and equipped to discover (or start?) the co-op that best supports your family's goals. (Salem 3A) CD/MP3 #89

L Stephanie Buckwalter, **Addressing the 3 Ns for Better Learning Outcomes**—When a child struggles with learning, there is often an underlying problem. You may or may not have a diagnosis or be able to afford therapy to help your child if you do. Take heart. There are three areas within your control at home that can improve your child's learning: nurture, nutrition and neurological organization. Learn why these three areas are key and how addressing them has the potential to improve your child's learning outcomes. The strategies you learn in this workshop can be applied at home without spending a dime. (Salem 3BC) CD/MP3 #90