



"If there is one thing that is certain in life, it is change."

While these words of wisdom are attributed to urban studies legend Jane Jacobs, they have become a predominant thread in theological field education. Change in our socio-cultural context calls for change in ways we are church. Change in ways we are church calls for change in the ways we minister. Change in the ways we minister calls for change in ways we educate and form candidates for ministry. Many of the books for which you will find abstracts in this edition of TFEA deal with issues related to change.

Like all aspects of our lives, the TFEA journal is not outside the realm of change. Based on feedback from a number of sources, we have changed the frequency of publishing the TFEA journal. We discovered that the many demands placed on most field educators make an annual issue of TFEA potentially easier for making contributions. We also learned that an issue just before the summer months would give us access to resources for enriching our summer reading. Although we are publishing this journal once a year, we invite you to prepare abstracts as new resources become available to you throughout the year. Contributions should be approximately 200 words in length. Don't hesitate to send them along, at any time, to Dr. Matthew Floding at matt@westernsem.edu. This practice would help lessen the panic of gathering and editing abstracts before late spring. For information on books reviewed to 2002, please refer to our TFEA Index 2002. Another index will be published following this edition. As this journal is developing, we welcome all suggestions which would render it more helpful for you.

As I received the contributions which you will find in this edition, I was struck by both their diversity and common-unity. Like our current contexts of theological field education, uniformity is no longer the defining concern. Each abstract gives us access to the uniqueness of the theological field educators and their respective milieus. The unifying factors are the passion and commitment which all contributors have demonstrated, not only in their quest for excellence in this theological discipline, but also in their desire to share the pertinence these resources with others. We are also pleased to

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welcome contributions from current students in theological field education. Thank you for participating in this web of online information sharing. Your generosity enriches us all.

We wish you a summer filled with joy and frolic. May this coming year be a time of embracing change--a year brimming with the energy of new life!

Lorraine Ste-Marie
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Fire and Ice: The United States, Canada and the Myth of Converging Values by Michael Adams. Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2003. (paperback) 224 pages. ISBN 0-14-3011422-6

ATFE members preparing for the next ATFE Biennium in Toronto in January 2005 will do well to read this book. *Fire and Ice* has been on the best seller list in Canada, but is probably unknown in the United States. Field educators often pride themselves on being contextual theologians, being attentive to the value frameworks present in the different cultural contexts where they do ministry. Adams would insist that ATFE members from Canada and the U.S. are coming from "North America's two distinct societies" with quite different and increasingly diverging cultural value frameworks.

Adams, drawing on social science research, develops a socio-cultural value mapping framework, and traces changes in social values in the U.S. and Canada in recent decades. He states his research question: "... to find out why an initially "conservative" society like Canada has ended up producing an autonomous, inner-directed, flexible, tolerant, socially liberal and spiritually eclectic people while an initially "liberal" society like the United States has ended up producing a people who are relatively speaking, materialistic, outer-directed, intolerant, socially conservative and deferential to institutional authority" (p.10). Adams' answers to this question are surprising and provocative, and well worth the read (on either side of the border).

-Bob McKeon

Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should be Your Church's #1 Priority by George Barna. Ventura, CA, Regal Books, 2003. 140pages. ISBN: 0830732942

George Barna promotes a compelling case for quality children's ministry. True to his style, the book is loaded with the results of statistical research--research pertinent to those assisting others in defining and discerning a call to vocational ministry. His statistics are interesting and challenging, although sometimes a bit obvious. Spiritual formation and moral

development critical to life-long faith begins at an early age, according to Barna, and it is research in this area, woven throughout his writing, which drives his thesis.

The reader does not need to agree with Barna's theology (evangelical and conservative) nor his sometimes shaky exegetical work (e.g., interpretation of Matt. 18.3, p. 45). What can be agreed on, apart from Barna's statistics, is an overlying reality: thriving, growing churches are paying attention to children's ministry. Those churches are calling trained ministry leaders and there is a growing cadre of seminarians answering that call. Since Barna's research and writing lends valuable assistance in determining general church health and direction-setting, those seeking senior leadership positions in any church may also draw important conclusions from the viability of existing children's programs or lack thereof. This is a short read allowing some specific cultural insight and a valuable tool for widening perspective toward an important area of ministry.

-Greg Meland

Now, Discover Your Strengths by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton, New York: The Free Press, 2001. 260 pages. ISBN 0-7432-0114-0.

Now, Discover Your Strengths aims to correct the imbalance that, in the authors' view, a culture of the psychotherapeutic has produced. Namely, we possess a powerful vocabulary to describe our weaknesses but lack the corresponding vocabulary with which to describe our strengths. A second, but equally powerful assertion is that each person has a virtually unique strength mix. On the basis of a Gallup study involving over two million people (including groups of international leaders through the United Nations) an instrument was designed to provide a person with their five signature strength themes. These themes are important because it is the contention of the authors that when we are operating out of our strengths we achieve "consistent near perfect performance in an activity." The book is divided into three sections. First is "The Anatomy of a Strength," second is "Discover the Source of Your Strengths" and the third is, "Putting Your Strengths to Work."

For the 2003-04 academic year I used the instrument during orientation for the purpose of celebrating and affirming what new students bring to their calling. I inserted it into the place where we have usually done our psychological testing (which I had observed created a great deal of anxiety) and moved it to one month into the semester. The experience helped cast a positive halo over the whole orientation experience and is now a touchstone for reflecting on their further discernment.

-Matthew Floding

Learning While Leading: Increasing Your Effectiveness in Ministry by Anita Farber-Robertson, Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2000. (paperback) 153 pages. ISBN: 1566992303

By the time the students in the Professional Ministry Practicum reach the seminar room, they have been learning about and practicing the art of theological reflection for some time. Like other arts, it is not mastered in one sitting. Ruminating about a slice of ministry, writing it up, presenting it for reflection, and receiving feedback can lead to transformation - but only if participants are not, in Anita-Farber-Robertson's words, "Trapped by Virtue"! Drawing upon the insights of "action science" (Chris Argyris), Farber-Robertson introduces her readers to three persons engaged in pastoral practice, each of whom is puzzled by the outcome of their actions and each of whom carries on an internal dialogue about what went so very wrong in situations where they were genuinely trying to do their best. In their puzzlement, all three turn to trusted colleagues to talk about their dilemmas. Thanks to their caring and wise feedback, all three come to realize that they themselves are called to greater self-awareness through what she terms "double-loop learning." Here, Farber-Robertson demonstrates that feedback can be transformational when it calls into question the gap between what a person espouses and what a person practices. Perhaps, like the persons in this book, many of our students are blinded to some of the data of the actual situation and allow the social virtues to prevent them from asking the more probing questions. Farber-Robertson makes many valuable contributions to the toolbox needed by students in ministry if they are to continue learning while leading.

-Basil Tanguay

"Hallowed Ground: Landscape as Hagiography in Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop*" by Pam Fox Kuhlken in *Christianity and Literature* 52 (Spring 2003): 367-85.

Author Pam Kuhlken explores the sacral and communal nature of the land in Willa Cather's novel, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. Central to her discussion is the relationship between the Sangre de Cristo mountain range-described only two times and briefly by Cather-and the dying Father Latour, a French missionary to the southwestern region of the New World. To that end, she examines Cather's adaptation of four sources for the novel: Cather's experiences as she vacationed in the Southwest over a twelve-year period; a statue of Father Lamy, the historical counterpart for the fictional Latour; a biography of Father Machebeuf which included letters from Father Lamy; and the blood-red landscape.

According to Kuhlken, Cather's skillful use of metonymy, or more specifically, the way in which she substitutes the Sangre de Cristo mountains for the redemption of Christ, achieves the effect of communicating the sanctity of the land. At the same time, she notes, it communicates Cather's

own “inclusivist ecclesiology.” Ultimately, the value of Cather’s narrative is in its ability to envision a redeemed earth and humanity.

-Cynthia Jarrold

Reflecting with God: Connecting Faith and Daily Life in Small Groups, by Abigail Johnson. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2004. (paperback) 124 pages. ISBN 1-56699-292-3.

This book by long-time ATFE member Abigail Johnson is a “must read” for theological field educators. Written in an engaging, highly-readable style, Johnson masterfully demystifies the process of theological reflection and offers a framework for a reflective “conversation with God” that is at once disarmingly simple yet deeply profound. Based on the premise that theological reflection is about “finding God in the extraordinary nature of ordinary day-to-day living,” Johnson offers a repertoire of penetrating questions to guide personal or small-group reflection. Rooting her concepts in the gospel accounts of how Jesus reflected theologically on everyday life, Johnson invites readers to reflect on their own experience in light of Scripture, faith traditions, in conversation with others, in response to challenges by faith communities, and in prayer with God.

Intensely practical, the book offers specific guidance for small-group facilitators, a schedule and structure for group sessions, a sample group covenant, an outline for writing a reflection report, warnings about potential pitfalls, and most importantly, guidance on how to keep the focus on “making faith connections” rather than problem-solving. Written primarily as an invitation for people in congregations to engage in group theological reflection, the book is also an excellent resource for field education students, instructors, site-supervisors, lay committees, and indeed any who long to see with new eyes the connections between daily life and the life of faith

-Janet L. Clark

Theology for Ministry by Margaret Lavin. Ottawa: Toronto: Novalis, 2004. (paperback) 160 pages. ISBN 2-89507-407-0

Recently written by a Canadian ATFE colleague, this book seeks to address a gap between student’s study of systematic theology and their practice of ministry. Lavin takes a far-reaching view of ministry, grounding a theology for ministry, including ordained and non-ordained, in baptism and in the one priesthood of Christ.

This is a well-developed concise systematic theology for ministry. Successive chapters move from theological anthropology, Christology, theology of God, sacramental theology, to ecclesiology in the final chapter. In the final chapter on ecclesiology, Lavin proposes an ecclesiology, not yet realized, where the institutional emphasis is lessened, and the ministry gifts of all the baptized can be lived out in Christian freedom and community.

While this book is written from within a Catholic perspective, it will be of benefit to those in other denominational contexts. I can see how this book will be very useful as a resource for theological reflection in programs like mine where students take their field education towards the end of their theological studies. In other institutions where field education starts early in the course of studies, this book could serve as a preview and introduction for subsequent, more comprehensive, courses in systematic theology.

-Bob McKeon

Spiritlinking Leadership: Working through Resistance to Organizational Change by Donna J. Markham, New York: Paulist Press, 1999. (paperback) 143 pages. ISBN 0-8091-3840-9.

Writing primarily for a business-oriented readership, Markham considers the major challenge of this century is that of resistance to community. For Markham, it is clear that today, there is no place in leadership for individuals who are locked into attitudes of egotistical self-importance and narcissism that serve strictly hierarchical lines of communication. More and more, top-down communication is being replaced by networked, matrix interactions that deliberately encourage information sharing, interaction across disciplines and invite difference of opinion.

Markham views organizations as living organisms in that they are dynamic, vibrant, purposeful, interdependent, generative and deeply interconnected. She puts an emphasis on feedback loops which promote mutual accountability and ongoing forms of evaluation. Recognizing that organizational community building is counter-cultural in that it transcends the pull of individualism, separatism and competition, Markham calls on what she terms "spiritlinking" leaders to trust the collective wisdom of the whole organization. Paradoxically, conflict and resistance are the means of solidifying rather than dividing people.

The health and effectiveness of leadership is crucial for the vitality of the organization in that all human organizations respond to either the health or the pathology of their leaders. Leading organizational community building calls for "spiritlinking" leaders who inspire courage and integrity and demonstrate the ability to manage vision, create synergy, sustain creative conflict and work through grief and resistance. I consider this book insightful and important for any pastoral leadership formation curriculum.

-Lorraine Ste-Marie

All Who Minister: New Ways of Serving God's People edited by Maylanne Maybee. Toronto:ABC Publishing, 2001. 251 pages. ISBN 1-55126-341-6

Maylanne Maybee edits stories and case studies written by 22 practitioners of ministry in the Anglican communities of Canada. Dealing with a cross-

section of Canada's geographic and cultural realities, the authors identify challenges and transformations happening in the contemporary alternate ministries. These involves such variations as mutual ministry in the West Kootenay, ministry formation for indigenous people in Manitoba and Ontario, inner city ministry in Vancouver, Ottawa and Montreal, and ecumenical shared ministry in Slave Lake, Athabasca.

Maybee assumes that ministry is relational, that ministry among baptized Christians is much wider and more varied than the ordained offices, and that ministry is about equipping, encouraging and supporting ordinary Christians to do God's work and be God's people.

The final unit of essays highlights a theology of ministry. The main focus of the book is on the ministry of the baptized laity. Maybee's essay "The Bread Will Rise: The Distinctive Call of Laity" symbolizes that priority. Two final essays focus on priestly ministry and the episcopate. Towards the end of the book, biographical sketches tell about the 22 authors and their educational and ministerial backgrounds. Suggestions for further reading are offered on the main topics discussed in the book.

This book is a valuable overview of contemporary Anglican ministry in Canada. Specific chapters could be very helpful to persons in any faith tradition, who are developing similar ministries.

-Colleen Mahoney

The Spiritual Leader's Guide to Self-Care by Rochelle Melander and Harold Eppley Alban Institute, 2002. (paperback) 225 pages. ISBN: 1566992621

Whether seminarians on a university campus, interns in congregational and/or social service settings, or clergy / laity in congregational ministry contexts, the issue of self-care is of major concern and importance - especially in today's world. The authors, a Lutheran (ELCA - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) clergy couple, remind us that in ministering to others, we often forget to tend to ourselves. With that reminder, Melander and Eppley invite us to participate in renewing exercises designed to help us connect with oneself, with a partner, and with God. There are 52 creative exercises, intended to be engaged over 52 weeks with 6 intermittent retreat weeks (naturally, the process can be adapted to suit one's personal needs). Each exercise also includes a focus on "challenges" that need to be faced, processed and claimed.

The "handbook" - that's what I experience it to be--is helpfully divided into 6 sections: "Creating a Life Vision"; "Caring for Yourself at Work"; "Nurturing Your Relationships"; "Caring for Your Physical and Material Needs"; "Caring for Your Spiritual and Intellectual Needs"; "Sustaining a Life Vision". This is a valuable sequel to Roy M. Oswald's *Clergy Self-Care* (1992).

The resourceful text includes a 25-page annotated bibliography, including

many Web site addresses and contacts. Personally, I am finding this a most resourceful and empowering "handbook" as my mentor and I have made a covenant to work together at the exercises, each of which is focused on connectedness - with self, a partner and with God. We are experiencing a strengthening in spirit as we work our way through the discerning, reflective and challenging exercises.

-Arnie Weigel

The Healing Oasis, Guided Meditations for Mind, Body and Spirit by Sharon Moon, author and narrator, Gary Sprague, composer and musician. United Church Publishing House, 1998. Paperback with accompanying CD. 200 pages and 6 CD meditations with music. ISBN1-55134-084-4

Sharon Moon has practiced ministry in United Church parishes in Ottawa and is currently in Montreal, with an emphasis on outreach to the homeless and disadvantaged. She has developed this fine resource for leading people into meditation for healing and restoration. The book opens with practical wisdom for those who would guide individual and group meditations. It continues with 23 meditations on healing and forgiveness as well as for growth and strength. Each scriptural-based meditation addresses specific areas of suffering in the human situation and claims the wisdom of reflection on scripture for healing that enables better health. Each meditation is offered with suggestions for evolving the meditative process with the individual or group, including readiness for meditation, the meditation itself, and defriending the meditations with sharing of the individual experience of each person. Closure for each meditation is suggested with moments of song and ritual.

The use of imagery and symbol is highlighted and used very effectively. The book is enriched by a related bibliography and a song and scripture index. The CD presents 6 key meditations with background music. The meditation is led by Sharon Moon in a slow reflective way, very conducive to creating the environment of meditation that heals and renews. This is a how-to resource that initiates the reader and listener into the fine art of assisting others in meditation that heals and restores. It is offered by a person of ministry who has been there and has herself done this enabling of meditation. It could be a valuable guide to those who wish to enable others in the skills of meditation.

-Colleen Mahoney

Religious Life in America: A New Day Dawning by Sean D. Sammon, FMS. Alba House, 2002. (paperback) 204 pages. ISBN: 081890920X

Drawing on the questions and issues raised in his former book, *Growing Pains in Ministry* (1983), this book offers a hope-filled vision of the next twenty years - the era in which today's ministry students will practice. Although written within a context of Roman Catholic religious life, it addresses issues

which are pertinent to all Christian traditions. For Sammon, the church has developed through three great theological epochs: Jewish Christianity, Western European Christianity, and today's Worldwide Church, the current epoch which began just prior to the Second Vatican Council.

Seeking a way to sustain ministers in these times of transition, Sammon believes that a deeper understanding of change itself is foundational. He points out that many of us fail to understand the difference between change and the process of transformation. Change occurs at a point in time, while the process of transformation must take place over time, giving people an opportunity to reorient themselves psychologically and spiritually to their changed situation. He notes three similar characteristics found in institutional transition as well as personal periods of change; breakdown and conflict, darkness and exploration, and reintegration and new foundation.

For Sammon it is clear: the minister of today can choose to resist all that is new or can choose to be part of a process of transformation. The process of transformation can be lived as a new Advent - a time in which we prepare the way - a time of waiting and watching for the dawn. This book is an excellent resource for inviting students for ministry to engage with hope and integrity in the process of transformation.

-Basil Tanguay

Leadership From Within by Peter Urs Bender, Stoddart, c1997, 2001 revised edition. (paperback) 238 pages. ISBN : 0773762698

Leadership is a "hot" topic today. Peter Urs Bender, known by many of the major media as "Canada's Presentation Guru", wants to keep it not simply a "hot" topic but an energizing and empowering experience. His power as a speaker--and as a writer--comes from his personal experiences and in-depth reflections on those experiences. He is an advocate for identifying leadership not as the act of leading someone else but as the art of leading oneself. He differentiates "the leader-from-without" from "the leader-from-within"; the former engages a reactive leadership and operates from a stance of control and fix-it, while the latter leads from core values within - hence, a proactive and visionary leadership.

This past year, I used this excellent text in a course on "Spirituality and Leadership". The students experienced Bender's approaches as extremely helpful, while demandingly challenging. Leadership-from-within challenges us not only to lead ourselves according to basic values but also to do so with an authentic identity and integrity. Bender identifies "five key attributes" which the best leaders embody and live. They "raise awareness, show direction, create results, demonstrate to others how to reach a goal, and achieve progress that benefits others, not just themselves." Bender believes that there are "five key steps" to developing leadership-from-within: "know yourself; have vision and passion; take risks; communicate effectively; check progress and results" - in other words, evaluate!

I have found this text to be a special resource for contextual ministry as well as for theological reflection. Bender comes through as a “leader- from-within”!

-Arnie Weigel

The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit by Craig Van Gelder, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000. 184 pages. ISBN 0-8010-9096-2

This book focuses on the North American church in the twenty-first century, and especially on the rapidly changing context in which ministry is practiced. The author closely examines the changing mission of the church, specifically at what churches are doing and *not* doing to be effective in a post-modern society. Van Gelder proposes a missional church model, in which mission is understood as an everyday activity of the church in its own context, rather than something done overseas by specialized organizations.

Van Gelder explores both biblical and historical perspectives on the role of the church. Each topic is introduced by small vignettes about various "average" middle-class, North American church members. These begin the process of translating biblical and historical precedents into the setting of churches in modern-day North America. The information from the historical and biblical study is then used to develop a proposal about the nature, the ministry, and the organizational life of the North American church today.

-Amanda C. Miller

Turning to one another: simple conversations to restore hope to the future by Margaret J. Wheatley, Berrett-Koehler, 2002. (paperback) 150 pages. ISBN: 1576751457

“As the world becomes more complex and fearful,” says Margaret Wheatley—also the author of *Leadership and New Science* (revised edition 1999) “we know we need each other to find our way through the darkness. The yearning for community is worldwide. What can we do to turn to one another? The simplest way to begin finding each other again is to start talking about what we care about. . . . Conversation, however, takes time. We need time to sit together, to listen, to worry and to dream together. As this age of turmoil tears us apart, we need to reclaim time to be together. Otherwise, we cannot stop the fragmentation.” (4,5)

I bought this book on the same day that I was teaching a class in a course on “Theological Reflection - Seminar”, that I was engaged in a conversation with the seminary’s chairperson--Board of Governors--underscoring the importance of board members to talk with not only administrators but also with faculty and students in setting policies, and that I had received several unexpected emails from “people who care--thinking of you today”--one of whom did so through ATFE networking. Needless to say, each of these

experiences emphasizes what Wheatley is talking about in this text on the importance of conversation!

Says Wheatley, "The intent of this book is to encourage and support you in beginning conversations about things that are important to you and those near you." (10) Not just in "beginning conversations" but in conversations period. I turn to this book a lot--especially Part Two: "A Place to Pause and Reflect" - on key questions: e.g. "What is my faith in the future?", "What do I believe about others?", "What is my unique contribution to the whole?" The author knows how to tease me into engaging reflective conversations!

-Arnie Weigel

Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry by William H. Willimon. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002. 386 pages. ISBN 0-687-04532-0.

In *PASTOR*, prolific scholar-pastor William Willimon has put together a hefty tome worthy of utilization in a variety of theological education contexts. I use it as a required text in our first semester field education course. Despite its excessive wordiness and length, both seminarians and mentors seem to love this latest version of Willimon's wisdom. I too love much of *Pastor*, while chafing a bit at the author's characteristic brashness. Clearly, Willimon the pastor is more comfortable leading than listening, is more preacher-priest than pastoral caregiver; yet, the full spectrum of pastoral roles and responsibilities is fairly represented.

Willimon begins with historical discussion of ordination, followed by seven popular images/metaphors of pastoral ministry-ranging from manager to therapist. Two chapters describe the basic roles of pastor and priest. Seven other legitimate pastoral roles warrant a chapter each: interpreter of scripture, preacher, counselor, teacher, evangelist, prophet, and leader. Six "interludes", each nearly a chapter in itself, expand upon particular topics. These sections are interesting, but have the feel of papers written on other occasions.

More helpful is the concluding section on pastoral character and discipline. Here Willimon addresses the crucial topics-especially needful now-of clergy ethics and "constancy in ministry." These chapters bear reading and re-reading as reminders to all who would bear the title and role of "Pastor".

-Tarris D. Rosell

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