



We Presbyterians relentlessly comb over ever-growing research of learning styles and teaching techniques, and never cease to write new study materials, to publish new textbooks, and to experiment with the newest methods.

RESOURCE CENTER

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2014

But in an age of diminishing resources, the commission to make disciples continues to beckon for earnest, proactive and innovative Christian education programming.

Yes, you may convince me that things have changed, but I respond with “Needs Haven’t.” The need to know who we are and to whom we belong and to be able to convey our story, our long history as God’s covenant people, to give and receive hope and peace in a climate of loving relationships has not changed.

I found those good words in my readings – and wanted to share them with you. They resonated with me – and I hope they do also with you.

Theocademy

One of the latest endeavors: Theocademy
Theocademy states: **Form your Faith, Anytime, Anywhere.** This is a project undertaken to address the needs of “new members” and for Ruling Elders and Deacons. The first portion – **New Members** is on line. You can watch the YouTube video and download the study guide to go with each lesson. There are five lessons.

1. A People of Grace
2. Wicked Bad
3. Who Do They Say I Am?
4. Update Your Faith System
5. Blessed to be a Blessing

Theocademy continued...

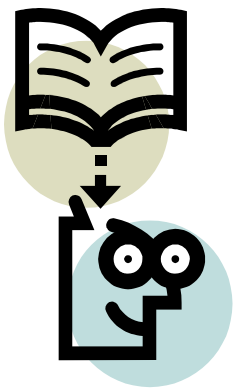
Lessons for Ruling Elders and Deacons has 13 lessons. The videos are available on YouTube, but the study guides are not ready.

1. Ordered Ministry
2. Being Leaders
3. Who is the Church
4. What is the Church
5. Being a Confessional Church
6. The Confessions
7. A Brief Statement of Faith
8. Principles of Order and Government
9. The Councils of the Church
10. The Dynamics of Worship
11. The Word in Worship
12. The Sacraments in Worship
13. Prayer and Song in Worship

Check out pcusa.org/theocademy.

I will be attending the Nevada Presbytery Meeting on September 14. Just a reminder that you can return materials at that time – save on postage – what a deal!!





New materials to be checked out from the Resource Center:

1. Ruling Elders: Formation and Ruling Elders: Transformation

This study stressed the difference between addressing the “technical” (the business of the church) versus the adaptive challenge. It guides newly appointed leaders through the discernment process and helps readers come to terms with the process.

2. 1001 Worshipping Communities

(we have been hearing those words – right?) This study provides practical thought and suggestions for action toward understanding and establishing new worshipping communities today.

3. Following Jesus Today: Challenges and Opportunities

This study considers what following Jesus means – in our personal lives and for the church.

One of the “fun” parts of the Resource Center is selecting new studies and “good reads” for all of you to check out.

Gospel According to Starbucks **By Leonard Sweet**

In this book, the Starbucks experience is examined not simply so we can talk about coffee or the four million coffee drinks that

Starbucks sells daily in America, but so we can learn what Starbucks has come close to perfecting – that life is meant to be lived with passion, and that passion is found and practiced through experiences, connection, symbols and images, and the full participation of every part of your being.

With almost every study, it seems, we are discovering that fewer Americans than was previously thought attend church. Organized religion has been assuming that because it has a better product – namely, God – that it simply needs to open the doors and customers will line up. That assumption no longer holds.

I especially enjoyed the inserts: *Brewed for Thought, Grounds for Truth, and Bean There.*

This prolific author was a speaker at a conference at Zephyr Conference Center. Even if you did not have the opportunity to attend – check out some of his books that we purchased for a “good read”.

Battle Hymn of the Republic **By John Stauffer & Benjamin Soskis**

The song, originally the leading anthem of the Union cause during the Civil War, has over the past century and a half frequently been called upon by Americans in moments of crisis and peril. It was selected to be sung at the memorial service for the victims of Sept. 2011. The audience immediately joined in and sang together. (we all know the words)

Appropriately solemn, the hymn affirms the need to mourn and to memorialize. It urges its listeners to honor the dead with a belief in the decency of the American character and the nation’s inevitable triumph over her enemies. Indeed ever since its composition in 1861 by Julia Ward Howe, a distinguished Boston reformer, the hymn has proven itself an exceptionally potent amalgam: a saber-rattling tearjerker.

This book covers the history – from “John Brown’s Body” to the words we know today. It really was a biography of the song that marches on.



I recently discovered this resource –

Congregations Stand for Healthy Children: Bringing Hope and Healing. This is a resource that can be used for National Observance of Children’s Sabbath – an annual event that takes place on the third weekend of October each year.

When I went on line – I discovered that this is a resource that can be downloaded, but I do have one (for 2006) that would help you organize the event if you would like to add that to your programming for the coming year.

It includes plans to promote, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Baha’i, Unitarian Universalist, Buddhist and Interfaith Resources for the Children’s Sabbath.

It includes activities for the Children’s Sabbath Weekend to Bring Hope and Healing (for all Faiths)

I just received sample copies for fall of **We Believe Curriculum.**

Included:

The Present Word Worship Leaflets
Present Word Fall 2014 Sustaining Hope Adult Student’s Book, Leader’s Guide, and Student Book

We Believe Director CD
Multi-age Grades K-5
Older Elementary Grades 3-4
Younger Elementary Grades K-2
Wee Believe (preschool)

The other surprise that was in my curriculum box was a “**WOWBUTTER**” sample. Just in case you haven’t heard of it – it is for those in your congregation who have a peanut allergy. It says it is “toasted soy spread”.

Check Wowbutter Foods, Staffa, Ontario.