

The Reason For Pentecost T L Osborn

In a time of divisiveness, poverty, oppression, and war, the messages of Schuyler Rhodes send a clarion call for renewal in the church. Like the apostles on Pentecost, Rhodes offers words that comfort and provoke; words that empower and give us vision of a better world. His sermons build on the gospel texts to bring spiritual insight and hope in place of cynicism and despair. Bringing the ancient biblical wisdom to bear on contemporary society, this volume is excellent for inspiration, study, and discussion. "These sermons tell the truth, unsettling or devastating as this may be to conventional Christian ears.... I love this little book. It weaves through our scripture with verve, dignity, and good humor; the touch is now light, now a flick of the whip, the words rife with the truth that both hurts and heals." (from the Foreword) Daniel Berrigan, SJ Schuyler Rhodes is the pastor of Temple United Methodist Church in San Francisco, California. He previously pastored Washington Square United Methodist Church in New York City and served as executive director and campus pastor for the Wesley Foundation, a broad-based campus ministry at the University of California (Berkeley). Rhodes' commitment to social justice and peace has taken him around the globe. Over the last decade, he has traveled to more than a dozen countries, serving as a delegate to several consultations of the World Council of Churches, as the secretary of the Social and International Affairs Committee of the World Methodist Council, and as the chair of the board of directors for Pastors for Peace and the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organizing. He has also been a consultant on Peace and Justice Ministries for the Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries, developing liturgical and training materials as well as representing the General Board at numerous national and international gatherings. A prolific writer, Rhodes is an honors graduate of Drew University Theological School (M.Div.) and the State University of New York at Potsdam (B.A.).

"Why don't we try Pentecost on more time?"--Cover.

12-year-old Christopher entreats his grandfather to tell him about Peter, Paul, and the very first Christians.

Having struggled with receiving the Holy Spirit in his early years in Christianity due to erroneous teachings he was exposed to and having received help from God's Word, the Bible; the author through debunking the erroneous teachings presented in this book continues to help several young Christians to receive the Holy Spirit effortlessly. Have you done all you could to receive the Holy Spirit and you still haven't? Have you prayed and fasted and observed vigils? Perhaps guilt has barred you from receiving God's free and precious Gift; this book will surely help you. Your search is over. The Comforter has come. You need not wait any longer.

Christ in the Passover/Christ in the Feast of Pentecost/Christ in the Feast of Tabernacles Set

Book One: Early Prophetic and Spiritual Gifts Movements

Building an Apostolic People (Formerly Holy Community)

The Power of Pentecost Every Day

Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit

Don't Forget This!

ParentShift

Now you can study the Bible with the faculty of the Moody Bible Institute! Imagine having a team of 30 Moody Bible Institute professors helping you study the Bible. Now you can with this in-depth, user-friendly, one-volume commentary. General editors Michael Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham have led a team of contributors whose academic training, practical church experience, and teaching competency make this commentary excellent for anyone who needs help understanding the Scriptures. This comprehensive and reliable reference work should be the first place Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders, missionaries, and pastors turn to for biblical insight. Scripture being commented on is shown in bold print for easy reference, and maps and charts provide visual aids for learning. Additional study helps include bibliographies for further reading and a subject and Scripture index. The Moody Bible Commentary is an all-in-one Bible study resource that will help you better understand and apply God's written revelation to all of life.

There is no better season to renew one's relationship with God than Easter, the most joyful days of the church's year. Rejoice with these inspiring reflections on the daily Mass readings. In just minutes per day, the insightful meditations of Rejoice and Be Glad can help you embrace, live, and share the good news of the great Easter mystery.

A reasonably priced, quality black hardcover pew and ministry Bible featuring a large 12-point font.

This engrossing book will quickly capture your attention as you realize the excitement leading up to this festive occasion and the richness it will bring to your understanding of both the Old and New Testament references. The authors treat us to the sense of anticipation that "cannot be overstated" as their insightful account of traditions leading up to this holiday unfolds...a boy's first haircut, bonfires, sweet treats, artful paper cutting, firstfruits. Shavnot will lead believers in Jesus into greater understanding of the significance of the omer, the waiting period, which foreshadows our watching for His return and gives further meaning to our work of building His kingdom.

Forgotten God

Turning Points in the Expansion of Christianity

Experiencing the Grace and Purpose of Pentecost

Distinctively Different

Experiencing the Spirit

Reassessing Early Church Tradition

Pentecost To The Present

Acts is the sequel to Luke's gospel and tells the story of Jesus's followers during the 30 years after his death. It describes how the 12 apostles, formerly Jesus's disciples, spread the message of Christianity throughout the Mediterranean against a background of persecution. With an introduction by P.D. James

In the name of the Father, the Son, and ... the Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of all three, but how often do we live with an awareness of only the first two? As Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit—the Helper—so that we could be true and living witnesses for Christ.

Unfortunately, today's church has admired the gift but neglected to open it. Breakthrough author Francis Chan rips away paper and bows to get at the true source of the church's power—the Holy Spirit. Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit for far too long, and we are reaping the disastrous results. Thorough scriptural support and compelling narrative form Chan's invitation to stop and remember the One we've forgotten, the Spirit of the living God.

Understanding Luke's Narrative in the Book of Acts The book of Acts is unlike any other in Scripture; it has no rival in terms of a book spanning so many different lands. Written by a Gentile, it recounts the birth of the church age and the lives of early Christians that serve as lasting examples for the church today. When believers see how these events worked together to fulfill God's promises, they gain a better understanding of the Trinitarian heart of Acts. In The Mission of the Triune God, author Patrick Schreiner argues that Luke's theology stems from the order of his narrative. He shows how the major themes in Acts, including the formation of the church, salvation offered to all flesh, and the prolific spread of the gospel, connect. Through Schreiner's clear presentation and helpful graphics, readers follow the early church as it grows "all under the plan of God, centered on King Jesus, and empowered by the Spirit."

"There is an air of unpredictability about William G. Carter's sermons... Improbable characters... turn up all over the place: a nursing home resident abandoning her walker to dance the polka... cows listlessly chewing their cud beneath a Jesus-is-coming sign along the highway. This volume is an attic full of eccentric treasures ready for a rainy day's exploring... Enjoy their humor, their joyful interplay of the biblical and the contemporary, their delightful poetic cadences. "Thomas G. Long Princeton Theological Seminary This book contains twelve sermons, mostly based on the gospel of Mark. They include these titles: - Learning to Live Without Jesus - Can Christians Dance? - Looking a Little Bit Crazy - How to Plant an English Garden William G. Carter serves as pastor and head of staff of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. degree from the State University of New York and his M.Div. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. An accomplished jazz pianist, Carter has extensive experience as a composer and arranger, having studied and performed with noted jazz artists such as Phil Woods and Bob Brookmeyer. His sermons and articles have appeared in "Journal for Preachers," "Presbyterian Survey," "Preaching," "Lectionary Homiletics," "The Christian Ministry," and "Best Sermons" (Harper-Collins, 1994).

Pentecost on Mockingbird Lane

Good News for the Hard of Hearing

Sermons for Pentecost (middle Third) : Cycle A Gospel Texts

Christ in the Feast of Pentecost

Second Lesson Sermons for Sundays After Pentecost (last Third), Cycle C

The Mission of the Triune God

Calendar

Stories are a powerful element in preaching. They have a way of triggering connections and bringing life to otherwise mundane illustrations. Stories capture our imaginations, pique our memories, and envelop us in the drama of life. Glenn Ludwig brings to these messages on gospel lessons from the Revised Common Lectionary many personal stories drawn from his ministry. And the pericopes themselves (mostly from Luke) are filled with stories of Jesus' encounters with people. Ludwig's dynamic sermons are sure to captivate readers and draw them into a greater understanding of the scriptural texts. Titles include: On a Need-to-Know Basis (John 16:12-15) Lessons From a Picnic (Luke 9:11-17) A Grave Reality (Luke 7:11-17) Jesus' Travel Instructions (Luke 10:1-11, 16-20) Must I Love That Neighbor? (Luke 10:25-37) Glenn E. Ludwig is the senior pastor of First Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Maryland. He holds degrees from Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania) and Lancaster Theological Seminary ("cum laude").

The author of several books on youth ministry, Ludwig has been a keynote speaker at over 100 youth gatherings in the U.S. and Canada.

Understand, this book is not written to make you feel bad or condemn you if you have not engaged others with the gospel message. This book is written to encourage and inspire you. Even though pastor and author Greg Laurie is a "gospel-presenting professional," in this book he tells stories of his own failure and success. The most important things you will find here are biblical principles that you can apply yourself. Taken from the life and witness of Jesus, and tested over Greg's forty years of ministry, in both one-on-one experiences and large-scale evangelistic arena and stadium events, these ideas are intended to mobilize every person in the church to "Tell Someone" about Jesus Christ.

You've got Bible questions. We've got answers. The Bible is full of great truths for our lives . . . and also, if we're being honest, a lot of mysteries that we don't understand. You've probably wondered about

these questions many times. You'd like good answers. Just keep it short and sweet. But where can you turn for reliable guidance? Dr. Michael Rydelink, beloved Moody professor and host of the radio call-in show Open Line, answers the questions that listeners often ask him. Michael addresses questions such as: Why does God allow bad things to happen? Did Noah really fit all the animals of the earth on a boat? Can I lose my salvation? What is the best Bible translation—King James or another? How can you explain the Trinity? Did Jesus really turn water into wine? And much more . . . Though the Bible is full of mysteries, it has no errors. There are good answers to all the perplexing questions. Don't stay in the dark any longer. Get the answers from an expert and let your confusion turn to understanding.

This readable survey on the history of missions tells the story of pivotal turning points in the expansion of Christianity, enabling readers to grasp the big picture of missional trends and critical developments. Alice Ott examines twelve key points in the growth of Christianity across the globe from the Jerusalem Council to Lausanne '74, an approach that draws on her many years of classroom teaching. Each chapter begins with a close-up view of a particularly compelling and paradigmatic episode in Christian history before panning out for a broader historical outlook. The book draws deeply on primary sources and covers some topics not addressed in similar volumes, such as the role of British abolitionism on mission to Africa and the relationship between imperialism and mission. It demonstrates that the expansion of Christianity was not just a Western-driven phenomenon; rather, the gospel spread worldwide through the efforts of both Western and non-Western missionaries and through the crucial ministry of indigenous lay Christians, evangelists, and preachers. This fascinating account of worldwide Christianity is suitable not only for the classroom but also for churches, workshops, and other seminars.

New Wine

Changing a Paradigm-- Or Two

The Christian Meaning of Death and the Resurrection of the Body

Gospel Sermons for Sundays After Pentecost (first Third), Cycle C

Christ's Time for the Church

A Study of Transition in the Book of Acts

Sacred Fire

Pentecost on Mockingbird Lane is a collection of 51 sermons preached at the 2015 National Festival of Young Preachers in Dallas, Texas (at Perkins School of Theology on Mockingbird Lane).

ADVANCED PRAISE FOR PASTOR UNIQUE: Becoming a Turnaround Leader Each year thousands of books are written, published, and distributed. Few are really significant works. Pastor Unique is, in my view, a significant book. Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D. Talbot Seminary, Biola University Helping pastors understand themselves and their role is crucial and fundamental. So is training them in the tactics and strategies of change. Furthermore, they must learn how their personalities help or hinder leading change. I believe the process described in this book is targeted more specifically than any other I know to provide this training . Paul Borden. Ph.D. Director, Church Health Initiative I am grateful to the authors for including The Birkman Method in their work with pastors. My father, Roger Birkman, was passionate about helping people of faith gain a clearer, more accurate understanding of self and others. The authentic kind of leadership development recommended in this book will profoundly impact pastors and the people they lead. We are proud that Birkman can play a role in the important initiative represented in Pastor Unique. Sharon Birkman Fink, CEO Birkman International, Inc. Are you still searching for that killer church health conference, that rock star pastor to imitate, or the perfect formula that will tell you how lead your church to effective service in Jesus mission? Pastors who chase dreams of high powered ministry by looking for answers outside of themselves are inevitably discouraged when they learn that what works for others wont work for them. If thats your story, Pastor Unique is what youve been looking for. Inside you will learn how to use all the tools the Head of the Church has already given you your identity, your personality, and your life experience to become a turnaround leader in your church.

"Magisterial. . . A learned, brilliant and enjoyable study."—Géza Vermès, Times Literary Supplement In this exciting book, Paula Fredriksen explains the variety of New Testament images of Jesus by exploring the ways that the new Christian communities interpreted his mission and message in light of the delay of the Kingdom he had preached. This edition includes an introduction reviews the most recent scholarship on Jesus and its implications for both history and theology. "Brilliant and lucidly written, full of original and fascinating insights."—Reginald H. Fuller, Journal of the American Academy of Religion "This is a first-rate work of a first-rate historian."—James D. Tabor, Journal of Religion "Fredriksen confronts her documents—principally the writings of the New Testament—as an archaeologist would an especially rich complex site. With great care she distinguishes the literary images from historical fact. As she does so, she explains the images of Jesus in terms of the strategies and purposes of the writers Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."—Thomas D'Evelyn, Christian Science Monitor

A lifetime of reflection and examination on the book of Acts

Becoming a Turnaround Leader

Second Lesson Sermons for Sundays After Pentecost (last Third), Cycle A

Meditations on the Daily Office

My Journey into the Heart of Scriptural Faith and the Land Where It All Began

Hope to Die

From Jesus to Christ

Water Won't Quench the Fire

'Jesus was a pest to the Romans and a threat to the religious leadership, so they threw him on to the rubbish dump. Little did they realize that it was like trying to put out a fire with petrol. The whole world exploded.' With characteristic style, John Pritchard takes us on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, as he unpacks the five great events that made Christianity – Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. We explore: What happened? What did it mean? What does it mean for us? Absorbing, immediate and full of stories, this volume offers deeply considered theology, brilliantly communicated to connect with life as we actually experience it. *'Vividly elucidates the familiar but often not-quite-understood beliefs at the centre of the Christian faith.'* Dominic Barrington, Dean of Chicago Praise for John Pritchard: Rowan Williams on *God Lost and Found*: 'Unusually honest . . . superbly well focused.' Justin Welby on *Living Faithfully*: 'A very good book by an exceptional leader . . . takes one back to the face of Christ and the realities of Christian discipleship.'

The first Christians "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) shaking the gates of hell even in the face of severe persecution. The result: People all around "were filled with wonder and amazement" (Acts 3:10). What can give Christians today the same impact? God's Holy Spirit is ready to answer that for us in an awesome way, as Henry Blackaby and his son Mel Blackaby make clear in *Experiencing the Spirit*. You'll see how the proof of the Spirit's presence is our awareness of God's personal assignments for us, plus our supernatural enablement to carry out those assignments. You'll find essential clarification on the difference between natural talents and spiritual gifts. You'll explore the dynamics of being filled with the Spirit through intimate relationship with Him, committed obedience, and radical departure from sin. Instead of considering what you can do for God with your abilities and talents, you'll be encouraged here to seek what God wants to do through you supernaturally by His Spirit, empowering you beyond your personal competence and capacities. Release the Holy Spirit's work at the very core of your experience of the Christian life – as He releases you to serve God as never before.

"An encyclopedic exploration of the most effective methods for giving children the courage to realize their full potential." — ADELE FABER, author of *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk* WINNER: Nautilus Book Award, Foreword Indies Award, Independent Publishers Book Award, Readers Choice Award, National Indie Excellence Award and Family Choice Award. **NEW TOOLS AND A GROUNDBREAKING FORMULA FOR SOLVING VIRTUALLY ANY PARENTING CHALLENGE WITHOUT PUNISHMENTS, REWARDS OR BRIBERY.**

ParentShift is an award-winning book that marries modern research and science with the work of some of the greatest child psychologists of our time. The advice, which applies to children of any age, is built into a flexible, common-sense approach. Unlike any other parenting book on the market, *ParentShift* transforms families by showing parents precisely how to solve short-term challenges, prevent long-term problems and build strong relationships with kids — all at the same time. In this book, readers will learn to: • Respond thoughtfully to outbursts and tantrums. • Set age-appropriate limits and boundaries. • Prepare children to meet life's challenges. • Ensure kids become strong boundary-setters. • Curtail power struggles and sibling rivalry. • Move beyond timeouts, reward charts and other outdated tactics. • Build open, trusting parent-child bonds that keep kids turning to parents, instead of peers, for guidance.

"25 Reasons Why Small Churches Are Not Growing" gets right to the point, giving hands-on advice that the author experienced while growing up in church. (*Practical Life*)

Why Don't We Try Pentecost One More Time?

The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi

Christianity For Dummies

The Moody Bible Commentary

God's DNA

A Child's First Book About Pentecost

Sermons for Sundays After Pentecost (first Third) : Cycle B, Gospel Texts

Get to know the beliefs and practices inspired by Jesus Christ Discover what it means to be a Christian and follow the gospel Curious about Christianity? This friendly you understand the basic teachings of the Christian faith, exploring the common ground that all Christians share, the differences among the major branches, the key e Christian history, the key theological issues, and the many ways Christians live out their faith in today's world. The Dummies Way Explanations in plain English "Get in, g information Icons and other navigational aids Tear-out cheat sheet Top ten lists A dash of humor and fun Discover how to: Express the core essentials of Christianity the life and teachings of Jesus Understand why the Bible is central to the faith Respect the unique roles of the Trinity Explore controversial issues among the branche An instant New York Times bestseller! Journey with Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel into Israel and explore the deep roots of the Christian faith. As student of Scripture, Kathie Lee Gifford has always desired a deeper understanding of God's Word and a deeper knowledge of God Himself. But it wasn't until she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek—along with actually hiking the ancient paths of Israel—that she found the fulfillment of those desires. No walk with Kathie on a journey through the spiritual foundations of her faith: The Rock (Jesus Christ): Hear directly from Kathie about her life-changing and ever-deeper connection with Jesus, the Lover of her soul. The Road (Israel): Explore dozens of ancient landmarks and historical sites from Israel, the promised land of God's covenant

Rabbi (God's Word): Go beyond a Sunday-school approach to the Bible by digging into the original languages and deeper meanings of the Holy Scriptures. As you journey through The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, you'll also find additional content from Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel throughout the book. Jason's insight into the Hebrew language, culture, and heritage will open your eyes to the Bible like never before. Begin your journey toward a deeper faith through The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi. A probing but clearly written book, Calendar will find an appreciative audience beyond academia and clergy to the laity of the church: choirs and their directors, worship adult study groups, and others who want to understand better the church's times of preparation and celebration. Calendar centers largely on theological meaning and practice in relation to liturgical time. Deliberately, almost no attention is given to detailed historical development, much of which is exceedingly complex in its origins and in its detail. An appendix entitled "Forgetting What You Were Always Taught (Or, This Book in a Nutshell)" aptly describes the radical reordering that Stookey believes occurs when our understanding of time and the story of Jesus takes its bearings from the Incarnation. So, just as the Christian week begins with Sunday, the day of Resurrection, Stookey follows the Christian year beginning with the season of Easter, and only then Lent; Christmas, then Advent. Illuminating discussions of Ordinary and Extraordinary and the Sanctoral Cycle follow.

Hope for Hurting Singles gives you real weapons in your fight against depression, fear, and bitterness. Author Jack Zavada has been a single adult Christian for more than 20 years. He knows what it's like to deal with loneliness. He's gone through the anger and frustration of unanswered prayer. Through trial and error, Jack has learned what works and what doesn't, and now he shares it all with you. Since 2005, Jack's popular web site, www.inspiration-for-singles.com, has helped singles in over 150 countries. Hope for Hurting Singles is down-to-earth and solidly biblical. Hope for Hurting Singles is not like the typical pep talk from a married pastor or counselor who has forgotten how hard it is to live as a single. Find fresh insights into the problems every unmarried person goes through behind closed doors. Hope for Hurting Singles will make you eager to get up in the morning and give your spirit for a joy-filled life. If you're bone-tired of the struggle with singleness, this is the book for you.

Ten Universal Truths That Will Change the Way You Raise Your Kids

The Very First Christians

Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost

Daily Reflections for Easter to Pentecost

A Christian Guide to Overcoming Life's Challenges

The Reasons You Haven't Received the Holy Spirit

Tell Someone

This package includes the complete three-volume set of the Christ in the Feasts series: Christ in the Passover, Christ in the Feast of Pentecost, and Christ in the Feast of Tabernacles. In Christ in the Passover, Ceil and Moishe Rosen explore the meaning behind the different elements of the feast such as the bitter herbs, salty water, a sweet apple mixture, and the shankbone of a lamb. This book invites you to enter the celebration of Passover, rich with history and significance for both Jew and Gentile. God wasn't finished working in the lives of His people after the waters of the Red Sea parted. Both past and future deliverance are celebrated in this solemn and joyful feast. Through Christ in the Passover, you'll trace God's involvement through the history of this holy day—from the first Passover, all the way to the modern Seder. And in the revised editions of this inviting book, the authors show you how the death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah are forever interwoven with the Passover and its symbolism. In Christ in the Feast of Pentecost, this engrossing book will quickly capture your attention as you realize the excitement leading up to this festive occasion and the richness it will bring to your understanding of both the Old and New Testament references. The authors treat us to the sense of anticipation that "cannot be overstated" as their insightful account of traditions leading up to this holiday unfolds...a boy's first haircut, bonfires, sweet treats, artful paper cutting, firstfruits. Shavnot will lead believers in Jesus into greater understanding of the significance of the omer, the waiting period, which foreshadows our watching for His return and gives further meaning to our work of building His kingdom. In Christ in the Feast of Tabernacles, David Brickner will captivate you with the rich imagery of this great festival. From the feast's origins of being celebrated with temporary shelters to modern-day observances--and even its meaning for heaven--you'll be enriched by this fascinating account.

Children love birthday parties. This is a book - a first of its kind - to help kids understand and celebrate the birthday of the Church. The Day When God Made the Church is the story of Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit shaped, and continues to shape, who we are as God's Church. Children will learn the story of Pentecost: the sights, sounds, and events of that miraculous day described in the Book of Acts. They will also discover who the Holy Spirit is and how God calls each of us to follow Jesus. At the end, parents, educators, ministers will discover fresh ways to celebrate Pentecost with children in their own churches and families.

Jesus spoke to people whose "hearts have grown dull, and their ears hard of hearing" -- like today's churchgoers who think they know what the preacher

is going to say before the sermon begins. These sermons use parable and paradox, narrative and humor, imagination and solid biblical scholarship to tell the good news people don't expect to hear. "I hear best what I want to hear and I shut out the things I don't want to hear. I hear, "Great sermon, Pastor!" better than I hear, "I notice your hair is getting thinner..". I have no problem at all hearing the good news that I am forgiven. I have a really hard time hearing a parable that tells me I will suffer the tortures of the damned until I forgive. These sermons have been influenced by preachers who have gotten through to me despite my spiritual hearing impairment. Craddock, Buechner, and Lowry... David Buttrick... Harry Emerson Fosdick..." (from author's Preface) Sermons in this book are based on lections for the middle third of the season after Pentecost. Sermon titles include: Prayer and Compassion Fatigue -- Matthew 14:13-21 Love Without Limits -- Matthew 15:10-28 Good News: Life Is Not Fair -- Matthew 20:1-16 Why Do We Ignore Warning Signs? -- Matthew 21:33-46 Roger Talbott is pastor of North Olmsted United Methodist Church in North Olmsted, Ohio. He has served congregations in Ohio and western New York. He earned his M.Div. degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and is currently enrolled in the D.Min. program at Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Michigan.

There have been all kinds of explanations suggested for what happened at Pentecost. When God first poured out his Spirit's Life upon the church it became obvious that God was at work. Many explanations of what happened at Pentecost have reduced this spiritual phenomenon to a list of things we ought to be doing. What this approach to ministry forgets is that Pentecost was not about what we need to be doing. It is about what God was doing and what God continues to do by bringing Christ to dwell within God's people. Pentecost show us that you can't reduce the mystery of life in the Spirit to a ministry model that can be duplicated whenever we want. If it could wouldn't that have happened by now in America? May I ask you to consider whether any ministry program has brought lasting revival to this nation? What I believe we have seen is the hope for revival being shared; and we are very passionate about that. But our passion or our programs will not produce life in us or in others. Only God can do that! What we need is a fundamental transformation of our lives and ministries. Only the Spirit of God can cause a person to be born again (John 3:5-7). Only the Spirit of God can enable a walk with Jesus (Galatians 3:1-3). And only the Spirit of God can bring about the awakening and revival that this nation needs (Acts 4:31). Pentecost teaches us that it is not about having the right model for ministry. If anyone had a model for ministry that could not be improved upon it was Israel. God told Moses to make their ministry after the "pattern" he had seen on the Mountain as he met with God (Exodus 25:9, 40). And while this ministry was to be preformed it had no power to transform the lives of those believers who faithfully sought to maintain its ritual because their hearts could not be changed by the outward observance of any law (Hebrews 7:19). The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews puts it this way, "This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: 'See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain'" (Hebrews 8:5). "But God found fault with the people and said, 'The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them. This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.' By calling this covenant 'new,' he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear" (Hebrews 8:8-13). So it is not about getting our model for ministry right or about having the right program or is it about knowing Christ and walking as he did; but only the Spirit's presence in our lives can do that! The book of Acts shows this over and over again. Luke had already written the gospel named after him and he refers to this as "my former book" when he starts his preface in Acts (Acts 1:1). He says that the gospel of Luke recorded, "all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven." He then wrote Acts which recorded what Jesus continued to do and teach, except now it is through the agency of the church as empowered by his Holy Spirit. Luke's record is a diary of what happened as God's presence returned to earth with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church. Jesus was on the throne in glory but he

Sermons from the 2015 National Festival of Young Preachers

25 Reasons Why Small Churches Aren't Growing

Preaching Community in Seasons of Change : Gospel Sermons for Sundays After Pentecost (first Third), Cycle A

The African Memory of Mark

Hope for Hurting Singles

Rejoice and Be Glad 2020

A Theology of Acts

Popular author, retreat leader, and priest Barbara Crafton rises early each morning, lights a candle, opens her Book of Common Prayer, and reads the morning office—the ancient Christian service beginning of a new day. When she is done, Crafton usually sits down at her computer and sends out an e-mail that says simply, "Let us bless the Lord," the traditional closing line of the morning readers reply, "Thanks be to God." Crafton communicates with thousands of subscribers to her daily e-mail meditations. They—and others who say the Daily Offices—will treasure this collection of assigned biblical texts for each day of Year One's Easter and Pentecost seasons, Crafton's writings complement perfectly the morning, noon, evening, and nighttime prayers that are the Daily Office. Crafton is an Episcopal priest and popular preacher, retreat leader, and writer. Her articles and reviews have appeared in the New York Times, Reader's Digest, Episcopal Life, and other publications. Her books, including Let Every Heart Prepare, Some Things You Just Have to Live With, Meditations on the Psalms, The Sewing Room, and others available from Morehouse Publishing.

The powerful teaching developed in this book began with a revelation the Lord gave concerning The Spirit of Understanding - a Biblical anointing that enables a church to become a people of one heart and one mind. The grace that was poured out on the day of Pentecost, when, with the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were changed from individuals with selfish ambition and petty jealousies, to a Christian community. The 12 disciples were different people after the day of Pentecost than before. Something changed them. The resurrection gave them faith in Christ, and Pentecost gave them something more. It gave them the ability to love each other. That something is Holy Community and this book talks all about it. This great anointing in Pentecost is what is required for the Church today to again be such a people of one heart and one mind.

As Catholics, we believe in the resurrection of the body. We profess it in our creed. We're taught that to bury and pray for the dead are corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We honor the dead through the Christian burial. We do all of this, and more, because when Jesus Christ took on flesh for the salvation of our souls he also bestowed great dignity on our bodies. In Hope to Die: The Christian Meaning of the Resurrection of the Body, Scott Hahn explores the significance of death and burial from a Catholic perspective. The promise of the bodily resurrection brings into focus the need for the dignified death. Unpacking both Scripture and Catholic teaching, Hope to Die reminds us that we are destined for glorification on the last day. Our bodies have been made by a God who loves us. Even in death, we are part of the mystery of our salvation.

"Be like me! "While many parents and leaders are understandably hesitant to utter such words, they are vitally needed today in a world where positive role models are often few and far between. The Apostle Paul is not bashful about challenging Christians to follow his example and live distinctively different lives -- lives that reflect the image of the risen Christ. Gary Carver shares that vision through his messages lay out for readers the belief that we can grow every day to be more like Jesus. "Gary Carver preaches at a way station on an ancient pilgrim road, offering comfort and hope to the weary. In his sermons, Gary preaches to the mixed band of pilgrims jostling our way along toward the goal of spiritual discovery, and he speaks to our fears and doubts, our longings and our need, and most of all, to the one whose presence forms the end of our restless trek.... Read these wonderful sermons and enjoy them. But, more important, read these sermons and take courage as you move faithfully along the road." Foreword) Thomas G. Long Bandy Professor of Preaching Candler School of Theology, Emory University "Someone has said that preaching is presenting the gospel through human personality. In the lectionary sermons, Gary Carver has ably presented the gospel -- his personality is evident in the richness of examples and illustrations." June McEwen Chair, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs "Distinctively Different is a very contemporary collection of spirited and spiritual reflections. In a quiet dialogue with Gary Carver, you are invited to revive your theological commitments, reflect on them from your faith perspective. Share these motivational and innovative thoughts with your Bible study or your prayer group." Claudia Highbaugh Chaplain Harvard Divinity School "Preaching effectively to a generation of young people this week is one of the great challenges in Christian ministry. Gary Carver shows how it is done: biblical exposition, effective illustration, and relevant application. The power of these messages is that they are delivered with passion." Daniel Vestal Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Atlanta, Georgia "You simply must read Gary Carver's book! If you want to meet Paul in the street and not just in the sanctuary, you want to see that Paul's insights are more contemporary than this morning's newspaper, read this book. If you want your spirit refreshed and your soul uplifted, read this book. Give yourself a break." Buckner Fanning Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church San Antonio, Texas Gary L. Carver is pastor of First Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has also served as pastor of churches in Alabama and Georgia. He is a graduate of Samford University (B.A.) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. and D.Min.), and has done additional graduate study at Candler School of Theology and Harvard Divinity School. He has published in a variety of church and clergy publications, and is the author of "Acting on the Absurd" and "Out From the Ordinary" (CSS).

Let Us Bless the Lord, Year One: Easter through Pentecost

Pentecost Fire

Five Events that Made Christianity

Pastor Unique

The Origins of the New Testament Images of Jesus (Second Edition)

A Metaphor For The Holy Spirit's Ministry

The Acts of the Apostles

We often regard the author of the Gospel of Mark as an obscure figure about whom we know little. Many would be surprised to learn how much fuller a picture of Mark exists within widespread African tradition, tradition that holds that Mark himself was from North Africa, that he founded the church in Alexandria, that he was an eyewitness to the Last Supper and Pentecost, that he was related not only to Barnabas but to Peter as well and accompanied him on many of his travels. In this provocative reassessment of early church tradition, Thomas C. Oden begins with the palette of New Testament evidence and adds to it the range of colors from traditional African sources, including synaxaries (compilations of short biographies of saints to be read on feast days), archaeological sites, non-Western historical documents and ancient churches. The result is a fresh and illuminating portrait of Mark, one that is deeply rooted in African memory and seldom viewed appreciatively in the West.

50 Most Important Bible Questions

Holy Bible

From Pentecost to the Present

The Day When God Made Church

My Utmost for His Highest

You Can Share the Good News