

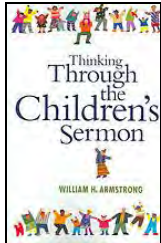


# Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

---



## New Titles in the VTCUCC Resource Center



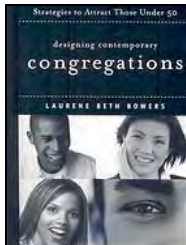
Armstrong, William H. **Thinking through the Children's Sermon.** (Pilgrim Press, 2006).

Are children's sermons useful? Are they to entertain or edify? And if they are meaningful, are they well prepared and well delivered? Armstrong addresses these and other questions as he shares his years of experience as a pastor who has delivered hundreds of children's sermons. Useful and practical information about children, the message, and effective methods are explored. For clergy and lay leaders who will be responsible for sharing the Word of God with children.



Baker, Dori G. **Lives to Offer: Accompanying Youth on Their Vocational Quests.** (Pilgrim Press, 2007).

Most youth ministry programs seem to arise from consumerist, program-driven views of ministry. *Lives to Offer* presents a different vision: youth ministry as a companioned walk with young people in search of vocation in its public and private dimensions. Adolescent stories of vocation, gleaned from research encounters with youthful collaborators, pepper this innovative resource.



Bowers, Laurene B. **Designing Contemporary Congregations: Strategies to Attract Those Under 50.** (Pilgrim Press, 2008).

One of the reasons the traditional church is still struggling to attract the postmodern generation (between 20 and 50 years of age) is because it also needs to be a contemporary congregation — in touch with culture and its current trends. Bowers identifies strategies to contemporize worship, fellowship, evangelism, social justice, rituals, and equipping the disciples for ministry. She discusses how each of these functions should produce a karmic balance of spiritual energy. Borrowing concepts from global religions and the new age movement, Bowers puts a new twist on blending contemporary and traditional ways of being “church.”



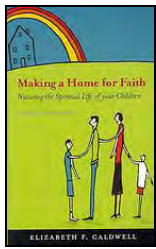
Caldwell, Elizabeth. **Come Unto Me: Rethinking the Sacraments for Children.** (Pilgrim Press, 1996).

This book addresses the realities of congregational and familial practices of the sacraments of baptism and eucharist. The author provides models for intentional liturgical and educational transformation, offering a holistic sacramental education model that works to integrate education and worship in the lives of church members. Reflection and group discussion are encouraged through focus questions provided at the end of each chapter.

36 N Main Street, Randolph VT 05060  
802-728-4999, 802-728-4072 (FAX)

---

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister, Rev. Pamela Y. Lucas, Associate Conference Minister  
Jim Thomas, Business Manager, Lynn Thomas, Administrative Assistant  
Sybil McShane, Communications and Resource Coordinator



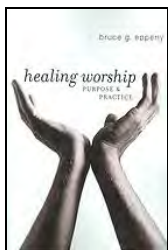
Caldwell, Elizabeth . **Making a Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Your Children.** (Pilgrim Press, 2007).

The revised and updated edition of this classic Christian family resource. Families are shown how to talk about their faith. This book takes into account blended families and discusses the often multi-faith and multi-cultural challenges they face. Parents, guardians, and those who do ministry with children will benefit from this book.



Crosson-Tower, Cynthia. **A Clergy Guide to Child Abuse and Neglect.** (Pilgrim Press, 2006).

The author offers clergy a much-needed, clearly presented how-to guide to help them recognize child abuse and neglect situations, do effective crisis intervention, and understand how churches can work together with child protection agencies in the helping and healing processes of individuals, families, and congregations affected by child abuse.



Epperly, Bruce G. **Healing Worship: Purpose and Practice.** (Pilgrim Press, 2006).

This book is a resource to enable pastors and other church leaders to integrate healing services into the total life of the church using a holistic approach that connects healing liturgies with the theology, pastoral care, and social concerns of the church. The book provides practical tools for healing homilies and liturgies, theological reflection on the healing ministry of the church, pastoral self-care, and congregational health care ministries.



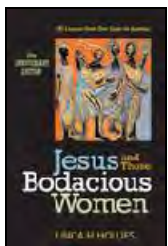
Hadaway, C. Kirk. **Behold I Do a New Thing: Transforming Communities of Faith.** (Pilgrim Press, 2001).

How can churches, inspite of decline, remain engaged in the mission of transforming lives? This book encourages church communities, includes worship and leader models. Offering church leadership opportunities to guide congregations in the journey where transformation and renewal is constant and embraced.



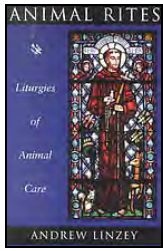
Hamman, Jaco J. **When Steeples Cry: Leading Congregations Through Loss and Change.** (Pilgrim Press, 2005).

*When Steeples Cry* is a book about embodiment, yours and mine. It is not meant to be a 'how to book,' but it envisions you being a different kind of leader to your community. Written primarily, but not exclusively, for church leaders and those seminarians who will serve in mainline Protestant churches, *When Steeples Cry* identifies the work of mourning as a significant aspect of being a church leader in North America today. *When Steeples Cry* explores the diverse nature of loss occurring in North American church contexts: numerical, relationship, material, identify, functional, role, and systemic losses, and suggests how to grieve loss well and move on from it in healthy, life-giving ways.



Hollies, Linda H. **Jesus and Those Bodacious Women: Life Lessons from One Sister to Another.** (Pilgrim Press, 2007).

Hollies is well-known for her new spins on stories of biblical women such as Mary Magdalene, the Bent-over Woman, Queen Esther, and Mary. She writes with empathy, inspiration, humor, and poignancy. Five new stories - with additional spins and turns - have been added to this classic: Vashti, Jezebel, Cosbi (prostitute in Book of Numbers), Dorcas, and Lydia. Each chapter includes "Just Between Us" questions and suggestions that will resonate with readers.



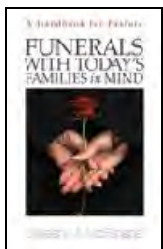
Linzey, Andrew. **Animal Rites: Liturgies of Animal Care.** (Pilgrim Press, 2001).

Ten new animal-friendly, animal-inclusive liturgies. Includes services of celebration for animal welfare, healing liturgies, new eucharistic prayers "for the whole creation," and animal burial services. Underlying all these new liturgies is a serious theological purpose: to draw us deeper into the mystery of God's work in creation and to affirm other sentient beings as co-creatures with us. The book is ideal for parishes that conduct annual blessings of animals, for animal rights activists, and for families with beloved pets.



Mazur, Cynthia S. **Legal Guide for Day-to-Day Church Matters: A Handbook for Pastors and Church Members.** (Pilgrim Press, 2003).

Should a clergyperson or a religious organization have insurance that covers malpractice? If so, how much?; Will "agreements not to sue" signed by parents or guardians protect religious organizations from being sued?; Should minutes be taken at church meetings? These and other important questions are answered by authors and legal experts Mazur and Bullis.



McFarlane, Doreen M. **Funerals With Today's Families in Mind: A Handbook for Pastors.** (Pilgrim Press, 2008).

Building on the success of *Weddings with Today's Families In Mind: A Handbook for Pastors*, McFarlane's new book for pastors focuses on the subject of funerals: how to conduct a meaningful funeral or memorial service and how to be a truly sensitive caregiver to today's often complex families in their time of bereavement. Part 1 covers family issues that arise in preparation for the funeral. Part 2 focuses on the day of the service. Part 3 deals with special circumstances and includes funerals for: victims of suicide, gays and lesbians, children and younger people; ecumenical and interfaith funerals; and funerals in which some attendees are physically or mentally challenged. Part 4 contains a selection of biblical passages and sermons. Part 5 shares ideas about cremation vs. burial, creating a memorial garden on your church property, and preparing a "death and dying" resource booklet for church members.



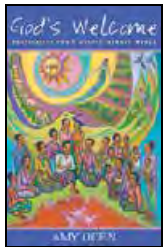
Mitman, F. Russell. **Immersed in the Splendor of God: Resources for Worship Renewal.** (Pilgrim Press, 2005).

Originally published in 1987 as *Worship Vessels*, this book is an expanded version of the original with fresh examples of liturgical pieces to aid pastors and worship planning committees. This resource's liturgies deal with Sundays in the regular church year and cover many different parts of the worship service. The author has taken special care to be sensitive to the issues of inclusive language, but the liturgies are adaptable to suit all users' needs. Each chapter opens with a discussion of how that particular part of the liturgy (i.e., "Gathering Act") developed over time. These discussions will enable lay leaders to assist in the design of their church's worship services. Contents include: Word & Sacrament; Gathering; Penitence; Word; Offertory; Eucharist; Sending; and The Bulletins of Common Prayer. This book has an accompanying CD-ROM containing numerous resources as well as music, and can be downloaded for inclusion in your church's bulletin.



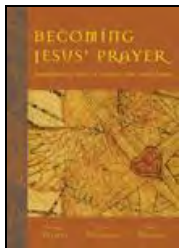
Nixon, Paul. **Finding Jesus on the Metro: And Other Surprises Doing Church in a New Day.** (Pilgrim Press, 2009).

*Finding Jesus on the Metro*, Nixon's first book since his bestseller *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church!*, explores what it means for a church to be on a ministry journey into the uncharted territory of unprecedented social change in 21st century America. Written from an urban perspective, Nixon has created an excellent tool for church leaders that: 1) helps them to recognize that their ministry must change in order to be effective and 2) equips them with the necessary resources to implement and cultivate this change. Divided into two sections, *Finding Jesus on the Metro* first looks at the communities and cultures that shape and influence this generation of young adults and then describes how churches can be a part of this influence and outlines the journey that its leaders and members will go on as they become the faith community that the newest generations of Americans need.



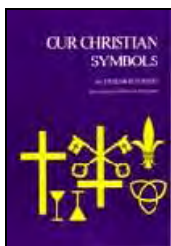
Oden, Amy. **God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World.** (Pilgrim Press, 2008).

*God's Welcome* is a different kind of how-to book for congregations on hospitality--the kind that gives roots, not the kind that is measured with coffee pots and name tags. It is a guide for them on how to become more hospitable and understand why (theology) they are called to be welcoming as Christians and those welcomed by God. The book grew from an intersection of two trajectories in Oden's life: one, her observation that Christianity has been increasingly perceived as unwelcoming, negative, even hostile; the other--a discovery she made as a church historian--that early Christians very radically practiced hospitality because they were profoundly moved by God's welcome in their own lives and wanted to share it in concrete ways.



Palmer, Gregory V. **Becoming Jesus' Prayer: Transforming Your Life Through the Lord's Prayer.** (Pilgrim Press, 2005).

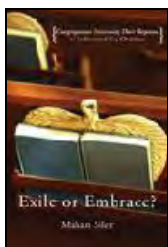
This book invites readers to take a new look at the Lord's Prayer - words so familiar to Christians, yet often muttered without thinking. Each chapter features a story, theological reflection, discussion questions, guidelines for weekly prayer at home and corporate prayer, and hymn suggestions. It also includes a leader's guide, seven sessions for groups, four appendices that include the Lord's Prayer in hymns - as litany and music - and a prayer bibliography. This resource can be used in individual or group settings.



Rest, Friedrich. **Our Christian Symbols.** (Pilgrim Press, 1982).

"In this day and age, when something like a liturgical revival is affecting virtually all the churches, this clear and succinct book can be recommended for its educational value. The book is greatly enriched by many illustrations reproduced from original paintings by Harold Minton. A bibliography is appended for those who wish to study the subject in greater detail."

-- *The Westminster Bookman*



Siler, Mahan. **Exile or Embrace? Congregations Discerning Their Response to Lesbian and Gay Christians.** (Pilgrim Press, 2005).

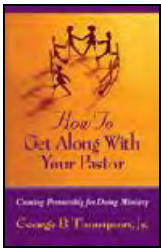
This book is a helpful guide for pastors and congregations asking such questions as: *How will we as a congregation be in covenant with our gay members? How will we respond to homosexuals outside the church?* Part One tells the story of Siler's congregation's struggle and growth as it pondered whether to become openly welcoming of gay and lesbian Christians. Part Two assists congregational leaders in discerning how and when to engage in this congregational conversation. Part Three is a study guide outlining seven sessions to shape the congregational conversation and discernment.



Tenny-Brittian, J. Kristina. **Top 10 Ways to Defuse Your Congregational Time Bomb.** (Pilgrim Press, 2008).

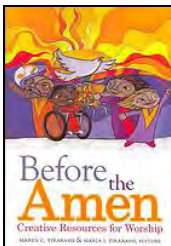
The top 10 ways to defuse your congregational time bomb - at a glance - are:

10. Remember Who You Are and Whose You Are
9. Learn the Fine Art of Conversation
8. Be a Hospital for Sinners, Not a Hotel for Saints
7. Play Together Stay Together
6. Be Prepared to Stay Grounded
5. Keep Cool, Calm, and Collected
4. Put the Right People in the Right Places
3. Wear the Right Shoe for the Right Job
2. Take What You Need and Leave the Rest
1. Don't Miss the Money Trees for the Money Pits



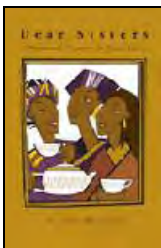
Thompson, George B. **How to Get along with Your Pastor: Creating Partnership for Doing Ministry.** (Pilgrim Press, 2006).

Statistics show that approximately 1,300 American pastors leave their congregations each month--unwillingly. These sudden changes have negative long-term effects on both the pastor and the congregations. Thompson believes it is extremely important to find practical, easy-to-understand ways to train pastors and churches on how to approach disagreement much more constructively, and shows how to do so in this book.



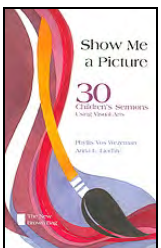
Tirabassi, Maren C. **Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship.** (Pilgrim Press, 2007).

This book is a new worship anthology that evolved from the bestselling title *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship* (The Pilgrim Press, 1990). Providing fresh language inclusive of gender, ethnicity, race, age, orientation, and ability, this book contains nine chapters of seasonal materials, three chapters of sacraments and services, and seven chapters oriented by topic. It is filled with materials that come before amen such as: resources for the worship service (readings, healing services, and chancel dramas); general resources; and prayers for special issues such as natural disaster, domestic violence, and surrogate parents. Written by over 80 seasoned writers and young authors from diverse backgrounds and various Christian denominations, it will appeal to an intergenerational, ecumenical audience.



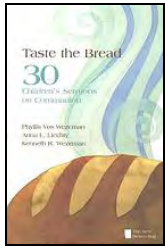
Westfield, N. Lynne. **Dear Sisters: A Womanist Practice of Hospitality.** (Pilgrim Press, 2001).

What allows African American women not just to survive, but to become resilient? Westfield finds an answer to this question as she examines the Dear Sisters' Literary Group. She reflects on the ways in which the hospitality of the group relates to the long standing African American tradition of concealed gatherings, the Christian tradition of hospitality, and Christian education.



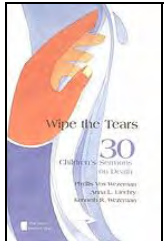
Wezeman, Phyllis V. **Show Me a Picture: 30 Children's Sermons Using Visual Arts.** (Pilgrim Press, 2005).

This is the fifth book of children's sermons created by the authors and is designed for clergy and lay leaders to use in preaching to children from kindergarten through upper-elementary school.



Wezeman, Phyllis V. **Taste the Bread: 30 Children's Sermons on Communion.** (Pilgrim Press, 2003).

*Taste the Bread* is designed for clergy and lay leaders to use in preaching to children from kindergarten through upper-elementary school. Using selected Scripture passages, the 30 sermons presented here focus on biblical stories and theological themes regarding Holy Communion. The book also contains helpful cross references for hymns, Scripture, teaching, tools and themes that make it a valuable, multi-age, user-friendly resource.



Wezeman, Phyllis V. **Wipe the Tears: 30 Children's Sermons on Death.** (Pilgrim Press, 2004).

*Wipe the Tears: 30 Children's Sermons on Death* is the third book of children's sermons designed for use by clergy and lay leaders to preach to children from kindergarten to upper-elementary youth, the book confronts the difficult yet important subject of death. The authors skillfully and compassionately use the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures to approach to subject of death in each sermon. *Wipe the Tears* tells of God's desire to save humankind; shows how the Psalms challenge and comfort us to embrace death yet hope for eternal life; and shares the victory over sin and death through Christ's resurrection.

To borrow any of these title, please contact Sybil McShane in the Resource Center:  
([resource.center@vtucc.org](mailto:resource.center@vtucc.org)) or call 802-728-4999.

(Note: Book descriptions are from the Pilgrim Press/UCC Resources website.)  
(August, 2009)