

NEW RESOURCES FROM 02-11-10 TO 03-31-10

Accompany Them With Singing: The Christian Funeral

Thomas G. Long

Thomas G. Long, one of America's most trusted and thoughtful pulpit voices, provides a theological and cultural critique of today's Christian funeral. Long begins by describing how the Christian funeral developed historically, theologically, and liturgically, and then discusses recent cultural trends in funeral practices, including the rise in both cremations and memorial services. He describes the basic pattern for a funeral service, details options in funeral planning, identifies characteristics of a "good funeral," and provides thoughtful guidance for preaching at a funeral. But Long also notes a disturbing trend toward funeral services that seem theologically right and pastorally caring, but actually depart from the primary aims of the Christian funeral constructed around the metaphor of the deceased as a saint traveling on a baptismal journey toward God, accompanied by the community of faith on "the last mile of the way." He argues that the cultural conditions for maintaining this view are under stress and a new, less-theological and less-satisfying metaphor that focuses on the mourner has begun to erode the Christian view. He contrasts the ancient grand community drama with today's trend toward body-less memorial services that focus primarily on the living and grief management. This is a loss for the church, he argues, and he calls for the church to reclaim the classic metaphor. *Accompany Them with Singing* is a practical and theologically sound resource for Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy and for funeral professionals.

Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy

Donald B. Kraybill

On October 2, 2006, a gunman entered a one-room Amish school, killing and wounding ten young girls. Within days, the Amish community expressed their forgiveness of the man who had done this. This book explores the religious beliefs and habits that allowed the Amish to forgive so quickly.

Call to Worship Volume 43.3 Living the Christian Year

Kimberly Bracken Long - editor

Includes worship planning aids for every Sunday and holy day in the church year. You'll find prayers of confession, calls to worship, suggestions for hymns, psalms, global music, praise and worship songs, choral anthems, organ selections and handbell music. Tied to the Revised Common Lectionary.

A Faith Of Your Own: Naming What You Really Believe

Ronald J. Allen

A faith should be a living thing. What we believe necessarily evolves in response to insights into the Bible, to questions or doubts we face, to changes in life circumstances, or to things that happen in the larger world. Nevertheless, Christians often find it helpful to identify what they can most fully believe at a given moment. Such clarity empowers the present and leads us toward the future. Such moments can also be mile markers by which we measure our faith journey.

Fathered By God: Learning What Your Dad Could Never Teach You

John Eldredge

In this life-changing message from John Eldredge, readers discover a paradigm-shifting path to manhood. He unveils the six stages many men miss, stages they must complete in order to become the man God designed them to be. Inspiring, insightful, and challenging for men and the women in their lives, "Fathered by God" delivers the very thing men need, a way to forge

companionship with God the Father while undergoing a transformation, releasing the fullness of life and the passion God designed them to live.

Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide

The six-session "Deep and Wide" Study Guide and DVD can be used to engage congregations and their members in an exploration of the four components of Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide: evangelism, discipleship, servant hood, and diversity.

Halos And Avatars: Playing Video Games With God

Craig Detweiler

Craig Detweiler's collection of up-to-the-minute essays on video games' theological themes (and yes, they do exist) is an engaging and provocative book for gamers, parents, pastors, media scholars, and theologians--virtually anyone who has dared to consider the ramifications of modern society's obsession with video games and online media.

The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others

Scot McKnight

Journey To The Common Good

Walter Brueggemann

In this timely volume, respected author and theologian Walter Brueggemann turns his discerning eye to the most critical yet basic needs of a world adapting to a new era, an era defined in large part by America's efforts to rebuild from an age of terror even as it navigates its way through an economic collapse. Yet in spite of these great challenges, Brueggemann calls us to journey together to the common good through neighborliness, covenanting, and reconstruction. Such a concept may seem overwhelming, but writing with his usual theological acumen and social awareness Brueggemann distills this challenge to its most basic issues: Where is the church going? What is its role in contemporary society? What lessons does it have to offer a world enmeshed in such turbulent times? The answer, of course, is the same answer God gave to the Israelites thousands of years ago: Love your neighbor and work for the common good. Brueggemann considers biblical texts as examples of the journey now required of the faithful if they wish to move from isolation and distrust to a practice of neighborliness, as an invitation to a radical choice for life or for death, and as a reliable script for overcoming contemporary problems of loss and restoration in a failed urban economy.

Knowing God's Triune Story - 2010 Moderator's Lenten Bible

Michael Lindvall

Imagine the transformation of God's church called into a common learning. Join the many Presbyterian churches across the country participating in the Moderator's 2010 Lenten Study. Knowing God's Triune Story, by Michael Lindvall, tells the story of our Maker. It examines why the Trinity consists of three persons, and reflects on how true knowledge of the Trinity affects our relationship with God.

Making Space For The Spirit: 100 Simple Ways To Nurture Your Soul *Kathleen Long Bostrom*

Having a bad day? Having a bad year? With this warm and thoughtful volume, Kathleen Long Bostrom offers 100 simple exercises that will boost your spirits and, more important, strengthen your spirit--that essential part of you that connects you to God. Here are one hundred practical exercises to help readers nurture their souls, a practice too often ignored as we deal with the day-to-day minutia of our lives. Each imaginative entry contains a practical

step to boost the spirit, a relevant Scripture passage for reflection, a quotation to reflect on, a fun factoid related to the exercise, and ample space for journaling.

Mark's Gospel From Scratch: The New Testament For Beginners Donald. L. Griggs

This is a thoroughly accessible and wonderfully organized Bible study on the Gospel of Mark. Avoiding technical language and endless commentary, the authors have created a wonderful tool for exploring what is considered to be the first canonical Gospel written. Includes six sessions.

Mere Christianity: An Anniversary Edition Of The Three Books, The Case For Christianity, Christian Behaviour, And Beyond Personality C. S. Lewis

One of the most popular and beloved introductions to Christian faith ever written, "Mere Christianity" has sold millions of copies worldwide. The book brings together Lewis's legendary broadcast talks of the war years, talks in which he set out simply to "explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times."

Novel Preaching: Tips From Top Writers On Crafting Creative Sermons Alyce M. Mckenzie

Fiction writers are highly creative people who have learned the discipline of translating their ideas into effective communication. That same combination of creativity and skill comes into play for preachers crafting their sermons. In this lively and accessible book, Alyce McKenzie explores how fiction writers approach the task of writing novels: how they develop ideas, find their inspiration, and turn the spark of a creative notion into words on paper that will captivate the masses. McKenzie shows how preachers can use the same techniques to enhance their own creativity and to turn their ideas into powerful, well-crafted sermons. In this lively and accessible book, Alyce McKenzie explores how fiction writers approach the task of writing novels: how they develop ideas, find their inspiration, and turn the spark of a creative notion into words on paper that will captivate the masses. McKenzie shows how preachers can use the same techniques to enhance their own creativity and to turn their ideas into powerful, well-crafted sermons.

Pilgrim Andrew J. Moye

Just graduated from Seminary, but without a job, Jim decides to beef up his resume by visiting people in a hospice. There he meets Ida, a woman without faith in the last hours of her life. Ida, who had been a professor of religion, offers Jim a Faustian bargain-her soul for one moment of true happiness. Even though he knows he can make no such bargain, Jim proceeds to try to bring her peace. Jim is green and Ida is jaded. She knows more theology than he does and proceeds to undermine his own faith with the experience of fencing with generations of college students. Jim, however, has a friend who encourages him and urges him onward. Together, they race against time to find Ida's moment of happiness. "Pilgrim" is a one act play intended to be both read and produced as drama. It explores the unanswerable and the unknowable from the perspectives of faith and of no faith. In the end, both Jim and Ida are transformed.

The Preaching Of Jesus: Gospel Proclamation, Then And Now William F. Brosend

This book for preachers and students of preaching helps the reader see four distinct aspects of the rhetoric of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels: dialogical (preaching in response to challenges

and questions); proclamatory (making bold and authoritative statements); occasionally self-referential (though less so than in the fourth Gospel); and persistently figurative (illustrating his message through metaphor). Brosend spends one chapter on each of these methods, closing each chapter with a sermon that models that approach. Sample sermons are by well-known preachers including Fred Craddock, Michael Curry, Tom Long, and Barbara Brown Taylor. Brosend concludes with a sermon of his own.

The Presbyterian Prescription

Andy J. Moye, III

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has gone from being the second largest denomination in the United States at the time of the revolution to being within a generation of disappearing altogether. What is wrong and what can be done about it? The problem isn't Christianity. Christianity is growing world wide and in the United States. It's not Presbyterian theology. Presbyterian churches are thriving everywhere abroad. Yet in the United States, the denomination has lost over a million members and 600 churches since the northern and southern churches were united in 1983. "The Presbyterian Prescription" is a comprehensive discussion of the problems individual churches and the denomination are facing. It lays out a practical guide for individual churches to use to rejuvenate themselves regardless of whether they have pastoral leadership and it proposes changes for the denominational government to make it more representative and effective.

Promotion Of Social Righteousness

Cynthia L. Rigby

As Presbyterians, it is our responsibility to work for justice and social righteousness where needed. According to The Book of Order, we have been elected by God, not only for salvation, but for service as well. In the sixth edition of the Great Ends of the Church series, Cynthia Rigby takes us on a journey to promote social righteousness. Using historical overview and biblical text, we take the time to understand ourselves in relation to the world in which we live - knowing our work is related to what we are called to do and who we are called to be, as the body of Jesus Christ. This book is written for individuals and group reflection and includes a study guide.

Share Jesus Without Fear

William Fay

In recent years, the Share Jesus without Fear book and its growing family of ancillary products have sparked a faith-sharing movement that continues to gain momentum. It began with the jaw-dropping story of William Fay, once a money-driven businessman with Mafia ties who ran a house of prostitution until it was raided by police. Facing the threat of jail time, Fay turned to Jesus Christ for redemption and ever since has been turning others to Him as well. Now featuring a fresh new cover design, Share Jesus without Fear relays Fay's passionate, effective instructions on how to share the love of Christ with anyone--without feeling intimidated on either side of the conversation. Bold and joyful, the outreach movement continues without fear.

Spiritual Vitality Through Cooperative Ministry

Diana A. Stephen

Many small churches are enhancing their ministry and mission by working cooperatively. This resource provides guidance to churches and presbyteries that are considering cooperative ministry. The discernment process and initial organization are described. A Bible Study to undergird these processes is included as well as five models of cooperative ministry.

Stepping Out In Faith: Small Churches, Responding To God's

Diana A. Stephen

Stepping Out in Faith tells the stories of nine smaller membership congregations that have journeyed on a path leading to transformed congregational life from the perspective of the congregation and pastor. Spiritual discernment, changing demographics, pastoral leadership, and church building issues are addressed. Discussion questions follow each story and the resource concludes with a Bible study.

Why I Stayed: The Choices I Made In My Darkest Hour

Gayle Haggard

On November 2, 2006, Gayle Haggard's life changed forever when her husband, Ted Haggard, founder of the 14,000-member New Life Church in Colorado Springs and president of the National Association of Evangelicals, was publicly exposed in a scandal. In the days and months ahead, everything in Gayle's life was at stake-her beliefs, her marriage, and her relationship with the church community she had been a part of for more than 20 years. In "Why I Stayed," Gayle walks us through the choices she made in her darkest hour and shares her renewed passion for the central message of the Bible-the liberating message of forgiveness and love. "Why I Stayed" reminds us of what less-than-perfect people desperately need-a community of family and faith that offers healing love and a path to restoration.