

## CALENDAR

We offer resources for...

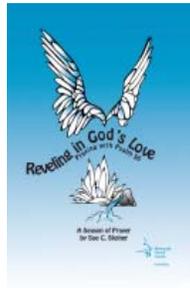
Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 6	Epiphany
Jan 22	World Fellowship Sunday
Feb 5	Church Education Sunday
Mar 1	Ash Wednesday
Apr 14	Good Friday
Apr 16	Easter

## 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](mailto:resources@mennonitechurch.ca)
- Submissions of a special worship service, litany or celebration are always welcome. Share with us and other congregations!
- Links in the electronic version are LIVE - just click to enter our website.

Editor: Arlyn Friesen Epp  
Designer: Lynette Wiebe

## Season of Prayer for 2006



### Reveling in God's Love: Praying with Psalm 36 by Sue C. Steiner

A prayer and study guide that provides a variety of options for congregational, small group and Sunday school settings, as well as in the home and family. There are helpful background essays, numerous questions for reflection and a number of carefully prepared prayer services.

A sample copy was sent in last month's *Equipping*. Additional copies are available to download free at

<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7321>

or contact the Resource Centre to purchase the printed version (\$5/copy).



**Supplementary release** for families with pre-school children: An Advent Ritual that creatively retells the story leading up to the birth of Jesus. (Supplements the earlier At-Home Advent material *God's Unstoppable Purpose*) Free download at

<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7446>



## Lent 2006

The **At-Home Lent** resource and **Leader** magazine go hand-in-hand.

**Write On Our Hearts** follows the themes and lectionary texts outlined in *Leader's* Winter 2005/06 Lent Worship Resources (Faith and Life Resources). The At-Home booklet from MC Canada offers families a variety of ways to worship and reflect on God's great gift of redeeming forgiveness that is written on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33b). Includes activities, pondering questions, songs and worship suggestions for Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, each week of Lent, Maundy Thursday/Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Download a free copy for every family in your congregation

<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7421> or purchase printed copies from the Resource Centre (\$2/copy).

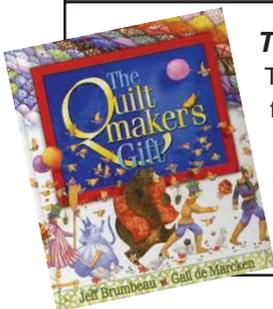


## Childrens' Corner

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

### **The Quiltmaker's Gift** by Jeff Brumbeau & Gail de Marcken, Orchard Books, 2000.

This charming fable celebrates the joy of giving. A generous quiltmaker, with magic in her fingers, sews the most beautiful quilts in the world, then gives them away. In contrast, the greedy king, his storehouse stuffed with treasures, yearns for something that will make him happy. Does she have a life-changing lesson for him? Beautifully illustrated; the exquisite quilts themselves hold clues to the unfolding story. A wonderful corrective to a consumer-driven Christmas. Also check out the story's prequel, *The Quiltmaker's Journey*.



Route to...

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



# In on the Action?

## October's Top Rentals

**Sing the Journey: Hymnal: A Worship Book, Supplement 1**, Faith and Life Resources, 2005. The hymnal supplement released this summer at the annual assembly in Charlotte, NC.

**A Generous Orthodoxy** by Brian D. McLaren. Calls for a radical, Christ-centred orthodoxy of faith and practice in a missional, generous spirit.

**God's Story, Our Story** by Michele Hershberger, Faith and Life Resources, 2003. An introduction to the Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective.

**The Radicals** (VHS or DVD) The story of Michael and Margaretha Sattler dramatizing the origins of the Anabaptist movement in Europe in the early 16th Century.

**Adventures with the Anabaptists**, Faith and Life Resources, 2002. Youth curriculum that includes ten interactive lessons linking church history and stories of faith heroes with Bible study and contemporary discipleship.

**Thank you for Asking** by Sara Wenger Shenk, Herald Press, 2005. A book of stories - the stories of young adults as told to other young adults who are working hard with imagination, longing, and love to weave a coherent faith and way of life.

**Sensual Faith: Experiencing God through our Senses**, Wood Lake Books, 2000. This series of five studies is designed to help us reflect on the ways in which God comes to us.

**Worship Feast: 20 Complete Services in the Spirit of Taize**. Give youth the gift of beautiful music and silence by offering Taize-style worship encounters.

## Website Window

Anabaptist Online Resources

### Recent MC Canada Online Products

**World Fellowship Sunday**: January 22, 2006. The Asian-prepared materials include a suggested order of worship, two stories from Indonesia, background material on Asia, prayer requests from around the world, and sample bulletin. <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7325>

**Reveling in God's Love**, by Sue C. Steiner. 2006 MC Canada Season of Prayer and Study guide. <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7321>

**Missional Ecclesiology and Leadership**, by Robert J. Suderman. 50 page essay that defines the nature of a missional church and its necessary characteristics of leadership. <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7266>

**Healing and Hope Christmas Gift Sampler**, 2005. This is your invitation to give a gift of healing and hope - a gift of God's love shared through the ministries of Mennonite Church Canada. <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7344>

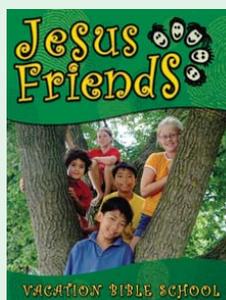
**Write on Our Hearts**, by Elsie Rempel. 2006 at-home, family worship companion to the lenten congregational resources available in Leader, Winter 2005-06 magazine. Sample copy enclosed in this Equipping packet. <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7421>

**Burkina Faso KidsPak project**. The current "Giving Project" of MC Canada ministries. Includes stories, activities and audio files from Burkina Faso. Sample copy enclosed in this Equipping packet. <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/ResourceView/5/7071>

## 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.



### Vacation Bible School 2006: Jesus Friends

A new five-day curriculum from Mennonite Publishing Network that will teach children how to reach out "across the street and around the world." Daily themes emphasize important ways to become "Jesus

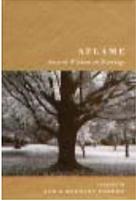
Friends": Jesus friends know God; Jesus friends share; Jesus friends care; Jesus friends invite; Jesus friends go. Find more information at [www.mph.org/vbs](http://www.mph.org/vbs).



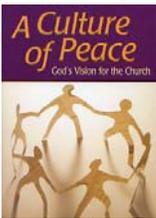
### Gather 'Round Sunday School Curriculum

Begins Fall 2006. Find price lists, Bible outlines, unit themes, samples, contact information and full product details at [www.gatherround.org](http://www.gatherround.org).

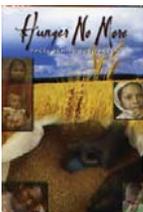
**Sing the Journey CD** is coming. An audio CD to help acquaint congregational leaders and members with *Sing the Journey: Hymnal Supplement 1* will be available by early December. Watch for further information.



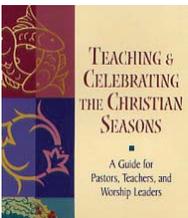
**Aflame: Ancient Wisdom on Marriage** compiled by Sam and Bethany Torode, William B. Eerdman's, 2005. Featuring beautiful words and photographs alongside each other, "Aflame" offers ancient wisdom on eight aspects of marriage: unity, beauty, harmony, joy, purity, desire, fruitfulness, and fidelity. The eight sections each begin with a Scripture verse, and consist of select excerpts from ancient Christian books, sermons, and wedding liturgies, all drawn from a rich variety of cultures - Greek, Roman, African, Middle Eastern, and Celtic.



**A Culture of Peace: God's Vision for the Church**, by Alan Kreider, Eleanor Kreider, Paulus Widjaja, Good Books 2005. Why is peace such a divisive issue, even among Christians? Why is peace often considered an extra, rather than an essential, to faithful Christian living? The authors suggest how to develop "peacemaking reflexes"; how churches "can learn to handle conflict well"; and how to cultivate vulnerability and humility, two essential "attitudes of peacemakers."



**Hunger No More: Faces behind the Facts**, Mennonite Media, 2004. A TV documentary presented by the National Council of Churches takes an unflinching look at the persistent problem of hunger in the 21st century... and offers solutions. Most of us don't often ask where our next meal is coming from. But for millions of North Americans and nearly a billion people worldwide, such food insecurity is a daily reality. This DVD approaches hunger from the perspective of faith, declaring that hunger is more than a social issue. "It is a moral issue that needs immediate resolution. The program brings to life the moral dimension of this thorny issue, and offers up a vision for a new day when hunger is eradicated from the face of the earth."



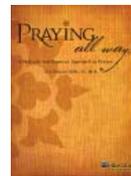
**Teaching and Celebrating the Christian Seasons: A Guide for Pastors, Teachers and Worship Leaders**, by Delia Halverson, Chalice Press, 2002. Celebrating Christian seasons brings new meaning to our worship and removes the distance between past and present. The cycle of the seasons

keeps Christ in our hearts and minds throughout the year. This spiritually enriching resource helps church leaders understand and incorporate into the life of the church the symbols, colours, and practices of the church year.

**Bullying: A Spiritual Crisis** by Ronald Hecker Cram, Chalice Press, 2003. Cram examines bullying from a theological/spiritual perspective and identifies it not just as a behavioural issue, but a spiritual crisis. His research includes wrestling with the violence found in the history and traditions of our Judeo-Christian faith and also through conversations with Christian adults who were bullied or had been bullies (often both) as children. He examines the roots of violence and how a societal valuing of tolerance leads to bullying. Cram believes that the opposite of intolerance is not tolerance but empathy.



**Praying All Ways: A Multiple Intelligences Approach to Prayer** by Caroljean Willie, Harcourt Publishers. The theory of multiple intelligences has revolutionized our understanding of how the human brain functions and has had a phenomenal impact on the field of education. However, this theory also has applications to prayer and worship. Instead of viewing the intelligences simply as pathways to the brain, they can also be indicative of pathways to God. Looking at the intelligences through the lens of prayer opens up a variety of prayer options and possibilities which can lead people into more meaningful forms of prayer and help dissolve language and cultural barriers. A practical guide for personal and congregational use.



**Fish Eyes: On Stage**, Ted and Lee Comedy, 2001. Brace yourself for a journey through the Gospels like nothing you've ever experienced. Both hilarious and haunting, this Fish-Eyes DVD looks at familiar scriptures through the eyes of Peter and Andrew (Ted and Lee). From a bumper crop of fish to the despair of denial to a jubilant Easter twist, we see these simple fishermen as real people, standing hip-deep in miracles, parables, questions, and ultimately faith. The complete script of this dramatic presentation is also available to peruse.



**Arlyn Friesen Epp** will be working outside the Resource Centre office on Mondays

beginning December 5, to facilitate preparation for his itineration to churches. Regular office hours, Tuesday-Friday, 9-5 Central Time, will continue. The Centre also remains open on Mondays for walk-in traffic, and our online catalogue, phone and email services will continue as in the past. We are excited to offer Resource Centre "on the road" services to our constituency. Feel free to contact Arlyn for resourcing possibilities.