

Resource Center for Churches

Resources for the Journey

Contact us: www.resourcesforthejourney.org

Volume 10 Number 3

October 2008

New Audiobook:

“Three Cups of Tea” by Greg Mortinson

New in DVD format:

“Wesley and Giving.” and Nest Family Video: “The King is Born,”

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 \$\$\$

Time to Update Your Library

Perhaps it is the cooling weather in October and November that turns my attention to books, those I want to read, are reading and know I will never have time to read! I am currently making the best use of my time by “reading” via audiotape “Three Cups of Tea” by Greg Mortinson. It is a fabulous book about the life changing near-death experience he had in Pakistan and the subsequent decade plus of dedication to bringing schools to children in Pakistan. I plan to have paperback copies of this and some other adult titles at our annual book sale fundraiser. However, as usual, the sale will be rich with children’s literature options.

Books are published for children on every topic imaginable and are a rich source of alternate curriculum or easy programming for volunteers. They also make great Christmas gifts for children, grandchildren, teachers, caregivers, and in support of Sunday Schools. Children’s books go out of print very quickly, except for the “classics” like “The Velveteen Rabbit,” which are continually re-illustrated and brought back to our attention.

Since it is important for me to keep up-to-date on current titles that fit in our collection, it makes sense that I share some of my findings with you. I have already posted a list of good current books on our website that are of general interest. I am working on an updated recommended list of titles for churches. I will not be able to finalize this list until I return from a Christian Educators Conference next week. I will have this list available prior to the beginning of our annual Board sponsored fundraiser held in conjunction with the Red Balloon.

If you have any education budget for materials or can get a sponsor to purchase, our book sale is an excellent place to purchase pre-screened books. The display dates are November 11-14th. See the flyer inside the newsletter for details. Orders can be placed later directly through Ginger at the RCC. The fundraiser ends December 4th.

Some of the gift titles that really caught my attention are:

“Ballpark,” “Big Words for Little People” “The Sandman,” “Creation Song,”

“Psalm 23,” “The Lord is My Shepherd,” “The 11th Commandment,”

“Down to Earth Guide to Global Warming;” “Earth Book for Kids,” and “EcoArt,”

“Raising Children to Love Their Neighbors,” “The Blessing of the Beasts,”

“Yay, You! Moving Out, Moving Up, Moving On,” “The War With Grandpa,”

“Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did,” “V is for Viking,”

“The Always Prayer Shawl,” “The Tsunami Quilt,” “Fine as We Are,”

“When God Made the Dakotas,” “We Are One,” “Up North at the Cabin”

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Resources and Ideas: Advent & Christmas
These are new this week, check the catalog for more.

NEW BOOKS: CSS Publishing Company

Love's Pure Light; Christmas Candlelight Sermons and Service, by Mark Wm. Radecke. 2008. 63 pp.

A Collection of sermons delivered at Susquehanna University between 1997 and 2006. This book offers pastors a valuable source of inspiration for Christmas sermon preparation. "Love's Pure Light" also includes an order of service, providing congregations with a complete Christmas candlelight worship experience.

I Spy Christmas! Three Christmas Plays plus a Candlelight Service, by Dean A. Anderson and Rod Tkach. 2008 67 pp.

An excellent resource for pastors and churches that either need to add another element to their Christmas service or are simply in need of a Christmas order of worship. This volume provides both, including three Christmas dramas that are intended for casts of various ages, from children to teenagers to adults. Each play can be produced by congregations of various sizes, providing an attractive mix of humor, wit, and inspiration that will speak to any congregation.

Come All Ye Faithful; Three Christmas Plays, by Frank Ramirez. 2008 64 pp.

These plays can be used by congregations of almost any size, with only minimal props and costuming required. Copy privileges are included.

The plays featured in this volume are:

- ◆ The Living Advent Wreath — a musical allegory depicting a pilgrim's journey to discover the true meaning of Advent as revealed through the Advent Wreath (sheet music is included).
- ◆ The Mouse Christmas — a lighthearted children's play written in rhyming verse.
- ◆ The Ad Vent Wheat — a humorous children's play offering a slightly altered view of the Christmas message.

Blueprints for Advent and Christmas; Dynamic Sketches, Scenes, and Scripts for the Season, by Arley K. Fadness 2008, 168 pp.

This resource has the blueprints for setting the scene of Bethlehem as a visual backdrop. A bit late for this season, but you may get parish craftsmen and artists excited to use their gifts for seasons to come. There are also Advent Songs for the Season (sketches and homilies) that promise to attract and inspire worshipers. The four themes are:

- ◆ When Israel Sang the Blues
- ◆ When Maiden Mary Sang the Magnificat
- ◆ When Teddy Roosevelt Sang Bass
- ◆ When The Angels and All Creation Sang Gloria in Excelsis!

In addition, sets of mini-dramas designed for use with lectionary cycles A and B are also included.

RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHURCHES

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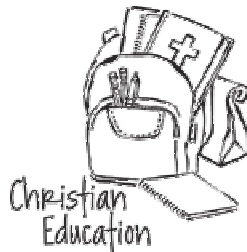
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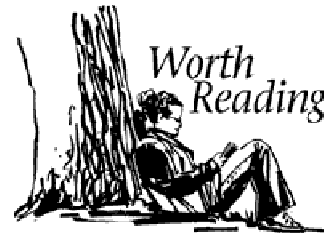
Sally Vanderwerf, Resource Assistant



BUY BOOKS FOR PRESENTS



BUY BOOKS FOR
YOUR CHURCH



BUY BOOKS FOR
YOURSELF

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S BOOKSALE FUNDRAISER

In connection with the Red Balloon Bookstore

Books are on order and the dates have been set! Join us November 11–14th, 2008, for our large display of Children's Literature and miscellaneous adult titles in the Meadows (front lobby) at 122 W. Franklin, Mpls., from 11:00–2:00 minimum each day. During our other office hours, books can be viewed in a less convenient manner in our office, Suite 2 (in the basement). Remaining books will be available there until December 4th.

We encourage churches to take advantage of this opportunity to buy for their education departments and libraries. We need to know: your name, church, address, phone, email, and have a copy of your tax exempt form when the books are purchased. What you need to do: Call or email us to reserve any titles in advance or to take advantage of our ability to special order titles.

We are trying to put lists of available books on our website so you can think about what you want, but titles are not guaranteed to come in or last throughout the sale.



SPECIAL THIS YEAR: We have received a donation of hot-off-the-press cookbooks from Faith United Methodist Church, which were published in honor of their 125th Anniversary, being celebrated on October 25, 2008. All of the proceeds from each cookbook sale will go to the Resource Center. Help us pay our rent in 2009!

Books Available at Our Fundraiser (Partial List)

60 Hikes with 60 Miles	Love Song for a Baby
A Day With Dad	M is for Minnesota
A Long Way from Home	Marianthe's Stories One (Painted Words)/Two (Spoken Memories)
A Visitor for Bear	MINN of the Mississippi
Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek	Minnesota at 150
Bug Safari	Minnesota Capitol Centennial Story
Can You Greet the Whole Wide World	MN: Chasing the Seasons
Christmas is Coming	My Family is Forever
Colors! ...	North Star Numbers
Complete Bike Book	Olive's Ocean
Corduroy: 40th Anniversary Edition	On Noah's Ark
Dog Sense	On Top of Spaghetti
Exploring the Twin Cities with Children	Raising You Alone
Front Porch Tales & North Country Whoppers	Red Ranger Came Calling
Gingerbread Baby; Gingerbread Friends	The Baby Shower
Gobble It Up	The Wedding
Going Around the Sun, Some Planetary Fun	The Baseball Brothers
Goldilocks & the three Libearians	The Butter Man
Grace Above All	The Frog with the Big Mouth
Grandma Calls Me Beautiful	The Important Book
Great Wolf and the Good Woodsman	The Little Bit Scary People
Heart in the Pocket	The Lost & Found Tooth
Heaven is Having You	The Lucky One
Hey Batta Batta Swing! The Wild Old Days of Baseball	The Master's Apprentice
How Many Days to America	The Name Jar
I Get So Hungry	The Three Snow Bears
I Love You Sleepyhead	The Very Smart Pea and the Princess to Be
I Love You the Purplest	Tooth on the Loose
I Spy with My Little Eye, Minnesota	Two of Everything
In the Days of Sand & Stars	Uncle Bobby's Wedding
Keats Neighborhood	Visitor for Bear
Keeper of Soles	Wind Rider
Kick Off!	You Think It's Easy Being a Tooth Fairy
Little Pip and the Rainbow Wish	Your Own Big Bed
Lost & Found	

Social Issues

General Assembly council Overview...Offering the World a Visible Witness of Jesus Christ.

This DVD offers an opportunity to become acquainted with the ministry and mission agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This overview shares stories about some of the ministries in which they are engaged around the world. This should be viewed by all Presbyterians and may be of interest to others, especially United Methodists, as a shared ministry is mentioned.

Understanding Mental Illness in Children. Produced by Twin Cities Public Television and NAMI Minnesota.

This 30-minute documentary increases the public understanding of mental illness by providing basic information about the major illnesses and by showing the spirit and courage of children and adults in their lives who have been touched by mental illness. This program seeks to dispel the myths and stigma surrounding mental illness and to provide hope to the one in ten children who have a mental illness. Currently only about 20 percent of those afflicted are diagnosed and provided treatment.

At least half, perhaps 2/3 of children involved in Juvenile Justice have some sort of chronic disorder.

Ginger has viewed this in its entirety and highly recommends this for parent education..

Companion DVD regarding mental illness in adults.

Hope for Recovery: Understanding Mental Illness. Produced by Twin Cities Public Television and NAMI Minnesota.

VIDEO: The Coffee-Go-Round. Bullfrog Films, 2005.

If you think using fair trade coffee is no big deal, think again. This behind the scenes look at coffee production explains why countries like Ethiopia are facing economic disaster even as the demand for coffee increases worldwide.

A resource to use as part of the global efforts to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals.



Living with Purpose in a Worn-Out Body: Spiritual Encouragement for Older Adults by Missy Buchanan.

An exploration of the inner life shared by many persons in nursing homes and retirement centers. Buchanan gives voice to mingled feelings of loss, gratitude, resignation, courage, loneliness and love. It becomes clear that "living with purpose" in old age is an extension of the challenges lived all along one's years....

Recommended for residents of nursing homes and retirement centers; caregivers, family and pastors who minister to the aged; communities amongst an aging community.

Settling In: My First Year in a Retirement Community

Drawing upon his personal journals, the author identifies three major stages of this spiritual journey; the initial excitement and euphoria; second thoughts and regrets; and discovering his life in the community. Large Print.

Modeling Mary in Christian Discipleship by John Burns. From the back cover-

"This resource offers readers:

10 biblical meditations from the Gospels that focus on the spiritual development of Mary.

A look at pondering, suffering, and re-focusing in our journey of discipleship. An understanding of the role of grace in becoming disciples of Christ."

Resource:(BK4408) Autism and Faith A Journey into Community

Autism and Faith grew out of the efforts and concerns of families and congregations who were looking for ways to include children and adults with autism in faith communities. With articles by family members, theologians, pastors, rabbis, people with autism, and professionals, the booklet contains facts about autism, pastoral care, religious education, strategies for supporting families, tips for lay people, and a listing of religious and public resources. The articles are highlighted by real life stories from a number of families who responded to an autism and faith survey.

(BK4326) Hunger Ideas for Children by Robin Currie. Evangelical Lutheran Church. 1996

Although you will need to go to the WEB for current statistics, this collection of facts will give you a quick look at some of the causes and related consequences of hunger in the world. The focus and emphasis of the myriad of ideas and activities in this book is to adjust attitudes and call for action.

(DV251) Called to Step Outside General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, 2008

It shows a little girl who brought a dish from her family's dinner to a lonely person outside. Her family follows her with the whole table and invites the neighbors to join them. A discussion guide is included.



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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).

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DVD They Like Jesus But Not the Church.

“Ask someone today if he or she likes Jesus, and the answer is usually yes. But ask if that person likes the church, and chances are you will get a far less favorable response. “

Led by author Dan Kimball, this six-session small group curriculum will help you explore and respond truthfully, caringly, and engagingly to the most common objections and misunderstandings culture has about the church and Christianity. Kit includes the book, the DVD with a 32-page leaders guide, ROM with sermon outlines and video starters and a participants guide.

They Like Jesus but Not The Church Sessions:

- 1) The Danger of the Christian Bubble
- 2) Is the Church Negative, Judgmental & Political?
- 3) Does the Church Restrict and Oppress Women?
- 4) Is the Church Homophobic?
- 5) Do Christians Arrogantly Think All Other Religions Are Wrong?
- 6) Are Christians Fundamentalists Who Take the Whole Bible Literally?