

## Additions to the Library

November-December 2011

The following list includes books that were added to your church library. Check the card catalog under author or title for call numbers. Books check out for one month at a time.

### Real Christmas

**Why the Nativity?** By David Jeremiah. What does the Christmas story really mean? David Jeremiah tries to answer 25 of the most thought provoking questions surrounding the birth of Christ—the most pivotal moment in human history. Why was Mary chosen? Why Joseph? Why did Jesus come when He did? Why the small town of Bethlehem? Why did Jesus come to earth as a man? The greatest miracle of all times is as meaningful today as it was so long ago.

### Renewing the Mission

**Change the World: Recovering the message and mission of Jesus.** By Mike Slaughter. What is the mission of the church? Many modern churches need a course correction if they are to follow the plan laid out by Jesus. Each pastor and congregation must decide how they are going to expend their time, energy and budget to work for real change in a hurting world. Our pastors recently used this book as a foundation for evaluating our direction as a church.

**Life After Church: God's call to disillusioned Christians.** By Brian Sanders. Some committed Christians are looking for more than they find in the local church. Sanders finds three main reasons: God is not honored; people aren't in community with each other; or they aren't reaching anyone. He offers suggestions on how to leave, yet continue your Christian mission. Possibilities are planting a new church, beginning a home church or ministering to a particular group of non-Christians while remaining faithful to the Word. Church should never leave you.

**War in the Pews.** By C.A. (Chet) Weigle. The author feels he is reflecting the desire of many Christians who hunger for a greater authenticity in their walk with Christ. He feels churches often get in the way of believers doing what he calls "friendship evangelism," and advocates more camp and home churches to fill this need. He believes Christ provides the simple answers for all modern church dilemmas, such as cliques, fighting, distrust and debt.

### Our Methodist Heritage

**Lake Junaluska.** By William E. King. Lake Junaluska, the beloved retreat for generations of United Methodists in North Carolina, was first begun in 1913 under the Methodist Episcopal Church (later United Methodists) as a summer retreat place for youth Christian education. Programs have expanded to include venues for instruction, entertainment, inspiration and rest. This collection of vintage photographs ranging from 1913 to 1985 give an idea of the activities and history of our Methodist retreat center.

### Heavenly Messengers

**What the Bible Says about Angels.** By David Jeremiah. A great deal of contemporary myth surrounds angels in our culture and are often based on misconceptions of their true role. The Bible portrays them as powerful guardians and servant messengers of God, but we are also admonished not to worship them. Their presence often invokes fear and awe in those who see them. An examination of what Scripture tells us about these mysterious beings.

## Studies of the Book of James

**What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do.** By David Jeremiah. A life lived with a focused devotion to God should make a genuine difference in the way a person lives. Jeremiah believes this is the core idea in the Book of James. For the strength to meet the challenges of our life, we have to draw on the Holy Spirit, but the proof of our belief is in the living.

**Growing Slowly Wise: Building a faith that works.** By David Roper. Taking a look beneath the surface of the Book of James, Roper discovers a wealth of timely advice, practical reminders and inspiring exhortations. His clear, easy-going style makes for an easy, but thought-provoking read.

## How Then Shall We Worship?

**The Word & Power Church: What happens when a church experiences all God has to offer?** By Doug Banister. Some Christians have accused the charismatics of having “no scriptural foundations.” They in turn accuse the evangelical Christians of having “no spiritual power.” Should there be this dichotomy? Banister thinks each tradition has its strengths and both are essential in a balanced faith.

**For an Audience of One: Worshiping the One and Only in everything you do.** By Mike Pilavachi. Ephesians 5:10: “Find out what pleases the Lord.” This how the author defines worship, “to want to discover the actions, attitudes and thoughts that are going to make God’s heart glad.” Going far beyond music, he tries to define the elements that go into a passionate worship service.

## Church History

**The Gnostic Gospels.** By Elaine Pagels. In Biblical letters there is mention of a heresy that spread during the first century that took many centuries to eradicate. In 1945 some of the writing of the Gnostics was discovered in ancient manuscripts that have since been translated and studied. Pagels looks at the system of beliefs that formed Gnosticism, and how it strayed from orthodox writings. A historic look at the path not taken.

## Christian Fiction

### *Contemporary*

**The Christmas Angel.** By Thomas Kinkade and Katherine Spencer. In the rustic seaside hamlet of Cape Light, Emily finds an unexpected Christmas gift in front of the church...a baby girl in a small cradle with a note asking the finder to care for her. Granted temporary custody, she badly wants to keep the baby, but her husband Dan strongly opposes taking on the responsibility for a child.

**Unlocked.** By Karen Kingsbury. Holden Harris is an eighteen-year-old locked in a prison of autism. Although happy in a quiet world of his own, Holden’s quirky behavior draws the ridicule and the bullying of some of the high school kids. Popular cheerleader Ella Reynolds notices that he responds to music, is drawn to him, but realizes that befriending him will make her an outcast from her group--which also includes her boyfriend.

### *Romance*

**Caroline’s Choice.** By Martha Rogers. When Caroline Frankson felt life was passing her by in little Barton Creek and her feelings for Matthew Haynes were unrequited, she decided to move to Oklahoma City where opportunities abounded. When her train is in an accident, Caroline goes missing, and the supposedly uninterested Matthew determines to find her at all costs.

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