

## INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

2022-2023

**Tami Caraway** - and her husband, Jimmy have been married for nearly 30 years and been involved in multiple ministries before coming to Pennsylvania in 2005. Jimmy is the pastor of Christ Bible Church in Cranberry Township. They are the parents of two children, Lara and John, whom they homeschooled from kindergarten through high school. Lara recently graduated from Penn State University (2016) and John is in the US Navy. Tami was a math major in college and has tutored, coached volleyball, and enjoyed a full-time career as wife and mother.

**Kate Funk** - Kate is a former special educator and mom to 5 children. She has homeschooled for 19 years and is about to graduate her fourth child. She was the creator of Ready-Made Preschool, an all-inclusive early childhood (preschool-3rd grade) curriculum program that included lesson plans and all the necessary materials to make school fun for kids and easy for parents. She feels it is important to instill a love of learning in children early on and that this is best done by implementing a hands-on approach to learning. Kate is passionate about teaching and has a passion for working with students with special needs and struggling learners.

**Wendy V. Gallagher** – graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.S. in Finance from Youngstown State University and received her J.D. from the University of Akron School of Law. She is licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Gallagher practiced law for twenty-three years in both public and private practice. She spent sixteen years with the Adoption Legal Unit of Children, Youth and Families in Allegheny County, and has practiced extensively in Common Pleas Court and the appellate courts in PA. Mrs. Gallagher and her husband have homeschooled their two daughters since kindergarten. She has also taught Sunday School for over twenty years at New Community Church in Wexford.

**Michelle Groves** - graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 1989 with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a minor in Early Childhood. She began working for the Duval County School System, in Florida, in 1989. She then began work on her American Montessori Society Certification that coincided with her M. Ed. classes at Jacksonville University and University of Florida. She completed this program in 1993 with an emphasis on Early Childhood and Reading. Upon returning to the Pittsburgh area she taught in Mt. Lebanon for 6 years. Michelle has been homeschooling for 13 years and graduated two children to college. She has enjoyed teaching a variety of classes in co-ops since 2009 and at HELP since 2017.

**Paul Holdren** - has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Speech Communications from Concord University, and a master's degree in Health Administration from Wilkes University. His post graduate work in Business Administration was done at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. In high school and college, he participated on varsity debate teams including competing in state and national debate tournaments, participating in over 30 debate competitions during his scholastic debate career. During his professional career, he held various C-suite executive management positions with Anthem, Inc., Health America, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Deloitte consulting. He also served as an adjunct professor at Marywood University and instructed at Penn State University and Wilkes University. Mr. Holdren is currently the President of Adeptys (a-Dep'-tis) Consulting, a healthcare management consulting company. Paul has been married to his wife, Debbie, for forty-four years, residing in the Wexford and Cranberry Township areas for the last twenty years. They have one son, Zachary. He considers his faith and his family his greatest gifts.

**Carrie Hungerman** - She and her husband Mike have home-educated and graduated their 4 adult sons, participating in home-education for over 25 years. A background in education/personal training in Business/Clerical, Cosmetology, and Liturgical Worship Dance. Her passions include worship & prayer, family, home education, history, and literature. She loves to read and write poetry, enjoys book clubs, and has a penchant for scrabble. A voracious reader, she enjoys reading aloud and having discussions about themes, our Christian world view and how a story can relate to our lives. She has taught many classes in dance, poetry, and literature with historical fiction, vocabulary, and discussion activities as part of the curriculum. Carrie enjoys teaching literature and instilling a love of reading in her students.

**Winkie Ilic** - Winkie (a.k.a. "Miss Winkie") has been teaching for 31 years and specifically in the homeschool community for the past 11 years. Originally from Chicago, she earned her B.A. from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) (German, Russian and a minor in music) and her M.A. in Modern Foreign Languages (German and Russian) at the University of Tennessee. Her teaching background includes teaching a variety of courses at UT and extensive academic and professional advising for undergraduate students. While most of her professional experience prior to becoming a homeschool mom was international, she also enjoys teaching analytical and executive skills through history subjects, such as the U.S. History the Presidents course which she has taught in one form or another, on and off for the past 8 years. Besides homeschool students, Winkie teaches the pre-K through Kindergarten Sunday school class at her church and gives piano lessons out of her home studio in Seven Fields. One could summarize her teaching goals down to these three points: Trust in God, don't squander freedom and apply yourself.

**Jenny Lafferty** – Jenny received a bachelor's degree in Plant and Soil Science in 1995. She has pursued a Bible degree. She worked over 10 years in agricultural research while working toward her master's degree in agricultural education. After her educational studies and career, Jenny married a minister. Shortly after that, their family began to grow. They home educate their six children. One of Jenny's top educational goals is to encourage children's natural love of learning, which can lead them their whole life. "Children are our future, teach them well."

**Terry Lafferty** - began working with teenagers in 1984. He has been a minister, preacher and teacher for over 30 years. He was very involved in speech, debate and drama throughout high school and college, performing and competing at events throughout eastern United States. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Christian University. He is married and the father of 6 children. His passion is his family and teaching and helping others discover who they are in Christ.

**Pastor Norb Levesque** - Pastor Norb was born June 10, 1967 in Fall River, MA. He graduated from Boston Baptist College in 1997 and is currently enrolled in Trinity College and Seminary for post graduate work. Pastor Norb has served as a youth pastor from 1995 through 2000 at both Third Baptist Church in Fall River, MA, and Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Penn Hills, PA. He then served as a senior pastor at hillside Bible Baptist Church in Dighton, MA from 2001 through 2006. He is currently serving at Woodland Valley Church in Mars, PA and has been there since 2007. Pastor Norb lives in Butler, PA with his wife Angela and three children.

**Connie Lee** – and her husband Michael immigrated from China 14 years ago and they have three children. Connie earned her Ph.D. in Material Science, from the Chemistry Department of Indiana University, Bloomington in 2010 (we are Hoosiers!). After that, she did another year of post-doctoral training in brain cancer research at the University of Chicago Hospital. Connie is right now a full-time mom and by God's grace, she is entering her sixth year of her homeschool journey. She has taught a number of undergraduate-level chemistry lecture/lab courses during her doctoral program. She also has tutored middle/high school students on various science subjects. Teaching is always a passion of hers. In her spare time, Connie enjoys playing piano and sports. She loves spending time with her family and church friends.

**Kim McClellan** - has been married for over twenty years and has a young adult son and a teenage daughter. She graduated from Liberty University with a degree in elementary education with state certifications in both Virginia and Pennsylvania. Kim has worked professionally as a day-to-day substitute teacher, long term substitute teacher, 5th grade classroom teacher, and as a preschool teacher. She enjoys being involved in ministries such as leading small group Bible studies, prayer teams, and marriage mentor teams. Kim has a love of children and a passion for teaching in a positive atmosphere where students can thrive and learn.

**Judy Mills** - graduated from St. Francis Medical Center School of Nursing in 1993. She began working at SFMC Pittsburgh in the area of Cardiology and Education. Soon after, she pursued her B.S. in Nursing and graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1998. Judy also developed curriculum and education standards within the profession and in 2001 began to provide Cardiovascular consulting with program implementation throughout the country. Mrs. Mills and her husband have homeschooled their 2 boys since kindergarten and this is their 10th year. Her teaching philosophy... "I believe each child has unique gifts and talents to be nurtured and discovered. God has blessed me as a mother to pour into their lives each day." In her spare time, she provides study skills and entrance exam preparation for students entering the field of Nursing as well as private online tutoring in Health Sciences. Judy has taught various classes at co-ops since 2011.