



BE RESOURCE-FUL - The Resource Center Newsletter

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For Pastors, Educators, Youth Ministry & Lay Leaders

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Betty's Byline

IT'S GONE!

No need to panic - it's the holiday season that is now history. Is anyone counting the days until the next one? Of immediate interest and concern is the church season that is coming up next month - Lent. ...and all the weeks leading up to the glorious celebration of Easter. Are you and your church ready? Just a reminder that the RESOURCE CENTER has a wealth of "good stuff cheap". Sorry, Ollies, for borrowing your slogan. All sorts of books, kits, and audio-visuials about Jesus' life and ministry, plus program and worship resources, are available to borrow at no cost - for both personal or group use. It is wonderful to have so much great electronic information at our fingertips, but don't overlook the resources that the Center can provide, as well!

DID YOU KNOW...

that the Center has a set of Resurrection Eggs for use in the classroom or for a children's talk during worship? There are two books that can be used in conjunction with the eggs.

* **BENJAMIN'S BOX: A Resurrection Story**
Melody Carlson - Gold 'n Honey Books
30 pp for children ages 5-10
Benjamin, a curious young boy, follows Jesus when He comes to Jerusalem the last week of his life. Benjamin discovers that Jesus is a teacher and a king, along with the Good News that comes from His death and resurrection. Each day he adds a new "treasure" to his box as a reminder of Jesus' experiences during that week.

* **THE STORY OF THE RESURRECTION EGGS IN RHYME AND SONG**

Jean Thomason & Nancy Gordon
Integrity Publisher 32pp, for preschoolers
Features Miss Patty Cake, who opens up the wonder of Easter as she invites her young friends to a very special Easter egg hunt and explains the fascinating stories behind each of the 12 eggs.

COMING UP SOON

Mark your calendar NOW and save this date: Sunday February 12. That's the day of our presbytery's annual LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY. It is being held at First Presbyterian Church, Strasburg, from 2 - 5 PM, with registration beginning at 1:30 PM. Following the keynote address for everyone about our new form of government, participants have the opportunity to choose from 8 workshops that cover a wide variety of topics of interest and concern to all leaders in your church - from teachers to officers, and everyone in between! Preregistration deadline is Friday, February 10 - contact the presbytery office for full details. (717-392-4035)

SOUP'S ON

SOUPer Bowl Sunday is February 5. Here is a super opportunity to highlight the needs of those who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. Invite your congregation to bring in cans of soup that day to donate to a local food bank. Also provide the opportunity to contribute \$\$\$ to aid an organization that is helping those in need. It is a great mission project for your youth to become involved in. Need more info? Contact Rick Schmidt. presbytery Hunger Enabler. He also likes to hear the result of your church's contributions. (717-880-6436)



A YEAR OF SERVICE...

for a lifetime of change

The Young Adult Volunteer Program of our denomination offers opportunities for service and learning for young men and women from age 19-30. There are 16 different places to serve nationally and internationally in a variety of fields. For 1 academic year YAVs live in communities of need and participate in Bible study and vocational discernment with other YAVs.

For more information visit this web site:

www.pcusa.org/yav

SING JOYFULLY

A new Presbyterian hymnal is in the works. The selection process is underway in a partnership with the Office of Theology, Worship and Education and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. This will be completed in time for a presentation of the list of the hymnal's contents to the 2012 General Assembly in Pittsburgh this June. The new hymnal will be published in 2013. "A Sampler of Hymns and Songs for Worship" is available for use until May of this year. It includes a few of the songs and hymns under consideration for inclusion. Persons are invited to give feedback on the sampler, including the type used to print the selections, the color of the cover and the title of the hymnal. More information on the project may be found at the web site: www.presbyterianhymnal.org

CHECK THIS OUT

A valuable resource that has been mentioned previously in this newsletter - but truly deserves repeating - is THE THOUGHTFULCHRISTIAN, published by our denomination for use in small group study. Its tag line is "Faithful living in a complex world." Short term studies written by a number of outstanding authors cover a wide variety of topics of interest and concern to -you've guessed it- thoughtful Christians. The topics range

from theological to contemporary issues. There is a modest cost for this service. A leader's guide and a participant's hand-out that may be copied for class use is provided for each subject you select to use. You choose from an extensive list of topics, so it's easy to tailor your class content to the desires of those participating.

WORTH A LOOK

Does your church use the Revised Common Lectionary in worship? If so, would you like to have members of your congregation more attuned to each week's service? Have you discovered this valuable book: KEEPING HOLY TIME, edited by Douglas E. Wengeier and published by Abington? There is a book for each of the 3 years of the lectionary cycle. It's ideal for a small group study that will help participants celebrate and more fully understand and appreciate all the themes of Christian life and faith. Each week's study includes a brief exegesis on the 4 Scripture selections, so that over the year persons attending the class will receive a systematic study of the Bible. For use by both adults and older youth.

DO YOU KNOW?

What are your primary spiritual gifts? Learn more by taking the Gifted2Serve on-line Spiritual Gifts Inventory at <http://buildingchurch.net/g2s.htm> You might be pleasantly surprised to discover how you can use your gifts to extend God's great kingdom of peace and joy in your congregation and in your church community.

HERE'S THE SCOOP...

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

- John C. Marshall

