

May

MULTI-MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

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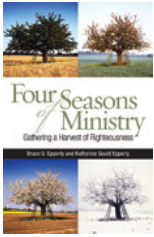
Mon. Wed. 8:30am-3:30pm & Fri. 8:30am-2:30pm

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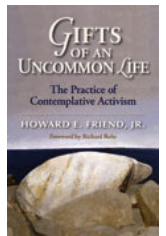
2009

All brand new:



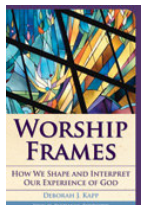
253Epp *Four Seasons of Ministry, Gathering a Harvest of Righteousness* by Bruce Epperly, Katherine Gould Epperly and the Alban Institute Ministers often find themselves caught in the day-to-day pressures of leading a congregation and yearn to experience the unfolding of their professional lives from a larger perspective. This book serves as a guide for what you will find on your ministerial journey and gives meaning to the routine and repetitive tasks of ministry. The authors, each of whom has over 25 years of experience in various pastoral roles, invite clergy to see their ministries in the present as part of a life-long adventure in companionship with God, their loved ones, and their congregations. There is a time and a season to every ministry. Healthy and vital pastors look for the signs of the times and the gifts of each swiftly passing season, but they also take responsibility for engaging the creative opportunities of each season of ministry. Those who listen well to the gentle rhythm of God moving through their lives and the responsibilities and challenges that attend the passing of the years, vocationally as well as chronologically, will be amazed at the beauty and truth that shapes and characterizes the development of their ministries. 193 pages.

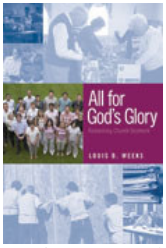
253.22Fri *Gifts of an Uncommon Life, The Practice of Contemplative Activism* by Howard E. Friend, Jr. and The Alban Institute This book of ten essays is a breath of fresh air, a source of inspiration, a wake-up call, and a bold challenge for pastors, congregational leaders, and church members—both active and lapsed—who long for a new perspective, even a touch of creative irreverence. With an invitation to quietness and stillness, inner strength and resilience, audacious hope and insistent confidence, it welcomes those among the people of God who do not belong to a church or name themselves as Christian. Yet it does not shy away from raising difficult questions. Howard Friend offers forthright, at times disarming, candor as he shares his personal pilgrimage of activism rooted in contemplation. Convinced that God still seeks to work in and through the church, Friend shows us where God is present—at times despite the church itself. In his opinion, the church needs to stir the pot, upset the applecart, and dare to welcome the new and refreshing. Yet Friend remains hopeful for and committed to the church, calling and equipping it to become its highest and best. Drawing on a range of stories from the Bible and his own lived experiences, Friend invites us to meet real people—pastors, leaders, everyday folks—who dare to dream a new dream, journey toward a far horizon, walk with tireless determination, and press on with awesome hope. 225 pages.



263.0424611Geo *One Step at a Time: A Pilgrim's Guide to Spirit-Led Living* by Timothy C. Geoffrion and The Alban Institute Each year, tens of thousands of pilgrims walk el Camino de Santiago—the Way of St. James—a 500-mile route across northern Spain that has existed for over a thousand years. The author made this pilgrimage with his wife and teenage sons in 2006. He writes not only about his own journey but about how God works in those who seek to be led by the Spirit. Using pilgrimage as a metaphor for the Spirit-led life, he offers his experiences, thoughts, and reflections as a catalyst for readers' own spiritual pilgrimage—the lifelong journey of growth into the life Christ intends for us. Geoffrion has written so that readers can learn to recognize God's activity in our lives, to live more fully in God's love, to follow Jesus Christ according to our unique calling and purpose, and to let the Holy Spirit fill and lead us in every aspect of the journey. Whether or not we ever travel a path like El Camino, we can each learn how to better walk our own spiritual pilgrimage, one step at a time. 244 pages.

264.22Kap *Worship Frames: How We Shape and Interpret Our Experience of God* by Deborah J. Kapp and The Alban Institute Worship is a congregation's most important practice. In worship we encounter God's gracious presence and come face to face with the frailty, goodness, and potential of our humanity. We are comforted, corrected, forgiven, healed, challenged, and sometimes even disturbed by the divine and one another. We are morally formed and sent by God into the world. The mysterious and uncontrollable work of the Spirit is at the heart of all genuine worship. Yet worshipers and leaders work hard to worship. In *Worship Frames*, Deborah Kapp explores how the sociological concept of frames can help us better understand the social and human dynamics of worship. Frames are interpretive schemes or ideas that help people locate, understand, and identify their experiences. For example, opening a service with a period of silent reflection followed by a sober hymn is a different frame for worship than opening with congregational announcements and a loud call-and-response session. She has found that this theory has opened her eyes to dynamics in worship she had not noticed before and best helped her understand differences in worship styles. 129 pages.



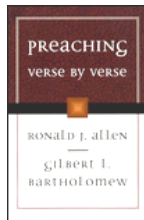
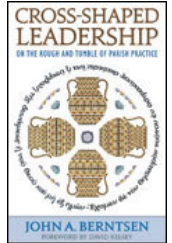


254.22Wee *All for God's Glory: Redeeming Church Scutwork* by *Louis B. Weeks*

Nobody likes scutwork, the unwanted dregs of the working day. Pastors are no exception to this, often dreading the endless e-mails and phone calls, having no heart for putting together one more bulletin or attending one more meeting, all of which feels like so much distraction from the "true" pastoral work to which they have been called. Louis Weeks challenges that paradigm and lifts up scutwork as an integral part of pastoral care and leadership. How can we administer congregations in ways most likely to increase the measure of pastoral care? How can our service, in menial and glorious work alike, build up the Body of Christ? How can all the work and worship in this congregation help God's work in the world? Preparation, organization, and other administrative duties are crucial for effective programs and mission in a congregation as elsewhere in society. Preaching, teaching, and pastoral care—three indispensable parts of congregational life—all depend upon competent congregational administration. It is through focused attention to the details of scutwork that pastors are able to build solid relationships within the congregation, and without the trust that comes from these relationships, no true pastoral care and leadership is possible. This book explores ways in which churches are engaged and can engage in practices of administration that deepen care and build a healthy congregational community. 170 pages.

253.22Ber *Cross-Shaped Leadership: On the Rough and Tumble of Parish Practice* by

John A. Berntsen and The Alban Institute For Lutheran pastor John Berntsen, the cross is about more than the crucifixion on Good Friday. It is shorthand for the whole drama of salvation—God's decisive act of reconciling the world to God's own self. The cross is dying and rising with Christ, but at a deeper level it is the story of the world's resistance to grace. Those who lead are subject to the cross no less than others. In contrast with the current fashion for "visionary" or "purpose-driven" leaders, cross-shaped leaders are not primarily the providers of master plans, nor are they master builders. Cross-shaped leadership is provisional, contextual, and fallible—open-ended ministry that has the character of a pilot project. It is always under construction and revision. Our moment-by-moment functioning in ministry is subject to countless deaths and resurrections, few of which are heroic or glorious. But Berntsen offers good news within this potentially dismal perspective. He writes, "Once we've accepted the truth that ministry is hard, even impossible—once we've stopped living in denial of this reality, or perhaps whining about it—it becomes the truth that sets us free. We cease being gloomy servants, weighed down by our resentful conviction that we are all alone in our work—the closet atheism born of the worry, 'If I don't do it, nobody will'—and instead become joyful coworkers of a strong, wise, and consoling Lord." 140 pages.

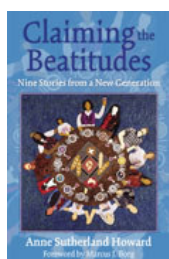
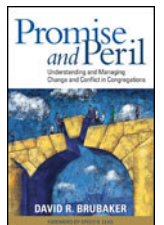


251.21All *Preaching Verse by Verse* by *Ronald J. Allen and Gilbert L. Bartholomew*

Ronald Allen and Gilbert Bartholomew introduce preachers to verse-by-verse preaching, in which the sermon unfolds much like a commentary on the Bible: the preacher interprets the passage unit by unit. They note its applicability in a variety of settings and occasions, and offer practical suggestions for preparing a sermon in the style, including sample sermons from different genres and tips for keeping it fresh, vital, and engaging. 144 pages.

250.22Bru *Promise and Peril: Understanding and Managing Change and Conflict in Congregations* by *David R. Brubaker and The Alban Institute*

Congregations cannot exist without finances, priorities, leadership, worship, and decision making, yet these five aspects of congregational life breed the most conflict between church members and clergy. These conflicts unfortunately tend to bring about the most negative consequences: drops in giving, resignation of leaders, and perhaps most pointedly loss of members. The importance of congregations and their effect on our lives is clear, yet what is less clear is what makes conflicts in faith communities inevitable. In this book, David Brubaker brings the tools of organizational theory and research to the task of understanding the deeper dynamics of congregational conflict. With a doctorate in sociology and more than twenty years working with congregational conflicts, Brubaker helps to explore the causes and effects of conflicts on a wide range of congregations. This book will help congregations avoid the pitfalls of conflict and instead head toward a healthy relationship between and among church staff and members. 169 pages.



241.5How *Claiming the Beatitudes, Nine Stories from a New Generation* by *Anne*

Sutherland Howard and The Alban Institute Finding church in a pub, learning to give and receive mercy, fighting global slave trade, turning the world upside down through salt and light. Though Jesus spoke the words of the beatitudes thousands of years ago, people throughout our society are continuing to adjust their way of modern living in the hopes of changing the world around them. With her experience both as an Episcopal priest and as Executive Director of the Beatitudes Society, Anne Sutherland Howard meets these people around the world and shares their inspiring stories. In this book, Howard asks the questions, "What would the beatitudes look like today? Is it possible to live a beatitudes life in today's world?" Through nine remarkable stories of young pastors and seminarians, we are introduced to a world where the beatitudes are not an unreachable moral standard, but a simple set of guidelines by which we can try to live our lives. Howard reminds us that "these are not impossible hero stories; these are simply people of commitment and conviction and courage who invite us to join them in their daily practice." 150 pages.