

Dec.

MULTI-MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

323 Main St., Bellwood, PA 16617

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

Phone: 814-742-2200 Fax: 814-742-2214

Web Page: www.huntingdonresources.org

Email: mariecarlson1@verizon.net

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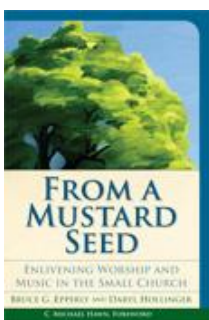
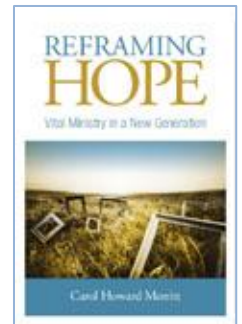
Brand new:



AS285Wee Stewardship of Creation by Henry G. Brinton & PC(USA) (This is from the *Being Reformed, Faith Seeking Understanding Series*) Christians have a responsibility to make wise use of the environment God has given us. These lessons explore biblical bases for our care of the creation along with sessions on "Being Green" at home, at church, and in the world. The sessions are full of very practical suggestions for ways individuals and churches can be better stewards of the environment, cut energy costs, and practice environmentally-conscious living in a variety of ways. The reconciliation of humans and creation is an overarching goal. These studies will be enlightening and helpful for laity and churches interested in carrying out our responsibilities to care for planet earth. Participant's book is 44 pages and the leaders guide is 28 pages.

253.22Mer Reframing Hope; Vital Ministry in a New Generation by Carol Howard

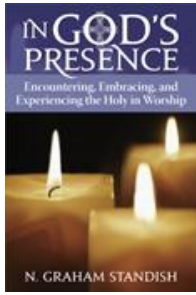
Merritt & The Alban Institute Much has been written about the changing landscape the church finds itself in, and even more about the church's waning influence in our culture. From her vantage point as an under-40 pastor, the author, moves away from the handwringing toward a discovery of what ministry in, with, and by a new generation might look like. What does the substance of hope look like right now? What does hope look like when it is framed in a new generation? Motivated by these questions, Merritt writes this book with the understanding that we are not creating from nothing the vital ministry of the next generation. Instead, we are working through what we have, sorting out the best parts, acknowledging and healing from the worst, and reframing it all. She explores the spirit of collaboration that has grown up in our culture as the diffusion of authority continues to move toward a network of sharing resources and information. She shares the spiritual longing she sees in those of her generation and acknowledges that people will no longer settle for one-way preaching and entertaining services—they want their worship to become meaningful; they want their spirituality to lead to action. Merritt believes that if we can manage to navigate many of these important shifts, the years ahead are full of hope, but only if we recognize and welcome the changes that will come and open ourselves to what new adaptations will bring to us. 147 pages.



264.22Epp From a Mustard Seed; Enlivening Worship and Music in the Small Church by Bruce G. Epperly, Daryl Hollinger & The Alban Institute

Small congregations can have beautiful worship! In this book, an experienced pastor-professor and an experienced church musician provide a model for faithful and excellent worship in congregations that average 75 or fewer people in weekly worship. While the limitations of small congregations are obvious to their members and leaders, the possibilities for creative music and worship are often greater than we can imagine. Epperly and Hollinger integrate theology, spiritual formation, and practical guidance for nurturing diverse, inspirational, and transforming worship in small congregations. Grounded in a solid theology of worship, they provide tried-and-true approaches to congregational music and singing, worship planning, liturgies that transform, and healthy partnerships between pastors and church musicians. God is present in small congregations, and the authors help pastors,

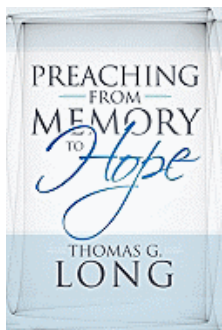
church musicians, and active laypersons awaken to God's activity in every aspect of worship and music. They illuminate possibilities for opening to God in worship and music through their own stories, the stories of congregations and their pastors, practical counsel, spiritual practices, and theological reflection. 210 pages.



264.22Sta *In God's Presence; Encountering, Experiencing, and Embracing the Holy in Worship* by N. Graham Standish & The Alban Institute

Vibrant worship services, argues creative and provocative author Graham Standish, are those in which the congregation obviously asks questions such as: Does our worship help people experience God? Does our worship open people to the presence of Christ? Does our worship encourage people to become available to the Holy Spirit? Unfortunately, he observes, too many worship services are perfunctory, suggesting that many churches don't think much about how to connect people with God. *In God's Presence* makes the case that congregations must restore intentionality and authenticity to worship in a way that will open people to the Holy. Intentionality, he says, reflects a deep

understanding of what tradition has attempted to do, what contemporary people are hungry for, what is going on in our culture, and how to connect the three. Standish advocates what he calls an "integrated" approach to worship, one that maintains the distinctiveness of each element of worship as a counterpoint to other elements. He first explores the problem of worship in the current church. Then he looks at ways to reconceive worship with an emphasis on restoring the Holy to worship. Finally, he looks at ways to lead a congregation to consider new ways of worshiping. This book is about how to open people to an encounter with the Holy in worship, how to follow God in this pursuit, and how to lead those who have no interest in the Holy. 159 pages.

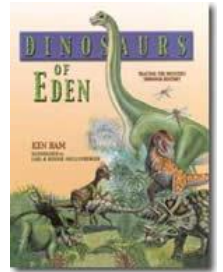


252Lon *Preaching From Memory to Hope* by Thomas G. Long In this compelling and hard-hitting book, respected preacher and writer Tom Long identifies and responds to what he sees as the most substantive theological forces and challenges facing preaching today. The issues, he says, are fourfold: the decline in the quality of narrative preaching and the need for its reinvigoration ; the tendency of preacher to ignore God's action and presence in our midst; the return of the church's old nemesis, gnosticism-albeit in a milder form-evidenced in today's new 'spirituality'; and the absence of eschatology in the pulpit. Long once again has his finger on the pulse of American preaching, demonstrated by his creative responses to these challenges. Whether he is calling for theologically smarter and more ethically discerning preaching, providing a method of interpretation that will allow pastors to recover the emphasis

on God in our midst, or encouraging an 'interfaith dialogue; with gnosticism, he demonstrates why he has long been considered one of the most thoughtful and intelligent preachers in America today. 152 pages.

C231.7Ham *Dinosaurs of Eden; Tracing the Mystery through History* by Ken Ham

Readers of all ages will take a thrilling ride in a time machine to the past when dinosaurs lived—a ride not through millions of years, but to a time not so long ago! Filled with stunning artwork, this fun family book will transport you on a breathtaking journey through the "time-gate" of the Bible, the true history book of the universe! This captivating adventure by popular writer Ken Ham projects you back to the Garden of Eden and to the real world inhabited by dinosaurs—and to the exciting days of Noah's flood and the Tower of Babel. You'll be there watching ... traveling through the centuries ... learning the true history of the earth, and along the way discovering the very meaning and purpose of life! Join us on this journey to the very beginning of time—when dinosaurs roamed Eden! 62 pages.



AS285Wee *Recognizing God's Grace* by Louis B. Weeks & PC(USA)(This is from the *Being Reformed, Faith Seeking Understanding Series*) Recognizing God's Grace by Louis B. Weeks The grace of God is a very important theological theme. It is central in Reformed theology and helps us understand the nature of God as well as how we receive salvation, and how God wants us too live our lives. These lessons examine grace in the Bible, through Christian history, and Reformed understandings of grace. They then turn to graceful lives today, practicing grace, and amazing grace. These combinations of Scripture, history, theology, and practical life examples make the concept of grace come alive for us. Grace becomes a theological reality as well as a way we can

reflect the nature of God in our daily experiences and relations with others. Participant's book is 42 pages and the leaders guide is 28 pages.