

**Life After Loss:  
Healing the Grief of Suicide  
is a seminar for**

- Survivors
- Clergy
- Mental Health Care Providers
- Stephen Ministers
- Friends of persons who have committed suicide
- Pastoral Caregivers
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Chaplains
- Social Workers
- Counselors

**Advance Reservations  
Requested**

To reserve a place, call Tarrant Area Community of Churches at 817-737-5554 or email [tacc@tarrantareacc.org](mailto:tacc@tarrantareacc.org)

Your fee of \$10 will cover expenses and provide our speakers with an honorarium.

For additional information on this event go to [www.tarrantareacc.org](http://www.tarrantareacc.org).

*33,000 suicides occur each year in the USA, and it is estimated that for every suicide there are at least six survivors. (Source- [www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org))*

*Each day in Texas six persons will die by suicide. (Source: [texassuicideprevention.org](http://texassuicideprevention.org))*

2601 Clover Lane  
Fort Worth, TX 76107  
817.737.5554  
[www.tarrantareacc.org](http://www.tarrantareacc.org)



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# Addressing the Elephant in the Room:

**A Series Discussing Difficult Topics As Clergy & Congregations**

## **A Joint Venture with**

Tarrant Area Community of Churches  
Brite Divinity School  
First Congregational Church  
Pastoral Counseling & Education Center  
*(Fort Worth Satellite)*



## **Life After Loss— Healing the Grief of Suicide**

With  
Mackey Brittain  
Janice Harris-Lord, LCSW, LPC  
Rev. Dr. Charles Sanders

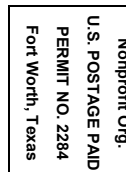
**Forum: Thursday, April 29, 2010  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Light Refreshments Served**

### **Location:**

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

4201 Trail Lake Dr., Fort Worth 76109

More information:  
[www.tarrantareacc.org](http://www.tarrantareacc.org) or 817-737-5554



# Hope for Those Left Behind

## *Grief is the Beginning of Healing*



James was a pillar of his congregation. He was a man of deep faith, a loving husband and father, a trusted professional, and a committed member of the community.

In a corporate lay-off, after 25 years with the same company,

James lost his job. In the months that followed, he connected with career counselors, support groups, had numerous interviews, but was not able to find a new job.

On the surface, James seemed to be handling the situation with his usual pragmatism. but beneath his calm exterior, James was losing ground with himself and with his faith.

One day his wife returned from work to find he had taken his own life. His suicide sent shock waves through his family, his congregation, and his community. Those closest to him had no idea the depth of his despair or how to deal with their feelings about his death.

### Some Facts...

- Survivors of suicide represent "the largest mental health casualties related to suicide" (*Edwin Shneidman, Ph.D., AAS Founding President*).
- There are currently over 33,000 suicides annually in the USA. It is estimated that for every suicide there are at least 6 survivors. Some suicidologists believe this to be a very conservative estimate.
- Based on this estimate, approximately 6 million American became survivors of suicide in the last 25 years.



When suicide occurs,  
No one is left untouched.

Common questions for survivors include:  
*Why did this happen?*  
*Could I have prevented it?*  
*Is it my fault?*

**The grief of losing a loved one to suicide is complex and confusing.**

**How do we respond?**

**...With Love. With Care.  
With Honesty. With Faith.**



Join us as we explore with faith, hope, and love the issues that face survivors of suicide. Learn how we as clergy and congregation members can offer help and healing.

### Seminar participants will learn

- The issues that face survivors of suicide
- Strategies for assisting persons impacted by suicide in healing from the complex grief related to suicide.
- Community resources related to suicide and survivor recovery

### Our Seminar leaders:

**Mackey Brittain** brings her personal experience as a family member who has survived the loss of two family members to suicide. After serving as Volunteer Coordinator for Community Hospice of Texas for over seven years, she and Rev. Larry Grubb were instrumental in bringing suicide survivor groups to Tarrant County. She is currently the Program Director of Suicide Survivor Groups in Tarrant County located at First United Methodist Church in Fort Worth.

**Rev. Dr. Charles Sanders** served as Associate Minister for Pastoral Care and Counseling for twenty years at University Christian Church in Fort Worth. He received his Master of Theology degree from Brite Divinity School and PhD in Psychology from the University of North Texas. Charles currently facilitates Survivors of Suicide Support Groups here in Fort Worth.

**Janice Harris Lord** has worked personally for over 25 years with suicide survivors. She received her MSSW degree from University of Texas at Arlington and is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and professional counselor (LPC). She is a Fellow in Thanatology with the Association of Death Education and Counseling and is a member of the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies. Janice has worked in the crime victims' movement since 1976 and was National Director of Victim Services for Mothers Against Drunk Driving for 14 years. Janice was recently elected to the Board of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.