

Annual Gathering 2015 Plenary Presentations

Sunday evening, July 19

Session Theme: **“The Jesus Stories...what’s for lunch?”**

Special Performance by **Ted and Company**, Harrisonburg, Virginia



Healthy communities walk together and eat together! So...what’s for lunch? There are many stories of Jesus that are gathered around the table. There was food to eat and food for thought, exploring who was invited to those tables and who showed up. The miracles of Jesus were sometimes ordinary stories with extraordinary results. In **The Jesus Stories**, writers and performers, Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught, offer a fresh look at the Gospel stories and discover that when uncorked, these stories pour out

sparkling drops of laughter that Jesus must have found in the people he met along the way. A healthy community is one that knows the difference between solemn and serious, and Ted and Jeff are serious about the value of laughter. Healthy communities are also generous communities, and **The Jesus Stories** is gently subversive in asking, “Who gets to sit at our tables?”

Monday morning, July 20

Session Theme: **“Health Care Delivery to the Poor: A Personal Calling”**

Speaker: **Ann Thyle**, MD, New Delhi, India



Ann Thyle was a young postgraduate anesthesiologist on a career path towards being the next department head in a large teaching hospital. Then, she did the unthinkable in the minds of her colleagues. She chose to work in a small mission hospital at the foothills of the Himalayas. After being the only trained anesthesiologist for 16 hospitals and the only woman doctor at the hospital responsible for caring for all the women and children, she re-trained in obstetrics/gynecology to be better equipped to care for the maternal and neonatal complications she was encountering. In 2009, she received further education as a palliative medicine physician in order to pioneer hospice care in rural north India. Her presentation will focus on how the Spirit led her and her family in this journey through innumerable miracles and God-moments to fulfill God’s plan for their lives.

Monday evening, July 20

Session Theme: **“Another Way of Doing Life”**

Speaker: **Shane Claiborne**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Christians are meant to be radical non-conformists, interrupting the patterns of our world with prophetic imagination – a holy counterculture. Shane will share stories of contemporary communities who are living with beautiful creativity and sometimes getting in a little trouble for it. After all, the Kingdom of God is not just something we hope for when we die, but something that we are to bring on earth as it is in heaven.

Tuesday Morning, July 21

Closing Worship and Communion

Session Theme: **“Discovering Healthy Communities through the Broken Body”**

Speaker: **David Gullman**, Broadway, Virginia



When we include the Eucharist as central to our faith practices we discover the image of Jesus as the one whose body is broken for us. Thus, healthy communities cannot be defined by only those whose bodies are whole. We are all broken individuals brought together through the broken body of Jesus and we must make room for the most vulnerable among us in order to truly experience the kind of health Jesus exemplified.