

Open Secrets A Spiritual Journey Through A Country Church

The Princeton Seminary Bulletin Princeton Theological Seminary.2004 No. 1 of each vol. is the academic catalog of the Seminary, 1907-76.

Preaching Gospel Charles L. Campbell, Clayton J. Schmit, Mary Hinkle Shore, Jennifer Copeland.2016-08-30 Teaching preaching, like preaching itself, is a noble endeavor. After nearly four decades of teaching, Richard Lischer has sent legions of preachers across the world to preach gospel. This volume pays tribute to his faith-filled life of preaching and teaching. The contributors, some of whom were taught by Lischer, have received many laurels themselves, so readers will find in these pages wisdom for preaching from many quarters. Some authors include sermons with helpful commentary about the preaching exercise; some offer essays to illuminate the task of sermon writing; all acknowledge the influence of Richard Lischer on their preaching and teaching endeavors.

James and Jude William Frank Brosend.2004-06-21 Sample Text

Pillars of Faith Nancy Tatom Ammerman.2005-04-04 This book will be a classic in the field. It does something no other book has done—it shows, with one of the most impressive sets of data I have ever seen, what congregations do and how they go about doing it.—Michael Emerson, author of *Divided by Faith* Ammerman demonstrates rare mastery in a book that is brimming with original research and original thinking. The material is well organized, and the author has an eye for the well-turned phrase. This is a book of great importance that gives us an unprecedented picture of lived American religion while challenging stereotypes and conventional wisdom.—James Wind, President of the Alban Institute, author of *Finding a New Voice: The Public Role of Mainline Protestantism*

Living Hope Kurt Jacobson.2019-03-25 *Living Hope: Powerful Messages of Faith* is a selection of sermons by Pastor Kurt Jacobson which span thirty years of pastoral ministry in congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Based on biblical passages, readers will be drawn into fresh revelations of God who continually redeems and renews. Discover in these messages of hope and faith the sweeping narrative of how God seeks to be in relationship with us. Discover within how God enters and intersects with our daily life. The second section includes Pastor Kurt's Caring Bridge entries since being diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer in 2018. While sharing information about diagnoses and treatments, he again draws readers into the timeless, biblical message of hope, comfort, and encouragement.

The North Carolina Historical Review .2002

The Irrational Jesus Ken Evers-Hood.2016-11-10 Behavioral science books are popping up on bestseller lists: *Predictably Irrational*; *Thinking, Fast and Slow*; *Nudge*; *Decisive*. Even the White House launched a Behavioral Insights Team to match the British Ministry of Nudges. Conspicuously absent from this conversation is the church. *The Irrational Jesus* bridges this gap. Ken Evers-Hood looks at Jesus through the lens of cognitive heuristics (mental shortcuts) and biases (blind spots) and makes the case that a fully human Jesus is predictably irrational—just like all of us. Find out how the Apostle Paul's community building mirrors a prisoner's dilemma game and how this makes Paul an irrational leader, too. Discover how playing better games in church can foster hopeful, flourishing communities. Improve your decision-making; learn when to plan for irrationality and when to live into it. *The Irrational Jesus* addresses these issues and more. Integrating the insights of behavioral economists such as Dan Ariely, the gameful thinking of Jane McGonigal, and cutting-edge ideas from decision theory, Evers-Hood articulates a behavioral theology for fully human pastors of fully human congregations—a fresh perspective that will change how pastors and other church leaders see themselves, the institutions they serve, and the scriptural and theological tradition.

The Church Transforming Michael Jinkins.2012-06-25 In this book, theologian and author Michael Jinkins probes the present state and future of the Reformed faith. Addressing increasing division over scriptural authority, ordination and marriage of gay and lesbian people, and other social issues, Jinkins looks at some of the hallmarks of the Reformed faith and discusses how these can be viewed anew. Topics covered include scriptural interpretation, the place of Christ, living in community, the life of the mind, unity versus schism, and spirituality and mystery. He concludes by showing how the Reformed faith is not a castle to be defended but a living treasure of great gifts.

A Little Handbook for Preachers Mary S. Hulst.2016-03-11 No function of the pastor is as visible and stress inducing as preaching. Being a good preacher requires learning the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical skills needed to effectively share God's word with a congregation. It demands a commitment to the craft of preaching. But few pastors feel adequately prepared for this high-stakes responsibility when they begin their ministries. Mary Hulst knows what it takes to preach well. Forged by her experiences as a pastor, preaching professor and college chaplain, she recognizes the challenges of the pulpit. In this uniquely practical book, Hulst provides foundational concepts and tips that all pastors can use, whether they are ministry newcomers or seasoned professionals. Preaching can bring both you and your congregation great joy and satisfaction, week after week. And *A Little Handbook for Preachers* can help you deliver a better sermon by Sunday.

A Journey to the Promised Land J. Mastine Nisbett.2011 Dean Nisbett has crafted an excellent book that is carefully researched. He is a masterful storyteller, combining theology, sociology, history, scripture and church architecture into a masterpiece. Writing about the struggle of a suburban parish to build an edifice, the author cites numerous parallels between the Israelites' history and that of the parish. He recasts the Israelites' story into the contemporary, making the Bible relevant in demonstrating the ongoing work of God. Nisbett explores the struggle of African Americans to be integrated into the United States of America. He addresses the tension between West Indians and black Americans and notes the latter's significant contribution to the Episcopal Church. He recognizes the indelible contribution of the first African Americans who penetrated the white enclave of Cambria Heights. Recognition is also made of black Episcopalians for their valuable contribution to the society and for challenging the church to be honest to its Catholicity, insisting that they (black Episcopalians) be included into the Body of Christ. The author explicates the concept of vocation, the call to serve God in His church. He shares his personal experience. Very inspiring! A must read for those contemplating the ordained ministry. The book integrates the Church into the life of the community. It is an excellent tool for congregational development, and could serve as a model for congregations to chronicle their history from a theological perspective. In addition, the book will be useful to those researching the history of the ordination of black Episcopalians and the birth of the black Episcopal congregation in the United States. It is a wonderful resource for those considering church construction. Finally, the author theologizes the building and provides a helpful manual for every worshiper whom the author (in reference to 1st Peter) describes as living stones built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, The chief Corner Stone.

Unfettered Hope Marva J. Dawn.2003-03-31 In this prophetic call to faithful Christian living, Marva Dawn identifies the epidemic socio-cultural attitudes that destroy hope in our modern lives. Because affluent persons don't know what to value—how to choose what's important and weed out the rest—we remain dissatisfied with what we have and are compelled to want more. Dawn demonstrates, however, how Christians can organize their lives to live in ways that allow them to love God and neighbor and, in the process, alleviate the despair in their lives and in the lives of others in the world.

Insights from the Underside Neal D. Presa.2008

From Midterms to Ministry Allan Hugh Cole.2008-07-02 The distinguished contributors to this volume -- ministers, scholars, and theological educators -- share personal reflections on the sometimes-difficult transition from being a seminarian to becoming a minister. Based on their own life experiences, they address the two related but different worlds of theological school and ministry settings, each with its own set of expectations, values, challenges, focal points, and rewards. Contributors: Wallace M. Alston Jr. Ray S. Anderson M. Craig Barnes Elizabeth F. Caldwell Allan Hugh Cole Jr. Pamela D. Couture Kathy Dawson Carrie Doehring Michael Jinkins L. Gregory Jones Susan Pendleton Jones James F. Kay Cleophus J. LaRue Thomas G. Long Loren B. Mead Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore Earl F. Palmer Stephanie Paulsell Anthony B. Robinson Carol L. Schnabl Schweitzer Theodore J. Wardlaw Traci C. West William H. Willimon J. Philip Wogaman Karen Marie Yust

The Fully Alive Preacher Mike Graves.2006-01-01 Mike Graves begins this book with the question If preaching is intended to enliven the church,

why is it killing so many ministers? His answer? Because preaching has become divorced from the vitality and diversity of the preacher's daily life. He invites preachers to discover how preaching can be renewing rather than draining.

Faith and Freedom Martin Luther.2002-05-07 A spiritual resource and compelling reading for the general reader from a riveting selection of Martin Luther's collected works. *Faith and Freedom: An Invitation to the Writings of Martin Luther* is the first selection in decades for the general reader from the many dozens of volumes that constitute Martin Luther's collected works. The selections included here, chosen for their pastoral tone, speak across the centuries and inform the spiritual concerns of today. Drawing on Luther's Bible prefaces and commentaries, his treatises and sermons, his letters, his "table talk," and his enduring hymnbook, *Faith and Freedom* will provide a spiritual resource for anyone seeking the heritage of modern Christian spirituality. Moreover, it requires no specialized knowledge of Reformation theology or Church history. Rich in language, direct, powerful, fresh in ideas, and often disquieting in their effect, the writings of Luther provide compelling reading.

From the Editor's Desk John M. Buchanan.2016-10-01 The Christian Century, the most respected magazine for mainline Protestants in the world, has helped Christians think critically and live faithfully since 1884. The publication's former editor and publisher, John Buchanan, has compiled a collection of biweekly editorials from the magazine that highlight events, issues, and questions that progressive Christians faced at the turning of this century. A must-read for Christian Century fans, *From the Editor's Desk* examines ten key areas from the years 1999-2015, focusing on war and peace, civic engagement, newsworthy events, the Middle East, and congregational life.

Open Secrets Richard Lischer.2002-07-16 *Open Secrets* is Richard Lischer's story of his early career as a Lutheran minister. Fresh out of divinity school and full of enthusiasm, Lischer found himself assigned to a small conservative church in an economically depressed town in southern Illinois. This was far from what this overly enthusiastic and optimistic young man expected. The town was bleak, poor, and clearly not a step on his path to a brilliant career. It's an awkward marriage at best, a young man with a Ph.D. in theology, full of ideas and ambitions, determined to improve his parish and bring them into the twenty-first century, and a community that is as tightly sealed as a jar of home-canned pickles. In their own way, they welcome him and his family, even though they think he's got bigger fish to fry. Thus begins Richard Lischer's first year as a pastor: bringing communion to the sick (but forgetting to bring the wafers); marrying two unlikely couples--a pregnant teenager and her boyfriend, and two people who can't stop fighting. Often he doesn't understand his congregation, and sometimes they don't understand him; for instance, why does his wife hire a baby-sitter and instead of leaving, put on her bathing suit, grab a stack of novels, and hide from the kids? Or why can't Pastor Lischer see how important it is for a woman with little money to buy an elaborate coffin to bury her husband in? There are also the moments of grace, when pastor and parishioner unite for a common goal: when he asks for prayers for his infant son, and can feel everyone in the congregation ministering to him; when old hurts are put aside to help a desperate young woman finish college and raise her baby; or when he helps save a woman from dying of a drug overdose. In *Open Secrets* Lischer tells not only his own story but also the story of New Cana and all of its inhabitants--lovable, deeply flawed, imperfect people that stick together. With his sharp eye and keen wit, Lischer perfectly captures the comedy of small town life with all of its feuds, rumors, scandals, and friendships. In the end he learns to appreciate not only the life New Cana has to offer, but also the people who have accepted him, at last, as part of themselves.

Recess Laurie Haller.2015-02-01 After twenty years as a successful pastor, Laurie Haller was burned out. A Lilly Endowment grant gave her a rare opportunity to take a sabbatical from ministry and family to evaluate her ministry and life. *Recess* brings readers along as she travels from Michigan to Montana, South Carolina to France. The journey is equally introspective. Each page discloses her thoughts, prayers and passions. Ultimately *Recess* challenges us all to find a better balance between work and play, physical and spiritual health.

Feasting on the Word: Lent through Eastertide David Lyon Bartlett,Barbara Brown Taylor.2008-01-01 We have been honored to work with a multitude of gifted thinkers, writers, and editors. We present these essays as their offering-and ours-to the blessed ministry of preaching. -From the introduction by David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor --Book Jacket.

Educating Clergy Charles R. Foster.2006 Based on extensive literary and field research involving surveys, classroom observations, and interviews with faculty, students, and administrators in Roman Catholic, mainline and evangelical Protestant, and Reform and Conservative Jewish seminaries, *Educating Clergy* explores the influence of their historic traditions and academic settings in contemporary classroom and communal pedagogies. The book describes elements in classroom pedagogies shared across these religious traditions that distinctively integrate the cognitive, practical, and normative apprenticeships to be found in all forms of professional education.

Journey in the Wilderness Gil Rendle.2010-10-01 The last forty years have seen transitions in mainline churches that feel, for many, like a journey into the wilderness. Yet God is calling us in this moment, not to grieve over the changes we have experienced but to hear the call to a new mission, and a new faithfulness. In *Journey in the Wilderness*, Gil Rendle draws on decades as a pastor and church consultant to point a way into a hopeful future. The key to embracing the wilderness is to learn new skills in leading change, to reach beyond a position of privilege and power to become churches that serve God's hurting people.

Covenant Companion .2001

A Theology of Preaching Richard A. Lischer.2001-06-08 Richard Lischer's book is a stirring affirmation of preaching's importance as a major enterprise in its own right. It is, he writes,a theological preface whose aim is to show how theology informs preaching and how preaching, as a kerygmatic, oral, practical activity, informs theology and brings it to its final form of expression. Dr. Lischer points to the historically negative results of preaching's exclusion from theology, and then shows the benefits derived from the proper interaction of the two disciplines. As he elaborates on this theme, he explores the centrality of the Resurrection in both theology and preaching, the relation of the law and the gospel, and how preaching calls upon theology to recover its oral-aural foundation. For Lischer, the act of preaching is an exercise of the preacher's imagination. The real work of imagination is not inserting clever stories or esthetically-pleasing images into the argument of the sermon. It is knowing how to read texts in such a way that they will be allowed to function according to their original power and intent.

Contemplation and Compassion Steven Chase.2003 The Victorine spiritual tradition, originating at the Abbey of St. Victor in Paris in the twelfth century, was one of the most creative, exciting and productive traditions of the middle ages. The Victorines brought together scholarship, mysticism, liturgy and aesthetics into a fruitful and comprehensive synthesis. In a way that makes them the forerunners of many strands in contemporary thinking, they showed how no aspect of life can be compartmentalized or isolated, because every aspect of our life and personality is sacred and interconnected. Steven Chase's study is the first comprehensive overview of this important spiritual tradition. He introduces the key Victorines and their writings, including Hugh of St. Victor and Richard of St. Victor, rediscovering a hidden treasure in the history of the Church with great potential to enrich and energize contemporary spirituality and prayer. Book jacket.

Library Journal .2001

Our Sufficiency is of God Timothy George,James Earl Massey,Robert Smith.2010 Resources for preachers steadily appear, called forth by the perennial need on the part of working pastors for helpful and inspirational materials backed by tested experience, reverent scholarship, and creative insights. The essays in this book are of that cast, and each essay is the work of an experienced practitioner-scholar in the field of preaching. The chapters focus on the preaching ministry of Gardner Calvin Taylor, in whose honor the volume was prepared. They are offered, with affection and esteem, by colleagues, students, and friends, fellow preachers all, whose own attempts to speak the unsearchable riches of Christ owe much to the life and labors of Gardner C. Taylor.Considered by many as the greatest living American preacher, Gardner C. Taylor has often reminded other preachers about the need for divine help in fulfilling the call: All in all, a summons to the ministry is no light calling. The work of communicating the gospel requires us to be more than we are-to exceed who we are. This volume will lead readers to the realization of the need for grace and a sufficiency only found in God (II Cor 3:5, KJV) as indicated by the title: *Our Sufficiency Is of God*.

God's Potters Jackson W. Carroll.2006-03-31 Pastoral ministry is an occupation in flux. In this comprehensive study Jackson Carroll considers the many factors changing roles among clergy and laypeople, the opening of ordination to women, an increasing shortage of clergy, and more that are

shaping congregations and ministers today. Building on Paul's image of Christians as clay jars, Carroll paints a portrait of God's potters/pastors whose calling is to form their congregational jars so that they reveal rather than hide God's treasure. A veteran clergy watcher, Carroll uses data from what is likely the most representative survey of Protestant and Catholic clergy ever undertaken, as well as focus group interviews and congregational responses, to take a hard look at who is doing ministry today, what it involves, and how pastors are faring in leading their congregations. Significantly, his study covers clergy from a broad range of traditions: Catholic, mainline Protestant, conservative Protestant, and historic black churches. Replete with pertinent tables and figures, *God's Potters* culminates with specific strategies for strengthening pastoral leadership and nurturing excellence in ministry.

Teaching African American Religions Carolyn M. Jones Medine. 2005 The variety and complexity of its traditions make African American religion a difficult topic to teach at undergraduate level. The essays in this volume offer practical, innovative ways to teach this subject in a variety of settings.

Open Secrets Richard Lischer. 2001 A memoir of a young Lutheran minister's first years as a pastor in a small town in southern Illinois.

Letters to New Pastors Michael Jenkins. 2006-03-09 Presented as the letters of a mature pastor to several fictional recipients, *Letters to New Pastors* delves into the professional, emotional, and spiritual needs of those new to the ministry. In a manner reminiscent of C. S. Lewis's *Letters to Malcolm* and Reinhold Niebuhr's *Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*, Michael Jenkins connects readers with valuable pastoral wisdom gleaned from his years of ministry and from the riches of the Christian past. In these letters Jenkins explores such themes as developing one's own spiritual life, finding balance amid conflicting demands, and rediscovering the meaning of Christ's call for the church's future. Written in a comfortable, personal style, Jenkins's *Letters to New Pastors* is ideal not only for new pastors but also for anyone seeking to better understand the challenges facing those in ministry today.

The Multigenerational Congregation Gilbert R. Rendle. 2001-12-01 Congregations need to learn new cultural languages and practices in order to speak to and be heard by new generations of people. But how do congregations enter the wilderness of ministry with these new generations when many of those in the entourage do not appreciate the trip? In contrast to many writers about church growth, Rendle works with three important observations: (1) Most congregations are not pure markets, discrete groups with uniform values and behaviors, that can be targeted to the exclusion of all other audiences; (2) Some of the differences and discomforts experienced in the congregation are based on the members' tenure, or length of membership, rather than their age; and (3) Leadership in congregations is not a matter of marketplace savvy but of spiritual authenticity in which we continue to shape our faith tradition to be heard and understood by a changing culture.

Sermons on the First Readings: Cycle A John T. Ball, Bill Mosley, James L. Killen JR. 2004-06 Bring the Old Testament to life with this inspiring and thought-provoking collection of sermons for each Sunday and major celebration in the Church year. Based on the First Readings from Cycle A of the Revised Common Lectionary, these powerful messages by five exceptional preachers from diverse denominations explore the meaning of the Hebrew scriptures for today's Christian living. Abundant insights into vital current issues are woven together with powerful proclamation of timeless themes of justice and righteousness -- and these imaginative homilies are full of compelling examples of how a loving God uses us to further his divine plan. This essential resource is useful for: - Fresh homiletical approaches to the lectionary texts - Preaching illustrations - Understanding scripture passages - Adult study and discussion groups - Personal devotions and Bible study In this anthology, John T. Ball leads the reader from the biblical text into daily life while employing a wide array of theological and literary references. An exciting excursion into a thinking person's faith journey, Ball's sermons are a helpful primer for critically informed preachers and anyone who seeks to make sense of ancient truth in these perilous times. C. Joseph Sprague Bishop, Chicago Area United Methodist Church By weaving the biblical text together with appropriate stories and illustrations, Arley Fadness crafts messages that are engaging and compelling. Readers will find much useful material, not only for sermon preparation, but also for personal spiritual growth. Robert Dovenmuehler Pastor, St. John American Lutheran Church Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Accompany Them with Singing--The Christian Funeral Thomas G. Long. 2009-10-02 Thomas Long begins this fascinating volume by describing how the Christian funeral developed historically, theologically, and liturgically, and then discusses recent cultural trends in funeral practices, including the rise in both cremations and memorial services. He describes the basic pattern for a funeral service, details options in funeral planning, identifies characteristics of a good funeral, and provides thoughtful guidance for preaching at a funeral. Long also notes a disturbing trend toward funeral services that seem theologically right and pastorally caring, but actually depart from the primary aims of the Christian funeral. He argues that a new, less-theological and less-satisfying service that focuses on the mourner has begun to erode the Christian view. He contrasts the ancient grand community drama with today's trend toward body-less memorial services that focus primarily on the living and grief management. This is a loss for the church, he argues, and he calls for the church to reclaim the classic metaphor.

Ethan and Annie's Spiritual Journey T.F.T. Heart. 2021-04-27 Selecting a church is one of the most important decisions you'll make in your life. Your spiritual life and your attitude will be greatly affected by your choice. In *Ethan and Annie's Spiritual Journey*, author and minister T.F.T. Heart discusses the issues church members and ministers face as they strive to serve God. He shares a fictional story about Ethan and Annie Hudson, a just-married couple who are in search of a church home and a spiritual life. Heart tells how as simple as that sounds, it is not the word to describe their journey. Through the Hudson's story, Heart focuses on the churchgoers and the issues they may encounter in their Christian walk, while highlighting the minister and his effect on the congregation. *Ethan and Annie's Spiritual Journey* serves as an illuminating force to encourage and restore those who may have walked away from Christ, and it seeks to strengthen those who are striving to stay on the right path. Many view death as life's greatest tragedy, but Heart maintains that a life without Christ and a purpose is the ultimate tragedy.

Being in Ministry Douglas Purnell. 2010-01-01 An experienced pastoral practitioner writes with poetic insight and reflective discipline about the practice of ministry and the life of the priestly person. Doug Purnell is also a professional artist and the book shares many of his drawings as part of the text. His book will touch you deeply. It will not be a gentle read, but it will be ministry shaping. You will think in new ways about ministry and about the role of the priestly person as a result of reading this book. You will be enriched.

Book Review Digest .2002

Preaching Mark in Two Voices Brian K. Blount, Gary W. Charles. 2002-01-01 Brian Blount and Gary Charles team up to introduce us anew to Mark's Gospel. Reinterpreting Mark through sermons preached out of very different socio-cultural contexts, Blount draws parallels between Mark's message and the African American church's heritage of slavery and oppression while Charles wrestles with making the Gospel relevant to well-educated white suburbanites. Each chapter begins with an exegetical study and sermon by one author. Then, the other preacher responds from his own context, offering a different view of the text.

The Sense of the Call Marva J. Dawn. 2006-02-21 In *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*, Dawn introduced the vital Sabbath aspects of resting, ceasing, feasting, and embracing. Now, she expands these into a way of life for serving God and the Kingdom every single day of the week. (Practical Life)

The Drama of Doctrine Kevin J. Vanhoozer. 2005-08-02 Observing a strange disappearance of doctrine within the church, Kevin Vanhoozer argues that there is no more urgent task for Christians today than to engage in living truthfully with others before God. He details how doctrine serves the church--the theater of the gospel--by directing individuals and congregations to participate in the drama of what God is doing to renew all things in Jesus Christ. Taking his cue from George Lindbeck and others who locate the criteria of Christian identity in Spirit-led church practices, Vanhoozer relocates the norm for Christian doctrine in the canonical practices, which, he argues, both provoke and preserve the integrity of the church's witness as prophetic and apostolic.

School Library Journal .2001

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