

This Odd and Wondrous Calling.

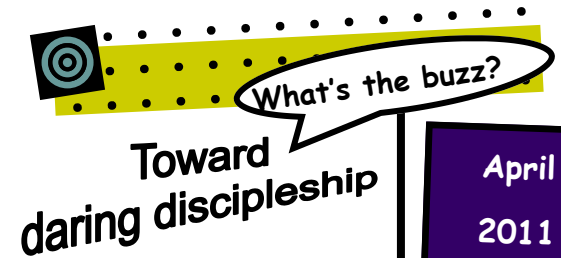
Lillian Daniel

Martin Copenhaver

Eerdmens: Michigan, 2009.



More buzz



Toward
daring discipleship

April
2011

I had the opportunity to share some excerpts from this book at the Hamilton Conference Committee on internship and educational supervision in March. It is a book that, I believe, anyone contemplating Parish Ministry would benefit from reading. It is also a book that I, in retirement, found incredibly affirming. It is not a scholarly book, it is a very down to earth sharing of great insights about ministry from the inside, including the mundane, profound, humorous, life giving and challenging experiences of two very perceptive, intuitive authors who know their craft. They weave stories of shaking hands at the door, navigating a clergy marriage, handling money, hospital visiting, meetings and more.

Let me entice you with a few chapter titles: *Can We Be Friends?*, *I Was Looking For The Minister But You'll Do*, *What Kind Of Strange Place Is This?* and *The Ministry of Angels*, to name but a few.

My favourite chapter is, *Shaking Hands In Church*, in which Martin Copenhaver makes the observation that, after listening to someone else's words and reading words that someone else wrote, this is the time when parishioners can give voice to their own concerns. It's a chance for them to say something about their lives. Wise pastors would do well to pay close attention to this mundane activity.

If you are looking for a light, but profoundly meaningful read, this is the one.

Rick Hawley

Movies

Spirituality and Practice hosts film reviews and recommendations:



<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/films/>

Tools

Businessballs.com free ethical and learning resources online

Mindtools.com skills for leadership

Prezi.com presentations beyond slides or powerpoint

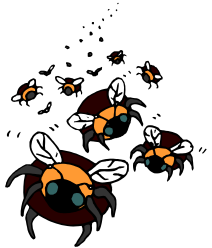
Thank you to Rick Hawley, Diane Matheson, Jan McCormick and Daryl Webber for their contributions to TDD this month.

What's the buzz?

From the desk of Lorna MacQueen
Minister - Faith Formation for Discipleship
Hamilton Conference
The United Church of Canada

What's the buzz?

What church folks in Hamilton Conference are reading and buzzing about...



**HAMILTON
CONFERENCE**
The United Church of Canada



Go Deep

Spiritual Practices for Youth Ministry

Doris E. Kizinna

CopperHouse: Kelowna, 2009

When I was first 'voluntold' for leadership with the youth group at my church, it was painfully clear to me that I was ill equipped to be helping young people dig deeper into their relationship with Creator God.



Like most who are new to ministry with youth, I spent endless hours in bookstores and at conferences trying to glean wisdom at the feet of the youth ministry 'gurus'. The piece that was missing, I now know, is feeding my own spirit. Without knowing it, I had been longing for a resource that would help me provide meaningful experiences for youth and that would deepen my own relationship with the Divine.

A few months ago, a colleague recommended that I read Doris Kizinna's *Go Deep* and I immediately loved it. Kizinna provides a detailed outline in this resource of spiritual practices that are appropriate to use with youth and that also nurture the faith life of those in ministry with youth. This text has helped me examine my own spiritual practices, as well as provide opportunities for the youth I serve to develop and respond to their connection with Holy Mystery.

Go Deep is a must have for those in ministry with youth and young adults!

Diane Matheson

No Impact Man: *The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process*

Colin Beavan Farrar, Straus, and Giroux: New York, 2009.



Here is a fun and engaging read that is a good Easter Story with its message of dying, rolling the stone away, and rising into newness of life, and a great Pentecost story reminding us about Community, Creation and Soul, the hallowing, stewardship, and sharing of our common life together as one people.

Have your solar-charged computer handy to track his sites and resources as Beavan writes about his year long endeavour to reduce his carbon footprint and live simply with his family in New York. Taking on the challenge to eliminate household waste, weaning not only himself but his family off electricity, fossil fuels, fast foods, and practicing "inconspicuous consumption" by finding alternatives to purchasing anything new, Beavan wrestles with the myth our culture sells our families about what comprises the Good Life and how entrenched and ultimately enslaved we are in to that life.

Stepping off the treadmill and unplugging from the world allows him to re-imagine lifestyle, values, his contribution to the communities around him, and his place in politics and ideologies of the wider world. Beavan, in his searching out "how he and his family will live", discovers that they are nurtured, discipled, inspired and encouraged by a community of people who have been quietly practicing for years and what he is introducing to his readers as a new way life. The ideas others have offered him may prove fruitful for us too.

For Beavan it has been a year of growth, not a year of denial and "hair shirts." For me it was a hopeful read about a grass roots movement that is beginning to hold promise and life for more and more people.

Daryl Webber



The Star in my heart: *Experiencing Sophia, Inner Wisdom.*

Joyce Rupp

Ave Maria: Notre Dame, 1999

Several years ago, the Women's Spirituality Group at our Church chose *A Star In My Heart, Experiencing Sophia, Inner Wisdom* by Joyce Rupp, as our basis for exploration and discussion.

I had never heard of "Sophia", (which is a Greek word meaning "wisdom") and I was fascinated by the thought of a feminine aspect of God.

Each chapter of *A Star In My Heart* invites spiritual exploration and includes questions for reflection and journaling. Rupp also includes some of her poems, many of which I find quite moving. Joyce Rupp's approach to writing is relaxed and easy to understand and relate to. It feels, to me, like a conversation with a friend.



I was inspired to continue exploring the concept of wisdom. I would also recommend: *Wisdom's Daughters, Stories of the Women Around Jesus* by Elizabeth Watson and *In Wisdom's Path, Discovering the Sacred in Every Season* by Jan L. Richardson. I recently purchased Joyce Rupp's *Prayers to Sophia Deepening Our Relationship with Holy Wisdom*. This book of prayers is largely taken from Rupp's personal prayer journal. She says: "This is reflective of my relationship with Sophia. It is a personal one. As this relationship continually unfolds, she constantly leads me deeper, challenges me to grow freer, and keeps inviting me to be more truly my best self."

Jan McCormick