



Resource Center for Churches

## Resources for the Journey

Contact us: [www.resourcesforthejourney.org](http://www.resourcesforthejourney.org)

Volume 10 Number 2

August 2008

Faith & Politics in America: Liberty and Justice for All is a curriculum suitable for adults and older youth.

### **FAITH AND POLITICS IN AMERICA: LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL — A TIMELY STUDY FOR FALL**

Logos Productions, 2008

*This is brand new to the resource center and we can accommodate up to four customers with this study this fall. This will continue to be of value in future years.*

*(From the Instructions): "This seven-session course of study, discussion and reflection focuses on the value of faith in the exercise of our citizenship. Through the use of videos and readings, this theme is developed by examining: our founders' understanding of liberty and how their founding documents seek to protect our liberty within the government they created to serve the people; the call of Jesus and the prophets for just societies; diverse Christian Responses to these ideas."*

*"A key feature of Faith and Politics in America: Liberty and Justice for All is to build small-group learning communities that practice civil discourse ... and support expression of diverse opinions...."*

*"The course is comprised of a one-hour orientation, six 90-minute sessions, and six 30-minute DVD segments."*

**This is a non-partisan resource.** *Some presenters, such as Dr. M. Scott Peck, do share criticisms of both parties and the lack of transparency of our government to the people. "It is not a debate between Republicans and Democrats, or between liberals and conservatives. It is not an action community that focuses on solutions to specific problems."*

*"The course hopes to help each of us, as thoughtful and civil citizens, to do our duty to secure the blessings of liberty that we have inherited. Our liberties rest on all our citizens' duty and responsibility to work together for the common good. One of those duties is to understand what our faith and our history mean to us, both as individual citizens and as a nation."*

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#### ATTENTION READERS:

Continuing with the theme of civility, individuals who desire to be in dialogue with their elected representatives, how to be more civil in intense interpersonal situations may benefit from this book: "Reclaiming Civility in the Public Square: 10 Rules that Work" by Cassandra Dahnke and Tomas Spath with Donna Bowling. Wingspan Press, c. 2007.

### **THINK GREEN!**

Sharing resources is a great way to think green. You can reduce the amount of hard waste going into landfills, keep storage spaces at your church for items you use often — and best of all, Save \$\$\$

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## Resources and Ideas: Gear Up for Fall

How about starting out this September with a "[Blessing of the Backpacks](http://www.luthersem.edu/cl/connections/0907/Idea.htm)" to help send everyone (and not just students) on their way into the world as the body of Christ. For more information go to: <http://www.luthersem.edu/cl/connections/0907/Idea.htm>

Connect with your students by finding out about summer experiences, trips, camps, etc. Make sure to include major events such as the Olympics in your conversations. Help your students see the world around us through holy eyes.

**Back to (Sunday) School** Most of our churches start Sunday School again after Labor Day with the first weeks devoted to registration and information. Is your church ready to start the new education year? Look at the following check list. If you have had all of these things prepared for some time, then relax and look forward to the year. If you haven't finished all of these things, **don't panic**, but do what you can and call me ASAP for any immediate needs:

1. Curriculum has been chosen, ordered, and is set for each room.
2. Supplies are restocked and rooms are clean.
3. Teachers have been recruited and have had some kind of training or orientation.
4. Registration forms have already been sent to homes or are waiting for the first registration day.
5. We've prayed for our children, youth, teachers, and education programs.

Make sure that registration forms give you the information that you need for safety as well as basic contact information. Ask about food allergies or other physical needs that teachers should know about. Include a confidentiality statement that this information will not be shared outside of the church school, (be aware also of unlisted numbers, custody issues, etc.) Include a photo release statement on your registration form if you ever take photos of the church school.

Great Advice from Amy Cook, at the Episcopal Resource Center in Maine. (You of course should call us: 612-870-0861 / 888-293-9901)

### NEW BOOKS:

1. *Evolution and Creationism: A Documentary and Reference Guide*. Greenwood Press, 2007.

Includes all of the milestone documents on both sides of the issue from a mainstream publisher.

2. *Creating Community; 5 Keys to Building a Small Group Culture*, by Andy Stanley and Bill Willits.

3. *Amish Grace; How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*, by Donald B. Kraybill, Steven M. Nolt and David L. Weaver-Zercher

4. *In Search of the Good Life; The Ethics of Globalization*, by Rebecca Todd Peters.

5. *Balaam's Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ is HOT OFF THE PRESS*. Jan Bodin, a local writer, is one of the people behind this project.

6. *International Children's Bible Dictionary*

### GREAT DVD!

*Race, the power of an illusion*. (3 Episodes: 56 minutes each.)

A series produced by California newsreel which challenges one of our most fundamental beliefs: that humans come divided into a few distinct biological groups. This is an eye-opening tale of how what we assume to be normal, commonsense, even scientific, is actually shaped by our history, social institutions and common sense.

- ◆ The Difference Between Us
- ◆ The Story We Tell
- ◆ The House We Live In

### EXPERIENCING GOD DVD Series (2004)

Most Bible studies help people; this one changes them forever. Enter into an authentic encounter with a God who enters human history and transforms our destiny from death to life. Ten Luther Seminary scholars and teachers of the church connect us with the God who is present as Creator, Savior and Spirit. Experiencing God is an intimate glimpse into the heart of God that will help form a mature image of the triune God. There is a study guide and participant's guide.

122 W. Franklin Av. Ste 2, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404

612-870-0861 / 888-293-9901

[www.resourcesforthejourney.org](http://www.resourcesforthejourney.org)

[info@resourcesforthejourney.org](mailto:info@resourcesforthejourney.org)

Ginger Stemme, Resource Center Director

Sally Vanderwerf, Resource Assistant



## RESOURCES FOR YOUNG ADULTS/COLLEGE

All featured resources are available for preview or for loan from the Resource Center for Churches.

**What we need to know: your name, church, address, phone, email, when will you use this resource? When will it be returned?**

**What you need to do: Call or email us to reserve.**

### **SIMPLY ENOUGH**

Straight talk from Tony Campolo and Shane Claiborne on Simple, Just Living.

"Simply Enough" with Tony Campolo and Shane Claiborne is ideal for adults or senior high youth, especially for young adults.

Use it: for group or personal retreats; with people looking for change in their lives; as part of a sermon; in small group ministries; in a new members class; in a more traditional setting, such as church school classes, workshops or other special gatherings.

Allow about 30 minutes for each of the six 12-minute segments. Talk together about what you've seen and decide what you're going to do next together. To move deeper, use the BONUS footage.

Topics are: 1. Lifestyle; 2. Food; 3. Celebrations; 4. Stuff; 5. Money; 6. Justice

### **EXPLORING GODS PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE**

In today's fast-paced and stress-oriented world, it is hard for young people to stop and search for God's will for their lives. A young person's life is full of decisions; what to do after high school, what career to pursue, whom to marry and where to live. These are only a few of the questions they face. Without God's guidance the future is overwhelming, worrisome, and frightening. This DVD explores the path to finding God's will, helping young people to hear His purpose for their lives. 6 segments: (1 DVD & study guide)

-God Has a purpose for your life -Seeking God -Obstacles to Hearing God -Trusting God -Making Decisions

-Steps of Faith

## **NOOMA FILM SERIES (Great multi-age resources.)**

Nooma is a revolutionary product that is changing the way people experience spirituality – a series of short films on DVD with a 32 page discussion guide – short films, between 10 and 14 minutes long, about God and our lives. Not a "talking head" format. 1 DVD with 1 Leader guide Go to this site for downloadable discussion guide:<http://www.nooma.com>

### **ORDER BY SERIES TITLE BELOW**

- 1) Rain - God's comfort during storms of life.
- 2) Flame - Love as God intended it to be for us.
- 3) Trees - Meaning for our lives, today and forever.
- 4) Sunday - Why do we attend church, tithe or give our time?
- 5) Noise - Hearing God through the noise around us.
- 6) Kickball - Why doesn't God always give us what we want?
- 7) Luggage - Forgiveness isn't just about people who hurt us.
- 8) Dust - We believe in God, but does God believe in us?
- 9) Bullhorn - Loving God means loving everyone around us.
- 10) Lump - No matter what we've done God always loves us.
- 11) Rhythm – What does it mean to have a relationship with God?
- 12) Matthew – Losing someone we love can be the most difficult thing to go through in life
- 13) Rich – Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others
- 14) Breathe – Throughout our everyday lives we don't pay much attention to the way we breathe, do we? But for thousands of years, people have understood that our physical breathe is actually a picture of a deeper spiritual reality
- 15) You - Many people often debate the central claims of the Christian faith. But maybe a better understanding of the history of the early Christian movement would give new perspective to these discussions.
- 16) Store - We all get angry about things from time to time – some of us more often than others. But what is really the root of our anger? Maybe if we learn where our anger comes from, we can channel it towards something constructive – something that's bigger than ourselves.
- 17) Today - How much energy do we spend on wishing things were how they used to be, thinking that our best days may be behind us? Maybe if we're too hung up on the past we fail to live our lives to the fullest, right here, right now.
- 18) Name - We all compare ourselves to others. Some of us even wish we were someone else. But why are we so concerned with what other people think, say, or look like? Maybe if we really knew our true selves, we wouldn't focus so much at other peoples' lives and live more in tune with the life God wants for us.
- 19) Open - Does God answer prayer? Some, but not all? Sometimes, but not all the time? Or does God always answer prayer and it's just that sometimes God says no. Could prayer be bigger than God listening and answering? Maybe we need a fresh perspective on how we approach the things in life that compel us to pray.
- 20) Shells - "I'm so busy!" "We've got too much going!" Sound familiar? Modern life sets a grueling pace, and keeping up with appointments, gatherings, and to-do lists can be exhausting. Rob Bell's thought-provoking discussion starter asks: What are you really doing with your time? If you find it difficult to say no, do you know what you've said yes to? 10 minutes.
- 21) She -We often focus on the masculine character of God. But when we ignore God's feminine traits, could we be missing a fundamental part of the Almighty's personality? In this thought-provoking DVD, Rob Bell seeks a more well-rounded understanding of the divine nature. A great way to spark meaningful discussion in your small group! 11 minutes.

Watch for additional NOOMA FILMS. They come out regularly. We purchase all of the titles so that you can make good programming and purchasing decisions.

### **36 PARABLES: PURPLE**

For nearly 2,000 years, the parables of Christ have instructed and inspired. Now, three of these powerful stories are re-told for today's audiences on "Purple", one of a series of 12 DVDs, "36 Parables." Each DVD in the series contains short films depicting three beloved parables in modern situations. Shot in letterbox format with surround sound, the films are thought-provoking teaching tools that capture the mind and the heart.

OUT OF REACH is based on the Parable of the friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8) 4 minutes. A young girl tries to persuade her father to let her play with his antique fire truck.

THE CAR LOT is based on the Parable of the Shrewd Manager. (Luke 16:1-13) 6 Minutes. A car salesman is forced to think creatively in order to obtain a new job.

SEAN is based on the Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13: 6-9) 6 Minutes. A high school teacher fights for a student facing expulsion.

### **36 PARABLES: CYAN**

SPILT MILK is based on the Parable of New Wine in Old Wineskins.

A young boy discovers the practicality of spilt milk. 3 minutes.

A FEW WEEKS LATER is based on the Parable of the Rich Fool.

After Harold loses his wife to death, he is faced with the reality of her belongings. 7 minutes

BEYOND BEAUTIFUL is based on the Parable of the Two Sons

Emma tries to persuade Charlie to go on a blind date with her new friend. 5 Minutes.

### **36 PARABLES: YELLOW**

BUEN VECINO is based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10: 30-37) 11 minutes. Trouble at work descends on a hotel maintenance worker.

BURIED TALENT is based on the Parable of the Talents. (Matthew 25:14-30) 12 Minutes. A Rich man hires three artists to paint for his wife.

FOUND is based on the Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10) 5 Minutes. A wanderer searches for his most precious possession.

### **36 PARABLES: BLUE**

Illuminate God's Word in a whole new way with these modern-day retellings of Jesus' parables! Perfect message starters, illustrations, or discussion prompts, these short films will challenge teens and adults to think about their faith and live their lives differently! Includes the "The Treasure Buried in a Field," "The Two Debtors," and "The Wicked Servant." 30 minutes.

WATCH FOR MORE 36 PARABLES COLORS IN THE FUTURE!

### **REAL FAITH REAL LIFE**

Bible study resources published by Bridge Resources:

CR600: Real Faith Real Life Young Adult Bible Studies

BK1756: Real Faith Real Life Series: Life in Balance

BK1757: Real Faith Real Life Series: Personal Resources and Faithfulness to God

BK1758: Real Faith Real Life Series: Wake Up and Live

## WHAT OTHER CHRISTIANS BELIEVE AND WHY

Why do Orthodox Christians use icons in worship? What is the "baptism in the Holy Spirit" that Pentecostals speak about? Why do Roman Catholics focus on the Eucharist in worship? What do Lutherans teach us about salvation? What do Presbyterians teach us about God's power? How can Episcopalians deepen our prayer life? What can Baptists teach us about living for Christ?

In these video presentations, Adam Hamilton presents a welcoming, inspiring vision of eight Christian denominations and faith traditions. Comparing the Christian family to our own extended families, he contends that each denomination has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith. For each group, he gives a brief history, outlines major beliefs, and describes some things we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith. DVD, one Leader's Guide one Participant's Guide AND ONE Pastor's Guide CD-ROM.

**Session 1.** Orthodoxy 17:58

**Session 2.** Catholicism 17:02

**Session 3.** Lutheranism 18:12

**Session 4.** Presbyterianism 15:19

**Session 5.** Anglicanism 16:00

**Session 6.** Baptists 15:57

**Session 7.** Pentecostalism 16:29

**Session 8.** Methodism 16:34

## CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

### Wrestling with Questions People Ask

*Deal openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions, including why we should believe the claims of Christianity over those of other faiths. In sessions on Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, Adam Hamilton interviews a religious leader from that tradition treating world religions with great respect and recognizing the unique contributions of each while comparing and contrasting them with Christianity. In the final session, Hamilton shares the essential beliefs of Christianity in light of the other religious beliefs presented. The six sessions include: Questions Thinking People Ask, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity. Kit contains: DVD, VHS, Participant's Guide, Leader's Guide, Pastor's Guide including Sermon Starters and Promotional Aids.*

## WORSHIP

### Worship Feast (Abingdon press)

BK2445: Worship Feast: 100 Awesome Ideas for Postmodern

BK2446: Worship Feast: 50 Complete Multisensory Services

BK2616: Worship Feast: Taize Songbook

BK2617: Worship Feast: Twenty Complete Services in the Spirit of Taize

BK3289: Worship Feast Dramas: 15 Sketches for Youth

BK3371: Worship Feast Readings: 100 Readings, Rituals,

BK4079: Worship Feast Lent & Easter

Mike Baughman & Jenny 2007

CDR41: Worship Feast Prayer Stations: 20 Complete

Various 2006

## FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE:

**The Gospel According to the Simpsons.** Westminster John Knox Press, 2001

The author looks at the show's treatment of God, Jesus, heaven and hell, the Bible, prayer, the evangelistic next-door neighbor Ned Flanders, and the town's church and pastor, Rev. Lovejoy. He also discusses whether the character of Lisa is the voice of Jesus, and explores the many moral dilemmas that the characters, in particular Bart and Homer, face.

Resources for Mission and Social Justice

**Truth and Wholeness: Replacing White Privilege with God's Promise**, 15 min. DVD by the United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race

**Although produced by the UMC, this resource is recommended for all churches.**

Those living today didn't create the system, but need to recognize the system to facilitate change. This is a good tool to use to raise awareness.

Privilege means unearned advantage, which can be education, gender, nationality or time in history (born in 20th century or later involves lifestyle privileges).

White privilege refers to a privilege of race in which the American society thinks of white as the "normal" majority. We always think of the addition of minorities to become multicultural and downplay any thought that persons of other cultures consider our White American culture different. Whites are not usually asked to represent their race whereas a minority may be asked to generalize with questions like "What do your people believe? Very thought provoking short resource reviewed by Ginger Stemme.



**A Generation of Hope; What It Means to Prevail in the HIV/AIDS Pandemic.** DVD

Three minute and 10 minute versions plus additional resources for your church or group, study guide, power point presentation with script and bulletin insert resources.

This film focuses on the Pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa where in up to a dozen countries 15 to 25% of the children will be orphaned by AIDS by 2010. Filmed on location in Zimbabwe in 2001. Of General Interest.

**Protecting Kids Online: Real Stories about Real Kids.** DVD

This educational video on safeguarding children is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Police and Center for Safe Schools. For more information visit:

[www.safeschools.info](http://www.safeschools.info)

**Sunday School; it's for life!**

By Cokesbury. Suitable for all churches.

Planning information for Church Councils, Education professionals and volunteers who are planning faith formation in the local church. 4 short segments include an Introduction; Children, Youth and Adult.

**UMCOR Sager Brown Depot of Hope.** DVD

Visit the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot and campus in Baldwin, LA., where mission has been taking place for more than 140 years. See how gifts of hope are assembled and dispatched to those who need them most. Learn how you can be part of the life and ministry of UMCOR Sager Brown. The DVD contains:

5:45 minute movie on the work and ministry of UMCOR Sager Brown;

2-3 minute instructional movies for health, school and layette kits;

printable instruction sheets for assembling bedding kits, flood buckets, health kits, layette kits, school kits and sewing kits;

Sewing patterns for school bags and layette items;

Volunteer guide and bulletin insert to print and share.

*UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief.*

**Troubled Waters** (As seen on ABC-TV)

DVD: 1 hour.

Hosted by acclaimed actress Lynn Redgrave, and produced for the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission by the United Church of Christ, "Troubled Waters" explores the critical issues of water shortage through the lens of faith and from the perspective of people in Bolivia, Malawi, the Middle East, and the United States who struggle daily to find access to clean, safe water...



Let brotherly love continue.  
Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:1-2

Despite the shortages, some see water as a commodity to be bought and sold for profit.

However, faith teaches us that water is a right given to all.

**Journey in Mission.** A DVD/CD SET developed for United Methodist Women.

It brings you stories of ordinary women and youth who have been empowered to do extraordinary things through United Methodist Women.

The CD-ROM requires MS Word and Power Point. Some resources will require you to have Internet access and Internet Explorer or a Similar web browser. All resources were encoded to work on PCs and MACs.

**Nothing But Nets.** CD Resource for the United Methodist Church

Features photos, news release drop in article and logos for Nothing But Nets, United Nations Foundation, and the United Methodist (Open hearts...) Everything you need to enhance a local fund-raising appeal for Nothing But Nets.



## Resource Center for Churches

122 W. Franklin Avenue, Room 2  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

612-870-0861 or 888-293-9901 (toll free)

Email: [info@resourcesforthejourney.org](mailto:info@resourcesforthejourney.org)

Website: [www.resourcesforthejourney.org](http://www.resourcesforthejourney.org)

### *Your Partner in Ministry*

*The Resource Center for Churches partners with congregations in ministry by providing print and audio-visual resources, consultation services, training, and networking to facilitate the journey of faith.*

*It is an ecumenical ministry of the: Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota; Minnesota Annual Conference United Methodist Church; Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ; Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area; Synod of Lakes and Prairies (PCUSA).*

### *Staff*

*Ginger Stemme, Director  
Sally Vanderwerf, Resource Assistant*

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### **CAFFEINE + Series = a bright youth resource**

Steven Case, a licensed minister with the United Church of Christ, serves as director of youth ministries at Windermere United Church of Christ in Windermere, Florida. He is the author of eleven books. He has served Episcopal, Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations in Ohio and Florida since the 1990's. The Caffeine + series is new in 2008.

Caffeine + Character; Caffeine + Commitment; Caffeine + Christ and Caffeine + Confusion are each written in an accessible way and includes imaginative retellings of Bible stories that put Christianity into contemporary language and experience.

Each book can be used in two ways: 1) as an impromptu discussion starter with five or less youth (but easily adaptable for more than five) at your favorite coffee shop or diner; 2) as part of an on-going curriculum.

Each exploration offers quick focusing questions, activities to encourage participation, scripture references followed by discussion questions, a work at home assignment and a TIP—A quick, one-sentence, big idea for the day. Published by Pilgrim Press.

### **“Practicing Discernment with Youth; a Transformative Youth Ministry Approach” by David F. White**

“Over the last half-century,” says David White, “congregational youth ministry has undergone a separation from its own sense of place. The expectations, imaginations, and practices of youth ministry are more likely to originate in Southern California, Colorado, or denominational headquarters than they are within the unique and particular setting of a congregation.”

So in this resource White instead calls for congregations to engage their own young people in practices of discernment that involve the gifts and problems of their unique context, bringing their lives more fully into partnership with God's work in their particular place. He models how to do this through historic discernment practices of Christian communities such as: Ignation contemplative practices, Quaker clearness counsels, consensus decision making, silence.

This is the first book in a new series: *Youth Ministry Alternatives: Resources of Theological Integrity Rooted in Real Congregations*. Pilgrim Press