

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is:

- For lay and clergy persons who hunger for spiritual growth
- An opportunity for spiritual growth in a disciplined loving community
- A time for celebrating wholistic spirituality, using gifts of body, mind and spirit to grow in Christ
- A time when the rhythm of morning and evening prayer and Holy Communion set the rhythm for the week
- A time where community silence enhances personal prayer and reflection
- A space where spiritual journeys may be shared in covenant groups and with others
- An opportunity for individual spiritual guidance



New England Annual Conference Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

Theme:
*Passionate Spirituality
Global Context,
Bold Witness*

October 26-31, 2008

**Marie Joseph Spiritual Center
10 Evans Road
Biddeford, Maine**



Meet our Faculty

Rev. Valerie Bridgeman Davis, Ph.D.



Rev. Valerie Bridgeman Davis, Ph.D., is associate professor of Hebrew Bible/Homiletics and Worship at Memphis Theological Seminary. She is the founding director of the seminary's The Return Beat: Syncopeing Theology and the Arts Institute. She serves as general editor and consultant for the United Methodist Church's Africana Worship project. She is a member of editorial board of the *Biblia Africana Hebrew Bible Commentary*, to be published soon.

Dr. Bridgeman Davis graduated from Baylor University with a Ph.D. in biblical studies (Hebrew Bible concentration) and secondary studies in ethics.

In addition, she is a jazz dancer and acclaimed published poet, with her most recent accomplishment as a cover writer for the volume, *Women, Risk and Courage: Contemporary Prose and Poetry* (University of North Texas Press). She celebrated 30 years in ministry in 2007.



Dr. Juan Bek



Dr. Juan Bek is a Roman Catholic with a monastic and a broad ecumenical background. After three years philosophy with the Dominican Fathers in Holland, he went to Salamanca, Spain, to do his theological formation and to learn Spanish. For his doctoral studies, he went back to Holland and studied with the Theologian Schillebeeckx at the Catholic University in Nijmegen.

After his studies, he was sent to Puerto Rico to teach and to head the Seminary of the Dominican Fathers. From there, he taught courses in various universities in Puerto Rico, frequently offered conferences in the Caribbean and Central America, and became a member, and later the Dean, of the Episcopal Seminary of the Caribbean. Later, he became a licensed clinical psychologist. For more than the last three decades, he has been teaching at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico (ESPR), eighteen years of which he was its Academic Dean. For the last four years, he has been the coordinator of the ESPR Doctor in Ministry Program and teaches courses in Spirituality and New Testament

He has published over forty articles, book reports, chapters in collective publications and introductions in a series of books. He has been Faculty in multiple five Academies for Spiritual Formation in the US and Puerto Rico.

The Schedule

The Five-Day Academy will begin on Sunday October 26, with registration from 4:00-5:30. The Academy will conclude with lunch on Friday, October 31. Each person will be an integral element of the academy experience, so it is essential that each participant be present throughout the entire week.

Each day will begin and end with prayer together. Communion will be celebrated daily. Morning and afternoon teaching sessions are structured around a lecture on Christian spirituality, followed by an hour of silent reflection and then discussion. Mealtimes and an afternoon break enable participants to get acquainted in an informal atmosphere. Small groups each evening will encourage members to share their experiences of the day and to reflect upon the question:

“What is God saying to me?”

Participants should bring a journal, Bible, notepad, a favorite devotional book, comfortable clothes and shoes, personal items, and an alarm clock.



Location

Nestled along Maine's southern coast, Marie Joseph Spiritual Center is a sacred space for persons seeking to encounter God in solitude, in stillness, in the beauty of nature, in the healing rhythm of the ocean and in the presence of a praying Community.

www.mariejosephspiritual.org

Cost

The total cost for room, board, and tuition is \$500 for a single and \$450 for a double, which includes a deposit of \$50. Three continuing education units are available for an additional cost of \$15 to be paid on site.

Limited scholarship assistance is available for lay persons. (contact Rosemary McNulty 978-682-7676 x201 or Rmcnulty@neumc.org)

Clergy can apply for MEF funds from the Board of Ministry (contact Marge Gage—(603) 424-7459 or mgage@prodigy.net)

Registration

Registration deadline is September 26, 2008. The deposit of \$50 is non-refundable after this date.

To register, send the attached form and a \$50 deposit to:

Academy Registrar
Rosemary McNulty
PO Box 249
Lawrence, MA 01842

Balance is due September 26, 2008.

Limited Space Available

Enrollment is limited. We urge you to register early, as we expect to reach capacity prior to the registration deadline.

This event is subsidized by the New England Annual Conference and Preachers Aid Society.

Leadership Team Includes

Rev. Larry Peacock

An ordained United Methodist Pastor, a spiritual director, retreat leader, author and Director at Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center in N. Andover, MA. After completing The Upper Room's Two Year Academy for Spiritual Formation, he became the retreat leader for the Upper Room Academy in California, and received additional training as a spiritual director. He now works with Upper Room as a member of the Academy Advisory Board and as a faculty speaker across the country.

Rev. Wanda Stahl

Wanda serves as Director of Christian Formation for the New England Conference. She enjoys working with adults in a variety of spiritual formation settings. Wanda is trained in Spiritual Guidance through the Shalem Institute.

Rev. Ray Howe

Rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Easthampton, MA. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Way of the Cross, a devotional order of Episcopal clergy who meet 4 times each year and follow a rule of life. A 30 day silent Ignatian retreat and a ten week course at St George's College in Jerusalem were transformative experiences. He has served as a spiritual director for seminary students and sees his ministry as an opportunity to lead a congregation in a life of prayer.

Elise S. Eslinger

A founding member of the Upper Room Academy for Spiritual Formation in 1983, Elise has served as worship leader or adjunct faculty for numerous 2-year and 5-day ASF contexts across the country. She was compiler and editor for both the original Upper Room Worshipbook published in 1985 and the new Worshipbook released in 2006, and its Accompaniment and Worship Leader edition released in June 2007. Elise earned the Masters of Theology Studies degree from St. Meinrad School of Theology, and is the founding Director for the Institute for Applied Theology at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. She and her husband Richard are frequently called to be lecturers, retreat leaders, and consultants in many aspects of worship, music, and spiritual formation, including exploration of prayer of the Psalms.

REGISTRATION FORM

New England Conference
Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation
Oct. 26-31, 2008

**(Registration Deadline:
September 26, 2008)**

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Your name as you want it on your name tag:

Male ___ Female ___ Lay ___ Clergy ___

Local Church: _____

Single _____ Double _____

Roommate request _____

Special Needs (i.e. diet)

Please send this registration form along with your \$50 deposit to:

Academy Registrar
Rosemary McNulty
PO Box 249
Lawrence, MA 01842

*Checks should be made out to:
New England Conference*

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