



Resource Center for Churches

Resources for the Journey

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September 2007

Back to School!

By Becky Crane (First Published in the Family Ministry News, Episcopal Diocese Of Mass., September '07.)
 Reprinted with permission. NOTE: While it may be too late to act on some of the points for this year's back to school season, similar values can be integrated into the approaching Christmas season.

Have you noticed every sign and every flier wants you to get ready for "Back to School"? In a recent Sunday paper there were eleven fliers with the latest and greatest shoe, computer, pencil etc. that every student should have. **What do we do as Christian parents to help our children see through the bombardment of advertising and get to the needs, not the wants?**



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Recently, on a television morning show, I heard that the average parent is spending around six hundred dollars per child to send them back to school. At first I thought that number seemed high, but when you think of all the things children are expected to have, plus any fees that are charged for the bus or sports, it quickly adds up.

With young children, make a list of all the things that you both agree they need. Usually a list is sent home by the teacher or school for needed supplies. Remember to add extra pencils and pens to your list. I put them away because come February, when supplies are full price, the kids always need to replace pencils and pens. I also have a project supply box. These supplies never leave home. So when colored pencils or markers are on sale, I buy one for school and one for the project box. Also have poster paper on hand. I have spent many a Sunday afternoon getting things needed for a project. Don't let this be you!

Add clothing to the list. Spend some time going through last year's clothing with your child and looking for missing buttons or any tears that can be repaired. This is an opportunity to

show kids how to sew on a button or fix a tear on the seam. Children can help sort, wash and pack up clothing to be donated. Local "Clothes Closets" are happy to recycle your clothing and it is a great way for kids to see the value of helping others.

When I was volunteering at a local Clothes Closet, one of the Moms had her clothing all in paper bags. Each paper bag had a beautiful prayer on it written by her children. The prayers were thanking God for their blessings. What a great way to remind our children that whatever we do, we do it with thanks to God.

Make several copies of your children's needs with a master list on the fridge. With a list in hand, have the kids look at the ads in the paper for the best value. They have great eyes for sales and coupons. As you acquire a new item check it off the list. Keep a running total of what you spend so you can have a grand total at the end. This will help you next year as you are planning ahead.

When it comes to middle school and high school children, tell them what the budget is. If they want to

shop themselves, think of the pre-paid credit card as a way to control their spending. When they prepare their list, why not have a prayer of thanks at the top! Every time they open the list they will see the prayer, and maybe even pray with it too!

Older students seem to need more and more technology. If they must upgrade their calculator, try to find someone who might need the older one. A great idea is to check with their teacher from last year and see if they would make sure a student who could not afford a calculator gets one. Have your older student use their calculator to find ten percent of your total budget. Use this as a great way to teach and model the idea of tithing.

If you are blessed with the finances to do so, use that ten percent to make a donation to your parish, Episcopal Relief and Development, or some other organization that is meaningful to them.

Back to school time can be stressful at best. If you plan, prepare and pray you can get your child off to a great start and teach your faith and values at the same time.

It's All About Sharing by Ginger Stemme

In 2006, multiple congregations enthusiastically used the video series "Living the Questions." We purchased multiple copies and utilized the technique of separating the DVD disks into unique checkout items so that the **maximum number of users could share access.**

Then in a new twist on sharing, people stepped forward and volunteered to hand deliver items to each other, so that the same resource could be used by two churches in one week.



These dedicated **volunteers, who expedited the delivery of materials** and kept us in the loop, are faithful stewards. Jesus must be smiling!

Last fall the same publisher released the new series "Saving Jesus." Again we purchased multiple copies and began an **organized network of sharing.** After purchasing a total of three copies we thought we were through, due to our limited annual budget. A church approached us for ordering information for this resource. We are always happy to provide that information, but we suggested an alternative. **If they would donate designated funds, we would of course order those resources. The do-**

nor has first check out privileges along with free use for life, while following the center's scheduling protocol.

Because we had purchased one at the full price this company let us purchase additional copies at a reduced rate (something not always possible.) In less than one month, we added new resources to the center, met the needs of a local church and had an additional resource loaned out to another church. **Can you see your church in a similar scenario?**

Living the Questions 2 (an expanded version) has been added to our holdings. Would you like to help us get more? Call 612-870-0861

Christian Educators Schedule

The **Christian Education Fellowship** group of the United Methodist Church, meets the third Thursday of each month. The first fall meeting will be 9/20/07.

For more information contact: cindy@advent-umc.com

Faith Formation Group (Christian Educators) of the Episcopal Church meet the

second Monday of each month, September—May, (9:30a.m.-11:30a.m.) at the Diocese Office.

The **United Church of Christ Educators** also meet several times per year, with conference type meetings each spring and fall. Ask Grace Anderson for details. anderson216@usfamily.net

LIFT: Lunch/Laughter Information Sharing & Fellowship meets on Fifth Thursdays. If you are an involved in Christian Education and Faith Formation for children and youth within the Presbyterian Church plan to attend 11/29/2007 at Valley Community in Golden Valley For more information contact: Martha Rockenstein: fpcMartha@sbcglobal.net

She is POINT person for the Presbytery.

New Worship Planning Materials



BK3650 The Work of the People: What We Do in Worship and Why. Gilbert, Marlea, et al. Alban 2007

The Work of the People simply and clearly explains the structure of worship, the actions and words we use in liturgy, the environment in which it all happens—in other words, what we are doing and why. This book will guide congregations in worshiping in a way that encourages participants' spiritual growth, welcomes new participants into faith, and sends people out as the body of Christ to transform the world.

This is a basic overview appropriate for new seminary students and lay people taking an active role in planning worship.

BK3763: Psalms for life : Hearing and praying the book of Psalms. Eaton, J. H. Westminster John 2007

In Psalms for Life, John Eaton explores the poetry of the Psalms as a never failing source of challenge, comfort, and encouragement. Beginning with Psalm 1 and continuing through to Psalm 150, he provides a short reflection on each psalm.

BK3781: Envisioning the Word: The Use of Visual Images in Preaching. Jensen, Richard A. Augsburg Fortress, 2005

In this one-volume resource kit, Jensen helps preachers use visual images creatively and responsibly. How, how much, when, what equipment, use of teams, relationship to exegesis, different varieties of images, sources—all the essential topics and concerns are addressed here.

BK3827: Sermon seeds : 40 creative sermon starters. Escobedo-Frank, Dottie. Abingdon/Alban 2005

If you preach, you are looking for ways to create worship experiences that keep people on the edge of their seats, straining to hear every word. Sermon Seeds helps pastors who want to approach the job of preaching more creatively.

BK3824: Healing Liturgies for the Seasons of Life. Evans, Abigail Rian. Westminster John 2004

Are you looking for a new way to renew your worship, respond to the needs of the church and community, connect with people in their passage of life—both chronological and crisis? This book offers a rich resource to you, both as a tool for worship and also devotionally as you face the deepest questions of life. Abigail Evans explores how God's gift of healing is available during all seasons of a person's life and how the power of hope and healing are affirmed and redirected through liturgical services, sacraments, and rites. This distinctive resource features specific healing liturgies for injury, illness, death, separation, retirement, and a host of other major life events, from a wide variety of religious traditions.

BK3829: Preaching the Letters without Dismissing the Law: A Allen, Ronald J. Westminster John 2006

This unique lectionary commentary on the Epistle readings in the Revised Common Lectionary helps preachers see how knowledge of first-century Judaism can help them avoid incorporating misunderstandings and stereotypes into their sermons on the letters.

BK3830: Preaching the Old Testament : A lectionary commentary. Allen, Ronald J. Westminster 2007

Preachers often neglect the Old Testament, misrepresent it, or regard its theological content as superseded by

THANKYOU!

Wayzata Community Church Board of Outreach, via a monetary grant, has enabled us to purchase the New Interpreters Dictionary (12 vol.) with Index and on CD-ROM.

We also have purchased the first two volumes of The New Interpreters' Dictionary of the Bible and are on the standing order list for future volumes.

In the meantime, Jan Morey, a UMC Pastor, who retired this year, has provided us with a complete set of the Interpreters' Dictionary of the Bible, 1962.

With all of our resources, a computer and large work table, you will find this a great place to come for in depth study if your local office is too busy or too distracting.

Jesus and the New Testament, Allen and Williamson claim. The authors help preachers understand how the O.T. was understood before the Common Era and discussing paired lections from the two testaments.

BK3852: Provoking the Gospel of Matthew: A Storyteller's Commentary: Year A with DVD Swanson, Richard W. Pilgrim Press, 2007

This is the third book in the PROVOKING THE GOSPEL storytelling commentary series, and it spurs efforts to provoke pastoral leaders and religious educators to look for new and lively readings of Matthew, and challenges them to experiment with interpretive tools such as embodied ensemble exploration.

BK3739: Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives. Muller, Wayne

Wonderful stories, poems, and suggestions for practice teach us how we can use the Sabbath to refresh our bodies and minds, restore our creativity, and regain our birthright of inner happiness.

DVD's NEW TO US!

We have added some oldies but goodies to our collection.

(The Lutheran Media Center closed in June and we picked up some pieces we thought you might like.

— If you know any Lutherans needing DVD's, etc., refer them to us!)

VD4088: Walking Together

Church World Service 2005

Walking. All over the globe people walk. Some for fun and exercise. In the developing world, though, people walk to simply survive. And each year here in the U.S. hundreds of thousands of people walk because they walk -- in solidarity, in unity, in their community CROP WALK. Join us as we walk with a young Kenyan, Esther Warimu Kariuki.

VD4089: Faith & Community The Religious Landscape

The Polis Center 2003

America is religiously pluralistic although the pluralism varies from place to place. The place and status of religion has changed both in relation to the larger culture, and in relation to other religious traditions.



VD4091=: Jesus File: Tracking the Messiah

Films for the Humanities 1998

VD4091: Jesus File: Preparing the Way for Jesus

This program describes the political and religious situation in Judea during King Herod's reign prior to Jesus' public life. Material extracted from the "Jesus file" includes background on the city of Caesarea, Judas the Galilean's rebellion, the fortress of Masada, the Pharisees and Sadducees, the Essenes at Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the activities and subsequent execution of John the Baptist.

VD4092: Jesus File: From Carpenter to Preacher

After King Herod passed away, his successor Antipas turned his attention to Jesus, who, like John the Baptist, was also considered a threat. In this program, the "Jesus file" reveals information on Jesus' birth, his parents, his career as a carpenter, his allegedly dissident preaching, and the mixed acceptance and opposition he incited. In addition, the ancient cities of Tiberias, Sebaste, and Bethlehem, along with the fortress-mausoleum of Herodium, are explored.

VD4093: Jesus File: Jesus Gathers a Following

This program, based on detailed intelligence from the "Jesus file," focuses on Jesus' recruitment of disciples from fishermen along the Sea of Galilee, his relationship with fellow agitators Simon and Andrew, the growth of his popularity, and his lack of success preaching in Jerusalem—until he raises a man named Lazarus from the dead. This dossier also features archaeological information on a 1,900-year-old fishing boat, the recently discovered village of Bethsaida, and the city of Capernaum and its synagogue.

VD4094: Jesus File: The Last and First Days of Jesus

This program investigates Jesus' presence in and around Jerusalem during Passover: his allegedly seditious activities, his subsequent arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, his trial at the palace, and his execution by crucifixion. The remains of the shops of the money-changers and the great temple itself are also explored. With his death and burial, the "Jesus file" is closed, except for one loophole: his miraculous resurrection.

NEW DVD'S

- DV160: Serious Answers to Hard Questions** Wesley Ministry 2006
- Ten Christian and Jewish theologians, world experts in their respective fields as well as people of faith, were each asked to address a single perplexing issue, such as the existence of evil or the relationship between religion and science.
- DV161: Disk 1;; DV162: Disk 2 ; Wesley Ministry 2006
- DV163: Bible Battles** A&E Television 2005
- In one of the most hostile lands on the planet, an ancient people called the Israelites forged an army and carved out an empire. Their military exploits are described in one of history's most famous religious texts--the Old Testament of the Bible.
- DV164: Lost Worlds: Jesus' Jerusalem** A&E Television 2006
- In this series, investigators uncover the clues that will recreate vanished or hidden worlds. They use the latest research, expert analysis and cutting edge graphic technology to take us on a rollercoaster ride through history.
- DV165: Moses (Biography)** A&E Television 1996
- He was a complex man and a reluctant prophet. But when called upon to save his people, he overcame his doubts and fears and defeated the most powerful empire on earth. Born of Hebrew slaves and raised in the Pharaoh's courts, Moses performed some of the Old Testament's greatest miracles. Yet the man who delivered his people from centuries of bondage and received the Ten Commandments from God was often beset by self-doubt. How did Moses manage to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness of Sinai?
- DV166: Pontius Pilate (Biography)** A&E Television 2005
- Pontius Pilate ruled Judea as the Roman procurator from c. 26-36 AD and is responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. Little is known about his family or origin. At the time, his involvement in the crucifixion of Jesus seemed like a small matter, yet
- DV168: Prophets** A&E Television 2005
- They stand among the Old Testament's most commanding and confounding figures: the prophets, men consumed by visions and prophecies said to have come directly from God. Their names and stories have resounded through the ages. The ecstatic voice of Elijah.
- DV169: Story of Paul the Apostle, The** Robb. Weller A&E Home Video : 1999
- Paul was originally a powerful and implacable enemy of Jesus, determined to stop the spread of Christ's message. His dramatic conversion changed the course of history. From his education in Jerusalem under the Rabbi Gamaliel to his exhortations on behalf
- DV170: Billy Graham (Biography)** A&E Television 1999
- Billy Graham is known as the "pastor to the presidents" for the close, personal relationships he has had with many of America's Chief Executives. But his influence extends well beyond the Oval Office, into the hearts and lives of over a billion people
- DV156: Nooma: Today** Rob Bell Zondervan 2007
- How much time and energy do we spend wishing things were how they used to be? We often think about times in our past when things were different and want our lives to be like that again. Some of us have even come to believe that our best days may actually be behind us. (Two copies available.)
- DV157: Nooma: Store** Rob Bell Zonderban 2007

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.

New DVD'S continued:

DV158: Celebration of Discipline Richard J. Foster Life Springs/EcuFilm 2005

Built on Richard Foster's bestselling spiritual-growth book by the same name, *Celebration of Discipline* is a DVD-based curriculum designed to help Christians experience authentic transformation through engagement with classic Christian disciplines.

DV151: Stretch and Pray DVD: A Daily Discipline for Physical Murray D. Finck Augsburg
Fortress, 2006

A companion to Murray D. Finck's popular *Stretch and Pray* book, this helpful DVD features Pastor Finck guiding you through forty gentle stretches, movements, and postures to improve physical and spiritual well-being.

DV146: Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Living The Questions 2006

A new study for Progressive Christians. Ideal for Advent and Lent, flexible in format, *Countering Pharaoh* can be conducted over four or five sessions. The program includes a two-hour DVD and a CD-Rom with printable written materials.

DV150: From Small Seeds: CROP Hunger Walks-Growing Church World Service 2007

This video highlights the people and passion of a Michigan CROP Hunger Walk, played out against dramatic footage of and interviews with Guatemalan farmers who have been helped by CROP Hunger Walk funds. This multi-faceted piece presents the featured video in two lengths - one full with a music video at the end and one a shorter five-minute version - along with five Minutes for Mission, a CROP Hunger Walk PSA, and the CWS 60th anniversary video. Walking in a CROP Hunger Walk can help change the world, and this video shows how.

DV153: Land Twice Promised. Noa Baum. 2006

Storyteller Noa Baum, an Israeli who began a heartfelt dialogue with a Palestinian woman while living in the United States, weaves together their memories and their mothers' stories. She creates a moving testimony illuminating the complex and contradictory.

Specifically United Methodist Resources

DV152: Charles Wesley Vision Video

Charles Wesley penned more than 6,500 magnificent hymns. His hymns speak clearly of the theology and belief of the early Methodist movement. In this fascinating one-man play, you'll hear the true stories of the early days of Methodism, the events that led up to his conversion, his brother John's "Aldersgate Experience," and the astonishing events that unfolded as the Wesley brothers first began to preach -- and sing -- in the fields of England.

DV155: Black Methodism: Legacy of Faith Revival United Methodist

This special anniversary DVD celebrates the 40th anniversary of several related and pivotal events in the life and history of The United Methodist Church: The end of the racially segregated Central Jurisdiction in 1967; The founding of Black Methodists for Church Renewal in 1967; The birth, through merger, of The United Methodist Church in 1968; The establishment of the General Commission on Religion and Race in 1968.

DV148: Renewal or Ruin 1 www.ird-info.com 2007

"Renewal or Ruin?" looks into the Institute on Religion and Democracy's claim that it exists to renew the spiritual life of the church. Researchers, church leaders, and others talk about their findings and experiences with this Washington, DC organizational and spiritual well-being that foments dissent in the body of Christ.



CL304: Earth and All Stars. Brokering, Herbert F. Morehouse Publishing 2002

Earth, stars, trumpets, pipes, classrooms, bands, and wisdom are all reasons to praise God. Set in a fantastic city, this contemporary hymn comes colorfully alive. Age: P e 32 pages

CL305: Wait until Then. Alcorn, Randy C. Tyndale House 2007

A story of promise about Nathan and his grandfather and their shared love of baseball. It uses the form of story to teach children about heaven, following Jesus, and waiting until we see lost loved ones again. Age: e 32 pages

CL306: You Are Special and Best of All (2 Books in 1): Lucado, Max. Crossway Books 2006

In You Are Special and Best of All, the Wemmicks do many of the same things we do. Unfortunately, just like us, they sometimes judge and label one another, often hurting those whom they see as unpopular or less than perfect. It is Eli the Maker who helps.

CL307: You Are Mine/If Only I Had a Green Nose. Lucado, Max. Crossway Books 2006

Bigger, better, and more is how the world determines who is special and who is not. It's a message kids hear every day. But it's not God's message. Just like Punchinello, we all want to fit in—to be accepted by the crowd. Age: e 63 pages (2 stories)

CL308: Peef and the Baby Sister. Tom Hegg, Warren Hanson TRISTAN Publishing 2006

A boy gives his beloved teddy bear and best friend, Peef, to his new baby sister when nothing else will comfort her. Age: Pe

CL309: Coming Home. Lucado, Max. Crossway Books 2007

Arion and Argo are twin brothers shipwrecked on the island of Terrene since the age of two with only their ship captain for company. Terrene is a gray and colorless island because of a volcanic explosion years ago. Only the boys and the captain have any color. So when the captain tells them about his home island of Bluestone and other colorful places, they can't imagine it.

RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

CL310: The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury: Celebrated. Schulman, Janet. Random House, 1998

Unparalleled in scope and quality and designed for reading aloud and sharing, this splendid anthology brings together 43 of the most memorable and beloved children's books of our time.

BK3814: Mark of Maker. Tom Hegg and Warren TRISTAN Publishing, 1991

“The Mark of the Maker” tells the biblical story of Joseph. The well written prose takes the reader

through a journey from the time Joseph learned valuable life lessons as a boy in his father's

carpenter shop, until the time those lessons finally made sense, as he stood in awe looking down at a humble manger.

BK3845: The Talking Stick: 40 Children's Sermons with Activities. Hammer, Randy Pilgrim Press 2007

This book is a collection of children's stories or lessons whose topics generally follow the church year beginning in September and ending with Pentecost. An overall aim throughout the stories is to lift up the Divine Image that is planted within each child.

BK3796: Teaching the Bible with Puppets. Jeanne S. Fogle Twenty-Third 1989

Stories from the Old and New Testaments are adapted in a clear, easily understood fashion. Instructions are given for making several different kinds of puppets, from those made from socks, shadows, and sticks, to those made from paper plates and mittens.



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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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New Resources: See also the insert.

BK3770: Turning to One Another-
Margaret J. Wheatley.
Berrett-Koehler, 2002

Bestselling author Margaret Wheatley explores the power of conversation to create real change. She defines the necessary conditions for supporting real, meaningful dialogue that makes change possible, offers points for reflection, and presents questions....

BK3756: Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation. Spellers, Stephanie. Church Publishing, 2006

Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation is a practical theological guide for congregations that want to move beyond mere inclusivity toward becoming a place where welcoming "the other" is taken seriously and engaging God's mission becomes more than just a catch-phrase.

K3828: A guide to planning worship: Worship planning. Broschat, Lori.
Discipleship Resources, 2006

For the pastor of a busy church, Sundays can seem to come speeding straight ahead on a collision course with the pulpit. Planning worship is one of the most important jobs of the week, but urgent tasks often crowd out the time for preparation. ... This book is filled with creative ideas that can bring instant relief to the worship planner. *Worship Planning Guidebook is also an excellent training tool for developing the skills of a lay worship team.*

BK3831: Upper Room worshipbook : Music and liturgies.... Eslinger, Elise S.
Upper Room Books, 2006

Included features in the new Upper Room Worshipbook: Praise to God-in-three-persons, the Trinity; Biblical vision of Shalom and Sabbath for an emerging Church; Prayer

reflecting the full, honest, emotive range of the Psalms; Word-soaked and image-rich text.

BK3765: Studying faith and film : A guidebook for leaders. McNulty, E.. N. Presbyterian Publishing, 2007

Growing numbers of church leaders are discovering that many films are able to impact viewers with gospel truths almost as well as a good sermon. Former pastor and longtime reviewer of films Ed McNulty offers this insightful guide to help church leaders.

DV154: Gilligan's Island & the Seven Deadly Sins: Video Pack Entertainment Ministry, 2007
Age: YA

This video-based Bible study features lessons and discussions based on Rescue from Gilligan's Island with relevant scriptures. There are seven lessons, a leader's guide and study guide.