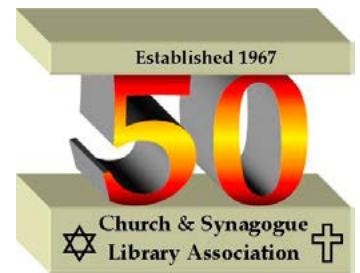


congregational libraries today



SERVING CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARIES OF ALL FAITHS SINCE 1967

CSLAINFO.ORG | FIRST ISSUE 2017

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The library at Grace Baptist Church tries to maintain a welcoming atmosphere. Christian music from CDs plays softly in the background.

TELLING OUR STORY: Grace Baptist Church Library

BY RIC SKAMFER, GBC HEAD LIBRARIAN

Ric's story of the Grace Baptist Church library will resonate with many CSLA members. Technological and demographic changes have affected the library's circulation, but the commitment to serve its congregation remains firm.

THE CONGREGATION SERVED

Grace Baptist Church is in the town of Santa Maria, which is located on California's Central Coast about halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The town has slightly over 100,000 residents. We have a medium-sized congregation with over 200 financially-giving members, and the church facilities are all under one roof.

THE COLLECTION

The focus of the collection is on

items not commonly found in most public libraries. We cannot afford to duplicate the offerings of local public libraries. Also, we maintain very few items of a secular nature. Thus the aim is to keep it a church library. That is what our patrons expect when they walk into the room.

WEEKLY CIRCULATION AVERAGES BY ITEM TYPE

Year	Adult	Children	Audio-visual
2010	24	17	15
2013	12	23	15
2016	8	27	9

CIRCULATION TRENDS

Circulation (and church attendance) numbers are down, especially in the adult reading department. Like many congregations nationally, our

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CSLA needs your help.

How?

Renew your membership for 2017. Page 20.

Volunteer to take a leadership position. Page 8.

7 YEAR CIRCULATION SUMMARY OF GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH LIBRARY

YEAR	TOTAL CIRC.	WEEKLY AVG.	ITEMS ADDED		EXPENSES	
			TOTAL	DONATED	TOTAL	SUPPLIES
2010	2,882	55	171	54	\$ 58	\$74
2011	2,833	54	150	69	\$779	\$20
2012	2,943	56	143	107	\$565	\$94
2013	2,577	50	105	38	\$667	\$211
2014	2,811	54	128	76	\$381	\$29
2015	2,771	53	133	68	\$541	\$131
2016	2,222	44	101	37	\$434	\$70

church membership has changed. We have lost a good number of older adults who were major readers. The trend toward e-books has impacted circulation as well. Fortunately, we have become a far younger congregation with lots of children who enjoy our library. It is a happy and welcoming place for them.

Since fewer adults are utilizing the library, we are focusing our attention on strengthening the teen and children's collection. However, we have realized that with the influx of technology, smartphones, etc. our teens are not checking out as many DVDs and music CDs as in the past. Also, we recently divested the collec-

tion of most VHS items since there is very little call for them anymore.



DVDs and CDs are displayed on white, slightly tilted shelving originally designed for video stores.



Rather than using Dewey, nonfiction is grouped in broad categories. Colorful labels make subgroupings easier to spot.

WHAT IS WORKING

Adults still go to the Christian Fiction section. Most popular authors are: Lynn Austin, B. J. Hoff, Terri Blackstock, Jan Karon, Ronie Kendig, Karen Kingsbury, Charles Martin, Gilbert Morris, Francine Rivers, Joel C. Rosenberg, Lauraine Snelling, Bodie and Brock Thoene and Lori Wick. We do have a good selection of Bible commentaries used especially whenever an adult class focuses on a specific book in the Bible. We maintain a wide selection of Christian

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and missionary biographies. DVDs are generally “Dove approved” for family interest.

Teens really like the Imagination Station series as well as graphic novels. Our Tomo graphic novels have worn out and we recently purchased new ones. The Red Rock mystery series gets chosen often.

Children have become our largest group of patrons lately. The DVD series What’s in the Bible? is popular. The Lion series covers the Bible in 52 hardcover books. The Cul-de-Sac mysteries are also utilized. The newer Berenstain Bears Living Lights series has become extremely popular. Since they are easily damaged, I’ve placed a harder cardstock backing inside the front and back covers. It takes time and effort but they are holding up well considering their usage. The ever-popular Help Me Be Good series (also known as the Let’s Talk About... series) by Joy Berry is secular in nature but teaches good manners, which makes the adults happy whenever their children select them. They may be hard to purchase.



The Arch rhyming paperbacks are displayed cover out. Notice that the spine labels are printed vertically and placed so that they show even when books are overlapped.

Editor’s Note: In an email Ric mentioned the difficulty he has getting to meetings of the San Jose Bay Area chapter, which is a four-to-five hour drive from Santa Maria. Many CSLA members are faced with a similar problem, which has been partially addressed by the creation of the Virtual Chapter. Virtual Chapter meetings occur online using Skype, with non-visual telephone attendance an option for those who do not “Skype.” Problems, ideas, and programming are among the many topics covered during these meetings. Contact Marcia Trauernicht marciatmail@gmail.com for more information.



Children have become our largest user group.

Just compiling this summary makes me realize how many items we have added over the years that seldom or never were utilized. We thought they would or should be read. They weren’t. So we try to purchase what will circulate.



Windows looking into the library make great display spots and entice browsers.

Our church library is utilized because we get a huge amount of support from our church. We are granted an adequate budget yearly. The children of our pastor, associate pastor and youth pastor use and enjoy what we offer.

PUBLISHERS OF TEEN AND CHILDREN’S SERIES MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE.

AIO Imagination Station – Focus on the Family

Tomo (graphic novels) – Zondervan

Red Rock mysteries – Tyndale Kids

What’s in the Bible? (DVDs) – Echo-Light Studios

Lion Story Bible – Chariot Victor Pub. (out-of-print but often available through used booksellers)

Cul-de-Sac – Bethany House

Living Lights – Zonderkidz

Help Me Be Good – Grolier (out-of-print but often available through used booksellers)

The library is located right behind the sanctuary in a prominent location with two windows looking into the room. It is not tied into a computer-generated system and we still hand-stamp everything. It is open for three and a half hours each Sunday morning. Each worker is screened by our child-protection staff.

I hope you have picked up a usable idea or two. I joined the San Jose Bay Area Chapter because I needed to get ideas from others—and I did. I found those chapter members to be outstanding librarians and role models.



Ric Skamfer with Mary Westfall. Mary (now deceased) founded and volunteered at the library for 34 years.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES

DIGITAL INCLUSION—LIFELONG LEARNING—SOCIAL INCLUSION



Marcia Trauernicht,
CSLA President

Each January marks an increase in the use of the word “change.” Articles in newspapers, blogs and magazines emphasize making New Year’s resolutions for areas of your life that you wish to change for the better. And for many of us, that wave of enthusiasm to improve ourselves often wanes by the end of that month as our regular routine settles back in. (I’m sure that this is due to the influence of winter weather—perhaps resolutions should be made in the spring!)

Studies have found that people tend to embrace and sustain changes when approaching them in small steps or mini-goals, or by concentrating on one thing at a time instead of trying to accomplish everything all at once. Learning new habits takes time (experts disagree on the exact amount) but can be done with perseverance.

Organizations have similar problems with change and often have a more difficult time in achieving a successful outcome. Why is that? Simply put, an organization consists

of many individuals working toward a common goal, developing a distinct culture unique to that organization. Sounds good, right? This is true, until other factors or changes begin to impact the organization, often out of its control: less demand for current services, newer products found elsewhere, or finding itself becoming irrelevant and obsolete. A larger group of people with a long-term culture requires more energy and effort to embrace change.

At this point, you may have guessed where I am heading with my essay. CSLA has been and still is a wonderful organization with a true purpose in inspiring and serving those who work with congregational libraries. This has been CSLA’s mission for the last 50 years, and has been appreciated by all who have had experience with it. But for a number of years, membership has continued to lag, though a few new members are attracted each year. Why is that? Many reasons: an aging membership,

a decline in attendance for most congregations, congregational libraries being disbanded due to lack of funds, and lack of strong and sustained marketing efforts in promoting CSLA to wider audiences.

So we are faced with these obstacles, but I prefer to think of them as a challenge or a starting point to launch a positive change for us as CSLA members. For it is all of us, not just a few, that hold the future of this organization in our hands, and I know that we can work together now to create a vibrant and exciting CSLA for the 21st century. No effort is too small, so take that first step—you won’t be alone—and begin the change process for CSLA! Let me know your thoughts. I can be reached at marciatmail@gmail.com.

“If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies.”—Author unknown

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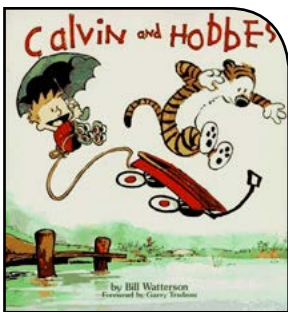
DOING DEWEY

CLASSIFYING LIBRARY MATERIALS IN GRAPHIC FORMAT

BY SUSAN SNYDER
ssnyder44147@gmail.com

Some time ago, a reader of this column suggested that I write about whether and how to classify library material that has a graphic format. Graphic format material is very popular and an increasing number of congregational libraries include at least some in their collections.

Many libraries recognize three basic types of material in graphic format: comic strip books, graphic novels and graphic nonfiction. Comic strip books are collections of daily installments of a comic strip that have appeared previously in newspapers.



This collection of early Calvin & Hobbes comic strips is assigned 741.5. (Calvin & Hobbes, Bill Watterson, Andrews McMeel, 1987.)

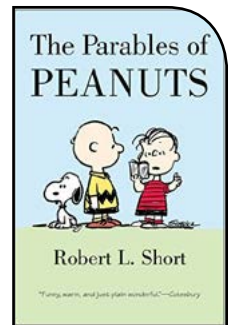
Examples include Peanuts books by Charles Shultz and Bill Watterson's Calvin and Hobbes books.

These may be classified in 741.5, the Dewey Decimal

number for "Comic books, graphic novels, fotonovelas, cartoons, caricatures, comic strips." The Dewey number 741.5 may also be used for books about all types of graphic format library materials.

Graphic novels are extended fictional narratives in graphic format. Although the manual section of the Dewey Decimal Classification recommends using 741.5 for graphic novels, remember that the Dewey Decimal Classification also provides classification numbers for fiction (within the 800s), but that public

26.8 (parables in the Gospels) may be used instead of 741.5 to give shelving preference to subject matter over format (The Parables of Peanuts, Robert L. Short, HarperOne, 2002).



number used for library materials on the same subject in conventional

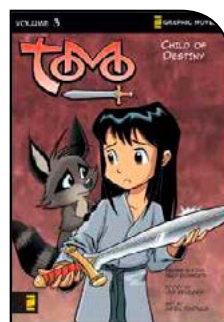
format. For example, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* and *Maus: My Father Bleeds History*, both by Art Spiegelman, tell the story of the holocaust experiences of the author's father in graphic format. Library of Congress assigns 741.5 to both books. The CIP (cataloging in publication)

libraries usually shelf fiction alphabetically by author rather than by Dewey number. As with conventional fiction, assigning a Dewey number to graphic novels is rarely done except by college and university libraries. Common alternatives to using the 741.5 number are:

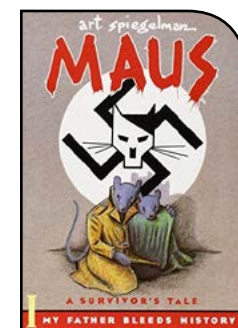
- 1 Shelving graphic novels alphabetically within the regular fiction by the last name (or the first one-to-three letters of the last name) of the author/illustrator or creator.
- 2 Placing them in a separate section of the library. The spine label may read "Graphic Novel" on the top line and below that could be the creator's last name or one or more letters of the last name.

- 3 Some libraries may choose to shelve their graphic novels by series, especially if the series has multiple authors. If so, the first important word of the series title would be used in place of the creator's last name. A volume number, if applicable, could be included on the third line of the spine label.

Graphic nonfiction presents a factual narrative or information in graphic format. Library materials of this type may be classified with the Dewey Decimal Classification



This tween graphic novel series may be shelved with conventional juvenile or teen fiction or in a separate graphic novel section. (Child of Destiny, Jim Krueger, Tomo Bk.3, Zondervan, 2008.)



The Maus books (boxed set, Art Spiegelman, Pantheon, 1993) is often placed with books on the holocaust instead of 741.5.

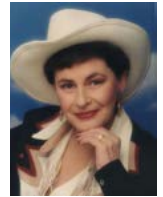
number differs slightly for each book and for various editions of the books, but generally uses 940.53 with extensions. However, to keep different editions together and also shelve them by subject matter rather than format, many libraries prefer to place all the editions in the Unabridged Dewey number that is specifically for works on the holocaust – 940.5318.

If the library chooses to shelve the nonfiction graphic novels with its conventional nonfiction, remember that the cataloger has the option to add numbers from the Dewey tables for greater clarity. For example, 022 from Table 1 may be added to the Dewey number of a graphic nonfiction work to indicate "Illustrations, models, miniatures." If the author of graphic nonfiction is using humor to express a serious

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Book truck without a use became a LIBRARY ON WHEELS

BY MARIA ISABEL GARCIA
CSLA 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT



A while ago the Youth Ministry gave the Parish Library of my church, All Saints Catholic Church, a brand new book truck for which they apparently had not found a use. The library volunteers and I immediately decided to use it as an outreach tool to expand awareness of the library and its collection. We would load it with new or topical items of interest and park it in a heavily trafficked area.

The Welcome Center near the main sanctuary seemed to be the ideal spot. However, as soon as we placed it there other groups in the parish requested equal rights to use the small available space. The Administrator told us to remove it.

So now we move it around as we see opportunities to promote the library collection. On Sunday mornings we place it at the entrance to the library so that people can browse its contents without having to



Notice the instruction sign and box for self-checkout on the book truck's upper right shelf.

come into the library lounge. Items have been borrowed from it, and it calls attention to the existence of the library.

Whenever there is a program with a speaker such as RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), or Women's or Men's Club meetings, we fill the truck with items relating to the topic being presented. A very simple self-checkout process is available on the top shelf of the truck. Patrons do not need to come into the library to borrow items after the program.

Between visits to program locations the book truck rests in the library lounge where it promotes new acquisitions along with the original New Additions book truck and a revolving rack. We add a lot of new materials every month, and it is nice to have three places now where we can highlight them.

If your library has or can obtain an extra book truck, consider adding a "library on wheels" to promote your collection.

Doing Dewey—

continued from previous page

point of view, 02 from Table 1 for "Miscellany, including humorous treatment" may be added.

Graphic novels and graphic nonfiction can spark interest in a library's collection, especially among teens. Consider the best placement for optimum impact and "findability" and catalog accordingly.

Any reader of Doing Dewey is welcome to send me a question to address in a future column. These questions are especially welcome now that I have completed my "tour" of the Dewey Decimal classification.

Nominate an outstanding LIBRARY or LIBRARIAN today

NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Size does not matter for a congregational library or its librarian to be named the Outstanding Congregational Library or Outstanding Congregational Librarian of the year. Your help is needed in finding nominations for this year's awards. Do not let our 50th anniversary celebration be without winners in these categories. Please nominate one of the libraries and/or librarians in your chapter or service area. The deadline for these nominations has been extended to April 30, 2017.

Other award categories also needing nominations are: Outstanding Contribution to Congregational Libraries, The Helen Keating Ott Award for Outstanding Contributions to Children's Literature, and the Pat Taber Memorial Scholarship Award. Nominations for the 2017 Rodda Award are now closed.

More information on these awards plus a link to a printable nomination form may be found on the Awards page, https://cslainfo.org/?page_id=4288, of the Church and Synagogue Libraries website. If you have trouble locating or printing out the form, please email me at jcryer@tallowood.org and I will send you a copy as an attachment.

—Joy Cryer, Awards Committee Chair

CHAPTER Chatter



Marcia Trauernicht,
Chapters Coordinator

HOUSTON CHAPTER

The fall meeting was held on October 16, 2016, at Parkgate Community Church in Pasadena, Texas. Judy Stevenson was the hostess and the featured speaker was author Martha Rogers. “Her experience as a public school teacher, Sunday School teacher, youth leader, mother and grandmother give her a unique set of perspectives for her ministry as an author and speaker.” (Houston Chapter website.) For more information about Rogers, please go to her website <http://www.marthawrogers.com/>.

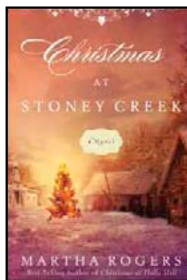
If you're in the area, the Houston Chapter's spring workshop is set for April 29, 2017, at the Clear Lake United Methodist Church in Houston, hosted by Betty and Dick Burghdoff. More details will be announced at the chapter's website: <http://www.angelfire.com/tx3/cslahac/meetings.html>.

SAN JOSE BAY AREA CHAPTER

This chapter has had two meetings to note: On November 14, 2016, the chapter met at Valley Church in Cupertino, hosted by Patty Grimm. Round table topics for the meeting were:

How do you handle non-traditional congregational holidays? For instance, do you have displays for Independence Day (July 4th), Columbus Day, elections or others? What are your memorial gift policies? Members brought their policies to share.

The January 9, 2017, meeting oc-



Christmas at Stoney Creek, by Martha Rogers (Realms, 2016.)

curred at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, hosted by Rudy Dyck. Round table topics for this meeting included a discussion on the “weeding” article from a recent issue of *Congregational Libraries Today*. Another posed the question, “Have you done anything creative with your used, weeded books? Members were asked to bring pictures of interesting design and craft projects from Pinterest or Facebook to share. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13 in Palo Alto.

VIRTUAL CHAPTER

The fall meeting of the Virtual Chapter was held on October 12, 2016. The main activity of this meeting was brainstorming ideas for workshops for the upcoming 2017 conference. A number of recommendations were made, which were passed along to the Conference Planning Committee. An article <http://tinyurl.com/jf5jda6> and book by Doug Borwick were recommended by Dottie Lewis during that discussion and may be of interest to the general CSLA membership: *Building Communities, Not Audiences*. A number of observations on establishing relationships and communities for libraries can apply to our own congregational libraries!



Dr. Doug Borwick is a leading advocate for community engagement in the arts.

The second half of the meeting consisted of each member providing updates from his/her congregational library, covering such topics as promotion of a congregation's authors, the increase in social media use instead of printed bulletins and newsletters by congregations and the impact this has on libraries' communication, how to handle donations, and how to gather data to compare library use and the overall size of the congregation. If you are interested in joining the Virtual Chapter, please contact Marcia at the email address given below.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Speaking of spring workshops, the North Texas Chapter's annual Spring Workshop Day will be held March 4, 2017, at All Saints Catholic Church in Dallas, hosted by Maria Isabel Garcia. In addition to favorite presenters Rick & Susan Lewis of Logos Bookstore, featured presentations will be: “Six degrees of separation to know a thousand people” by Ralph Hartsock, “Care and storage of photographic collections” by Anne Peterson, “Digitization and digital collections” by Cindy Boeke and “Creative images to promote your library” by Christine Asberry Milazzo. These speakers are professionals in their respective fields and either work at the University of North Texas or Southern Methodist University.

Be sure to send in news about your chapters to Marcia Trauernicht at marciatmail@gmail.com.

SERVANTS NEEDED to fill key CSLA roles beginning July 2017

Leadership positions in the Church and Synagogue Library Association are filled by volunteers who give their time and talents to make this organization function. CSLA was started 50 years ago by people who believed that librarians, many of whom are untrained volunteers, need help and encouragement as they work to serve their congregations. The only way that CSLA can continue to function is for members to step up and serve in these leadership positions.

New officers and committee chairs are installed at the annual conference

in July. Please look at this list of positions that need to be filled at that time. Brief descriptions of responsibilities are given in the "Bylaws (revised) and Standing Rules" document on the

book ads, and click on [Site Map](#) and [Index](#). An alphabetical index of documents and webpages appears on the right-hand side of the page. You must be logged in as a member to open the

Bylaws document.)

Any of the current board and committee chairs will be happy to talk or correspond with you. The continued existence of CSLA depends upon you.

Positions Vacant as of July 2017

Position Title	Current	Email	Phone
1st Vice President/ President Elect	Maria Isabel Garcia	garcia.mariaisabel1@gmail.com	214-603-1734
Treasurer	Evelyn Pockrass*	epockrass@iquest.net	317-842-7382
Finance Chair	Cheryl Cutchin*	cherylcls1a@gmail.com	770-826-8465
Technology Chair	Debbie Scott	debbie.scott@earthlink.net	281-744-0786
Continuing Education	Marcia Trauernicht	marciatmail@gmail.com	585-820-3292
Chapters Coordinator	Marcia Trauernicht	marciatmail@gmail.com	585-820-3292
Rodda Award Chair	Bev Etzelmueller	bevetz@sbcglobal.net	262-250-3969
Publications Chair	Susan Sponaas	SusanSponaas7@gmail.com	864-517-0557

* Evelyn and Cheryl have filled these slots long past their initial commitment simply because crucial tasks would not get done if they did not. This situation cannot continue.

CSLA website. (The easiest way to locate this and other documents on the website is to scroll almost to the bottom of the homepage, just above the

And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here I am; send me." Isaiah 6:8



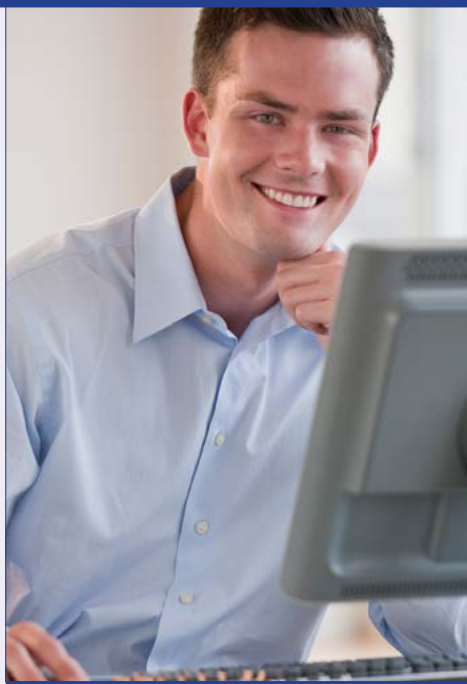
Surpass CL was designed for volunteers and includes the features essential to most congregational libraries:

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- Patron management
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Surpass Safari CL catalog: \$400

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"I didn't know anything about starting a library or automating one, but I learned very quickly with Surpass CL."

Surpass CL customer comment

Visit CSLA on Facebook—and be sure your library is there, too

BY RALPH HARTSOCK

Social networks have become a norm for communication in the past few years, led by Twitter and Facebook. To participate in Facebook, one must register by creating a user name and password. Registering with Facebook also requires supplying various personal data, for instance, supplying one's birthdate to insure the registrant is an adult. There is a place to edit privacy settings to limit who may view one's Facebook page. One may post text, photos, videos, etc., on one's own Facebook page and view and respond to material that is posted on the pages of friends.

Remember that the Internet holds all posts, even if deleted by the original poster. Despite security settings, assume that anything that is



posted could end up being viewed by strangers, one's employers, or scam artists trolling the internet. A recent issue of *Time* magazine showed that Facebook is among the safer of the social networks, with fewer trolls. Anonymity is minimally allowed.

Church and Synagogue Library Association members are encouraged to "Like" the CSLA page (<https://www.facebook.com/cslainfo/>), to "Like" posts, and even to comment. Members may also post as visitors. Most of these posts will be converted to the full CSLA Facebook forum. This is where members can help each other. For instance, a member may ask for help with a difficult reference question, with cataloging questions such as assigning subject headings and call numbers, or to find suggestions for authors and speakers.

In line with the 2016 conference in Ohio, the Facebook administrators

invite members to share their story. To do so, send pictures (preferably jpg files) and a prose essay about one's library to Ralph Hartsock (ralph.hartsock@unt.edu). These will be edited for size and posted to the CSLA Facebook page. Besides engendering greater communication between members, CSLA members can get ideas for what works, inspiration for trying something new, and the assurance that theirs is not the only library facing certain situations.

Institutions as well as individuals may become Facebook members and have their own pages. (Obviously, or CSLA would not be able to have its own page!) This means one's own library may join Facebook. To register a church library with Facebook, the library must have its own website or, ironically, a Twitter account.

Annual Conference & tours
Rochester * New York
14-18 July 2017

Established 1967

50

Church & Synagogue Library Association

All meetings in the Double Tree

16 WORKSHOP sessions including

- Weeding
- Improving your library
- Photography and preservation
- Authentication procedures
- CSLA Guides

George Eastman

CSLA Anniversary

Highland Park Arboretum

Susan B Anthony

CITY OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.

fresh citations

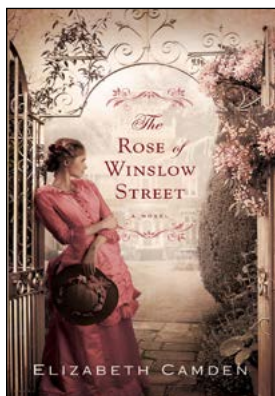
new media for your library



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FICTION



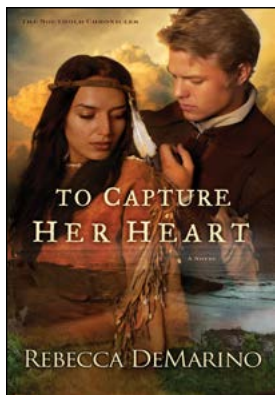
The Rose of Winslow Street

Elizabeth Camden. Bethany House, 2012. 342p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780764208959. bakerpublishinggroup.com/bethanyhouse FIC Romanians — Massachusetts—Fiction. Massachusetts — History —19th century—Fiction. Romance fiction. Detective and mystery stories.

The general framework of Elizabeth Camden's novel is common: a mystery and a romance. However, the details are not traditional and the

strong, well-developed characters result in a gripping story.

Libby Sawyer and her elderly professor-inventor father are enjoying the summer of 1879 away from their home in Cordon, Massachusetts. In the meantime, Mikhail Dobrescu, his two young sons and a 20 year old woman arrive from Romania and take over the Sawyer house. Mikhail claims that the house was bequeathed to him by his uncle, a former owner. When the Sawyers find out, they are infuriated and a court case to decide ownership is initiated. Missing drawings, the Dobrescus' relationship to the cultivation of roses and the slowly growing romantic attraction between Libby and Michael, as he now calls himself, complicate the situation. Included are a few other problems, and the reader begins to wonder whether Camden can solve them.—*Beverly M. Bixler*



To Capture Her Heart (Southold Chronicles #2)

Rebecca DeMarino. Revell, 2015. 345p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9781800722197. bakerpublishinggroup.com/revell FIC Indian women—New York—Long Island—Fiction. Long Island (N.Y.)—History—17th century—Fiction.

To Capture Her Heart is the second novel in Rebecca DeMarino's series, The Southold

Chronicles. The story continues to detail the lives of Barnabas Horton and his family who came from England in 1637 and settled into the area today known as Long Island. The action revolves around the romantic relationship among three people. They are Heather Flower, a young native woman, Ben Horton, her long-time dear friend and Dirk Van Buren, a Dutch military officer. On her wedding day, Heather's groom was killed and she was abducted and assaulted by member of a rival tribe of Indians. Dirk Van Buren risks his life to rescue her. Many obstacles face these three and the romantic triangle is not solved until Heather's second wedding day.—*Beverly M. Bixler*



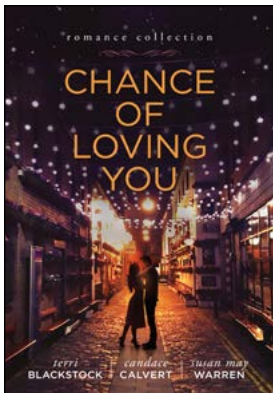
Last Chance Hero: A Novel

Cathleen Armstrong. Revell, 2015. 280p. \$14, paperback. ISBN: 9780800726478. bakerpublishinggroup.com/revell FIC Women physicians—New Mexico—Fiction. Football coaches—New Mexico—Fiction. New Mexico—Fiction.

Strong, well-developed characters carry the action in Cathleen Armstrong's novel. Dr. Jessica MacLeod has wanted to settle in a small town in

New Mexico and she chooses Last Chance. At last, the town will have its own doctor. Last Chance's residents welcome her enthusiastically but almost immediately let her know that she is unusual, if not strange, because she knows nothing about football, has no interest in it and has never been to a game. Also, she is unfamiliar with chilies, a staple of their diet.

After playing with the National Football League, Andy Ryan, the town's star athlete, returns to coach the high school football team. In spite of having different interests, Andy and Jess are attracted to each other and get along well until her opinion about the future of one of his players causes a conflict. Will it end their friendship?—*Beverly M. Bixler*



Chance of Loving You

Terri Blackstock, Candace Calver, and Susan May Warren. Tyndale House, 2015. 374p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9782496405371. www.tyndale.com FIC Baking—Competitions—Fiction. Sweepstakes—Fiction. Tournament fishing—Fiction. Romance fiction.

Three novels comprise *Chance of Loving You: For the Love of Money* by Teri Blackstock, *The Recipe* by Candace Calvert and *Hook, Line & Sinker* by Susan May Warren.

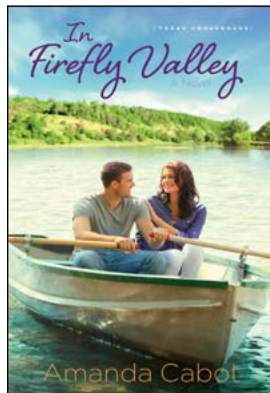
The most credible characters and plot are in *The Recipe*. Aimee Curran works in a hospital dietary unit. She enters a baking contest with the hopes of winning a scholarship to cooking school. However, at times, God turns plans upside down because his plan is better. This happens to Aimee as she slowly struggles to see this change is for the best.

Not many people will win a 20 million dollar

sweepstake as does the main character in *Blackstock's For the Love of Money*. It is difficult to imagine the scenario and the problems resulting when the winner tears the ticket in two and gives one half to a young woman he has met.

A Christian college group conducts a fishing contest to raise money, and a broken relationship restored are the two major plot lines in *Hook, Line & Sinker*.

Love stories feature prominently in each novel, and the outcome of each story depends on the protagonists' changed attitudes. This anthology is a good way to expand a fiction collection.—*Beverly M. Bixler*



In Firefly Valley: A Novel (Texas Crossroads #2)

Amanda Cabot. Revell, 2015. 351p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800734350. bakerpublishinggroup.com/revell FIC Resorts—Texas—Fiction. Adult child abuse victims—Fiction.

In this sequel to *Bluebonnet Lake* Marisa St. George's position as a certified public accountant at a prestigious Atlanta firm is eliminated. She returns to the small Texas town in which she grew up to become the manager of a local resort. That the job is more enjoyable than she expects surprises Marisa. Also, Blake Kendall, a new resident of the resort, is attracted to Marisa.

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Although her situation seems encouraging, Marisa has been hurt in the past and is reticent about a new relationship. Feeling betrayed by two previous boyfriends, she is also angry and carries the childhood scars associated with a dysfunctional family. When Marisa learns that Blake's name is a pseudonym, she feels betrayed again. She cannot forgive her betrayers, including her father. When her father returns, how will she react? Will she ever accept Blake's friendship again?—*Beverly M. Bixler*



A Sweet Misfortune (Virtues and Vices of the Old West #2)

Maggie Brendan. Revell, 2015. 331p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800722654. bakerpublishinggroup.com/revell FIC Montana—History—19th century—Fiction. Female friendship—Fiction. Romance fiction.

Set in the Montana Territory in 1862, John McIntyre, a rancher outside the town of Cottonwood, receives a letter with a request. His good friend and former neighbor, Preston Matthews, asks John to rescue his sister, Rachel, who is a dancer at the Wild Horse Saloon.

Much to Rachel's chagrin, John "rescues" her and takes her to stay at his home with his grandmother and his housekeeper. Rachel develops a close relationship with the two women and, as the months pass, she develops feelings for John. Tragedy strikes Rachel, causing anger, but "all's well that ends well."—*Beverly M. Bixler*

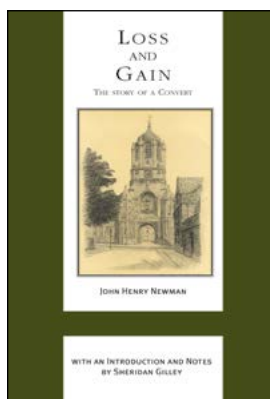


The Raven (Coffey & Hill Series #2)

Mike Nappa. Revell, 2016. 420 p. \$15, hardcover. ISBN: 9780800726454. bakerpublishinggroup.com/revell FIC Magicians—Fiction. Extortion—Fiction. Private investigators—Fiction. Suspense fiction. Christian fiction.

The Raven is the second part of a thrilling three-book series that began with *Annabel Lee*. This book tells the story of a young man who mysteriously appears as a street illusionist, and finds himself in more trouble than he ever dreamed. Known only as The Raven, he picks the pocket of one audience member and obtains information he hopes to use to blackmail his mark. The plot thickens with connections to the Ukrainian mafia, guns, attacks and much more. How do the pair of private investigators,

Trudi Coffey and her ex-husband Samuel Hill, get mixed up in solving The Raven's dilemma, as well as a plot known only as "Nevermore"? Author Mike Nappa skillfully creates suspense by using a countdown of three weeks to a dynamic conclusion. The chapters are told through the eyes of three main characters—The Raven, Trudi, and Mama Bliss, the owner of Sister Bliss's Secret Stash. Like a large puzzle without the finished picture, each person reveals parts of the plot from their own perspectives. Each character finds the strength to survive in this amazing suspense novel with clear underlying elements of Christian faith. Readers will have a greater appreciation of this new offering by Nappa if they read *Annabel Lee* first. *The Raven* provides a short glimpse into the next book in this Edgar Allen Poe themed trilogy.—*Mary Lou Henneman*



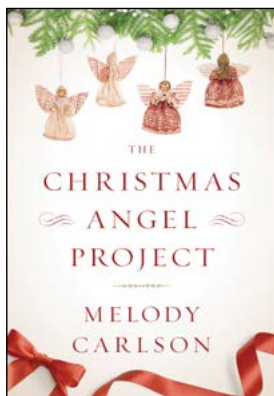
Loss and Gain: The Story of a Convert

John Henry Newman, with an introduction and notes by Sheridan Gilley. University of Notre Dame Press, 2014. 456p. \$48, hardcover. ISBN: 980268036133. www.undpress.nd.edu FIC University of Oxford—Students—Fiction. Anglican Communion—England—Fiction. Conversion—Catholic Church—Fiction.

This novel, originally published in 1848 in response to strongly anti-Catholic fiction, tells the story of a student's attempts to resolve his doubts about Anglicanism. Through a long process of intellectual discussion and reflection, he becomes a convert to the Roman Catholic Church. The work revolves around Oxford in the mid-19th century and in the religious controversies of that time and place. It's observation of place and personalities is quite vivid. Nonetheless, this is a novel of ideas and perhaps of most value to those interested in Cardinal Newman and his story. Sheridan Gilley provides a very useful introduction and unobtrusive notes to a reprint of the original text.—*Larry Creider*

CSLA Promotional Kit [for public libraries]. The kit, delivered in a pamphlet shelf file box, may either be displayed as a set or shelved as individual items. The kit contains six CSLA guides: Cataloging and Classification, Developing An Effective Library (promotional), Fundamentals of Financing Your Congregational Library, Organizing a Library or Resource Center, Selecting a New Library Cataloging and Circulation Computer System and Subject Headings. \$65 + S&H.

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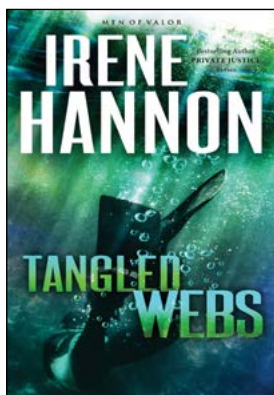


Christmas Angel Project

Melody Carlson. Revell, 2016. 176p. \$16 hardcover. ISBN: 9780800722692. bakerpublishinggroup.com/revell FIC Female friendship—Fiction. Charity—Fiction. Christmas stories. Christian fiction.

Carlson has published several Christmas themed books, including *Christmas Cat*, *Christmas Dog*, *Christmas Joy Ride* and several others. Here, four book club members

mourn the loss of another member, Abby Wentworth. Prior to Abby's death, she made each of her friends a Christmas angel complete with scripture verses Abby felt each woman needed. Inspired by Abby's gifts, the women undertake charitable projects which draw upon their personal strengths: animal care, interior design, fashion and art. Through the projects, the women help their community, are brought closer together and their personal lives are enriched. This story of friendship has an understated Christian message appropriate for any church library.—*Ellen Bosman*



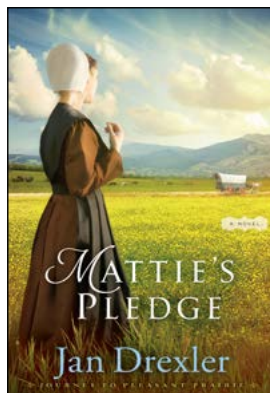
Tangled Webs (Men of Valor, #3)

Irene Hannon. Revell, 2016. 346p. \$13, paperback. ISBN: 9780800724542. www.revellbooks.com FIC Country life—Fiction. Romantic suspense fiction.

What happened that brought two unlikely people together on a beautiful lake in the middle of an isolated woods? Dana Mills, a successful book editor, is seeking quiet solitude. At her

grandfather's cabin, away from her hectic life in New York City, she seeks peace from past circumstances that continue to haunt her. Across the lake is Finn McGregor who has just ended his six-year career as an Army Ranger after a horrific incident in the Middle East. Suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, he needs time to recover. Their first encounter is when Finn hears screams coming from Dana's cabin. She does not know who is targeting her, but this is just the beginning of a relationship filled with intrigue. Why is someone trying to scare Dana away? A variety of subplots involve the local sheriff whose wife suffers from Alzheimer's and a man running a secret meth lab. Even Finn's two brothers come back in this last book of the trilogy, as

the main characters draw on their faith to untangle the many webs of intrigue they face. Irene Hannon fans will definitely not be disappointed as she adeptly balances romance and suspense.—*Mary Lou Henneman*

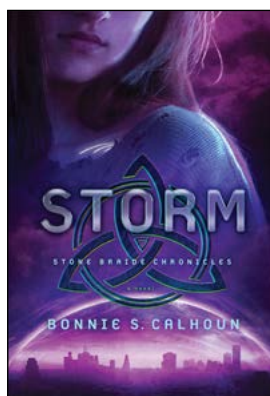


Mattie's Pledge (Journey to Pleasant Prairie, #2)

Jan Drexler. Revell, 2016. 357p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800726577. www.revellbooks.com FIC Amish—History—19th century—Fiction. Historical fiction. Romance fiction. Christian fiction.

Mattie Schrock is a dutiful, obedient daughter, but she has a restless spirit. When her family decides to move west to Indiana to settle with other Amish

and build a new homestead, her heart yearns to travel even farther. She is torn between settling down in the new community, professing her faith in the church and finding a husband, and experiencing life as she never could if she remains Amish. During her journey on the wagon train, she is reacquainted with Jacob, her best friend. Even though they were separated years ago by unforeseen circumstances, they still are kindred spirits, but now see each other differently. Will she choose to love Jacob, or will the appeal of a strange Englisher who has set his sights on the West Coast lead her away from her faith? Jan Drexler continues the saga of romance in her second book, as she skillfully portrays the life of the Amish in the 1840s. Christian romance readers will appreciate the exciting adventures the lead characters experience through their escapades. Read *Hannah's Choice* first in order to get more out of her latest book.—*Mary Lou Henneman*



Storm (Stone Braide Chronicles, Book 3)

Bonnie S. Calhoun. Revell, 2016. 386p. \$13, paperback. ISBN: 9780800723781. www.revellbooks.com FIC Blood—Transfusion—Fiction. Science fiction. Fantasy fiction.

Author Bonnie Calhoun does not disappoint readers in this exciting conclusion of the Stone Braide Chronicles trilogy. Selah, a novarium, has finally escaped from inside the Mountain, but has

lost many of her companions along the way. She still has many who want her blood to cure their illnesses, but there

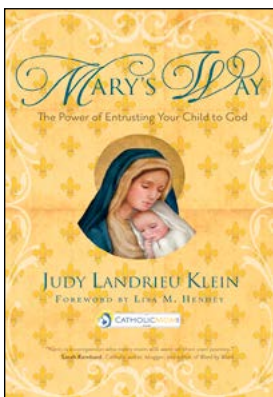
Planning a Congregational Archives Center.

Curtis D. Howard, PhD. (2011). This is a great reference book on processing, preserving, storing and exhibiting your archives. It offers tips on what to include in your archives and discusses their importance to your congregation. \$12/ \$14 + S&H.

CSLA GUIDE

are many repercussions. The special powers she was given are slowly diminishing each time an individual or group receives a transfusion of her blood. By helping others she is in danger of fracturing her health, which will lead to her own death. Her journey to save her own life takes her to the domed cities of Cleveland and Chicago, as she finally discovers how she can heal others, regain her own strength and lead her people to health and hope. Filled with dramatic plot twists, the main plots and subplots will appeal to young adult and adult science fiction/fantasy fans. The series still does not have an overt spiritual message, but the book is excellent for discussion on how we, as well as the characters, face challenges in our lives through our faith.—*Mary Lou Henneman*

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

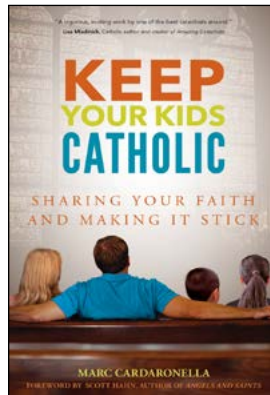


Mary's Way: The Power of Entrusting Your Child to God

Judy Landrieu Klein. Ave Maria Press, 2016. 145p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9781594716690. www.avemariapress.com 248.8/431 Mothers—Religious life. Catholic women—Religious life. Parenting—Religious aspects—Catholic Church. Child rearing—Religious aspects—Catholic Church. Mary, Blessed Virgin, Saint.

While many authors of books on being a Christian mother are fairly young, this author is

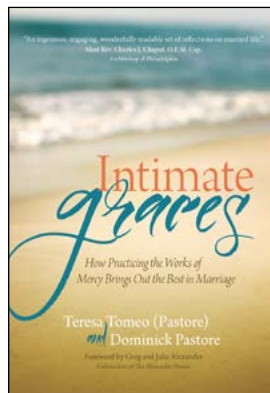
the mother of grown children who has gone through a great deal as she raised her children and dealt with losing family members. The author finds strength in surrendering to God's will as seen through the lens of major episodes in the life of Jesus' mother, Mary. The chapters deal with the annunciation, visitation, birth of Jesus, presentation, finding Jesus in the Temple, crucifixion, and resurrection. This book is deeply personal and moving, and one can learn a lot from it.—*Larry Creider*



Keeping Your Kids Catholic: Sharing Your Faith and Making it Stick

Marc Cardaronella. Ave Maria Press, 2016. 142p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9781594716058. www.avemariapress.com 248.8/45088282 Christian education of children. Catholic Church—Doctrines. Catholic Church—Education.

The author is a former Navy pilot who began to take his faith seriously and has become involved in faith formation. The book is aimed at parents and emphasizes the necessary example of faith that parents provide. It is divided into four parts: How does faith work? Is your own faith secure? What kind of education fosters faith? How do you create an environment of faith? This is a wonderful book for parents of young children. The major flaw is that there is no "Plan B." Parents coming late to the faith will struggle with how to impart their faith to older children, and this book offers little guidance in this area. Still, a thoughtful and useful book.—*Larry Creider*



Intimate Graces: How Practicing the Works of Mercy Brings Out the Best in Marriage

Teresa Tomeo (Pastore) and Dominick Pastore. Ave Maria Press, 2015. 139p. \$14, paperback. ISBN: 978159471623. www.avemariapress.com 248.8/44 Marriage—Religious aspects—Catholic Church. Church work—Catholic Church. Mercy.

The authors use the traditional Catholic corporal and spiritual works of mercy as an organizing principle for the role of mercy and forgiveness in marriage. The works are not taken literally

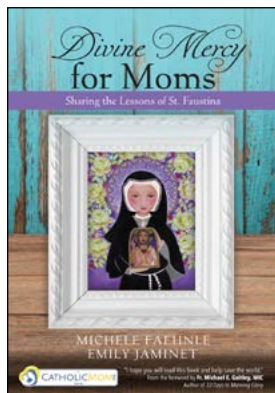
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but tend to be used more as a metaphor on which each author reflects on the role of mercy in their marriage. Each chapter provides those reflections, tips, a prayer and reflection questions.—Larry Creider



Divine Mercy for Moms: Sharing the Lessons of St. Faustina

Michele Faehnle, Emily Jaminet. Ave Maria Press, 2016. 135p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9781594716652. www.avemariapress.com 248.8/431 Faustina, Saint, 1905-1938. Catholic women—Religious life. Mothers—Religious life. Mercy.

The Divine Mercy devotion, originating in the early part of the last century from St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, and popularized by St. John Paul II, is not unlike the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. That is, it provides a very concrete way of focusing on the vast panoply of the faith through a particular lens and concrete actions that holds the rest of the Church's teaching and practice in focus. In this case, there is an image of Divine Mercy, chaplet of Divine Mercy (using rosary beads), a church-wide feast of Divine Mercy (the Sunday after Easter) along with writings by Sister Faustina. The book's chapters cover an introduction to St. Faustina, developing trust in Jesus through the Divine Mercy devotion, showing mercy to neighbors, corporal works of mercy, spiritual works of mercy, and Mary, Mother of Mercy. There are also prayers, a description of the use of the chaplet, and a thirty day retreat. While probably for more conservative Catholic parishes and certainly aimed at mothers, this could be an interesting introduction to a relatively new movement in U.S. Catholicism.—Larry Creider

A Basic Media List for Church Libraries:

An Annotated Bibliography

by Ellen Bosman.

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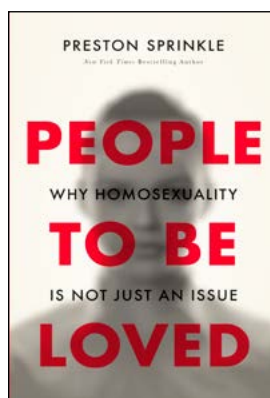
Where Hope Grows (DVD)

Godspeed Pictures, 2014. 98 mins. \$8, DVD. Rated PG-13. wherehopegrowsmovie.com 791.4372 or FIC Baseball players—Drama. Down syndrome—Drama. Friendship—Drama.

Calvin Campbell is a washed-up former baseball player who has a strained relationship with his teenage daughter. Jobless, Calvin moves aimlessly through life, drinking and hanging out with his buddies. During his trips to the grocery store to buy liquor, he meets a young man with Down syndrome known simply by his job title—Produce. Attracted to Produce's positive attitude, the two men strike up a friendship. Over time, Calvin gives up drinking and even attends church with Produce. A tragedy brings them closer and provides the means for a surprise ending.

This film earned a PG-13 rating because of the drinking, sexual innuendo involving the teenage daughter, and for a scene in which the daughter's boyfriend tries to force himself upon her. Not a preachy film, this is a story of friendship, acceptance and redemption. Available on Blu-ray (\$18) and through Amazon Streaming Video.—Ellen Bosman

RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES



People to Be Loved: Why Homosexuality Is Not Just an Issue

Preston Sprinkle. Zondervan, 2015. 224p. \$17, paperback. ISBN: 9780310519652. www.zondervan.com 261.835766 Homosexuality-Biblical teaching. Homosexuality-Religious aspects-Christianity.

Sprinkle addresses difficult questions regarding homosexuality, including

“Does God make people gay?” “Is male-female sexual difference necessary for marriage?” “Would Jesus condemn homosexuality?” “Can someone be gay and Christian?” “Can gay people change?” To situate the answers to these questions, he begins with an exploration of homosexuality in Greco-Roman culture and then turns to the Bible passages which address homosexuality. He provides thoughtful analysis of each of these areas, looking at interpretations of various

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words and stories. He complements these with stories of gay Christians, including those who disagree with the traditional interpretations of the biblical proscriptions against homosexuality. He comes to several conclusions, such as the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is not about homosexuality, and Jesus would not find homosexuality acceptable, but he would love the individual. He believes one can be gay and Christian so long as one does not engage in sexual behaviors. On other questions, such as “Does God make people gay,” he admits he cannot come to a definitive conclusion. One thing is certain: Sprinkle says the church must make a concerted effort to love gay people and to have open, real conversations with gay people rather than outright condemning people.

Sprinkle’s style in tackling these tough questions is accessible to laypersons. His conclusions regarding homosexuality are affirming of the traditional Christian views. Overall, a suitable, one volume exploration of a tough topic.—*Ellen Bosman*

STUDY GUIDES

What Do You Seek? The Questions of Jesus as Challenge and Promise

Michael J. Buckley, Eerdmans, 2016. 146p. \$18, paperback. ISBN: 9780802873958. www.eerdmans.com 232.9 Jesus Christ-Teachings. Gospel of John. Bible. John—Criticism, Interpretation, etc.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel is quoted in the forward as follows: “We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers.” This succinctly sums up a powerful study of the Gospel of John written by the Catholic theologian Michael J. Buckley, SJ. Through a series of fourteen questions, readers explore a variety of topics including what we seek, what we believe, our basic relationship with God and how we need to be weak in order to find strength in God. Each chapter begins with a quote from the gospel of John and is followed by in-depth study and examples giving new insight into its meaning. The questions reflect the life of Christ and his message to John’s contemporaries as well as the meaning it holds for us today. Highly recommended for Christian discussion and for those seriously exploring a deeper relationship



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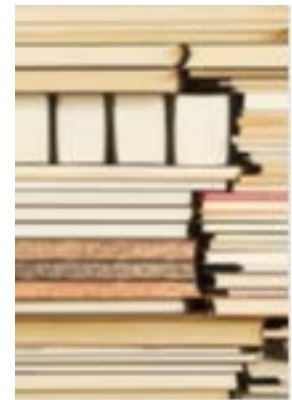
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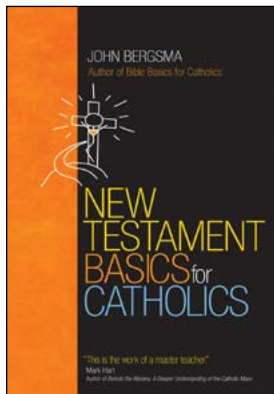


Organizing a Library or Resource Center: Creating a Policy and Procedure Manual.

Revised and compiled from three CSLA publications, A Policy and Procedure Manual for Church and Synagogue Libraries; Standards for Church and Synagogue Libraries; and Setting Up A Library. This publication provides a simple method of developing a working manual for organizing and operating a congregational library. \$13/\$14+ postage.

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and understanding of God and Christ.—*Mary Lou Henneman*



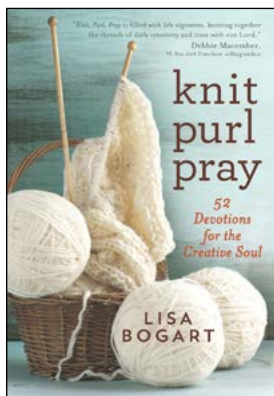
New Testament Basics for Catholics

John Bergsma. Ave Maria Press, 2015. 300p. \$17, paperback. ISBN: 9781594715822. www.avemariapress.com 225.6"1 Bible. New Testament—Introductions. Catholic Church—Doctrines.

John Bergsma is a former Protestant pastor who converted to Roman Catholicism. This book provides a brief introduction to the books of the New Testament,

emphasizing the continuity with the story of salvation history in the Old Testament. The tone is popular and the reading is easy. Nonetheless, even those who know a good deal about scripture can learn a lot more about it and about the relationship of scripture to Catholic liturgy and doctrine. Highly recommended for congregations, especially for those involved in religious education.—*Larry Creider*

DEVOTIONALS AND PRAYER



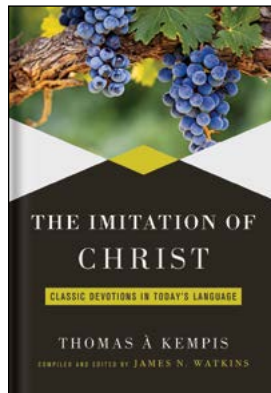
Knit Purl Pray: 52 Devotions for the Creative Soul

Lisa Bogart. Worthy Inspired, 2015. 140p. \$13, hardcover. ISBN: 9781617955761. worthyinspired.com 242.68 Knitters (Persons)—Prayers and devotions. Knitting. Christian women—Prayers and devotions. Christian life.

It begins with a simple language—cast on, knit, purl, slip stitch—and evolves into an art form of creative patterns,

including terms such as cable stitches, lacework, raglan construction, Irish fisherman pattern, and the Kitchener stitch. Whether you are just learning how to knit or have advanced into creating more intricate patterns, Lisa

Bogart, an expert knitting teacher and author, will inspire you in her powerful book of 52 devotions. Each one begins with a scripture reading from the Bible, followed by a personal experience and a prayer. She shares both her successes and struggles as she tackles each project while keeping focused on her relationship with Christ. Each of us needs inspiration in our lives and Christian knitters will find it here. This is the perfect book for those making items for family, friends or working on projects for outreach ministries. Knitting groups can also use her amazing patchwork of devotions for discussion in their weekly meetings.—*Mary Lou Henneman*



The Imitation of Christ: Classic Devotions in Today's Language

Thomas à Kempis; compiled and edited by James N. Watkins. Worthy, 2016. 264p. \$16, paperback. ISBN: 9781617956768. worthypublishing.com 242 Devotional literature. Meditations—Early works to 1800. Spiritual life—Catholic Church—Early works to 1800. Catholic Church—Doctrines—Early works to 1800.

It takes a brave person to completely reorganize a spiritual classic along various themes. Instead of the four books of the Imitation of Christ, a fifteenth century devotional classic used by Catholics and Protestants alike, James Watkins has divided his selection of quotations into Part I, Imitating Christ and Part II, Imitating Christ's Character. The second section takes up most of the book and is further divided into sections on loving, teachable, wise, trusting, obedient, self-sacrificing, humble, gracious, forgiving, patient, peaceful, pure, disciplined, self-controlled, and eternally minded. The selections are taken from all four books of the original text, although the last book, which deals with the Eucharist, is severely short-changed. There are questions about the way the book represents or misrepresents the original of Thomas à Kempis; certainly some themes of the original are downplayed or ignored. This book is perhaps for people who have found Watkins' other books helpful.—*Larry Creider*

THIS ISSUE'S REVIEWERS

BEVERLY M. BIXLER
First Presbyterian Church
Ashland, Ohio

ELLEN BOSMAN
Mesilla Park Community Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico

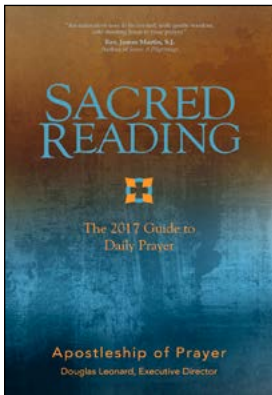
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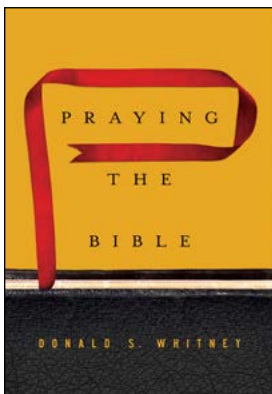


Sacred Reading: The 2017 Guide to Daily Prayer

Apostleship of Prayer. Ave Maria Press, 2016. 402p. \$16, paperback. ISBN: 9781594716959. www.avemariapress.com 242.2 Devotional calendars. Bible. Gospels—Meditations.

This is a devotional guide for every day of the 2017 Catholic Church calendar. The sections follow the major divisions of the liturgical calendar, with

appropriate feast days. The approach provides a model for daily *lectio divina*, an ancient meditative way of reading and responding to the Scriptures. This might be compared to the evangelical concept of “Quiet Time.” Each day has short sections titled, “Know that God is present with you and ready to converse,” “Read the gospel” (this is year A of the common lectionary, so most of the gospel sections are from Matthew), “Notice what you think and feel as you read the gospel,” “Pray as you are led for yourself and others,” “Listen to Jesus,” and “Ask God to show you how to live today.” Using this book for the better part of a year will deepen anyone’s spiritual life. Recommended.—Larry Creider



Praying the Bible

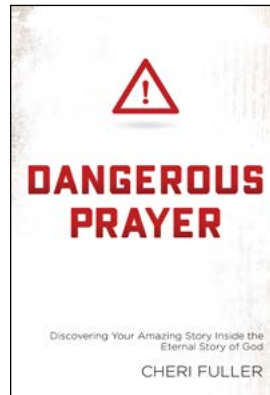
Donald S. Whitney. Crossway, 2015. 107p. \$14, hardcover. ISBN: 9781433547843. www.crossway.org 248.32 Prayer—Christianity. Bible. Psalms—Devotional use.

Does your mind wander when you pray? Do you feel that you have “said the same old things about the same old things”? Most people experience these feelings whether they pray regularly or sporadically. In

Praying the Bible, David S. Whitney, associate dean and professor of biblical spirituality at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, says those two problems result in prayer becoming boring. He continued, “. . . and when prayer is boring, we don’t feel like praying. When we don’t feel like praying, it’s hard to pray, at least in any sort of focused, heartfelt, way.”

According to Whitney, there is a solution: pray the psalms. One reason for doing so is that the psalms contain every emotion known to man. Pick one psalm and read it verse by verse, turning each verse into a prayer with whatever thoughts come to mind. You will be sharing ideas with God and not praying the same old thing. Whitney also explains how to use the method to pray other sections of scripture. This is a gem of a book and proves that good things come in small packages.

—Beverly M. Bixler



Dangerous Prayer: Discovering Your Amazing Story Inside the Eternal Story of God

Cheri Fuller. Shiloh Run Press, 2015. 256p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9781634091152. www.shilohrunpress.com 248.843 Prayer—Christianity. Christian women—Religious life. Christian life.

Dangerous prayer is risky. Do we mean “use me,” “send me” or

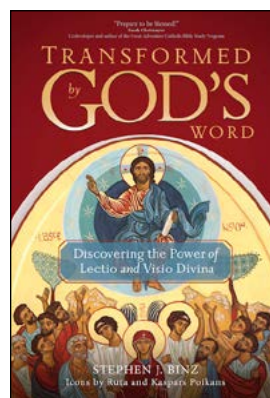
“here I am Lord”? Fuller uses words well, having written over 40 books. In 20 stories plus a summary chapter, risky prayers and the ways God chooses to answer them provide insightful and challenging reading.

Stories include those of women from scripture, such as the Samaritan woman; from history, such as author Hannah Hunnard; and the present day. A two-to-three word prayer may have set a new direction, caused an individual to reach far more lives than ever imagined or led to a life of difficulty, discouragement and a realistic, if not hoped-for, ending.

Being “living sacrifices” (Romans 12) is shown in the story of Gladys Aylward, a missionary who saved children in wartime, and in the author’s own story of how her “send me wherever” prayer continues to be answered in her speaking and writing ministry.

Readers are challenged with questions and reminders of the intrinsic reward of prayer, for instance, “being used by God” and “making a difference.”

Stories are currently promoted as one of the best ways to inspire and teach. In this text, all are done well. Recommended for church libraries.—Carolyn Egolf



Transformed by God’s Word: Discovering the Power of the Lectio and Visio Divina

Stephen J. Binz. Icons by Ruta & Kaspars Poikans. Ave Maria Press, 2016. 214p. \$17, paperback. ISBN: 9781594716522. www.avemariapress.com 248.3 Bible. Gospels. Icons. Bible. Gospels—Devotional use. Bible. Gospels—Illustrations Bible. Gospel—Prayers.

Readers will find the blend of lectio divina (sacred reading)

and visio divina (theology of line and color) instructive and inspiring. Lectio divina, a long-standing discipline in Western Christianity, is enhanced by icons from Eastern traditions.

Christ’s life and the Pentecost are portrayed in eighteen units, and the two additional units on Mary’s dormition and coronation will resonate with Catholics. Each unit has six “movements.” In order these are:

lectio—the biblical text plus commentary; visio—icons plus explanation; meditatio—reflection questions; oratio—a prayer to be completed by the reader; contemplatio—resting in God; and operatio—applying the message.

Kasper and Poikans in their icons share remarkable insights. The more the reader looks, the more there is to see, and the more time invested in both text and artwork, the greater the enrichment. Scripture is referenced often, and parallels are drawn between biblical stories.

Font is easily readable, icons are in color and the units patterned alike. This book is a pleasure. Recommended for libraries in Catholic and Orthodox congregations, as well as in other church libraries where readers can enlarge their perspectives.—*Carolyn Egolf*

GRIEF



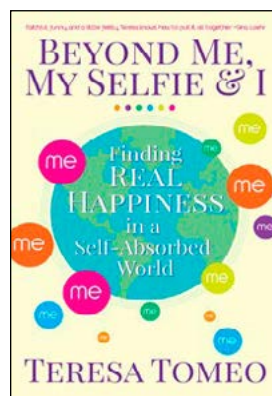
What Grieving People Wish You Knew About What Really Helps (And What Really Hurts)

Nancy Guthrie. Crossway, 2016. 188p. \$13, paperback. ISBN: 9781433552359. www.crossway.org 248.8 Bereavement—Religious Aspects—Christianity. Grief—Religious Aspects—Christianity. Consolation. Counseling.

What do you say to someone when a significant person in their life has just died? We want to let them know we care, but sometimes our words and actions—or inactions—only cause more hurt. Nancy Guthrie offers straightforward practical advice to Christians during these difficult times. Drawing not only on her personal experience of losing two young children but the comments of many other grieving people, she gives specific examples of what to say and when to

listen. Some of the tough topics she covers include: Why did God take my child? Is my spouse in heaven or hell? What happens when people commit suicide? The process of grieving does not stop after the funeral, and it is also important to know what to say and do months and years after the funeral to help our friends, especially on anniversaries, birthdays, etc. She even covers how to respond on social media. Nancy and her husband have helped many people through special sessions for couples whose child has died (Respite Retreats) and with their video series, GriefShare. She grounds her examples in scripture using her background as a Bible teacher at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Tennessee. This sensitive, practical, compassionate book is highly recommended for all Christians who want to offer comfort and not hurt.—*Mary Lou Henneman*

POPULAR CULTURE



Beyond Me, My Selfie & I: Finding Real Happiness in a Self-Absorbed World

Teresa Tomeo. Servant, 2016. 160p. \$16, paperback. ISBN: 978163253046. www.franciscanmedia.com 248.4 Happiness—Religious Aspects—Catholic Church. Christianity and Culture.

Are you addicted to social media? How many times have you posted a selfie today? Are you more interested in experiencing an event with your friends in person or letting your media friends see where you are? Are you sharing what you eat or what you are wearing practically on a 24/7 basis? Do you depend solely on social media to tell you what is important in your life? How can you as a good Catholic woman balance your life in the real world with the power of the media? Put the selfie stick down and turn

Media for the Teen and Young Adult Reader

Selected and annotated by Mary Lou Henneman. This guide is meant more to offer suggestions on a variety of books for congregational libraries than a definitive bibliography directed toward the interests and needs of teens and young adults. \$12/\$14 + postage.



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Helping Those Who Hurt

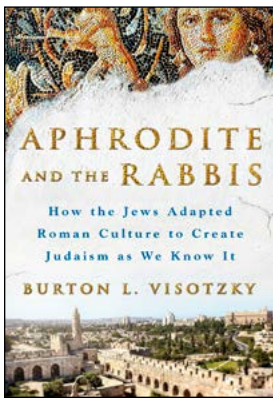
S. Meghan Harper. An annotated bibliography of print, non-print, and online resources divided into elementary and teenage groups. Designed for those working with children in congregational and pastoral care settings. Carefully selected for the potential of facilitating discussion between and among children and adults. \$12/\$14 + postage.



CSLA BIBLIOGRAPHY

to Teresa Tomeo who is a motivational speaker, author of many books and co-producer of *Catholic Connection* heard on the EWTN Global Catholic radio network. With humor and practical advice, she talks to teens and adults about how the media has influenced their lives and distinguishes between perception and reality. She uses clever quizzes, reflection moments and quotes ranging from Frank Baum, who wrote *The Wizard of Oz*, to Pope Francis. This is a great book for Catholic girls and to use for discussion or personal study. Parents of teens will also find it a way to open up communication. —*Mary Lou Henneman*

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES



Aphrodite and the Rabbis: How the Jews Adapted Roman Culture to Create Judaism as We Know It

Burton L. Visotzky. St. Martin's Press, 2016. 256p. \$26, hardcover. ISBN: 9781250085764. us.macmillan.com/smp 296.3992 Rabbinical literature. Judaism—History—Talmudic period, 10--425. Civilization, Classical—Influence. Jews—Civilization—Greek influences. Jews—Civilization—Roman influences.

Much has been written in recent years concerning the influence of Hellenistic, Roman, Sasanian, and Persian culture on the formation, growth, and direction of rabbinical Judaism. Visotzky writes for a non-academic but serious audience. He argues that the rabbis who salvaged a core of the biblical tradition destroyed when the Jerusalem Temple was burned in 70 C.E., and who created the religion we call Judaism, were fully integrated into the Greek-speaking culture of the Roman Empire and adopted and adapted its norms, forms,



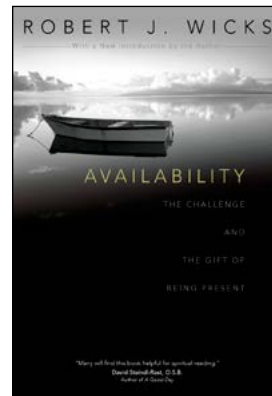
Cataloging and Classification for the 21st Century

Scott M. Dutkiewicz and Susan E. Snyder (2016). All the steps from physical processing to encouraging catalog use to creating bibliographic records and determining classification. \$12/\$14 + S&H.

CSLA GUIDE

and aesthetics—including its language(s), rhetorical styles, stories, art, architecture, prioritization of wisdom and literary cultural foundation—in sculpting a new expression of the Jewish covenant. Visotzky's witty narrative takes the reader on a tour of rabbinic legends, discussion of values, art and architecture (illustrated with photographs from archaeological finds) in its attempt to claim that Judaism is a thoroughly western religion. Surprisingly, he does not discuss the commonalities of Roman law and rabbinic law, which would have bolstered his argument, and does not venture beyond Dura Europos on the eastern border of the Roman Empire, thereby ignoring Eastern Persian-Sasanian influence on the Babylonian Talmud.—*Amy Scheinerman*

CHRISTIAN LIFE



Availability: The Challenge and the Gift of Being Present

Robert J. Wicks. Sorin Books, 2015. 141p. \$15. ISBN: 9781933495910. www.avemariapress.com/imprint/Sorin-Books/ 248.4 Spiritual life--Catholic Church. Pastoral theology. Spiritual life. Lay ministry.

Robert Wicks is a Catholic author of over forty books. He holds a doctorate in psychology along with many additional awards and honors including

a papal medal for service to the church. He has taught in many universities and professional schools including psychology, medicine, nursing, theology, education and social work which makes him uniquely equipped to write a book about being present to others.

Renew membership for 2017

Don't forget to renew your Church and Synagogue Library Association membership for 2017. Among the membership perks are:

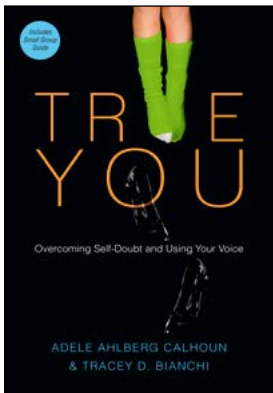
- Pricing discounts for CSLA Guides and Bibliographies
- A large registration discount for summer conferences
- Access to Congregational Libraries Today, including searchable back issues.
- The satisfaction of supporting a nonprofit organization specifically designed to meet your congregational library needs

If you have already renewed, THANK YOU.

If you have not, go online today and renew at www.cslainfo.org.

The body of the book is divided into three major themes: being available to ourselves, being available to others, and being available to God. Each chapter is filled with good information, a question for reflection, and scripture. Readers will find this book very helpful and a gentle reminder of the importance of service to others. The author submits that to be an effective servant, one must also be present with God and oneself.

This book is appropriate for clergy or congregational libraries. It could also be used in a group study setting and as suggested reading for spiritual development.—*Sharon T. Hinton*



True You: Overcoming Self-Doubt and Using Your Voice

Adele Ahlberg Calhoun and Tracey D. Bianchi. Intervarsity Press, 2015. 192p. \$16, paperback. ISBN: 9780830843152. www.ivpress.com 248.843 Christian women-Religious life. Self-doubt. Self-perception in women—Religious aspects—Christianity.

The authors' "attempt to gain awareness and solidarity on the key realities women face" is nicely achieved by Calhoun and

Bianchi as they blend their writing skills with personal experiences.

Twelve chapters are divided into three themes: True Life, True Relationships and True Influence. Each chapter opens with a six-word story, expands on a theme and concludes with suggestions to journal and practice truth as it relates to each theme.

Inviting women to introspection can become all about self, but biblical stories, quotes and observations keep the focus on issues. Readers will find they are not alone in their fears, hopes and aspirations.

A chart listing life stages is found in the True Wisdom chapter. The chart provides suggestions on how to face issues of beauty, vulnerability, letting go and temptation. The Small Group Guide provides scriptures and questions for each chapter, while a comprehensive list of recommended resources lists books, movies, articles and websites. A section aimed at men also offers questions

Disaster Management Planning for Small Libraries

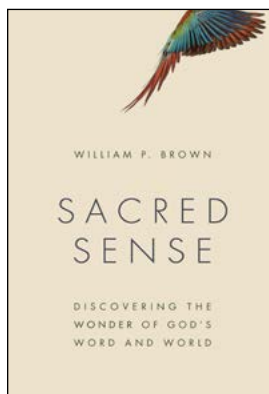
By Laura Dallas. (2015) Disaster can strike at any time. This is an excellent guide for producing a plan to be ready when "IT" happens. Succinct and to the point. \$10/\$12 + S&H

CSLA GUIDE



and suggestions. A notes section concludes the book.

This book is part of the publisher's Crescendo series with the tagline: courage, confidence and calling. Recommended for personal or group study.—*Carolyn Egolf*



Sacred Sense: Discovering the Wonder of God's Word and World

William P. Brown. Eerdmans, 2015. 172p. \$22, paperback. ISBN: 9780802872210. www.eerdmans.com 220.6 Bible—Criticism, interpretation, etc. Wonder. Awe.

According to the author, "God is encountered in wonder." In sixteen chapters, Brown expands the reader's concept

of wonder to include awe, surprise, reverence, wow and fear. Each chapter is anchored in scripture with emphasis often focused on God's world, its creation, change and continuity. Beginning with Genesis, readers are guided through the Old Testament concepts of "Cosmic" and "Grounded Wonder" in Genesis, "Playful Wonder" in Proverbs and "Mindful Wonder" as Job is given a cosmic tour of creation.

Additional chapters lead to the New Testament, where "Incarnation" and "Resurrection Wonder" are themes in John, and intriguing parallels are drawn between wisdom in Proverbs 8 and Christ in Colossians 1: 15-20. Readers are brought full circle when "river of life" and "trees of life" as found in Revelations 21-22 are linked to the Garden of Eden.

"Wonder is calling...in and for God's changing world" and in that spirit readers should come to the text with intention due to the in-depth vocabulary and surprising insights. Readers will be rewarded and renewed with a greater awareness of the many ways God sees and meets us in wonder.

Recommended for church libraries and persons desiring new ways to experience wonder in its sacred sense.—*Carolyn Egolf*

Classic Religious Books for Children

An Annotated Bibliography by Carol Campbell & Evelyn Pockrass. (2015). Completely redone from the previous edition. Carefully researched with helpful annotations and notes. Here are the very best children's religious books from several faith traditions. \$14/\$12 + S&H



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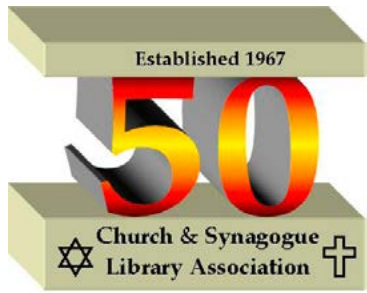
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>> *continued, page 23*



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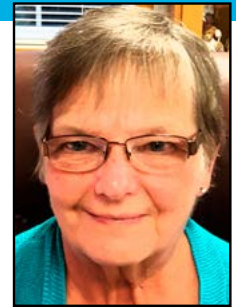
ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Another year of celebration awaits us in 2017

Now that the holidays are behind us, it is time to mark our calendars for a year of celebration. CSLA has been privileged to have had 50 wonderful years of service to libraries and librarians of all faiths. The conference committee is hard at work to provide us with a very special 50th anniversary conference. If you have not renewed your membership yet, please consider doing so and join us in the celebration. We also hope that you will be

able to participate in one or both of our two major fundraisers, 50 Dollars for 50 Years and Friends of CSLA.

Have a great year. We are looking forward to seeing each of you at the conference July 16-18 in Rochester, New York, at the DoubleTree hotel.



Save the Date: Center for the Book Event

If you will be in the Washington, DC area on March 14, 2017, don't miss the opportunity to connect with other librarians and bibliophiles at the annual Center for the Book symposium. If you are able to attend this year's event, please share what you learn with the CSLA membership by calling or emailing the Publications Chair, Susan Sponaas, 864-517-0557 or susansponaas7@gmail.com.

engaged societies and the best weapons against ignorance and intolerance." (CftB)

This year's event will feature a series of fantastic conversations about how the world of reading and literacy promotion is expanding, improving and making a difference in the lives of people



everywhere. They will meet at the Library of Congress James Madison Building. For more information contact Pam Jackson, Director, Center for the Book, 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., LM-650, Washington, DC 20540-1400. Phone: 202-707-3967 Email: PJackson@loc.gov.

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