

News from the Resource Center

June 2010

Resource Center Use

In the first five months of the year we have seen continued activity in the Resource Center with 30 people checking out 80 different resources – usually more than one item at a time. In spite of the way we can now use the internet as a major resource there continues to be a need for print materials and a way to share hard resources. It is especially helpful to share DVD's which are not usually used continually in any particular congregation. We are delighted that two churches have bought resources to use with their programs and then have placed them in the Resource Center so others can use them. . Sharing in this way is good stewardship and another way to be connected with each other. Contact Mary Speedy at the Resource Center or via mspeedy@comcast.net, if you have something you would like to donate or questions.

Gifts

WHIRLWIND -Nooma # 24 – Rob Bell. This DVD is based on the questions we all have about why we have difficult times, why people suffer and especially why bad things happen to good people. Gift from Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church

SURPRISED BY HOPE: RETHINKING, THE RESURRECTION AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH - NT Wright - This six session DVD by NT Wright is based on his book by the same name. In both Wright argues that what we believe about life after death affects what we believe about life before death. For if God intends to renew the whole creation and if this has already begun in Jesus' resurrection, the church cannot stop at "saving souls" but must anticipate the eventual renewal by working for God's kingdom in the wider world bringing healing and into present life. Gift from 1st Presbyterian Carlisle

The Thoughtful Christian.com

Are you aware of this excellent resource for Adult Christian Education? If you haven't checked it out and are still working on plans for the fall now is a good time to go to www.thethoughtfulchristian.com. And look at the studies available for both adults and youth in the categories of Bible & Theology, Contemporary Issues, Popular Culture, Spirituality, Christian Living, In the News as well as special Advent and Lenten studies. A yearly subscription is \$150 for unlimited downloads with single sessions just \$5. A subscription also gives you a 35% discount on WJK books.

Studies recently added are Making Moral Decisions, What Community will You Seek?, and Writing as Prayer. Studies are written by theological thinkers from around the country representing many institutions and pulpits with study guides for the leader written for each by Christian Educators.

Just in - 6 new books from Westminster John Knox Press

PREACHING THE INCARNATION – Peter Stevenson and Stephen L. Wright – this book offers a theological discussion of twelve significant Bible passages dealing with the doctrine of incarnation, bringing historical questions about the text into dialogue with Christian tradition and drawing out the implications of the passages for preaching to contemporary Christians.

THE LIFE OF PAUL FOR TODAY- Lyle Vander Broek - This latest addition to the “For Today” series offers a thoughtful and accessible introduction to the life and ministry of Paul. Study questions for individuals and groups further enhance the usability of this book.

PROCLAIMING THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH – Joseph Small, Editor -For decades the Great Ends of the Church, a historical listing of ways Presbyterians have understood the role of the church, has helped to establish church direction in mission and ministry. This thoughtfully selected collection of sermons focuses the church’s understandings of its purpose and inspires us to dedicate ourselves anew to the church’s work in the world. Thomas Are Jr, Heidi Husted Armstrong, Deborah Block, Rodger Nishioka, Michael Lindvall are a few of the sermon writers in this volume.

BETTER TOGETHER: THE FUTURE OF PRESBYTERIAN MISSION - Sherron Kay George - Sherron George is a PCUSA minister working as a missionary regional liaison in Brazil. She brings together perspectives from local, national and global missions in PCUSA to offer an enlightening study of the best practices of contemporary mission work, candidly addressing many of the most common questions faces by churches working in mission today. In this volume she puts her wealth of international experience to work translating solid biblical insights about mission into everyday language.

GENESIS FROM SCRATCH: THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR BEGINNERS – Donald Griggs and W. Eugene March - The second in this new series of the Bible from Scratch – First in series was co-authored by Buz Myers). In seven sessions with both leaders and participant guide in same volume, Genesis, the book of beginnings is covered.

A FIELD GUIDE TO US CONGREGATIONS: WHO’S GOING WHERE AND Why - Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce have updated and expanded the 2001 edition of this book based on the results of the 2008 US Congregational Life Survey to reflect new findings, statistics and changes in congregational life between the 2001 and 2008 surveys.