

STEWARDS IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD - RESOURCES

February

(see January for resources throughout the year)

Stewards of Our Relationships with One Another: On Holy Ground

FROM PILGRIM PRESS & UNITED CHURCH PRESS

Becoming Jesus' Prayer: Transforming Your Life Through the Lord's Prayer

Gregory V. Palmer, Cindy M. McCalmont and Brian K. Milford

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2005. \$10

Take a new look at the Lord's Prayer. Includes a leader's guide, seven sessions for groups, and appendices with the Lord's Prayer in hymns and a prayer bibliography. Each chapter features a story, theological reflection, discussion questions, guidelines for weekly prayer at home and corporate prayer, and hymn suggestions. **Focus for February:** "Jesus' Prayer Calls Us to Forgiveness."

Coming Out to Parents:

A Two-way Survival Guide for Lesbians and Gay Men and Their Parents

Mary V. Borhek

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©1983. \$18 (Revised edition)

Thoroughly revised in 1993 to include another decade of the author's experience, the awareness of the impact of AIDS, and expanded discussion of religious perspectives on homosexuality. For gays and lesbians she explores fears and misgivings, how and when to come out, reactions to expect and how to deal with the awkwardness that follows. For parents, guidance through reactions of grief and loss and how understanding can lead to an even deeper parent-child love. Sound, sensitive and helpful.

Connected Spirits: Friends and Spiritual Journeys

Edited by Andrew J. Weaver and Donald E. Messer

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2007. \$15

A collection of touching stories of friendship and the impact it can have on one's spiritual life. Fascinating variety: Transcendent Friendship, They Have Been There for Me, He Lives on Death Row, Friendship and Race, Freedom Found Through Friendship, Cloud of Witnesses, So What If My Best Friend Is a River?... and more.

God Listens to Your Love: Prayers for Living with Animal Friends

Carol J. Adams

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2005. \$8

Written from a child's viewpoint, over 30 prayers respond to the bond between children and animals. Prayer topics include the joy of a new animal friend, not wanting to let them down, wondering if they pray, when it's harder than we thought it would be, and more. Through these prayers, children will have the opportunity to deepen their relationship not only with their animal friend but with God.

Helping Others

Carol Wehrheim and Betsy Frank

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©1999. \$5

A colorful coated-board Bible story picture book for infants and toddlers to four years.

Insights: Bible Studies for Growing Faith

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland. \$5 each booklet in the series.

(call UCCR Resources **800.537.3394** or go to **UnitedChurchPress.com**)

Insights is a series of five to eight session, thematically-based studies for individuals and groups seeking to find meaning and direction for their lives by exploring the Scriptures in ways that are helpful and inspirational. \$5 each.

Suggested titles for February:

Forgiveness

Susan K. Williams Smith

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2003. \$5

Focuses on the need and the grace to forgive both others and ourselves. Uses passages from Scripture and questions for reflection to encourage discussion of contemporary issues such as divorce, hate crimes, incest, catastrophic illness and murder. Chapters include: Jesus' Intent, A Sin Is a Sin, The Process of Forgiveness, Count It All Joy, Getting Even vs. Being Healed, No Repentance – No Forgiveness, Why Forgive?

Love

Robert A. Noblett

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2003. \$5

A study of what love demands and offers: from a powerful testimony about forgiveness after the Oklahoma City bombing, through preconceptions about what love requires, to looks at love as stubborn, suffering, and engaged. Discover the genius of love.

Not Religion, But Love: Practicing a Radical Spirituality of Compassion

Dave Andrews

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2003. \$16

A liberation spirituality for a “lifestyle characterized by the radical nonviolent sacrificial compassion of Jesus the Christ.” Chapter topics include: The Heart of Christ, A Heart for Breaking Barriers, A Heart for Building Bridges, A Heart for Bringing Growth and Change, and From Half-Hearted to Wholehearted Humanity. Each chapter concludes with a section of ideas, meditations, discussions, and actions.

Racing across the Lines: Changing Race Relations Through Friendship

Deborah L. Plummer

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2004. \$16

In a combination memoir/discussion guide, this African-American author offers her valuable perspective on the importance of interracial relationships and the possibilities they offer. Like suitcases with wheels and Post-It notes, interracial friendship has become a once-non-essential essential for the sake of personal, professional, and above all, spiritual growth. It looks at racial identity development, comfort zones, boundaries, barriers, supports, being your true self, having fun, positive changes, and spirituality and race. A challenging topic offered in a readable, story-laden, interest-maintaining, thought-provoking style – invaluable for our times.

Reconciling Journey: A Devotional Workbook for Lesbian and Gay Christians

Michal Anne Pepper

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2003. \$20

A beautifully presented, deeply thoughtful “9-week workbook for lesbian and gay Christians who have come to a crossroad in their journey, those who have renounced Christianity, but would like to go home; those who have disavowed their sexual orientation, but would like to come out; and those who are both out and at home, but have lingering questions. Each day the workbook directs the user to read a scripture passage, reflect on its application to her or his life...make notes, and pray about that day’s topic.”—*from the back cover*. Includes an appendix of annotated resources. Also helpful to others hurt by abuse, abandonment or rejection.

The Sacred Selves of Adolescent Girls: Hard Stories of Race, Class, and Gender

Edited by Evelyn L. Parker

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2006. \$24

Six adolescent girls share how they struggle to make sense of their experiences of racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism in light of their belief in a divine power.

Standing in the Margin: How Your Congregation Can Minister with the Poor (and perhaps recover its soul in the process)

Mary Alice Mulligan and Rufus Burrow, Jr.

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2004. \$16

Offers 12 small-group study sessions for adults to explore the biblical and theological roots of ministry in the margin and discover practical, hands-on help for how to minister with—not to—those who live and work at the edge of society. Thoughtful, clarifying discussions about what this ministry is (Christian ministry, attentive, communal) and is not (charity work, self-interest, gentrification), about our calling to ministry and convictions to ground ministry (about power, dignity...). To offer practical guidance, it asks the poor what they need.

Taking Back My Yesterdays: Lessons in Forgiving and Moving Forward with Your Life

Linda H. Hollies

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©1997. \$11

How can women forgive their most trusted loved ones who have grievously wounded them? A help for coming to understand what it takes to forgive where there are no easy answers. With reassuring guidance, readers will be able to return to the place of pain, confront those involved, and invite God’s healing power to bring forth forgiveness.

Trans-Gendered: Theology, Ministry, and Communities of Faith

Justin Edward Tanis

The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, ©2003. \$19

Following Jesus means “a continuing journey to the margins, to spend time with those that society may ridicule and isolate, to see the beauty and power of God working with them.”—*Tanis*. About God, gender identity, sexual orientation, and Scripture. Also about faith, community, and Christology, all from the vantage point of transgendered persons. Congregations will appreciate the guidance offered in the chapter “Creating a Genuine Welcome for Trans People in Communities of Faith” as they seek to put their faith into action.

FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS

God's Gifts, My Gifts: An Ecumenical Children's Activity Set

Set includes five active lessons plus stickers:

**Share Love with Your Offering, Seek God with Your Whole Heart,
Rooted in Love, Love is the Greatest, Dare2BU.**

1-10 sets, \$5.00 each; 11-25 sets, \$4.50 each; 26 or more sets, \$4.00 each.
(call UCCR Resources **800.537.3394**, Item #SCCRS)

This series teaches that God is the source of who we are and what we have, and is our model for being generous and faithful. Elementary-age children will have fun in class or at home using these five colorful and snappy foldout sheets with individual and group activities, including scriptural texts and prayers to reinforce learning about personal decisions, loving God, self, and others.

Suggested for February: **Love is the Greatest** or **Rooted in Love**

Love Is the Greatest

Based on Matthew 22:37-39 – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.” Includes a game for sharing “love in action stories” with a group of friends or in inter-generational groups.

Rooted in Love

Based on Ephesians 3:17 – “May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.” Includes a Faith Roots board game that shows how you can root yourself in love by what you do every day. Good for family nights or inter-generational groups, especially if you enlarge the game board.

Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People

edited by Dorothy C. Bass

Jossey-Bass Publishers, San Francisco, ©1998. \$17.95

Contributors from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds explore in depth (historical, biblical, contemporary context) twelve central Christian practices that, taken together, form a way of life. The Practices (**possible focus for February**): Hospitality, shaping communities, forgiveness, healing. (see **January for full list of practices**) and (see www.practicingourfaith.org)

Prayer, Stress, and Our Inner Wounds

Flora Slosson Wuellner

Upper Room Books, Nashville, ©1985. \$12

Based on the convictions that: “There is a deep connection between our inner healing and our growing, healthy life of prayer and relationship” and that Jesus’ passion to heal is still at the center of his relationship with us. “Wounds, especially when healed, can become sources and signs of new radiance of life.” Each chapter explores a type of wound we may be carrying and offers a meditation, beginning with a suggested opening prayer. Through these meditations we can receive the transformative healing of Jesus.

Possible focus for February chapter headings: Our Hurting and Hungering, With Christ to the Painful Past, With Christ to Deep, Forgotten Pain, Depth Prayer for Our Central Inner Problem, Spiritual Help for Christian Leaders. (see **January for full list of chapters**)

Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life

Henri J. M. Nouwen

Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, ©1975. \$11.95

“In the midst of a turbulent, often chaotic, life we are called to reach out, with courageous honesty to our innermost self, with relentless care to our fellow human beings, and with increasing prayer to our God. To do that, however, we have to face and explore directly our inner restlessness, our mixed feelings toward others and our deep-seated suspicions about the absence of God.”-*Nouwen*. This book leads us to move from loneliness to solitude, from hostility to hospitality, and from illusion to prayer...leading to life lived in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. A thoughtful book to read and reflect on as a group. Does not include discussion questions.

Soul Tending

Kara Lassen Oliver

Abingdon Press, Nashville, ©2007. \$15

A small (4"x7") back-pack friendly handbook offering a short (generally three-page) discussion of the following spiritual disciplines and several steps or suggestions for practicing each.

Possible focus for February: Forgiveness, speaking the truth in love, Christian fellowship, acts of justice and reconciliation, confession and forgiveness in community, loving hospitality. (see [January for full list of practices](#))

Spiritual Rx: Prescriptions for Living a Meaningful Life

Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat

Hyperion, New York, ©2000. \$19

The Practices (**possible focus for February**): Compassion, connections, forgiveness, hospitality, justice, kindness, listening, love, nurturing, openness, shadow, unity. (see [January for full list of practices](#))

Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens

edited by Dorothy C. Bass and Don C. Richter

Upper Room Books, Nashville, ©2000. \$16

(free leader's guide and more stories and conversations at www.waytolive.org)

This graphics-filled book, explores ways to deepen awareness of God's presence in our lives today. Chapters: Life, the story, bodies, stuff, food, creation, work, play, time, truth, choices, friends, welcome, forgiveness, justice, grieving, music, prayer, practice.

Choices suggested for February: **Forgiveness** or **Friends**

Forgiveness

“The gospel says that forgiveness is the way to heal the hurt. This chapter explores how hard it is to forgive but also why forgiveness is important and how it can happen.”-Judy Kuo, 17. A hopeful chapter that starts with real-life stories of brokenness, our right to angry, sad, confused feelings, our need for - and the risk of - relationships, ways of coping, and the uneasy way to peace. What forgiveness is not; what it is, and handing our burden to God.

Friends

A look at being a good Christian friend: Being popular vs. being a good friend, “Seven Habits of Highly Effective Friendships” (and asks what other regular habits do you have which make your friendships stronger?), learning friendship skills, the relationship of friends-love-God, when friendships change, a clique vs. a circle, spiritual friends, and Jesus and his friends.

OF SPECIAL HELP FOR PASTORAL COUNSELING

Building King's Beloved Community:

Foundations for Pastoral Care and Counseling with the Oppressed

Donald M. Chinula \$13

Understanding the significance of King's thought and activities for the pastoral care and counseling of persons from oppressed groups who present identity and self-esteem problems.

Coming Out to Parents:

A Two-way Survival Guide for Lesbians and Gay Men and Their Parents

Mary V. Borhek (see description above) \$18

Part-Time Parent: Learning to Live without Full-Time Custody

Carolyn Pogue (Northstone Books, distributed by Pilgrim Press) \$14.95

A once out-of-print book reintroduced at the request of family support groups everywhere.

Trans-Gendered: Theology, Ministry, and Communities of Faith

Justin Edward Tanis (see description above) \$19

OTHER TITLES OF SPECIAL INTEREST FROM PILGRIM PRESS (GO TO www.thepilgrimpress.com FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND PURCHASE)

African American Women Tapping Power

Stephanie Y. Mitchem \$18

Health, Healing, and Wholeness: Engaging Congregations in Ministries of Health

Mary Chase-Ziolek \$21

Looking Up series: (A series of 24-page 5.5" x 5.5" booklets. \$3 each)

How to Succeed in Marriage and Remarriage and Blended Families

Stephen R. Treat \$3 each

FROM NORTHSTONE PUBLISHING - DISTRIBUTED BY PILGRIM PRESS (GO TO www.thepilgrimpress.com FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND PURCHASE)

Healing Times: A Personal Workbook

Louise Giroux \$19.95

Twelve chapters cover subjects such as family of origin, inner-child work, sexuality, couple relationships, career, parenting, illness, divorce. Includes case studies and insightful exercises.

Part-Time Parent: Learning to Live without Full-Time Custody

Carolyn Pogue \$14.95 (out-of-print book reintroduced at the request of family support groups)

Precious Days and Practical Love: Caring for Your Aging Parent

James Taylor \$15.95

Helps children of aging parents make the final years and months among their best experiences.

True to You: Living our Faith in our Multi-minded World

Don Posterski \$13.95 The challenge of diversity need not lead to division.