

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS—2008

Jan 5-6

- *Living Well, Staying Well*, prepared by the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society, “takes you from scientific evidence to self-assessment to a variety of possible pathways toward a more healthful life.” (616.1 Ame)
- One reviewer says of *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, by Anne Lamott, that it’s “like having a chat with one of the angels, a smarter, wittier one.” (813 Lam)
- Cynthia Yates offers a practical guide to managing your money, your kids, and your personal life in *Living Well as a Single Mom*. (248.8 Yat)
- Nicholas Evans’ novel, *The Loop*, is the classic story of (wo)man against nature. A female wolf biologist is sent to Montana to protect wolves from ranchers. (813 Eva)

Jan 19-20

For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:

- *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by James M. Washington. (323.1 Kin)
- *I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches that Changed the World*, edited by James M. Washington. (323.09 Kin)
- *The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, (2nd ed.), selected and with an introduction by Coretta Scott King. (323.4 Kin)
- *The Martin Luther King, Jr. Companion: Quotations from the Speeches, Essays and Books of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, selected by Coretta Scott King. (323.09 Kin)
- *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by Clayborne Carson. (323 Kin)
- *I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Future of Multicultural America*, edited by James Echols. (303 Ech)
- *Martin Luther King, Jr. ...To the Mountaintop*, by William Roger Witherspoon. (323.4 Wit)

Jan 26-27

- *The Thin Book of Appreciative Inquiry* by Sue Annis Hammond describes the basic ideas of this approach to change processes. (658.4 Ham)
- In *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time* Desmond Tutu “shares the spiritual message that guided him” through the South African struggles for human rights. (231.7 Tut)
- John C. Bogle’s book, *The Battle for the Soul of Capitalism*, “tells it like it is, like it was, and, most important, tells what needs to be done to restore the values of faith, integrity, and trust that were once hallmarks of corporate America and the financial sectors” (from the *Wall Street Journal* review). (330.13 Bog)
- Jane Smiley’s novel, *Barn Blind*, focuses on “work, love, and duty, and the excesses we commit to achieve success.” (813 Smi)

Feb 2-3

- Reading *Gracie: A Love Story* by George Burns is very likely to make you smile in remembrance of one beloved show business personality. (792.70 Bur)
- *Forgiveness is a Work as Well as a Grace* contains Edna Hong's suggestions for living in troubled times. (234.5 Hon)
- In a novel set in a small Massachusetts town, Alice Hoffman's *Blue Diary* focuses on Ethan Ford who fails to show up for work because he's running from his past. Large Print. (813 Hof)
- Theologian-attorney William Stacy Johnson provides a comprehensive "analysis of the religious, legal, and political stakes in the debates over gay marriage, civil unions, and the place of committed gay couples in a democratic society" in *A Time to Embrace*. (306.84 Joh)

Feb 9-10

- *Coming Together* has as its purpose "to provide Christians...with a primer that addresses racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity from a biblical perspective." (261.8 DeY)
- Examples of chapter titles in *Friendships after Forty* are these: "The glue that holds friends together" and "Should friends criticize?" (155.6 Spa)
- Wanna go to Italy, but can't? *Under the Tuscan Sun*, a travel book with great recipes, makes a worthwhile substitute. (945.5 May)
- "Empty Shelves" and "Grief Work" in *The Christian Century*, January 29, 2008. Each one-page article reminds readers of social justice work needed to better the world.

Feb 16-17

For Black History month:

- Taylor Branch's book, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63*, was "hailed as the most masterful story ever told of the American civil rights movement." It won a Pulitzer Prize. (973 Bra)
- David Barton's *Setting the Record Straight: American History in Black and White* "reintroduces this generation to the forgotten heroes and untold stories from our rich African American political history." (305.89 Bar)
- *Powerful Days: The Civil Rights Photography of Charles Moore*, with text by Michael S. Durham, "brings together the most significant pictures of the civil rights movement in the South from 1958 to 1965...." (323.1 Dur)
- *Legacy: Treasures of Black History* contains a stunning collection of photographs dating from 1434. (973.04 Bat)

Feb 23-24

- In her book *In the Company of Others* Jory Graham speaks to and for cancer patients on topics as diverse as anger as freedom, risk-taking, and the fight for life. (362.1 Gra)
- *Kneeling in Jerusalem* contains Ann Weems' poetry and makes for wonderful devotionals during Lent. (811.54 Wee)

- *Ladder of Angels* focuses on scenes from the Bible in illustrations by children of the world. Madeleine L'Engle provides the text. (221.9 L'E)
- *Seven Types of Ambiguity*, a novel by Elliott Perlman, is a “cerebral dazzler of a psychodrama about obsessive love.” (813 Per)

Mar 8-9

- In *The Artist's Way* author Julia Cameron helps you on your spiritual path to higher creativity by instilling artistic confidence and creativity, freeing you from limiting factors such as fear, self-sabotage, jealousy, guilt and addictions. (153.3 Cam)
- Unless you gave up laughter for Lent, you'll probably enjoy Anne Lamott's *Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith*. (813 Lam)
- Karen Levine provides seven guiding principles and 500 tips and ideas in *Keeping Life Simple*. (646.7 Lev)
- *Our Hope for Years to Come: The Search for Spiritual Sanctuary* contains reflections and photographs by Martin Marty and Micah Marty. These are helpful for Lenten devotionals. (242.34 Mar)

Mar 16

- In *The Last Week* Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan provide a detailed day-by-day account of Jesus's final week in Jerusalem. Use it as a reading companion for Holy Week. (232.96 Bor)
- In her book *The Financially Confident Woman* Mary Hunt discusses roles, myths, and reformation along with a six-week plan of action for achieving financial confidence. (332.02 Hun)
- *Peony in Love* is Lisa Lee's novel set in 17th century China. The “novel addresses universal themes: the bonds of friendship, the power of words, and the age-old desire of women to be heard.” (813 See)
- *Beyond the Visible Terrain: The Art of Ed Mell* contains 120 color plates representing Mell's work plus biographical information about the artist. (709.2 Hag)

Mar 23

- Intriguing chapter titles in *The Holy Way* begin with words such as solitude, purity, confidence, and tranquility. What better time than Easter to learn more about practices for a simple life. (248.4 Hus)
- Edith Nalle Schafer writes not only about how memory works, but also how it can be trained to work more efficiently in *Our Remarkable Memory: Understanding It, Improving It, Losing It?* (153.1 Sch)
- *Plain Truth*, a novel by Jodi Picoult, is an absorbing story of murder set in Amish country. (813 Pic)
- If you feel depressed by today's news, reading Jennings and Brewster's *In Search of America* could help. With words and pictures they show that America's principles endure in the face of being “shaken, molded, adapted, and assaulted.” (973.22 Jen)

Mar 30

- In *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian* James W. Fowler shows that “we grow up and become adults in terms of some myth or image of the life-story that defines for us what it means to become a complete human being.” (248.8 Fow)
- *The Last Three Minutes* contains scientist Paul Davies’ conjectures about the ultimate fate of the universe. (523.1 Dav)
- Get a head start on ONEBOOKAZ by reading *These Is My Words*, a novel by Nancy E. Turner which recounts the life of Sara Agnes Prine, 1881-1901, in the Arizona Territories. (813 Tur)
- Dave and Kathy Babbitt discuss how to simplify and enrich your life style in their book, *Downscaling*. (179.9 Bab)

Apr 6

- David McCullough’s biography of *John Adams* “has the sweep and vitality of a great novel. It is both a riveting portrait of an abundantly human man and a vivid evocation of his time, much of it drawn from an outstanding collection of Adams family letters and diaries.” (973.4 McC)
- *The Spiritual Activist*, by Claudia Horwitz, “will help you create opportunities to slow down, build stronger relationships at home and at work, and embrace the world around you.” (291.4 Hor)
- *The Big Stone Gap*, Adriana Trigiani’s novel set in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, tells stories of charming eccentrics in charming and funny small-town life situations. (813 Tri)
- In *Why People Don’t Heal and How They Can*, Caroline Myss combines her studies of energy medicine with development of human consciousness and spirituality that can “help readers overcome mental and emotional blocks to becoming well.” (610.1 Mys)

Apr 13

- *God’s Little Devotional Book for Men* offers an inspirational combination of quotes and scriptures to challenge readers to overcome obstacles to becoming the people God created them to be. (242 Boo)
- Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a “tough and tender novel of race, class, justice and the pain of growing up” set in Alabama during the depression. (813 Lee)
- Tracy Kidder won the Pulitzer Prize for *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, the story of Dr. Paul Farmer’s quest to cure the world of infectious diseases. (610.92 Kid)
- In *Life Itself: Abortion in the American Mind* Roger Rosenblatt “answers the most bitterly divisive social question of our time.” (363.4 Ros)

Apr 20

- Learn about the possibilities of your ministry as a parishioner. Read “Handshake Ritual: Ministry at the Church Door” in the April 8, 2008 issue of *The Christian Century*. The author is Martin B. Copenhaver, former pastor at Church of the Beatitudes. (3 pages)
- *I’ve Got to Talk to Somebody, God* contains Marjorie Holmes’ prayers on topics as diverse as “I was so cross with the children,” “keep me at it,” and “the mavericks.” (242.6 Hol)

- Anita Shreve’s novel, *The Pilot’s Wife*, is the story of a woman who “sets out to learn who her husband really was, whatever that knowledge might cost.” (813 Shr)
- In *Character Is Destiny* John McCain and Mark Salter provide “inspiring stories every young person should know and every adult should remember.” (170.44 McC)

Apr 27

- James Mulholland talks about prayer using words of great importance to a materialistic society in *Praying Like Jesus: The Lord’s Prayer in a Culture of Prosperity*. The book gives new meaning to words sometimes spoken as a ritual. (226.9 Mul)
- In *Aging Is a Lifelong Affair* Ben Weininger and Eva Menkin offer down-to-earth suggestions about living all through one’s life. (155.67 Wei)
- *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* explores the profoundly countercultural practice of forgiveness shown by the Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania community after the horrific killing of ten school girls in October 2006. (364.15 Kra)
- *Foucault’s Pendulum*, a novel by Umberto Eco, “ is a mixture of metaphysical meditation, detective story, computer handbook, introduction to physics and philosophy, historical survey, mathematical puzzle,” and several other things as well. (853.91 Eco)

May 4

- In *The Compassionate Community*, Jonathan Miller uses the language and lessons of faith to describe ten values to unite America. Chapter titles include “Abraham and the value of responsibility” and “Deborah and the value of justice.” (170.44 Mil)
- *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home* by Richard J. Foster, “...will be the Lord’s answer for our day to the ancient plea: ‘Lord teach us to pray.’” (248.3 Fos)
- *Patriot Hearts* is Barbara Hambly’s novel of the founding mothers: Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Sally Hemings, and Dolley Madison. (813 Ham)
- *The Walker’s Companion* provides helpful information and beautiful photographs about walking in a variety of places from city parks to wildlife preserves. (508.7 Fer)

May 11

- In *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit* Mitch Finley describes the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord, and “fruits” of the Holy Spirit—all in reader-friendly language. (234.13 Fin)
- El Meyer tells “how to create a ‘portable studio’ and capture the unique qualities of the outdoors in your paintings” in *Watercolor Painting on Location*. (751.42 Mey)
- *The Magic Years: Understanding and Handling the Problems of Early Childhood* could provide assistance for readers involved with young children. (136.7 Fra)
- *Dwelling Places* is Vinita Hampton Wright’s novel set on a farm in the Midwest. Each family member has problems that s/he learns to handle in the course of this story. (813 Wri)

May 18

- In *Steeplejacking* , Sheldon Culver and John Dorhauer discuss how the Christian right is hijacking mainstream religion. (John Dorhauer is newly appointed as Minister for the Southwest Conference of the UCC.) (277.3 Cul)

- Candice Millard tells the true story of Theodore Roosevelt’s darkest journey in *The River of Doubt*, a previously unmapped tributary of the Amazon in 1913-14. If you’re looking for adventure, you’ll find it here. (918.1 Mil)
- Barbara Wood’s novel, *The Blessing Stone*, is “a sweeping epic that chronicles the history of the world through the destiny of a mysterious blue stone.” (813 Woo)
- *Renegotiating Health Care* offers information on ways of resolving conflict to build collaboration in matters related to health care. Its authors are health care leaders representing health policy, management, nursing, medicine, and negotiation-conflict resolution. (362.1 Mar)

May 25

- In *The Lord is My Shepherd*, Rabbi Harold S. Kushner describes the healing wisdom of the 23rd Psalm both in Biblical and modern day contexts. (223 Kus)
- *My Sister’s Keeper* is Jodi Picoult’s novel about two sisters, one of whom suffers from a horrendous form of leukemia and the other who undergoes surgeries, transfusions, and shots to keep the sick sister alive. (813 Pic)
- In *The Language of Life* broadcaster Bill Moyers hosts discussions with a very diverse group of poets who not only read their poetry, but explain their feelings and discuss the circumstances surrounding their poems. (811.54 Moy)
- *Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny* by Robert Wright is “a marvelous summary and interpretation of what is now known and surmised about biological and human history on our planet.” (303.4 Wri)

Jun 8

- *Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking*, by Malcolm Gladwell, provides fascinating accounts about choices that seem to be made in an instant. (153.4 Gla)
- In *Champions of the Poor: The Economic Consequences of Judeo-Christian Values* Barend de Vries “examines the economic roots of poverty, the actions that can be taken to eradicate it, and the ethical case for integrating the poor into the mainstream of society.” (261.8 De)
- *A Bend in the Road* is Nicholas Sparks’ novel about a couple who meets and falls in love only to find that they are “bound together by a shocking secret.” Large Print. (813 Spa).
- *Dalai Lama, My Son*, is Diki Tsering’s story of her life as the mother of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It’s rich in historic and cultural details about the Tibetan people. (951.50 Tse)

Jun 15

- *Living the Heart of Christianity*, a companion book to Marcus Borg’s *The Heart of Christianity*, contains many exercises that can help you put your faith into action. (131 Bor)
- *Excess Baggage: Getting Out of Your Own Way*, by clinical psychologist Judith Sills, offers timely suggestions that can assist you in overcoming the blind spots that make life harder than it has to be. (158.1 Sil)
- *Miz Lil & The Chronicles of Grace* is a set of stories by Walter Wangerin, Jr. about his growing up years and his life as a pastor. (813 Wan)

- In *What Einstein Told His Cook* Robert L. Wolke explains kitchen science principles and provides nifty recipes. (641.5 Wol)

Jun 22

- In his novel *A Lesson Before Dying*, Ernest J. Gaines describes the bond that forms between a teacher and a man sentenced to death. (813 Gai)
- *Mixed Blessings* is a collection of sermons from Barbara Brown Taylor, a down-to-earth preacher and storyteller. (252.03 Tay)
- Bob Woodward named his biography of Alan Greenspan, *Maestro: Greenspan's Fed and the American Boom* because he was once a musician, and also was "exquisitely attuned to every instrument in the political and economic orchestra" in his role as Federal Reserve chairman. (332.1 Woo)
- In *Sketching School* author Judy Martin provides instruction about getting started, learning from sketching, themes, and applied sketching. (741.2 Mar)

Jun 29

- In *The Cloister Walk* Kathleen Norris describes "how immersion in the cloistered world...can impart meaning to everyday events and deepen our secular lives." (255.20 Nor)
- Tim Russert describes lessons he learned from his Dad in *Big Russ and Me: Father and Son, Lessons of Life*. (070.92 Rus)
- Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a controversial political figure and a target for terrorists, tells her life story in *Infidel*. She was one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2005. (949.2 Hir)
- *Treasures of the Old West*, by Peter H. Hassrick, displays and discusses paintings and sculpture from the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History. (759.99 Tho)

Jul 6

- In *Lazy B* Sandra Day O'Connor remembers stories about three generations of her family and growing up on a cattle ranch on the border of Arizona and New Mexico. (347.73 O'C)
- John Shelby Spong "presents his alternative of what true faith should be today" in a "unified vision of authentic Christian belief for the third millennium" in *A New Christianity for a New World*. (230.21 Spo)
- *The Constant Princess* is Philippa Gregory's novel about Katherine of Aragon, "a princess who became Queen of England—all by dint of a well-kept secret." (823 Gre)
- Want to travel but can't leave home? Read *A Year in the World: Journeys of a Passionate Traveller* by Frances Mayes. She takes you to the Greek Isles, Morocco, the Turkish Coast and many other far away places. (914.04 May)

Jul 13

- Paul Hawken's book, *Blessed Unrest*, recounts the good taking place in the world mostly by ordinary people who are making differences through their lives and actions. (333.72 Haw)

- In *Who Put All These Cucumbers in My Garden*, Patricia Wilson’s humorous anecdotes help readers “understand how everyday events can enrich the spiritual life and reveal how God works in our lives.” (242.19 Wil)
- George F. Will writes knowingly about Congress, term limits, and the recovery of deliberative democracy in *Restoration*. (328.73 Wil)
- *True Believer* is Nicholas Sparks’ novel about a small town librarian and an upscale New Yorker—just right for summer time reading. (813 Spa)

Jul 20

- *The Sinister Pig* is Tony Hillerman’s novel set on Navajo natural gas fields. Sgt. Jim Chee, and Lt. Joe Leaphorn head the character cast for this mystery. (813 Hil)
- *Just Peacemaking* contains essays about abolishing war. This book shows “people how to fan the flames of peace.” It “challenges pacifists to be peacemakers and just war theorists to spell out the resorts that should be tried before the last.” (261.8 Sta)
- In *Successful Aging*, Drs. John W. Rowe and Robert L. Kahn “explain that successful aging is largely determined...by individual lifestyle choices in diet, exercise, the pursuit of mental challenges, self-efficacy, and involvement with other people.” (613.04 Row)
- *Teacher Man* is Frank McCourt’s description of how his thirty year teaching career shaped his second career as a writer. One review says this book “should be mandatory reading for every teacher in America. And it wouldn’t hurt some politicians to read it, too.” (371.1 McC)

Jul 27

Featured here are titles related to the *Saint John’s Bible* project, subject of a recent special exhibit at the Phoenix Art Museum:

- *Saint John’s Bible: Gospels and Acts* (220.5 Jac) and *Saint John’s Bible: Psalms* (220.5 Jac) were written and illustrated entirely by hand. The text is Revised Standard Version of the Bible and the illustrations were hand drawn by Donald Jackson, scribe to Queen Elizabeth’s Crown Office, and a team of world-renowned calligraphers.
- *Illuminating the Word: The Making of the Saint John’s Bible*, by Christopher Calderhead, is a companion volume that discusses the actual making of the Bibles. It features numerous color illustrations. (220.5 Cal)
- *The Art of The Saint John’s Bible: A Reader’s Guide to Pentateuch, Psalms, Gospels and Acts*, by Susan Sink, provides “an invitation to experience the illuminations and the biblical text more deeply.” (745.6 Sin)

Aug 3

- In *Living Well as a Single Mom* Cynthia Yates suggests that a first priority is to “live well so you can help your kids live well too.” (248.8 Yat)
- Jimmy Carter discusses historic commitments (e.g., controlling deficit spending, protecting civil liberties and personal privacy) that are currently being challenged in *Our Endangered Values*. (306.09 Car)
- The effects of words on water as captured in Masaru Emoto’s photos in *The True Power of Water* are stunning. See for yourself. (613.2 Emo)

- Nadine Gordimer’s novel, *None to Accompany Me*, is set in South Africa during the unraveling of apartheid. The story follows the evolution of a black couple and a white couple and their interactions with each other and with society. (823 Gor)

Aug 10

- Annie Dillard records her expeditions and encounters through the natural world in *Teaching a Stone to Talk*. One reviewer says the essays are “painstakingly worded, tough-minded yet partial to Mystery, and peerless when it comes to injecting larger resonances into the natural world.” (508.19 Dil)
- *The Piano Tuner: A Novel* tells the story of a quiet Britisher who “meets soldiers, mystics, bandits, and talespinners, as well as an enchanting woman” on his way to Burma to repair a rare grand piano. (813 Mas)
- In *Far From Home* Joseph Stowell discusses his faith journey and what it means to “live out a ‘radical reliance’ on God.” (248.4 Sto)
- Deborah Keston describes food and world wisdom traditions (e.g., India, Native American) as well as the psychology, science and spiritual ingredients of eating in *Feeding the Body Nourishing the Soul*. (641.3 Kes)

Aug 17

- *Proverbs: A Poetic Paraphrase* is an interesting new way to read and understand ancient Wisdom literature, primarily from Solomon. (223.7 Bil)
- In *Ageless Body, Timeless Mind* Deepak Chopra “combines mind/body medicine with current antiaging research to show why—and how—the effects of aging are largely preventable.” (612.6 Cho)
- *Charlotte Gray* is Sebastian Faulks’ novel set during WWII in which a young love struck woman learns “a terrifying secret that threatens to cast its shadow over the remainder of her days.” (823 Fau)
- Ever wonder about how we can solve global problems? Bill McKibben suggests that we “create ‘depth’ through local interdependence and sustainable use of resources” in *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. (306.3 McK)

Aug 24

- In *Nothing Like It in the World*, Stephen E. Ambrose tells the stories of men who built the Transcontinental Railroad in 1863-1869, a feat that is credited with making the continent into a nation. (385.09 Amb)
- Ursula Hegi’s novel, *Sacred Time*, focuses on the activities of an Italian American family over three generations in post WW II New York City. (813 Heg)
- The results of a symposium on higher brain function in art and science led to publication of *The Origins of Creativity*. Sample titles: “Eureka! Discovery versus creation” and “Body, brain, and mind: emotion and reason.” (153.3 Pfe)
- *The Inner Voice of Love* is a book to be read a little at a time and savored. It is Henri Nouwen’s secret journal about his journey through anguish to freedom. (282.09 Nou)

Aug 31

- *The Bill McKibben Reader* is a good way to get acquainted with the author’s insightful essays on a wide range of environmental issues. (333.72 McK)

- In *Learning to Dance Inside*, George Fowler “writes eloquently and persuasively about...benefits to be gained from meditation: peace, lightheartedness, self-respect, fulfillment, a deep feeling of security and wholeness,” among others. (158.12 Fow)
- Nancy Fox provides a guide to long term care for families in “You, Your Parent, and the Nursing Home.” (362.8 Fox)
- *Body Surfing*, by Anita Shreve, tells “an unforgettable and surprising story about the longing for family, the resilience of the heart, and the supreme courage it takes to love.” (813 Shr)