

# HerStory 2008 Theme

Women of all ages are crying out for a deeper rootedness in the biblical text, a deeper embodiment which is to say, a living out, in full view, of the theological questions. As we become more enlightened, we ask, "Can I really say that?" Learn that we can, as Anna uses biblical and historical models of girls and women. She will revisit some familiar texts including Exodus 2 (Miriam in the reeds, watching her baby brother and standing in for her mother), Luke 1 (Mary and the annunciation), the story of Mary and Martha, Acts 12 (the story of Rhoda), and parts of the Song of Songs.

The testimonies of these girls and women give us hope and permission to stand behind what we say and what we truly believe.

## About the Conference

HerStory, a conference for women of faith, has been in existence since 1994. We:

**Celebrate** women who bring a feminist tradition to their spiritual experience

**Provide** a safe place to bring their joys, fears, and questions.

**Worship** God as a community of daughters created in God's image

**Seek** to discover and uphold female images of God, Christ, and Spirit in scripture and faith traditions

**Provide** opportunities for personal renewal

**Build** supportive relationships

**Encourage** growth in faith and life

**Seek** justice for women and the transformation of church and secular life

## Anna Carter Florence

### Keynote Speaker



Anna Carter Florence is an Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Columbia Theological Seminary. Anna is interested in historical, theological, aesthetic, and performative dimensions of preaching and how preaching engages other fields and different traditions.

Anna's research focuses on testimony, feminist theology, the role of experience in preaching, and the history of preaching women.

Beverly Riddell  
HerStory Registrar  
905 Baylor Street  
Staunton, VA 24401



HerStory 2008

# Women Who Testify: Proclaiming the Gospel in Our Own Voice

MARCH 28-30 2008

Massanetta Springs  
Conference Center  
Harrisonburg, VA

## Conference Schedule

### Friday, March 28

4:00-6:00 p.m. Registration  
 6:00 Dinner  
 7:00 Worship  
 7:45-9 Anna Carter Florence: Introduction

### Saturday, March 29

8:00 Breakfast  
 8:45 Morning Prayer and Singing  
 9:30-11:30 Plenary Session – Anna Carter Florence  
 11:30 Meditation & Reflection Time  
 12:30 Lunch  
 1:30-3 Workshops I  
 3:15-4:45 Workshops 2  
 4:45 Meditation & Prayer Time  
 6:00 Dinner  
 7:30-9:00 Worship followed by Hymn Sing

### Sunday, March 30

8:00 Breakfast  
 8:45 Morning Prayer & Singing  
 9:30-11:30 Plenary Session – Anna Carter Florence  
 12:00 Hotel Check-out

## HerStory Features

**Labyrinth** An ancient tool for prayer and meditation – walk the walk & pray the prayer.

**Meditation Center** A quiet, inviting space for prayer, reflection, and reading.

**Shower of Stoles** A display of liturgical stoles from people of faith from across North America, who because of their sexual orientation have either been barred from active service or forced to live in silence to save their livelihoods.

**Massage and Energy Treatments – extra fee required.** Body work treatments using a variety of techniques by professional massage and reflexology therapists.

**Turning Points Video** A Covenant Network video which presents stories of life and change by faithful people who learn to know a gay or lesbian person.

**Books, Resources, Art** Cokesbury and the Resource Center of Shenandoah Presbytery will offer books and resources related to women and faith. In addition, a number of women artists will have their work displayed for sale.

## Workshops:

### Worshipping Barefoot: Being Young and Restless in the Church

Amy Summers-Minette & Teri Peterson lead a frank constructive dialogue as the “missing generation” - young adults who can be found in church.

### Exploring the Feminine face of God:

Sally Robinson explores scripture presenting God as female using classics: The Divine Feminine, Reimagining God and A God Who Looks Like Me.

### Spirituality & Aging

Kay Goodman will lead an exploration of how the wisdom of our years enhances our lives. As crones we dance to a tune born of our life experiences

### Can I Say That? Sermon Prep for Plain Folks:

Do not fear! Jean Rodenbough will give tips on how to prepare a presentation/sermon that witnesses both to your faith and also to the scriptures.

### Diversity, by God (Inclusivity is up to us):

Emma Chattin takes us to where spiritual majorities and sexual minorities meet. Weaving GLTBQ folks into the fabric of Christian Communities.

### Book discussion: Leaving Church by Barbara Brown Taylor

Beth Roberts leads a discussion of the author’s spiritual journey and her apparent conflict between the call to serve God and the call to be fully human.

### Back from Baghdad and Beyond: One Woman’s Peacemaking Journey in Iraq

Beth Pyles leads a presentation on peacemaking in Iraq, CPT (Christian Peacemaker Teams) and what ‘ordinary Christians’ can do towards peacemaking.

### BodyPrayer: Recovering a Spirituality of the Body through Movement & Dance

Kathryn Sparks will lead this “fleshing out” of your faith through movement and dance as prayer. Prepare a simple movement piece for worship.

### Making a Prayer Shawl

A prayer shawl is knitted with prayers for the recipient, joining two souls together. Carol Griffin will lead this hands-on workshop and sell supplies.

For more information about HerStory 2008 contact Beverly Riddell, Registrar at [briddell@verizon.net](mailto:briddell@verizon.net) or (540) 255-8039 or <http://www.shenpres.org>

## Register NOW until January 15th for \$25.00 Early Bird Discount! HerStory 2008 Conference Registration March 28-30, 2008 Massanetta Springs Conference Center

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Night Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 (your address information will not be shared)

Conference Fee – includes Registration, Lodging and Meals

Lodging Request (Check one) \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge Double (\$275)  
 (per person) \_\_\_\_\_ Richardson Double (\$195)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Richardson Single (\$225)

Roommate Requested \_\_\_\_\_

**Check if you are a presenter or workshop leader** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Special Needs** (check if needed) \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Vegan  
**Special Access** (check if needed) \_\_\_\_\_ No Stairs \_\_\_\_\_ Handicapped

Please mail completed registration and payment to:  
 Beverly Riddell, 905 Baylor Street, Staunton, VA 24401  
 Make check payable to “Shenandoah Presbytery”.

For all registration inquiries including childcare needs, email  
 Beverly at [briddell@verizon.net](mailto:briddell@verizon.net) or call (540) 255-8039

Please add this person to the mailing list: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Worksheet:	
Conference+Lodging+Meals (see the rates at left)	+\$ _____
Less Early Bird Discount for Lodging- (\$25.00)!- If postmarked by January 15th)	\$ _____
Commuter Fee - Conference + Lunch & Dinner (\$90 – no Early Bird Discount)	+\$ _____
Scholarship Donation	+\$ _____
Scholarship Request (up to \$130, no Early Bird Discount, applies to double room in Richardson only OR up to \$30 for commuter)	-\$ _____
Total	= \$ _____

Cancellation Policy: Refunds may be requested up until March 13<sup>th</sup>. Refunds will be less a \$60 non-refundable fee.