

Advent Resources from Mennonite Church Canada

CALENDAR

We offer resources for...

Oct 2	Worldwide Communion Sunday
Oct 9	Thanksgiving Sunday
Nov 6	Peace Sunday
Nov 27	First Advent

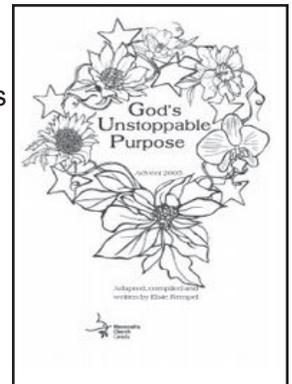
Resource Update

- Highlights faith and church ministry resources that Mennonite Church Canada makes available by loan, sale or electronic download.
- is distributed 10 times a year by Mennonite Church Canada in its congregational *Equipping* package.
- For a free personal email subscription to the **Resource Update** contact resources@mennonitechurch.ca
- Submissions of a special worship service, litany or celebration are always welcome. Share with us and other congregations!
- Links in this publication are LIVE - just click to enter our website.

Editor: Arlyn Friesen Epp
Designer: Lynette Wiebe

A Pathway to Jesus: 2005 Intergenerational Christmas Pageant. Link your Christmas pageant with your Sunday School lessons! Sunday Schools using the Jubilee curriculum or the Centered Teaching supplement will be able to easily co-ordinate their sessions with preparation for this congregational Christmas event. Download a free copy at www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7261.

God's Unstoppable Purpose. Link your family devotions to congregational worship! This at-home family resource for the weeks of Advent through Epiphany follows the texts and themes of the worship materials in Leader magazine. The booklet includes worship ideas, prayers and activities suitable for your home. Download a free copy at www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7144.



Peace Sunday Materials

Like an Everflowing Stream: Water, Faith, and Justice: 2005 Mennonite Central Committee Peace Packet . Water is one of the elements essential to survival. It is also a wellspring of imagery in our faith experience. As partners with God in caring for the Earth's resources, use Peace Sunday – November 6 - as a time to consider how we can work together so that all God's children may have an adequate share of clean, life-giving water. Watch for your Peace Packet, recently sent to your congregation from MCC or preview a copy from the Resource Centre.



KidsPak

Peace Roots and Fruits: Fall 2005 KidsPak Project . Support the peacemaking efforts of Mennonite Church Canada's websites and Resource Centre. Help us share the good news of active peacemaking with children and adults across the street and around the world. Download a free copy at www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7243.

Childrens' Corner

Resources for the church library, home, Sunday School class or Sunday morning storyteller.



Online Children's Stories

Following the lectionary but stumped for a children's story? Check out Mennonite Church Canada's growing collection of weekly children's features online! Written by MC Canada constituents, each story is accompanied with an object lesson or a set of "wondering" questions, making them user-friendly and ready-at-hand. Check the collection at www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/23/6796.

Route to...

- Librarian
- Pastor(s)
- Worship Planners
- Education Coordinator
- Church Secretary

Peace Sunday Materials cont'd



Peace Boxes. All about peace. All in one box. Dozens of resources for children, families, youth, small groups, congregational worship and more. Reserve from the Resource Centre in time for Peace Sunday activities.

Peace Bulletin Inserts. "The Peace of Christ and the Peace of Rome." A bulletin insert from the Second Mile curriculum website: www.gosecondmile.org/bulletin.htm.

Can't Keep Quiet – Charlotte 2005. Wished you could have been at Charlotte this summer for the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly? Or, you were there and now want to share what happened? Check out the summary DVD or downloadable *video clips* of the youth assembly, adult assembly, peace march, & much more.



In on the Action?

August's Top Picks
(most requested items)

Words for Worship, Herald Press, 1995. This collection of prayers, litanies, and blessings is a classic – and circulates frequently.

Creative Christmas Programs, Baker House, 1991. For Sunday Schools and church groups.

Can't Keep Quiet, SmallTall Music, Bryan Moyer Sudderman, 2005. A playful and contagious collection of "songs for small and tall," ranging from folk and bluegrass to a touch of funk - including 14 original tunes.

God, Money and Me, Mennonite Foundation of Canada, 2004. A study guide that explores the spiritual significance of money in our lives.

Follow Me, United Church House, 1999. An engaging and reflective collection of meditations and worship inviting us to explore the theme of "call" in our own lives.

The Quiltmaker's Journey, Orchard Books, 2004. A touching tale about the value of generosity and the spirit of community. Its illustrations are as rich and detailed as the quilts themselves.

The Worship Sourcebook, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2004. A large anthology of worship resources in the Christian Reformed tradition.

Website Window

Anabaptist Online Resources

Mennonite Church Canada Subscriptions.

There is a variety of communication services that MC Canada offers – from news bulletins, to prayer alerts, and regular newsletters. Most are free and available electronically. Simply click on the links below to subscribe:

Resource Update. Monthly newsletter that highlights MC Canada products, electronic resources and new "for-loan" materials.

News Service. A bi-weekly distribution of MC Canada's News Releases.

Prayer Net. A collection of prayer requests on a monthly basis as well as intermittent time-sensitive requests for prayer.

World of Witness Report. Contains excerpts from mission worker's letters, as well as news from International Ministries. Produced five times/year.

MennoLetter from Jerusalem. A monthly newsletter from the Middle East as documented by Mennonite Church Liaison, Glenn Witmer.

Canvass. The bi-monthly newsletter of the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery.

Intotemak. Quarterly newsletter that features current developments of interest to friends of Native Ministry. Nominal subscription cost.

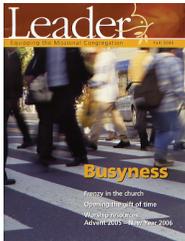
Mennonite Historian. A joint publication between the Mennonite Heritage Centre and the Centre for MB Studies. Subscription rates apply.

Multi-Cultural Ministries Newsletter. Keeps you in tune with what God is doing in our various cultural/ethnic congregations across Canada. Quarterly newsletter.

New for Advent/Christmas

For MORE Christmas resources, check www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Browse/732

Worship Resources



Leader Magazine, Fall 2005. C Current issue "Busyness." In addition to excellent feature articles, it also includes the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany worship resources. Preview at the Resource Centre or order your subscription from Faith and Life Resources (1-800-245-7894).

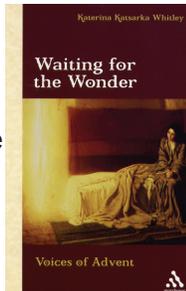


Innkeepers and Light Sleepers by John Bell. A collection of new Christmas carols by John Bell and the Iona Community. Each of the seventeen hymns shows the earthiness of the people in the Christmas story as well as the mystery of the Incarnation.

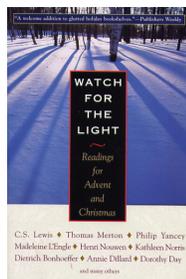


Shine On, Star of Bethlehem edited by Geoffery Duncan. A global anthology of worship resources, from simple prayers to complete service outlines, for the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

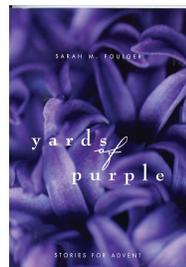
Waiting for the Wonder: Voices for Advent by Katerina Katsarka Whitley. Dramatic reflections on the various characters around the birth of Christ. These voices can help deepen the meaning of the season of Advent for twenty-first-century readers.



Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas. This anthology offers wisdom, beauty, and spiritual nourishment from a wide spectrum of classic and contemporary writers. With a selection for every day from the beginning of Advent to Epiphany, this book can be opened at leisure or followed as a guide to daily devotions.



Yards of Purple: Stories for Advent by Sarah Foulger. This collection of fictional stories is perfect for sharing aloud with persons of all ages. The stories follow the common lectionary sequence for the Advent Sundays, Year A-C. Questions are included to encourage reflection and discussion.



Children



Angels and All Children: A Nativity Story in Words, Music and Art by Walter Wangerin, Jr., Tim Ladwig, Randy Courts. Here is a beautiful Christmas book and musical CD - a story with words, images, and carols that families will tell and sing again and again. Also includes suggestions for ways families and groups can use the story and songs to create lasting Christmas traditions.



This is the Star by Joyce Dunbar and Gary Blythe. Simple, repetitive rendition of the Christmas story with rich, realistic and engaging illustrations. A good introduction to the nativity story for younger children.

Youth

Sacred Search: Encountering God During Advent, Faith and Life Resources, 2005. Invites youth to know God, themselves, and others in deeper ways during the Advent and Christmas season. This leader resource outlines four Advent sessions and an extender session for Christmas.

Pageants/Drama



Noel Drama Series. Five different intergenerational scripts for children and adults. Each includes dramatic readings from scripture and songs that offer new ways to proclaim the story.



Scripture Alive Drama Series. Two different intergenerational scripts that include readings from scripture and songs. One script is based on Isaiah's prophecies; the other on the gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke.



The Backward Christmas Pageant by Dennis Hartin. How do we tell the story? -- backwards ! Time doesn't matter in this story - God's grace is timeless - always before and ahead of current events in our life and world. Includes CD with all music and sound effects. Vocal and piano scores also included.



The Surprising Christmas Pageant by Dennis Hartin. A simple and enjoyable play. Only two rehearsals needed.

Includes CD with all music and sound effects. Vocal and piano scores also included.

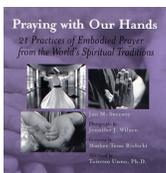
New Resources

For a complete list of new acquisitions, check www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/NewResources



Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie, 2002. Get ready as Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber and the rest of the Veggie gang set sail on a whale of an adventure in *Jonah*, Big Idea's first full-length, 3-D animated, feature film. Filled with music, laughs, this is the story of Jonah and the whale as you've never seen it before - a story where everyone learns that one of the best gifts you can give - or get - is a second chance.

So You've Been Asked to ... A series of twenty short booklets written as guides for worship and church leaders. Brief, practical and accessible. Topics include: Lead in Prayer, Read Scripture, Chair a Committee, Mentor a Young Person, and more.



Praying with Our Hands: 21 Practices of Embodied Prayer from the World's Spiritual Traditions by Jon M. Sweeney and Jennifer J. Wilson.

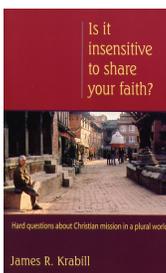
The power of words is nowhere more evident than when we use them to pray,

but prayer is also the place where we most often come up against the limitations of words. In this book of 21 reflections and accompanying photographs, we see how our bodies, in particular our hands, can give meaning to our prayers in a way that words alone cannot.



Abuna Elias Chacour DVD series.

Abuna Elias Chacour, a Palestinian Christian and a three-time Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, was the guest of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada from May 28 to June 3, 2005. Three of his presentations in Ontario are now on DVD. A fourth disc provides an overview of his personal story and an account of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions which he helped found in Israel/Palestine.



Is it Insensitive to Share Your Faith?: Hard Questions about Christian Mission in a Plural World by James R. Krabill.

Is it polite - is it even imperative - for Christians to invite others to faith? Are Christians hopelessly narrow and willfully uninformed? Why do they act as though only they are right and everyone else isn't? Why would Jesus possibly be someone to follow today? Vulnerably, Krabill acknowledges both the audacity of God's efforts, the often miserable failings of the church, and yet his own hope. Krabill's very readable style and honest manner make this book accessible to young adults and other critical thinkers.

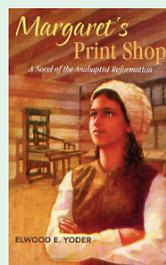
TOOL TIPS

I'll certainly never refuse a phone call, but if it's after-hours or you're already browsing the site, send your loan request electronically. The process is simple, and the steps are outlined at www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Ordering. This service allows you to register your request at your convenience, place a hold on a resource, if necessary, and reserve products in advance. And, psst, let others in your congregation know about this service - we are here for all of you.

From Our Press

New from Mennonite Publishing Network

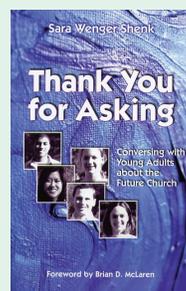
Available from the Resource Centre for a free preview loan. To purchase, call MPN at 1-800-245-7894.



Margaret's Print Shop: A Novel of the Anabaptist Reformation by Elwood E. Yoder, Herald Press, 2005.

Margaret runs a small print shop in Strasbourg, Germany, where she willingly prints literature for the emerging Lutheran and Anabaptist reform movements.

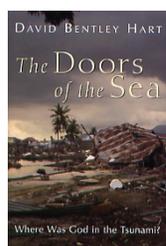
She also crosses paths, in this historical fictional novel, with Conrad Grebel, George Blaurock, Michael Sattler, and other Anabaptist founders.



Thank You For Asking: Conversing with Young Adults about the Future Church, by Sara Wenger Shenk, Herald Press, 2005.

This is a book of stories - the stories of young adults as told to their peers. They represent a gritty, honest, unedited, blood-sweat-and-tears immersion into the spiritual, social, emotional and sexual lives of young adults.

In all their beauty and chaos, integration and disintegration, they provide a window into the realities of ministry to people of all ages.



The Doors of the Sea: Where Was God in the Tsunami? By David Bentley Hart.

As news reports of the horrific tsunami in Asia reached the rest of the world, commentators were quick to seize upon the disaster as proof of either God's power or God's nonexistence.

Hart tackles this question - re-asked by many in North America after Hurricane Katrina - and clarifies the biblical account of God's goodness, the nature of evil, and the shape of redemption.