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# Called, Too

A Newsletter for the Spouse's of the Rostered Leaders of the Virginia Synod, ELCA

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Fall, 2012

On June 9, we had our annual Clergy Spouse Luncheon. What a blessing that Roanoke College Church Relations sponsors this opportunity for us to gather together. Around 30 spouses and a couple of guests gathered this year. It was a wonderful time together. Thank you to all you were able to attend. Please make sure you mark your calendar for June 8, 2013 to attend the next luncheon!

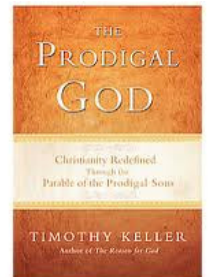


Please send any news, book reviews, stories, pictures, etc. that can be shared in the newsletters to Lenae. Items can be sent in at anytime so I can collect them and organize newsletters. I would like to send out four newsletters throughout the year. This can be a great way for everyone to stay connected to each other!

## Book Review by Babs Benson

### The Prodigal God - Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith by Timothy Keller

You no doubt are familiar with the parable of the prodigal son. You know the one. A man has two sons, the "good elder son" is the hard working one that stays on the farm with his dad, does everything right, lives the Christian life etc. The "bad younger son" asks for his inheritance, leaves home and blows it on wine, women and song. Penniless and humiliated a while later the younger son comes home and is welcomed with open arms by his dad who is overjoyed to have him back. It appears all is forgiven.



Most of us upon hearing this story Jesus tells, have focused on the forgiving grace of the father who shows his unconditional love for his son who messed up. The implied message of course is we mess up but God always welcomes us back with open arms. Rev. Timothy Keller, a Presbyterian pastor and author of The Prodigal God says this interpretation misses the whole point of the parable. In his book, Rev. Keller challenges us to look at the elder son left behind and his attitude and response. "The targets of this story" says Rev. Keller "are not the wayward sinners but religious people who do everything the Bible requires. Jesus is pleading not so much with immoral outsiders as with moral insiders. He wants to show them their blindness, narrowness and self-righteousness and how these things are destroying both their own souls and the lives of the people around them."

The Prodigal God helps us see our Christian selves as those outside the church might. Although our elder brother behavior is not always as complimentary as we would wish, this is a thought provoking book of hope and grace that turns one's thinking of this ancient parable and its meaning upside down. Well worth the read!

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## Annual Clergy Spouse Retreat in Virginia Beach

Mark your calendars! November 9th thru 11th. Come join us for a weekend at the beach. This relaxed weekend will include time to walk on the sand or boardwalk, dip your feet in the Atlantic ocean, rest, enjoy laughs, good conversation, meet some new friends and discuss some questions posed by Pastor Rob Bell from Mars Hill ministries.

Come as you are with an open heart ready to make new friends and enjoy the fellowship and support of other clergy spouses.

Questions ? - Contact Babs Benson at 757-651-5372 or at [brgbenson@yahoo.com](mailto:brgbenson@yahoo.com) or Pastor Cathy Mims at [pastorcathy@goodsheperdvb.org](mailto:pastorcathy@goodsheperdvb.org) or 757-428-4052.



### REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 12!!

#### Send in your registration today!

Invite a clergy spouse or two in your area-share a ride-and or a room!

- Where:** Quality Inn and Suites, Virginia Beach
- What to bring:** Snack to share, comfortable clothes and shoes, alarm clock, toiletries, camera, games, and personal devotional materials.
- Provided:** Rooms with private baths, bedding, linens, breakfast, and Saturday lunch
- Registration Form:** See below. If you have any questions contact Lenae Osmondson at [synodeast@vasynod.org](mailto:synodeast@vasynod.org) or 757.622.9421

*Clip and Send*

### November 9-11, 2012 Virginia Synod Clergy Spouse Retreat Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Single Room \$150.00

\_\_\_\_ Double Room \$130.00 Please list Roommate Preference \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check payable to the Virginia Synod.

Please send your registration to: 520 W 21st Street, Suit J, Norfolk, VA 23517  
or email the above information to: [synodeast@vasynod.org](mailto:synodeast@vasynod.org)

I want to pay by credit card.

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Name (as it appears on your card)

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Billing Address

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City

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