

## BOOK DESCRIPTIONS—2005

### Jan 8-9, 2005

- In the book, *At the Drop of a Veil*, Marianne Alireza tells her own true story of 12 years as a member of an Arabian harem in the 1940s and 50s. (915.38 Ali)
- *I Want to Grow Hair, I Want to Grow Up, I Want to Go to Boise: Children Surviving Cancer* by Erma Bombeck, tells “stories of children who have every hope of beating the odds and living to drive their parents crazy....It is not a medical book; nor is it a sad book.” (618.92 Bom)
- *The Search for Meaning*, by Thomas H. Naylor, William H. Willimon, and Magdalena R. Naylor describes a process about “what it means to be a human being who lives, loves, works, plays, suffers, and dies.” (128.2 Nay)

### Jan 29-30, 2005

- In *The Case for Faith*, journalist Lee Strobel investigates eight major objections to Christianity. These objections include “since evil and suffering exist, a loving God cannot” and “evolution explains life, so God isn’t needed.” (230.21 Str)
- Jung Chang describes the life experiences of three generations of women in 20<sup>th</sup> century China in *Wild Swans*. Their grim stories show how this family survived disaster. (951.05 Cha)
- *Eerdman’s Book of Famous Prayers*, by Veronica Zundel, includes not only Bible prayers, but also prayers of medieval mystics, prayers from the third world, and blessings and doxologies. (242.8 Zun)
- *Unfinished Tales*, by J. R. R. Tolkien, “is a collection of narratives ranging in time from the Elder Days of Middle earth to the end of the War of the Rings....The book ...tells all that is known of such matters as the Five Wizards, the Palantiri, and the legend of Amroth.” (823.91 Tol)

### Feb 12-13, 2005

- *Abraham Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography* by Alexander Eliot. Happy Birthday #196, Mr. President! (973.7 Eli)
- Local author Clive Cussler and Dirk Pitt, his associate, introduce a sinister villain (is there any other kind?), a billionaire Australian Diamond King and the discovery of an 1856 British Clipper ship. They all come together in a spine chilling confrontation titled *Shock Wave*. (813.54 Cus)
- *American Churches, Illustrated* is a magnificent volume depicting over 100 churches and temples with 200 superb full-color and 50 black and white photographs illustrative of the diversity of this country’s religious life. Roger C. Kennedy is the author. (OS 246.9 Ken)
- *The Making of the African Queen, or How I Went to Africa with Bogart, Bacall and Huston, and Almost Lost My Mind* was written by one of the great actresses of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Katherine Hepburn. (791.43 Hep)

### **Feb 19-20, 2005**

- *House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus III. Three fragile, but determined people become dangerously entangled in an escalating crisis. These include Col. Behrani, once a wealthy man, but now a struggling immigrant; Kathy, a troubled young woman; and Sheriff Burdon, a married man who falls in love with Kathy. (813.54 Dub)
- *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg. Millions of people have turned away from traditional religious beliefs, but still long for a relevant nourishing faith. Borg shows the Christian life as a transforming relationship with God. (230.21 Bor)
- *The Tortilla Curtain* by T. Coraghessen Boyle. This is a moving story of men and women with brown faces and strong backs who risk everything to cross the border and pursue the American dream. (813.54 Boy)
- *Under the Banner of Heaven* by John Krakauer recounts a double murder committed by Mormon Fundamentalist brothers, who insist they received a revelation from God commanding them to kill their blameless victims. (289.3 Kra)
- *The Last Juror* by John Grisham. A murder occurs for which a man is tried and convicted. The trial comes to a startling, dramatic end when the defendant threatens revenge against the jurors. (813.54 Gri)

### **Mar 5-6, 2005**

- *The Humor of Christ* by Elton Trueblood includes humorous parables and dialog. (232.9 Tru)
- *The Bible and Its Painters* by Bruce Bernard presents 200 photographs that may stimulate your interest in the Bible and in painting. More than a hundred painters produced the photographs. (755.4 Ber)
- *The Best of James Herriott: Favourite Memories of a Country Vet* includes Herriott's selections from his original books. (636.08 Her)
- *Tutankhamun: His Tomb and Its Treasures* by I. E. S. Edwards is the first book deliberately planned as a step-by-step trip through the richly furnished funerary chambers of a pharaoh who lived during one of the most splendid periods of Ancient Egypt. (709.32 Edw)

### **Mar 12-13, 2005**

- *The Best of Will Rogers* by Bryan B. Sterling includes Rogers' daily columns that appeared on the front page of over 400 newspapers from 1926 until his death in 1935. (814.52 Rog)
- Dr. Seuss's *You're Only Old Once!* If laughter is the best medicine, then this book is a delightful defense against aging. (813.52 Seu)
- *Great Women of the Christian Faith* by Edith Deen contains spiritual biographies of Christian women from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. (270 Dee)
- *Victoria and Albert*, a novel by Evelyn Anthony, provides a fascinating portrait of the Queen and her consort's twenty-one years of marriage and their nine children. (823.91 Ant)

### Mar 19-20, 2005

- *Putting the Amazing Back in Grace*. Ann Weems's unforgettable poetry takes readers back to childhood for lessons of hope and gifts of grace. (811.54 Wee)
- *Filaree, a Novel of American Life*, by Marguerite Nobel is about frontier Arizona from the point of view of a hard working, struggling woman. Fascinating account, very well written. (813.54 Nob)
- *A Long Way from Tipperary: What a Former Irish Monk Discovered in His Search for the Truth*. Author John Dominic Crossan searches for an understanding of Jesus that engages "both reason and revelation, both history and faith, both mind and heart." (220.09 Cro)
- *Birdsong, a Novel of Love and War*, by Sebastian Faulks. A British bestseller, this sensuous World War I novel is a haunting, detailed account of tragic love. (823.91 Fau)

### Mar 26-27, 2005

- *Lighten Up, Survival Skills for People Under Pressure*, by C.W. Metcalf and Roma Felible, a humorous book that teaches how to see absurdity in difficult situations and take life less seriously. (152.4 Met)
- *Song of Solomon*, by Toni Morrison, a powerful novel about an escaped slave who tries to go home to Africa. An Oprah book selection. (813.5 Mor)
- *Every Breath You Take*, by Ann Rule, reigning queen of the true crime genre. A story of passion, domestic violence, and obsession well researched and carefully crafted. (364.15 Rul)
- *The Carpenter's Cloth, Christ's Journey to the Cross and Beyond*, by Sigmund Brouwer is a beautiful, small book of art, poetry, and narrative of the Lenten journey to the cross with each of the major players. Deeply moving. (232.96 Bro)

### Apr 2-3, 2005

- *Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence* by Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin is a national bestseller that shows how consuming less provides more choices for how you live your life. (332.02 Dom)
- *Inner Simplicity: 100 Ways to Regain Peace and Nourish Your Soul* by Elaine St. James helps individuals to apply simple living concepts to their inner lives. (179.9 StJ)
- *Wherever You Go, There You Are*. Jon Zabat-Zinn illustrates the importance of mindfulness in daily living. (155.9 Zab)
- *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: A Biblical Approach*. Using scripture as a starting point, author Ronald J. Sider questions the appropriateness of an affluent life style in a world of poverty and hunger. (261.8 Sid)

### Apr 9-10, 2005

- *Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change* by William Bridges. See especially, It Isn't the Changes That Do You In (Ch 1), Managing the Neutral Zone Successfully (Ch 4), and Launching a New Beginning (Ch 5). (658.4 Bri)

- *Who Moved My Cheese? An Amazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life* by Spencer Johnson. The title says it all. (155.2 Joh)

#### **Apr 16-17, 2005**

- *The Book of Virtues: A Treasury of Great Moral Stories* by William J. Bennett is a collection of hundreds of stories in an instructive and inspiring anthology that can help children understand and develop character. (808.8 Ben)
- *Yeager* is Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager’s autobiography. He was the fighter pilot who first flew faster than the speed of sound on October 14, 1947. (623.74 Yea)
- *Christianity and the World Religions* by Hans Küng describes paths to dialogue with Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. (261.2 Kün)
- *First Ladies* by Betty B. Caroli focuses on the first ladies from Martha Washington to Barbara Bush and describes each woman’s background, marriage, family personalities, and interests. (973.09 Car)

#### **May 7-8, 2005**

- *Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season*, by Joyce Rupp contains over 125 prayer resources for a wide variety of needs and times. (242.3 Rup)
- *Oh, To Be 50 Again! On Being Too Old for a Midlife Crisis*, by Eda Leshan, author of *It’s Better to be Over the Hill than Under It*, Leshan says flexibility is crucial and that those over 60 who keep growing intellectually will have the best future. (305.2 LeS)
- *Anil’s Ghost*, by Michael Ondaatje, author of *The English Patient*. Set in Sri Lanka against a background of civil war, this is a story about a forensic anthropologist sent by an international human rights group. A riveting story about love, about family, and identity. (813.54 Ond)
- *Cultural Literacy, What Every American Needs to Know*, by E.D. Hirsch, Jr., is a national bestseller. "To be culturally literate," Hirsch says, "is to possess the basic information needed to thrive in the modern world." (370.19 Hir)

#### **May 14-15, 2005**

- *The Simple Living Guide: A Sourcebook for Less Stressful, More Joyful Living*, by Janet Luhrs, offers strategies, stories, resources and inspiration for home, family, work and money. (646.7 Luh)
- *Living Simply with Children*, authored by Marie Sherlock, provides plans for “zeroing in on the pleasures of family life.” (649.1 She)
- *’Tis a Gift to be Simple: Embracing the Freedom of Living with Less*, by Barbara DeGrote-Sorensen and David Allen Sorensen offers help for people who would like less complicated lives. (241.68 DeG)
- *Morning Sun on a White Piano: Simple Pleasures and the Sacramental Life*, written by Robin R. Meyers, contains a simple set of instructions for recognizing the sacredness in everyday things. (248.4 Mey)

### May 21-22, 2005

- *Don't Know Much About the Bible: Everything You Need to Know About the Good Book But Never Learned* by Kenneth C. Davis. The information here is as entertaining as the tabloids; only it's very reliable so says one reviewer. (220.6 Dav)
- *The Lindbergh Case*, by Jim Fisher. The author tells the story of the crime, the investigation, the trial and the execution of one of the most sensational crimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (364.1 Fis)
- *Fifty to Forever*, written by Hugh Downs. Local resident Downs provides a complete sourcebook for living an active, involved, and fulfilling second half of life for you and for those you love. (646.7 Dow)
- *Twenty-Four Years of House Work, and the Place is Still a Mess: My Life in Politics* by Pat Schroeder. Congresswoman from Colorado for 24 years, Schroeder writes an optimistic book in which she reminds us of the possibility of change through politics. (328.73 Sch)

### June 4-5, 2005

- *The Worth of a Man*, by Dave Dravecky with C.W. Neal. Dravecky, a pitcher for the San Francisco Giants, lost his arm to cancer, propelling him into a search for life's meaning and his own worth. (248.8 Dra)
- *The Call: An American Missionary in China*, by John Hersey. Son of a China missionary, Hersey's cultural and historical novel is about an American missionary in China from 1906 until the 1950s. (813.52 Her)
- *Ascending the Reed*, by Ramson Lomatewama. A Hopi poet, Lomatewama has written a number of books of poetry that reveal the beauty and spirituality of the Hopi. (811 Lom)
- *The Preaching Life*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. This book by a renowned Episcopal preacher offers insight into the meanings of the Scriptures and into the life of ministers. (283 Tay)

### June 11-12, 2005

- *The Measure of Our Success* by Marian Wright Edelman "is a book to turn lives around: a compassionate message for parents trying to raise moral children, a tough and searching book that ought to be required reading for every young American." (649.1 Ede)
- *In a Dark Wood: Journeys of Faith and Doubt*, edited by Linda Jones and Sophie Stanes, contains short selections in which diverse individuals describe their journeys toward or away from faith. (248.2 Jon)
- *The Book of God: The Bible as a Novel*, by Walter Wangerin, Jr. is the work of a master storyteller that makes the Bible come alive. (813.54 Wan)
- *Light: How to See It: How to Paint It* by Lucy Willis is a delight to read, whether or not you are an artist. (751 Wil)

### June 18-19, 2005

- In *Fatherhood*, Bill Cosby recounts his experiences as a son and father in his own unique way—with many laughs and lots of wisdom. (306.8 Cos)

- *Lament for a Son* is a “profoundly faith affirming” book in which Nicholas Wolterstorff writes of his grief at losing his son. (155.9 Wol)
- John McCain tells stories of his father and grandfather in *Faith of My Fathers*. He credits them for his abilities to deal with his own imprisonment during the Vietnam War. (973.9 McC)
- *Daddy’s Home: Reflections of a Family Man*, by Steven Schnur, is a delightful collection of true funny stories about being a modern day dad. (306.87 Sch)

### June 25-26, 2005

The *New Interpreter’s Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes* is a new addition to the church library. If you’ve wondered what a particular scripture means, you may want to see what the *NIB* says about it. To select the appropriate volume, you need to know where the scripture is located. Once you pick the volume, you will see brief portions of scriptures from the New International Version (NIV) printed alongside those from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on a light green background that allows comparisons in wording. Immediately following the scriptures is commentary that helps explain their meanings. Perhaps the most helpful section, however, is “Reflections,” which follows. “Reflections are geared specifically toward helping those who interpret Scripture in the life of the church by providing ‘handles’ for grasping the significance of Scripture for faith and life today.” The *NIB* offers many other features, too numerous to mention here. Volumes are available for the regular four-week checkout.

### Jul 2-3, 2005

- *America the Beautiful: The Stirring True Story Behind Our Nation’s Favorite Song*, by Lynn Sherr. Learn about this song and why we enjoy singing it. (811.4 She)
- *A Better World for Our Children: Rebuilding American Family Values*. In this book, Dr. Benjamin Spock seeks to empower parents to influence their children’s future and provides specific activities that families can do together to make a difference in their homes and neighborhoods. (306.85 Spo)
- *Caravan*, by Dorothy Gilman is a beautiful, small book about one woman’s journey of survival, escape, and cultural adventure in the Sahara just prior to World War I. (813.54 Gil)
- *The World Treasury of Modern Religious Thought*, edited by Jaroslav Pelikan, contains more than sixty essays from profound thinkers of the modern era—Camus, Einstein, Freud, and others. (200.9 Pel)

### Jul 9-10, 2005

- Bonhoeffer’s *Cost of Discipleship* “is a compelling statement of the demands of sacrifice and ethical consistency from a man whose life and thought were exemplary articulations of a new type of leadership inspired by the Gospel, and imbued with the spirit of Christian humanism and a creative sense of civic duty.” (from a review) (226.2 Bon)
- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Selections from His Writings* contains a brief biography that precedes a series of one-page excerpts from Bonhoeffer’s writings suitable for daily reading and meditation. (230 Bon)

- *The Steps of Bonhoeffer: A Pictorial Album*, by J. Martin Bailey and Douglas Gilbert, contains Bonhoeffer's biography in photographs and words. (284.1 Bai)
- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, by Dallas M. Roark, surveys the life and work of Bonhoeffer and provides context for understanding this important theologian. (230.4 Roa)

### Jul 16-17, 2005

- *Life Together: A Discussion of Christian Fellowship*, which came from Bonhoeffer's experiences in an "underground" seminary, describes the meaning of Christian community and how life together in Christ works out in actual practice. (248 Bon)
- *The Martyred Christian: 160 Readings from Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, edited by Joan Winmill Brown, contains a brief introduction to Bonhoeffer and is followed by brief excerpts from his writings. (230 Bon)
- *Letters and Papers from Prison* is a collection of notes and correspondence covering the period from Bonhoeffer's arrest in 1943 to his execution by the Gestapo in 1945. These letters reveal "a deeply disciplined thinker outlining the way for Christianity to remain relevant in a world all too ready to try to 'outgrow' the faith" (from a review). (230.09 Bon)

### Jul 23-24, 2005

- *The Essential Grandparent: A Guide to Making a Difference*, by Lillian Carson, describes multiple tasks and joys of grand parenting. (649.1 Car)
- *The Last Three Minutes: Conjectures about the Ultimate Fate of the Universe*, by Paul Davies, describes one scientist's notions about the future. The book is written for general readers so that a strong science background is not required. (523.1 Dav)
- The introduction to *The Virtues of Aging*, by Jimmy Carter, begins with these words, "I'm Old, but It's Good!" The final words are, "You are old when regrets take the place of dreams." There's much good information between the beginning and the end. (305.26 Car)
- Harold Kushner's *Who Needs God* discusses answers to questions such as "Does God really make a difference?" and "Why is God so hard to find?" (296.7 Kus)

### Jul 30-31, 2005

- *Martyrs of Our Time*, by William Purcell. Read more about Dietrich Bonhoeffer and find out about people you may not know—Steve Biko, Edith Stein, Oscar Romero and others. (272.9 Pur)
- *The Case for Faith, A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity*, by Lee Strobel. This best seller includes interviews with noted people and inspiring stories. (239/21 Str)
- *The Master Butchers Singing Club*, by Louise Erdrich. A best-selling novel of love, death, redemption, and resurrection in a small American town after World War I. (813.54 Erd)
- *Teresa of Avila, the Progress of a Soul*, by Cathleen Medwick. Saint Teresa (1515-1582) is widely considered one of the greatest mystics and woman reformers of the Renaissance. This biography sheds light on her complex and unconventional life. (282.09 Med)

### Aug 6-7, 2005

- *Mutant Message Down Under*, by Marlo Morgan. A quick read but a profound experience as the author is taken largely against her will on a three-month walk barefoot and without belongings into the Australian Outback by a tribe of Aborigines. It's a book about living in the moment, healing, forgiveness, and becoming a whole person. A true story made into a novel to protect her captors. (813.54 Mor)
- *The Story of Koinonia Farm, Interracialism and Christian Community in the Postwar South*, by Tracy Elaine K'Meyer. A noble experiment in communal Christian living that is still in existence today in Georgia. (261.8 K'M)
- *Another Path*, by Gladys Taber. This small book is a thoughtful and poetic reflection on loss, grief, and starting on a new path in life. (242.4 Tab)
- *Out of the Ordinary, Prayers, Poems, and Reflections For Every Season*, by Joyce Rupp. Readings, prayers, and meditations for difficult times and for joyous times. (242.3 Rup)

### Aug 13-14, 2005

- *Different Daughters, A Book by Mothers of Lesbians*, edited by Louise Rafkin, contains poignant essays by real people trying to understand and love each other. (306.8 Raf)
- *You May Plow Here, The Narrative of Sara Brooks*, edited by Thordis Simonsen. Life in the rural South for black, small plot farming families exquisitely captured in an oral history. (976.1 Bro)
- *C. S. Lewis, Christian and Storyteller*, by Beatrice Gormley, is a biography about the gifted and prolific creator of children's stories and other expressions of deep Christian faith. (823.91 Gor)
- *My Life for the Poor: Mother Teresa of Calcutta*, edited by J.L. Gonzalez-Balado and J.N. Playfoot. This biography was prepared through interviews and talks by Mother Teresa who speaks freely about her call and her service to the poor. (271 Ter)

### Aug 20-21, 2005

- *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor? A Positive Christian Response*, by Letha D. Scanzoni and Virginia R. Mollenkott. Thoughts for Christians about the risks and challenges of moral growth. (261.8 Sca)
- *Just Bones: A Mystery*, by Jeffrey Denhart. Sixty-year-old bones hidden in a building being demolished lead to a tale of small-town secrets and horrors. (813.54 Den)
- *A Widow's Pilgrimage*, by Jean Hersey. A journal of grief and healing. (306.8 Her)
- *The Book of God, The Bible As a Novel*, by Walter Wangerin, Jr. This excellent, readable book by a Lutheran pastor/National Book Award winning author puts reading the Bible within reach of the modern reader. You'll cry, you'll laugh, you'll wonder...but you won't want to put it down. (813.54 Wan)

### **Aug 27-28, 2005**

- *Tell Me a Story: Creating Bedtime Tales Your Children Will Dream On*, by Chase Collins. Here's a helpful book for every parent, grandparent, or sitter of young children. (808.06 Col)
- *Love and Country*, by Christina Adam, is a modern western novel about a mother and her son's adventures in the horse country of Idaho. (813.54 Ada)
- *Coming Together: The Bible's Message in an Age of Diversity*, by Curtis Paul DeYoung, "attempts to be thoroughly multicultural in its outlook and presentation;" the book presents research, insights, and perspectives of many persons from different backgrounds. (261.8 DeY)
- *Style and Content in Christian Art*, by Jane Dillenberger. This lavishly illustrated book provides an orientation to many European works of art related to the Christian heritage. (704.9 Dil)

### **Sep 3-4, 2005**

- Sena Jeter Naslund's *Four Spirits* is a must read for any one interested in well-written historical novels. Set during the 1960s in the deep South, this story "weaves together the lives of blacks and whites, . . . and the events of peaceful protest and violent repression to create both an intimate and epic tapestry of American social transformation." (813.54 Nas)
- *An Adirondack Archive: The Trail to Windover* by Elisabeth Hudnut Clarkson. This is a story of the Hudnut family's experiences as well as a story of Adirondack people and places. (929.2 Cla)
- In *Conversions: The Christian Experience*, editors Hugh T. Kerr and John M. Mulder describe changes in life-styles of fifty individuals, several of whom are pictured in the Great West Window and in Nelson Hall windows. (248.2 Ker)
- Claire Sylvia tells about remarkable changes in her life as the result of a heart-and lung transplant in *A Change of Heart: A Memoir*. (362.1 Syl)

### **Sep 10-11, 2005**

The *New Interpreter's Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes* is a new addition to the church library. If you've wondered what a particular scripture means, you may want to see what the *NIB* says about it. To select the appropriate volume, you need to know where the scripture is located. Once you pick the volume, you will see brief portions of scriptures from the New International Version (NIV) printed alongside those from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on a light green background that allows comparisons in wording. Immediately following the scriptures is commentary that helps explain their meanings. Perhaps the most helpful section, however, is "Reflections," which follows. "Reflections are geared specifically toward helping those who interpret Scripture in the life of the church by providing 'handles' for grasping the significance of Scripture for faith and life today." The *NIB* offers many other features, too numerous to mention here. Volumes are available for the regular four-week checkout.

### Sep 17-18, 2005

- *A Just Peace Church*, Susan Brook Thistlewaite (editor). The UCC has long been known for favoring peace. Commissioned by the General Synod of the UCC, this book contains a beginning theological statement on peace. (261.8 Thi)
- *The Shaping of the United Church of Christ: An Essay in the History of American Christianity*, Louis H. Gunnemann. In 1977 Gunnemann wrote an essay on the history of American Christianity, in which he described the uniting communions (the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church) from a common Reformed tradition. In the 1999 edition of this book, Charles Shelby Rooks extended the story of the UCC to its present form. Both editions are available. (285.83 Gun)
- *United Church of Christ: Its Origins, Organization, and Role in the World Today*, Douglas Horton. This book was published in 1962 shortly after the establishment of the UCC in 1957. Its author was minister and secretary of the Congregational Christian Church during much of the negotiation that brought the UCC into being. Horton describes and interprets the thinking about the UCC in its early days. (285.7 Hor)

### Sep 24-25, 2005

- *Becoming and Belonging: A Practical Design for Confirmation*, William Myers (editor). This book discusses both a working theory of and resources for confirmation and is intended for use by individuals who continue to nurture the faith of youth. (234.16 Mye)
- *Believing, Caring, and Doing in the United Church of Christ: An Interpretation*, Gabriel Fackre. Fackre describes the three dimensions of a popular bumper sticker: “To Believe is to Care is to Do” and answers questions about their meaning. (285.3 Fac)
- *Confessing Our Faith: An Interpretation of the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ*, Roger Lincoln Shinn. Shinn discusses the three versions of the UCC Statement of Faith (1959, 1977, 1981) by recounting their history and the reasons for their existence. Then he comments on each major section of this statement in language appropriate for laypersons. (238 Shi)
- *Theology and Identity: Traditions, Movements, and Polity in the United Church of Christ*, Daniel L. Johnson and Charles Hambrick-Stowe, editors. Nineteen authors share their views on various topics categorized as UCC legacies that live on, life in the church today, and contemporary theological issues and movements. (285.8 Joh)

### Oct 1-2, 2005

- *Medicine as Ministry: Reflections on Suffering, Ethics, and Hope* by Margaret E. Mohrmann, M.D. begins with these words: “This is a book about the conjunction of theological ethics and the practice of medicine.” The author discusses caring for the sick and suffering based on insights and imperatives of theology. (261.8 Moh)
- *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* describes inside views of the lives of nine women who serve in the United States Senate. These women, who wrote the book with Catherine Whitney, are from both major political parties and represent states across the country. (328.73 Mik)
- In his book *To Taste and See: Exploring Incarnation and the Ambiguities of Faith*, Thomas W. Mann helps readers “to see the wonder of faith within the ordinary

encounters of day to day existence.” Mann holds that faith is like a path, rather than something we “have.” (232.1 Man)

- With Commander Adam Dalgliesh as a main character, P. D. James provides readers with particularly enjoyable classic detective stories in the context of well-written novels. *A Certain Justice* is one of these stories set in the law courts of London. (823.91 Jam)

### **Oct 8-9, 2005**

- *Clues about Jews for People Who Aren't*, by Sidney J. Jacobs and Betty J. Jacobs, “includes answers to 201 vital, real-life situations and questions,” such as ‘Why don’t Jews believe in Jesus?’ and ‘Can you be Jewish without believing in God?’ (296.19 Jac)
- *Elijah’s Violin & Other Jewish Fairy Tales* contains 36 Jewish fairy tales retold by Howard Schwartz. The stories are delightful for both children and adults. (398.2 Sch)
- *The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels*, by Thomas Cahill, describes the beginning of Western civilization through the insight of Jews who evolve a new vision of men and women with unique destinies. (909.04 Cah)
- In *What Christians Should Know about Jews and Judaism*, Rabbi Eckstein provides information about foundations of Jewish belief; Sabbath as a day of sanctified time; the Jewish life cycle; Jewish views of Jesus, Christians and Christianity; and several other topics. (296.3 Eck)

### **Oct 15-16, 2005**

- In his book, *Islam Today: A Short Introduction to the Muslim World*, Akbar S. Ahmed discusses the meaning of Islam. He talks about what it feels like to be a Muslim today—the main problems, perceptions of the present, and why Muslims feel strongly on issues in the news. (909.09 Ahm)
- *The Battle for God: A History of Fundamentalism*, by Karen Armstrong, contains much information on the rise of fundamentalism within the major world religions—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. (200.9 Arm)
- *Islam: A Very Short Introduction*, by Malise Ruthven. In a fairly succinct manner the author treats important topics related to Islam including the Quran, the two jihads, and the five pillars of Islam. (297.21 Rut)
- *Islam: A Christian Perspective*, by Michael Nazir-Ali, describes religious, political, social, and economic problems in the Middle East. (297.19 Naz)

### **Oct 22-23, 2005**

- *The Ancient Mysteries: A Sourcebook of Sacred Texts*, edited by Marvin W. Meyer. “The Mysteries were a group of Pagan religions, dating from roughly 600 BC, that were distinct from the more familiar Pagan temple worship. The Gods of the Mystery religions had differing names and myths, but the faiths themselves had features in common. These are described at length. (291.1 Mey)

- *Encyclopedia of Wicca & Witchcraft*, by Raven Grimassi, “presents Wicca/Witchcraft as a spiritual path, connecting religious concepts and spirituality to both a historical background and modern practice.” (133.4 Gri)
- *Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction*, by Damien Keown answers questions such as these: “What are the distinctive features of Buddhism? What or who is the Buddha, and what are his teachings? How has Buddhist thought developed over the centuries, and how can contemporary dilemmas be faced from a Buddhist perspective?” (294.3 Keo)
- *His Holiness: The Dalai Lama: In My Own Words*, edited by Mary Craig, contains the Dalai Lama’s comments on subjects as diverse as ethics and the good society to forgiving the enemy. (294.3 Bst)

### Oct 29-30, 2005

- *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*, by Marian Wright Edelman. An astonishingly accomplished woman, Edelman has written 25 rules for life. Good lessons for all of us, no matter what our age. (649.1 Ede)
- *The Hedgehog, the Fox, and the Magister’s Pox: Mending the Gap between Science and the Humanities*, by Stephen Jay Gould. A former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Gould provides a historical overview of the development of scientific thought in various fields. (303.48 Gou)
- *Life Itself: Abortion in the American Mind*, by Roger Rosenblatt. An essayist for the PBS NewsHour, Rosenblatt traces the sociological history of abortion over 4,000 years and poses interesting theories about why America is so singularly obsessed with the abortion issue. A fascinating read, no matter what your position is on abortion. (363.4 Ros)
- *Standing at the Scratch Line*, by Guy Johnson. This debut novel about the experiences of Maya Angelou’s son spans the years 1916 to 1946 of its larger-than-life protagonist LeRoi Boudreaux Tremain. (813.54 Joh)

### Nov 5-6, 2005

- *The Deep End of the Ocean*, by Jacquelyn Mitchard. A scary story about the disappearance of a child and how a family was changed forever. (814.54 Mit)
- *The Society of Salty Saints: Story and Prayer from the Street*, by Micheal Elliott. A series of short stories about finding Jesus in the faces of the marginalized. (286.17 Ell)
- *What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality*, by Daniel A. Helminiak. This book explores recent findings by top scholars and describes how the Bible has been used to justify slavery, apartheid, the subjugation of women, and to discriminate against homosexual persons. (261.83 Hel)
- *The Gnostic Gospels*, by Elaine Pagels. This book is about ancient documents unearthed in 1945, which take a different look at the early church. Fascinating! Beatitudes readers may recognize Pagels as the author of *Beyond Belief, The Secret Gospel of Thomas* used in a recent study here. (273 Pag)

### Nov 12-13, 2005

- *The Cotton Patch Version of Matthew and John*, by Clarence Jordan, translates the scriptures with a Southern accent and wonderful sense of humor. It's a joy to read this book. (227 Jor)
- *Parent Talk: Straight Answers to the Questions that Rattle Moms and Dads*, by Kevin Leman and Randy Carlson, provides action-specific advice for parents on topics that include discipline, bedtime battles, temper tantrums, and others. (649.1 Lem)
- Ursula Hegi's *Salt Dancers* chronicles an American family and tells a story of inherited sorrow and a journey of self-discovery and redemption. (823.20 Heg)
- In *Forgiveness is a Work As Well As a Grace*, Edna Hong describes the benefits, joys, and difficulties in learning to forgive. Worthwhile reading! (234.5 Hon)

### Nov 19-20, 2005

- *Moses: A Life*, by Jonathan Kirsch "examines all that is known and all that has been imagined of Moses" and is written in a very readable style. (222.10 Kir)
- In *Sketching School*, author Judy Martin provides instruction about getting started, learning from sketching, themes, and applied sketching. (741.2 Mar)
- James Patterson's novel, *Sam's Letters to Jennifer*, tells a delightful story largely through a set of letters. (813.54 Pat)
- *Women and Redemption: A Theological History*, by Rosemary Radford Ruether, seeks to answer questions such as, If women are equally redeemed by Christ, why has the Christian church continually reinforced sexism in society and in the church? (230 Rue)

### Nov 26-27, 2005

- *C. S. Lewis, Christian and Storyteller*, by Beatrice Gormley, is a biography about the gifted and prolific creator of children's stories that include *The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe*, a movie that opens December 9 in Phoenix. (823.91 Gor)
- *Edison* by Matthew Josephson and *Hans Christian Andersen* by Rumer Godden are featured in a condensed large print version of great biographies. (920.02 Jos)
- *One True Thing* is Anna Quindlen's novel in which the heroine is thought to have killed her mother. (813.54 Qui)

### Dec 3-4, 2005

- In *High-Spirited Women of the West*, author Anne Seagraves profiles ten courageous women who helped shape history. Among these women are the desperado Belle Starr and Nellie Cashman, the Irish angel of mercy. (920 Sea)
- *Our Hope for Years to Come: The Search for Spiritual Sanctuary*, by Martin Marty and Micah Marty, is a stirring collection of photographs and commentary about the humble places and the soaring spaces where people seek sanctuary. (242.34 Mar)
- Dan Brown's novel, *Angels and Demons*, is a fast-paced adventure set in Vatican City. If you liked his *Da Vinci Code*, you'll probably like this book as well. (813.54 Bro)
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, by Thomas Cahill, describes the pivotal role of monks who transcribed and preserved Classical civilization during the Dark Ages. (941.50 Cah)

**Dec 10-11, 2005**

- *Christ in the Carols: Thirty-one Devotionals for Christmas and Advent*, by Christopher and Melodie Lane. This beautiful and interesting book takes a close look at traditional carols with an emphasis on finding Christ in the carols through Scripture, reflection, and prayer. (242.33 Lan)
- *Bright Evening Star: Mystery of the Incarnation*, by Madeleine L'Engle. This is the story of Jesus' birth and the mystery of God's great gift to us through story and reflection. L'Engle, an award winning author and poet, also wrote *A Wrinkle in Time*. (232.1 L'E)
- *Laughing Down Lonely Canyons*, by James Kavanaugh. A former Catholic priest, Kavanaugh brings together pain and joy, despair and hope, fear and courage, and humor in this book of poems. The book challenges readers to use inner strength and resources to conquer personal difficulties. (811 Kav)
- *Love and Country*, by Christina Adam. This debut novel is about the modern American West and a boy's attempt to grow up without a father. (813.54 Ada)