



Resource Center for Churches

## Resources for the Journey

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

Volume 10 Number 4

December 2008

### THANKS!

In addition to the DVD featured in our lead article, the Presbyterian Disabilities Concerns task force of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. has gifted the Resource Center with a DVD and a print resource about autism.

“Normal People Scare Me,” a 10-minute video in which teens are interviewed about how autism has affected their lives can help us understand from a different perspective.

Autism and Faith: A Journey Into Community is a multi-faith booklet published in May 2008, by the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Pediatrics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. It is a collaborative project with the New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community and was funded by The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation. This looks like an excellent resource. For additional information call 732.235.9300 or check out their website:

### Holiday Closure

**The Resource Center will close for the Holiday Season at 4:00 p.m., Friday, December 19, and will reopen Tuesday, January 6.**

Try to plan ahead accordingly. Ginger will be available on December 23rd and January 2nd by appointment. I will check telephone and email. If you have a specific need, please send an email to [ginger@resourcesforthejourney.org](mailto:ginger@resourcesforthejourney.org) as that will be checked most often.

### Coming Home: Supporting Your Soldier

This topic is of great concern in our society and should be a high priority in our faith communities as well, no matter what your basic position is on the war. We are grateful to the Presbyterian Disabilities Concerns division of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., for the gift of this new resource.

“Coming Home: Supporting Your Soldier” is a 30-minute DVD resource produced collaboratively by Twin Cities Public Television and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota (NAMI-MN). The purpose is to increase the public’s understanding of posttraumatic stress disorder and combat stress.

Being in a combat zone is a very different and stressful experience. It is not surprising that soldiers returning from Afghanistan and Iraq are experiencing combat stress, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety. These soldiers need encouragement to access mental health services.

Families and our communities need to understand these illnesses, know the symptoms and know what to do to help returning soldiers. By understanding more about mental illness, families will be better able to support their soldier’s road to recovery.

This program seeks to give details about the signs and symptoms, decrease the stigma surrounding mental illness, and explain what families and friends can do to help. [This description is adapted from the DVD cover.]

<b>Feature Article:</b> Coming Home: Supporting Your Soldier	1
New Children’s Literature	2
<b>Insert:</b> New resources for general ministry.	3-6
DVD (VHS) ideas for Lent	7
More resources for Lent	8

## New Children's Literature Books

**For more information see our online catalog:  
[www.resourcesforthejourney.org](http://www.resourcesforthejourney.org)**

ResCode	Type	Title	Author
CL395	Children's Lit.	When God Made My Toes	Mackall, Dandi Daley.
CL396	Children's Lit.	Child is Born, A	Mary Alice Gran
CL397	Children's Lit.	The Sudan Project : Rebuilding with the people of Darfur : a youngperson's guide	Leembruggen, Melissa.
CL398	Children's Lit.	Enemy Pie	Munson, Derek.
CL399	Children's Lit.	Three in One A Book About God	
CL400	Children's Lit.	Jenny: Coming to Terms with the Death of a Sibling	Stephanie Jeffs
CL401	Children's Lit.	Josh: Coming to Terms with the Death of a Friend	Stephanie Jeffs
CL402	Children's Lit.	The always prayer shawl	Oberman, Sheldon.
CL403	Children's Lit.	Psalm 23	Moser, Barry.
CL404	Children's Lit.	Tres Con Tango	Justin Richardson
CL405	Children's Lit.	Jesse Tree, The	McCaughrean, Geraldine.
CL406	Children's Lit.	Anna's table	Bunting, Eve
CL407	Children's Lit.	How Many Days to America?: A Thanksgiving Story	Eve Bunting
CL408	Children's Lit.	I Get So Hungry	Campbell, Bebe Moore
CL409	Children's Lit.	Uncle Bobby's Wedding	Brannen, Sarah S.
CL411	Children's Lit.	Marianthe's Story: Painted Words and Marianthe's Story: Spoken Memories	Aliki Brandenburg
CL412	Children's Lit.	Can You Greet the Whole Wide World?: 12 Common Phrases in 12 Different Languages	Lezlie Evans
CL413	Children's Lit.	The Best Gift of All	Emmett, Jonathan.

### Resources for Cultivating Spiritual Vitality This Lent

The Resource Center for Churches provides excellent sources for celebrating Lent at your church or at home. Check out some of their recommendations this year.

For adults:

*Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today*, 120 min. DVD with CD-Rom containing printable material, published by Living the Questions (2006). Ideal for Advent and Lent, five sessions: "The Way Out," "The Decalogue," "Countering Caesar," "An Act of Imagination," and "On Not Doing God Any Favors."

*Death and Resurrection of Jesus*, two VHS tapes (approx. 120 min. total) with leader's guide, published by UMCom Productions (2000). Marcus Borg shares his understanding on the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus to the early church in six segments: "What happened on Good Friday?" "What happened at Easter?" "Jesus is Lord," "Jesus is the Way," "Jesus as Sacrifice," and "Jesus, God's Love Revealed."

*Give Us This Day: Lenten reflections on baking bread and discipleship*, book (123 pages) by Christopher Levan, published by Seabury Books (2007). Meditations for every day in Lent (each beginning with scripture verse and prayer) and recipes for baked goods, from pancakes to challah.

*Jesus File: Tracking the Messiah*, two DVDs (104 min. total) published by Films for the Humanities (1998). These programs chart Jesus' life within the context of his times: "Preparing the Way for Jesus," "From Carpenter to Preacher," "Jesus Gathers a Following," "The Last and First Days of Jesus."

*Living the Questions 2.0: An Introduction to Progressive Christianity*, three DVDs (seven 20-min. sessions each; three hours total), published by Living the Questions (2007). Creates an environment where participants can explore what's next for Christianity.

*Saving Jesus*, DVD, readings, and guided discussion (twelve sessions at 90 to 120 hours each) published by Living the Questions (2006). A small-group exploration of Jesus for the third millennium.

For children:

*Puzzle Club Easter Adventure*, 30 min. VHS tape with parent's guide, published by Envoy Productions (1998). Young detectives have to decide between finding a lost cat and caring for their ill adviser.

*The Last Supper*, 30 min. VHS tape published by CCC of America (1999). Portrays the apostles entering Jerusalem for Passover, Judas's betrayal, and celebration of the Last Supper.

*Veggie Tales: An Easter Carol*, 49 min. DVD published by Big Idea (2004). Cavis and Millward (Bob and Larry) and an angel named Hope must convince Ebenezer Nezzzer that Easter is about more than candy, explaining why millions of Christians celebrate Easter.

For all ages:

*Matthew*, two DVDs (120 min. total) published by the International Bible Society (2004). Powerful and entertaining, word for word from the NIV, filmed in Tunisia, Morocco, and South Africa.

Many new Lenten resources have been ordered and are starting to arrive now. These are especially good for discussion groups or Sunday school classes.

To borrow a resource, contact the center at [info@resourcesforthejourney.org](mailto:info@resourcesforthejourney.org) or telephone (888) 293-9901 (toll free) from greater Minnesota or (612) 870-0861 from the Twin Cities area. The staff will gladly reserve one of these or another resource for you. The center has books, DVDs, reference works, choir anthems, and even a labyrinth available for loan.





## 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*

### *Board*

*Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota: Bronwyn Clark Skov, Joanie Delameter, Minnesota Annual Conference, United Methodist Church: Victoria Rebeck, Gloria Roach Thomas, Diane C. Olson; Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ: Glen Herrington Hall (Secretary); Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area: Jan Snell; Synod of Lakes and Prairies (PCUSA): Diana Barber, Norma Spurgin (Vice-President) and At-Large: Ron Cottone (President), Disabilities Awareness Ministries*

## More Resources by J. Ellsworth Kalas

### **Easter from the Backside (New)**

Using an approach similar to the one he took in *Parables from the Back Side* and other books in the popular *Back Side* series, author J. Ellsworth Kalas opens up new possibilities of insight into the biblical Easter story. The author looks beyond the traditional gospel scriptures to connect the story of Christ's resurrection with other stories and scriptures throughout the Bible...

### **Beatitudes from the Backside: (New)**

Using his method of approaching Bible passages from an unusual angle or a unique starting point, J. Ellsworth Kalas presents new insight into the beatitudes, Jesus' blessings from the Sermon on the Mount. Age: A 122 pages

### **Parables from the Backside DVD & Book Study**

The Planning Kit contains a DVD with twelve 10-minute sessions, plus "Meet J. Ellsworth Kalas"; one copy of the book *Parables from the Back Side*; and one copy of the video study *Leader's Guide*.

Check our catalog for additional Ellsworth titles.

## Meditation Resources

### **Meditation Photographs Focus on Discernment.**

This discernment kit offers a tool to experience God through the visual sense. It can be used by individuals or by groups at any point in their discernment process or life journey. The kit has seven meditative photographs taken by Val Isenhower. The photographs are evocative - leading the viewer to experience God and discover the place where they will meet God in the photograph. The same photograph may be used more than once. Each time new insights will arise.

**Labyrinths: 20' and 30' sizes (Fee charged)** Many books on labyrinths can support the promotion, use and understanding of labyrinths and their power for meditation.

### **Loosening the Roots of Compassion: Meditations for Holy Week and Eastertide**

Ellen Bradshaw Aitken's meditations sing that "the resurrection is somehow at work everywhere," building in us a new creation. They invite us to tilt and turn the scriptural text as though it were a hologram--and then to do the same with our lives .... Paperback Book, 100 pages.