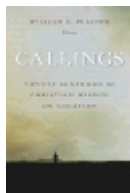




Vocations

Titles available for loan from
Foothills Presbytery Resource Center
September 2008



248.4
Callings

Callings : twenty centuries of Christian wisdom on vocation . Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, c2005.

What am I going to do with my life? is a question that young people commonly face, while many not-so-young people continue to wonder about finding direction and purpose in their lives. Whether such purpose has to do with what job to take, whether to get married, or how to incorporate religious faith into the texture of their lives, Christians down the centuries have believed that God has plans for them.

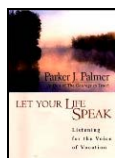
This anthology gathers select passages on work and vocation from the great writers in Christian history, accompanied by insightful introductions by William Placher. An extensive PDF study guide by Elaine C. Nocks (Furman University) is available online. See the Resource Center's online catalog for titles and authors of each essay, as well as for links to the downloadable PDF files for the Study Guide.



248.4
Leading

Leading lives that matter : what we should do and who we should be . Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, c2006.

This companion volume to **Callings** draws together a wide range of texts--including fiction, autobiography, and philosophy--offering challenge and insight to those who are thinking about what to do with their lives. Mark Schwehn and Dorothy Bass approach the subject of vocation as an ongoing conversation. They include some of the Western tradition's best writings on human life--its meaning, purpose, and significance--ranging from ancient Greek poetry to contemporary fiction. An extensive PDF Study Guide by Elaine Nocks (Furman University) is available. See the Resource Center's online catalog for titles and authors of essays and for links to the PDF Study Guide.



248.4 Palmer

Palmer, Parker J. **Let your life speak : listening for the voice of vocation** . San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, c2000.

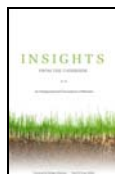
The book's title is a time-honored Quaker admonition, usually taken to mean "Let the highest truths and values guide everything you do." Palmer reinterprets those words, drawing on his own search for selfhood. Telling stories from his own life and the lives of others who have made a difference, Palmer shares insights gained from darkness and depression as well as fulfillment and joy, illuminating a pathway toward vocation for those who seek the true calling of their lives. In 1998, Palmer was named one of the thirty most influential senior leaders in higher education.



248.4
Schuurman

Schuurman, Douglas James. **Vocation : discerning our callings in life** . Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, c2004.

According to Douglas Schuurman, many Christians today find it both strange and difficult to interpret their social, economic, political, and cultural lives as responses to God's calling. To renew this biblical perspective, Schuurman argues, Christians must recover the language, meaning, and reality of life as vocation. Developed in dialogue with audiences as diverse as college students, industrial workers, business leaders, church leaders, and professional theologians and ethicists, his book examines the theological and ethical dimensions of vocation as these have been understood historically and in relation to our modern social setting.



253 Insights

Insights from the underside: an intergenerational conversation of ministers. Elizabeth, NJ: Broadmind Press, 2008.

Brings together the collective creative reflections of young adult ministers, all leaders within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), concerning the calling of God and the Church to serve as spouse, parent, and minister of Word and Sacrament within a 21st century context of postmodernity and religious pluralism. Each reflective piece by a young adult minister is followed by thoughtful responses from "veteran" ministers.



253.2
Chatham

Chatham, James O. **Is it I, Lord? : discerning God's call to be a pastor** . Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, c2002.

Chatham tells the story of his own calling, then describes various aspects of the vocation and life of a pastor. Among other things, the pastor needs to speak and write well, to be skilled in organizing and raising money, to have compassion for people; "when the pastor finally has to admit that he or she can't do all these things, the pastor needs to be able to find others who can" (p. 5)

"The questions Jim Chatham raises are the right questions. I highly recommend this book." --Laura Mendenhall, Columbia Theological Seminary



253.5
Holderness

Holderness, Ginny Ward. Career and calling : a guide for counselors, youth, and young adults. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, c2001.

Holderness and Forrest Palmer call for the church to become active in helping youth and young adults identify what God is calling them to do professionally, acknowledging that this call may change any number of times over the course of the persons life. They provide a 6-session program for career counseling that involves young people, lay leaders, and professionals inside and outside the church.

"This fine book helps leaders of youth and young adults ask the key questions of calling and vocation in whole new ways and transforms the future from one of narrowing choices and locked-in jobs to a dynamic future whose purpose and meaning come together through God's calling. I recommend this book highly." --Roger Nishioka, Associate Professor of Christian Education, Columbia Seminary



259.23 Baker

Baker, Dori Grinenko. Lives to offer : accompanying youth on their vocational quests. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2007.

Most youth ministry programs seem to arise from consumerist, program-driven views of ministry. Lives to Offer presents a different vision: youth ministry as a companioned walk with young people in search of vocation in its public and private dimensions. Adolescent stories of vocation, gleaned from research encounters with youthful collaborators, pepper this innovative resource.

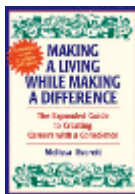


259.23
White

White, David F. Practicing discernment with youth : a transformative youth ministry approach. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2005.

"Over the last half-century," says David White, "congregational youth ministry has undergone a separation from its own sense of place. The expectations, imaginations, and practices of youth ministry are more likely to originate in Southern California, Colorado, or denominational headquarters than they are within the unique and particular setting of the congregation." How can responsibility for youth ministry be returned to local congregations? White uses historical discernment practices in Christian communities, Biblical reflection that emerged from the Protestant Reformation and social analysis of Latin American base communities.

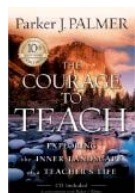
The book is divided into two parts. In Part One, a theologically based youth program is described. In Part Two, a practical program is played out so that local youth ministers can engaged groups in reflection and discussion.



331.702
Everett
1999

Everett, Melissa. Making a living while making a difference : the expanded guide to creating careers with a conscience. Garbriola Island, B.C.: New Society Pub, c1999.

This completely revised edition updates career opportunities in socially responsible and green business, industry, commerce, and non-profits. Everett focuses on personal, social, and environmental values as the driving force for career decisions. Expanded and updated self-assessments, exercises, and visualizations point the reader toward defining their personal area of commitment. Aimed at new job-seekers and job-changers, as well as those who would like to make a difference right where they are, this book is a "how-to-make-it-happen" guide for people who want to customize their work lives to reflect their values more fully.

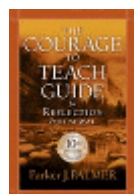


371.1
Palmer

Palmer, Parker J. The courage to teach: exploring the inner landscape of a teacher's life. 10th Anniversary ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2007.

This book builds on a simple premise: good teaching cannot be reduced to technique but is rooted in the identity and integrity of the teacher. Good teaching takes myriad forms but good teachers share one trait: they are authentically present in the classroom, in community with their students and their subject. They possess "a capacity for connectedness" and are able to weave a complex web of connections between themselves, their subjects, and their students, helping their students weave a world for themselves. The connections made by good teachers are held not in their methods but in their hearts--the place where intellect, emotion, spirit, and will converge in the human self-- supported by the community that emerges among us when we choose to live authentic lives.

BONUS: Includes an audio CD featuring a 45-minute conversation between Parker Palmer and his colleagues, Marcy Jackson and Estrus Tucker from the Center for Courage & Renewal. They reflect on what they have learned from working with thousands of teachers in their "Courage to Teach" program (www.CourageRenewal.org) and with others who yearn for greater integrity in their professional lives.



371.1
Palmer GUIDE

Palmer, Parker J. Courage to teach guide for reflection and renewal. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2007.

This guide to the 10th Anniversary Edition has been thoroughly updated and expanded to help readers reflect on their teaching and renew their sense of vocation. It proposes practical ways to create safe space for honest reflection and probing conversation and offers chapter-by-chapter questions and exercises to explore the many insights in The Courage to Teach. A companion DVD brings provides a 70-minute interview with Parker J. Palmer.