

CALENDAR

- Feb 3 – Church Education Sunday: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/521
- Feb 6 - Ash Wednesday: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/491
- March 16 – Palm Sunday: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/160
- March 21 – Good Friday: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/162
- March 23 – Easter: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/163
- May 11 – Pentecost: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/164

Route to...

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

Subscribe to *Resource Update*:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/347

Lent/Easter Resources

Here's Your link to curriculum, devotional, drama, family, and worship resources for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Tenebrae, Stations of the Cross, Seder meal), and Easter.

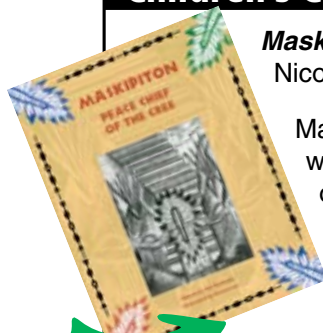
➔ www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/132



Children's Corner Resources for the library, home, Sunday School or Sunday morning storyteller.

Maskipiton: Peace Chief of the Cree, retold by Pat Pankratz; illustrated by Nicole Lea, Mennonite Church Canada, 2007.

Maskipiton was a 19th century Plains Cree chief who, after his encounters with a Christian missionary and a Cree elder, was inspired to live a life of peace and forgiveness. Based on actual written accounts by those who were close friends of Chief Maskipiton, it is a story of his love of God's word, his ability to forgive the man who killed his father, and the transformation of a man of violence to a man of peace. Borrow or purchase (\$9.95) from the Resource Centre.



➔ [read more...](#)

➔ For additional children's books, see www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/168.



In on the Action? Most Requests in 2007

read more...

Remembering Russia: 1914-1927 DVD by Otto Klassen, 2006. Chronicles the events of WWI, the Russian Revolution, famine and the anarchy that followed – and how it affected the Mennonite communities of southern Ukraine.

read more...

Remembering Russia: 1928-1938 DVD by Otto Klassen, 2007. Documents the spiritual battles and sufferings of Mennonites in Soviet Russia from the introduction of the first Five-Year Plan in October 1928 to the end of the Great Terror in 1938.

read more...

Fun Bible Skits 1, Faith and Life Resources, 2005. 25 ready-to-go biblical scripts and activities for children and congregations.

read more...

Mennonite Your Way Directory, 2006. A hospitality network that allows for economical travel and good fellowship.

read more...

God With Us Today: Devotions for Families, Faith and Life Resources, 2006. A collection of 100 devotions for the home.

read more...

Holy Ground: Liturgies and Worship Resources for an Engaged Spirituality, Wild Goose Publications, 2005. A wide sampling of worship topics from the Iona community.

read more...

The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey through the Seasons, Sorin Books, 2005. Looks to the seasons of the earth to connect with life's sacred centre. Using reflections, poems, prayers, and meditations, it invites us to listen carefully and closely to the wisdom of each season.

read more...

The Mennonite Handbook, Herald Press, 2007. Seriously accurate and seriously funny, here is an essential field guide for all things Mennonite.

read more...

Words for Worship, Herald Press, 1995. On this list for the 6th consecutive year! This collection of prayers, litanies, blessings and commissionings is a ready resource for pastors and leaders, to enrich and deepen worship together.

New Resources

There are 3 new resources/day. Check www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/480 for a complete listing.



read more...

The Singing Thing Too: Enabling Congregations to Sing by John L. Bell, GIA Publications, 2007. In *The Singing Thing* (2000), Bell explored the reasons why people sing. In this second resource his concerns are learning and teaching. How do people pick up new music? How do you encourage a congregation to learn a new song? How can you breathe new life into quality hymnody which has gone stale?



read more...

Footprint Files: Ideas to Help Congregations Care for Creation and Reduce their Footprint by Susan Gage, et al., Wood Lake Publishing, 2004. A collection of ideas, reflections, activities, and tips to help congregations care for creation, rather than destroy it. It is an inspiration that

will help congregations, through little steps or big steps, walk in a direction that honours our partnership with creation and the call to stewardship.



read more...

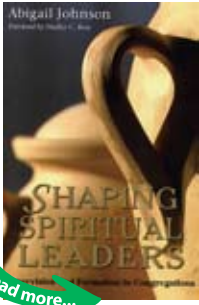
Seasons of Survival: Prayers and Rituals for Women with Cancer by Diann L. Neu, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, 2007. This packet of cards is meant to accompany women dealing with life-threatening illness and/or loss. The cards are designed to foster healing through diverse modes of writing, art, holistic activities and rituals, and suggested tools and tips for coping. These resources can help you become better in tune with yourself and those around you on the healing journey.

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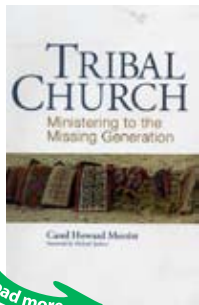
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Shaping Spiritual Leaders: Supervision and Formation in Congregations by Abigail Johnson, Alban Institute, 2007. This book provides a hands-on approach to supervision, addressing key areas such as identifying a learning focus, covenanting, managing conflict, understanding and using power and authority, offering and receiving feedback and evaluation, and celebrating and ending the supervisory relationship.



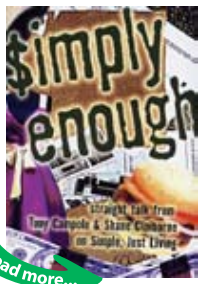
read more...

Peace Sermons 2007: By EMCers CD-ROM, edited by Terry M. Smith, Evangelical Mennonite Conference, 2007. The sermons in this collection were voluntarily submitted by ministers from the Evangelical Mennonite Conference (EMC). The messages reflect various shades of meaning to peace. They also display diverse styles of speaking, outlining, and writing.



read more...

Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation by Carol Howard Meritt, Alban Institute, 2007. Many churches are seeking ways to reach out to the younger generations. Unfortunately this often manifests as either a “come be just like us!” attitude, or as a slick marketing campaign. Both of these approaches often leave young adults feeling that their particular spiritual gifts and needs are unwanted by the church. Outlining the financial, social, and familial situations that affect many young adults today, the author describes how intergenerational churches can provide a safe, supportive place for young adults to nurture relationships and foster spiritual growth.



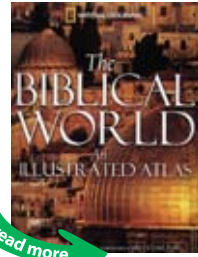
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Simply Enough: Straight Talk from Tony Campolo and Shane Claiborne on Simple, Just Living, DVD, Alternatives for Simple Living, 2007. Campolo and Claiborne have created an intensely personal dialogue about the foundations of the Christian life and voluntary simplicity. Contains segments on lifestyle, food, celebrations, stuff, money and justice. Includes study/action guide.



read more...

Learning God's Stories Together: Intergenerational Program for Church and Home, by Dorothy Henderson, Wood Lake Publishing, 2007. Includes both theory for “all-ages learning” and 20 story sessions to help apply it to your setting. Each session contains suggestions for gathering, for telling and talking about the story, and for exploring the story and making it part of your life.



read more...

The Biblical World: An Illustrated Atlas, by Jean-Pierre Isbouts, National Geographic, 2007. Magnificently illustrated with photographs, maps, timelines and side-bars, this book encompasses the entire history of the Holy Land - from the dawn of human civilization to the 7th century C.E., from Abraham's first appearance through the evolution and spread of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

From our Partners

New from SmallTall Music



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Introducing our newest partner!

Membership links you with a network of people who support the creation, testing, and sharing of new “songs of faith for small and tall.” Members receive electronic deliveries of these songs 3 times/year.

Free downloads – audio files with lyric sheets, activity ideas and musical notation available from www.smalltallmusic.com.



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New CD – My Money Talks: Songs for Worship, 2007. Incorporates a variety of musical genres that mirror the different worship styles in our congregations and speak to the often difficult topic of stewardship.

And download the CD's accompanying artwork by Lynette Wiebe.



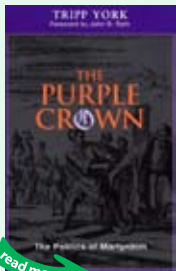
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The Bookshop at PANDORA PRESS

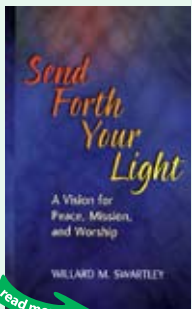
We stock all books included in this Resource Update including those books written and published by Mennonites.

33 Kent Ave, Kitchener, ON, N2H 3C1
Phone: 1-866-696-1678 www.pandorapress.com

From our Press



The Purple Crown: The Politics of Martyrdom by Tripp York, Herald Press, 2007. Exhibits how Christianity's ultimate act of witnessing, martyrdom, is an inherently political act. York argues that the path of Christianity leads to a confrontation with the same powers that crucified Jesus.



Send Forth Your Light: A Vision for Peace, Mission and Worship, by Willard Swartley, Herald Press, 2007. Swartley develops a biblical theology of peacemaking and witness to the powers. He draws on both Old and New Testaments to address two controversial topics: payment of taxes used to support war-making and what the Bible teaches about Israel.



Proclamation by Design: The Visual Arts in Worship by Karmen Krahn and Leslie James, Faith and Life Resources, 2007. The authors tell us why and how visual art is an indispensable part

of telling the Story of God as found in the Bible. They bring pictures and stories of good visual art at work in worship.



Listen Up! Messages from God is the Mennonite Vacation Bible School curriculum for 2008. It introduces children to 5 Old Testament prophets: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, Amos and Daniel. Check www.mph.org/vbs/ for details.

From our Churches

Original materials from our constituency



Christmas Cleaning?! Is there an original Christmas drama, carol service, candlelight program, or advent series that your congregation developed last month and could be shared? Send us an electronic copy. Our electronic Christmas resources were highly sought after – and we'd love to offer a new sampling next fall!



For other original materials, see www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/479

Statistics and Dreams

I'm writing this *Resource Update* as I return to the Resource Centre for a New Year. It's allowed time for some reflection:

I am grateful for:

- The numerous emails of encouragement and calls of appreciation as we work together to resource our congregations and families.
- Continued increase in circulation of resources. 2007 was a record year – 5% higher volume circulation than 2006.
- The 129 congregations (up from 106) that we had direct contact with this past year, 66% of whom were from outside Manitoba.
- A growing awareness of our online catalogue: electronic loan orders are up 53% from 2006 and Mennonite Publishing Network e-commerce sales are up 59%.
- Partnerships with other Mennonite resource providers: Mennonite Publishing Network, Cascadia Publishing House, Mennonite Foundation of Canada, Pandora Press, SmallTall Music. Each organization provides *all* of their products through our Centre for a free preview loan. And more partnerships are in the works!
- 27,431 downloads! This number, too, details a growing volume of traffic to our catalogue. It's a free and accessible way to locate MC Canada materials or an original resource *From Our Churches*.

I look ahead to 2008 and am excited about:

- Our dream to develop a "Resource Consortium:" a "union-catalogue" with Columbia Bible College Resource Library, Mennonite Brethren in Christ Resource Centre, and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Resource Library. This would provide a convenient way of searching all 4 databases from any of our websites.
- Our recently appointed team of Resource Advocates – one from each Area Church. They will be meeting in Elmira, ON, January 31-February 2, and be equipped to serve as liaisons between congregations and the Resource Centre. More information will be forthcoming in the next *Resource Update*.
- Travel in the next months that will take me to meetings in Ontario, seminars in Saskatchewan, and a retreat in Alberta. I look forward to meeting some of you during workshops, worship or around the display table.
- Continued partnership in your local ministries whether we meet in person, talk by phone or email, or communicate on our website.

God's blessings to you, your family and congregation in this New Year! – Arlyn