

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS—2009

Jan 4

- *Women of Mystery* includes 15 stories of women sleuths authored by authors such as Mary Higgins Clark, Sara Paretsky, and others. (813 Man)
- Madeleine L'Engle and Luci Shaw offer prayers in two voices, for reading aloud together in *A Prayerbook for Spiritual Friends*. (242.8 L'E)
- *Ecotherapy: Healing Ourselves, Healing the Earth* “sheds light on humankind's most serious health challenge ever--how to save our precious planet--describes the strategic opportunities available to help the endangered human species cope constructively, and demonstrates the importance of hope, humor, and love in the process.” (333.7 Cli)
- Warm, humorous, and witty is a fair description of Lois Wyse's *Funny, You Don't Look Like a Grandmother*. See it for yourself. (818.54 Wys)

Jan 11

- In *Humility: The Quiet Virtue* Everett Worthington, Jr. describes humility with words and examples. This little book can provide “inspiration that will fortify your life choices.” (179.9 Wor)
- Julie Andrews tells her story in *Home: A Memoir of My Early Years*. (791.93 And)
- Lauren F. Winner describes her longing for Shabbat (Sabbath) as a Jew who converted to Christianity in *Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline*, pp. 1-13. (248.4 Win)
- Dorothy C. Bass talks about unwrapping the gift of Sabbath keeping in *Practicing Our Faith*, pp. 75-89. (248.4 Bas)

Jan 18

- In *The Red Hat Society: Fun and Friendship after Fifty*, Sue Ellen Cooper recommends this organization “as an antidote to the serious loss of self-esteem many aging women face as they deal with their children leaving home, caring for elderly parents, widowhood, health crises and altered body image.” (305.24 Co)
- Chris Bohjalian's novel, *Midwives* tells the story of a respected Vermont midwife accused and brought to trial for manslaughter. (813 Boh)
- Marva J. Dawn invites readers “to experience the wholeness and joy that come from observing God's order for life” in *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*. (248.4 Dav)
- *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives* by Wayne Muller contains numerous practical suggestions about these topics. (248.4 Mul)

Jan 25

- One reviewer says that *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible* “provides a good summary of the different positions regarding immigration in the United States and helps readers discover God’s heart for immigrants.” (261.8 Car)
- *The Gathering*, Anne Enright’s novel about a large Irish family haunted by the past “traces the line of betrayal and redemption through three generations.” (813 Enr)
- Randy Pausch’s *The Last Lecture* is not about dying, rather it’s “about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment....” (158.1 Pau)
- In *The Flame Trees of Thika* Elspeth Huxley recounts her early life growing up in Kenya during the early twentieth century. (916.76 Hux)

Feb 1

- Robert J. Wicks shows how “a solid spiritual life is within everyone’s reach...right where we are—in the midst of all the craziness” in *Everyday Simplicity: A Guide to Spiritual Growth*. (291.4 Wic)
- *The Strength of His Hand* by Lynn Austin is a fictional account of the life of Hezekiah who ruled the Biblical kingdom of Judah from 716 to 687 BC. (813 Aus)
- In *Beckham: Both Feet on the Ground* the world famous soccer star tells his life story. (796.33 Bec)
- Malcolm Gladwell provides several explanations for the success of individuals, both well-known and less well known, in *Outliers*. One of these is the 10,000 hours of practice requirement. (302 Gla)

Feb 8

- Beth Moore introduces you to *Jesus: The One and Only* in a close-up and personal way. (232.21 Moo)
- *1491*, by Charles C. Mann, “radically alters our understanding of the Americas before the arrival of Columbus in 1492.” (970.01 Man)
- *Liars and Thieves* is Stephen Coonts’ novel about conspiracy at high levels of American government. (813 Coo)
- *Leonardo: Art and Science* displays the artist’s pictorial masterpieces, manuscripts, scientific and technological studies. (709 Cri)

Feb 15

- In *Presidents: Every Question Answered* Carter Smith provides details about each person who has served at chief executive of the United States along with multiple photographs and illustrations. (973.09 Smi)
- *The Pillars of the Earth* is Ken Follett’s historical novel set in medieval England full of mystery and intrigue. (823 Fol)
- “In *The Misunderstood Jew*, scholar Amy-Jill Levine helps Christians and Jews understand the ‘Jewishness’ of Jesus so that their appreciation of him deepens and a greater interfaith dialogue can take place.” (261.2 Lev)

- *No More Shacks*, by Millard Fuller, tells the story of the “daring vision of Habitat for Humanity.” (363.5 Ful)

Feb 22

- In *Living Faith: How Faith Inspires Social Justice* Curtiss DeYoung “profiles three of the most dynamic and influential religious activists of the twentieth century: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Malcolm X, and Aung San Suu KyiHis portraits show how their mystic faith drove them to justice commitments....” (201.7 DeY)
- *The Last Promise* is Richard Paul Evans’ novel about whether to love a child or seek romantic love. (813 Eva)
- *The Gifts of the Jews*, by Thomas Cahill, describes “how a tribe of desert nomads changed the way everyone thinks and feels.” (909.04 Cah)
- *Small is Beautiful* by E. F. Schumacher, “is a landmark set of essays on humanistic economics,” stated briefly, “economics as if people mattered.” (330.1 Sch)

Mar 15

- *The Society of Salty Saints* by Micheal Elliott “is a revealing portrait of an inner-city congregation whose salty saints are the cement of caring that builds and bonds the church.” (286.17 Ell)
- *Wisdom Hunter* is Randall Arthur’s novel about a pastor who loses everything then encounters a serious crisis of faith and ultimately discovers answers to his deepest questions. (813 Art)
- 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)
- Wanna go to Italy, but can’t? *Under the Tuscan Sun*, a travel book with great recipes, makes a worthwhile substitute. (945.5 May)

Mar 22

- In *Quiet Mind* David Kundtz provides one-minute retreats from a busy world through meditations with titles such as these: “Learning to Stop,” “Glitz,” and “You’ve Gotta Have Art!” (158 Kun)
- Marcus Borg discusses an understanding of God that modern atheists have not considered in *Beyond Atheism: The Truth and Limits of the Atheist Critique*. This is a DVD of the lecture Borg presented at Church of the Beatitudes on January 29, 2009. (210 Bor)
- Thomas P. M. Barnett asks and answers probing questions in *Great Powers: America and the World after Bush*. The questions include, “Where’s the world going now, and how do we not only rejoin it, but become a leader again...?” (973.93 Bar)
- *The Dragons of the Rhine* is Diana Paxon’s novel retelling a mythic and timeless love story of Sigfrid Sigmundson and Brunahild. (813 Pax)

Mar 29

- In his book *Who Needs God* Rabbi Harold Kushner contends “that there is a kind of nourishment our souls crave, even as our bodies need the right foods, sunshine, and exercise. Without that spiritual nourishment, our souls remain stunted and undeveloped.” (296.7 Kus)
- “You’ll never think about teenagers the same way again,” says Ron Taffel in *The Second Family: How Adolescent Power is Challenging the American Family*. (306.87 Taf)
- *Glendale: Century of Diversity* is the history of Arizona’s fourth largest city in words and plentiful photographs, both color and black and white. (979.17 Smi)
- *A Wedding in December* is Anita Shreve’s novel in which “seven former schoolmates gather to celebrate a wedding.” (813 Shr)

Apr 12

- *The Grand Canyon: An Artist’s View* by John Dawson and Charles Craighead is both an impressive art collection and a naturalist’s well-told account of one of nature’s most impressive exhibits. (508.79 Daw)
- Pierre Benoit’s *Easter: A Pictorial Pilgrimage* has as its purpose to allow readers to “relive, by viewing the Holy Places and seeing the works of art wrought with devotion, the life and the passion of Jesus.” (915.69 Ben)
- Elaine St. James offers helpful suggestions in a number of areas in *Living the Simple Life: A Guide to Scaling Down and Enjoying More*. (179.9 St.)
- *At First Sight* is Nicholas Sparks’ novel about a young couple whose lives are changed by emails that cast doubts on their relationship. Large Print. (813 Spa)

Apr 19

- *In the Hope of Rising Again* is Helen Scully’s novel set in the South just after the Civil War. (813 Scu)
- *Living Well, Staying Well* offers “practical, step-by-step advice on how to reduce specific health risks—having high blood pressure, having high cholesterol levels, being overweight, and more” from the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. (616.1 Ame)
- Henri J. M. Nouwen’s *The Inner Voice of Love* “is a book to be read and savored” because it offers new courage and hope to readers who deal with broken relationships or loss of loved ones. (282.09 Nou)
- David Boren offers “a powerful compelling analysis of the major crises facing the United States today...in a nonpartisan, compassionate way.” (320.60 Bor)

Apr 26

- In *The House of Life* Paul Brooks helps readers understand the works of Rachel Carson. For example, her book *Silent Spring* is said to be “a work that changed history.” (574.09 Bro)
- Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan discuss three Pauls of the New Testament: the radical Paul (of seven genuine letters), the conservative Paul (of the three disputed

epistles), and the reactionary Paul (of the three inauthentic letters) in their just published book, *The First Paul*. (227.06 Bor)

- *A Conspiracy of Paper* is David Liss's novel about the stock market in eighteenth century London. (813 Lis)
- Betty Edwards offers a course in enhancing creativity and artistic confidence in *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*. (741.2 Edw)

May 3

- 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)
- *The New Retirement* is a small collection of important information about retirement planning, saving and investing, disease prevention, and living longer-living better. (640.73 New)
- *Blue Shoes and Happiness* is another of Alexander McCall Smith's delightful stories about the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, featuring Mma Ramotswe. (823 McC)
- Want to know the truth about American history? Richard Shenkman sets the record straight about parts of it in *Legends, Lies & Cherished Myths of American History*. (973.19 She)

May 10

- "How do thoughts and feelings influence health? How is healing related to the mind?" See answers to these important questions in *Healing and the Mind* by Bill Moyers. (616 Moy)
- *Stranger at the Gate* is Mel White's story of what it means to be gay and Christian in America. (261.8 Whi)
- *Digging to America* is Anne Tyler's newest novel about what it is to be an American. Two families meet at the airport while waiting for their adopted daughters to arrive from Korea. (813 Tyl)
- "(T)o perceive both the theological quality of everyday practices and the practical importance of theology and doctrine for Christian living" are the main thrusts of *Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life*. (230.21 Vol)

May 17

- *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* is Fannie Flagg's warm and witty novel in which the characters "ponder the age-old question: 'What is life all about, anyway?'" (813 Fla)
- Sylvia Hewlett and Cornell West discuss a Parents' Bill of Rights among other topics in their book, *The War Against Parents: What We Can Do for America's Beleaguered Moms and Dads*. (649.1 Hew)
- In *Discernment: The Art of Choosing Well*, Pierre Wolff provides "a systematic, step-by-step guide to informed decision making that engages our God-given tools of intellect, heart, and will." (248.4 Wol)

- Stephen Jay Gould works at “mending the gap between science and the humanities” in *The Hedgehog, the Fox, and the Magister’s Pox*. (303.48 Gou)

May 24

- *Eat, Pray, Love* is the story of Elizabeth Gilbert’s true life search for everything across Italy, India and Indonesia. Large Print. (910.4 Gil)
- Bruce Feiler writes about his enlightening, eye-popping adventures among the British upper class at Oxford and Cambridge in *Looking for Class*. (378.42 Fei)
- In *The Gift of the Blessing* Gary Smalley and John Trent describe the elements of the blessing, how to apply these to life, and experience peace. (249.20 Sma)
- 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)

May 31

- In *The Napoleonic Wars*, warfare authority Gunther Rothenberg writes about the rise, success and fall of Napoleon in an exceptionally well-illustrated book that includes many colored photographs. (940.2 Rot)
- *Voices of Faith* is a collection of essays that explain the beliefs and practices of people living all around us here in the valley, including Sikhs, Mormons, Buddhists, Christian Scientists and others. (292 Epp)
- In P. D. James’ mystery, *The Lighthouse*, Adam Dalgliesh does what he does best—solve murders. (823 Jam)
- Dr. Joyce Brothers “writes intimately about her own widowhood—and advises others on coping with loss” in her book, *Widowed*. (306.88 Bro)

Jun 7

- In *The Disappearance of God: A Divine Mystery* Richard Elliott Friedman asks why the God known through “miracles and direct interaction at the beginning of the Bible” gradually becomes hidden at the end. (231.20 Fri)
- Charles C. Mann writes new revelations about the Americas before Columbus’ arrival in his book, *1491*. You’re likely to be surprised because the information here is not what most of us studied in school. (970.01 Man)
- Author May Sarton was asked, “Why is it good to be old?” Read her answers in *At Seventy: A Journal*. (818 Sar)
- *The Pact* is Jodi Picoult’s novel about neighbors whose children grow up together, but following a tragedy face the question, Do we ever really know our children at all? (813 Pic)

Jun 14

- In *Quiet Times* Janet Teitsort provides short meditations that can enable you to think differently about how you live your life. (242 Tei)

- *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* is Lynne Truss' hilarious book about a zero tolerance approach to punctuation. (428.2 Tru)
- Dan Brown's novel, *Angels & Demons*, provides adventures galore--all set in beautiful Rome. (813 Bro)
- *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow, is the print version of Pausch's inspirational video about "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams." (158.1 Pau)

Jun 21

- Norman Wakefield's *Listening: A Christian's Guide to Loving Relationships* offers practical help to readers both by its content and methods of presentation. (248.4 Wak)
- Katharine Graham, publisher of the *Washington Post* during the Watergate era, tells her own story in *Personal History*. One reviewer says it's "extraordinary both of the events it encompasses and for the courage, candor, and dignity of its telling." (070.5 Gra)
- In Ann Hood's novel *The Knitting Circle*, the main character, who loses her only child, joins a knitting circle as a way to deal with her lonely days. (813 Hoo)
- Peter Sacks writes about "the staggering economic inequalities that open the gates of opportunity for children of the affluent and well-educated families and slam the gates shut for children born without social and economic privilege" in *Tearing Down the Gates: Confronting the Class Divide in American Education*. (379.2 Sac)

Jun 28

In Fall 2009 look forward to opportunities for participation in a yet to be formed book discussion group. Books will feature current *nonfiction* of interest to general audiences on various topics, including social psychology advances, environmental issues, and others.

If you'd like an early reading start, these three titles nominated for discussion are available for check out. Read descriptive information about them in the section "Slightly Serious Stuff" in the *July Grapevine*:

- *Blind Spots: Why Smart People Do Dumb Things* by Madeleine L. Van Hecke, Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2007. (153 Van)
- *Sway: The Irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior* by Ori Brafman and Rom Brafman, New York: Doubleday, 2008. (155.9 Bra)
- *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and Happiness*, revised and expanded edition, by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein, New York: Penguin, 2009. (330.01 Tha)

Jul 5

- Ishmael Beah tells of his days as a child soldier living in war torn Sierra Leone in *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. (966.4 Bea)
- Artist Dale Chihuly and multiple intelligences formulator Howard Gardner, among others, are contributors to *The Origins of Creativity*. (153.3 Pfe)
- *Evensong* is Gail Godwin's novel about a young female pastor and the people in a small Smoky Mountain town who alter her life. (813 God)

- Duane Elgin discusses the convergence of adversity trends with opportunity trends and invites “all of us to do our part in transforming the world by becoming practical activists in our own lives.” (128.21 Elg)

Jul 12

- *Christians at the Border* by M. Daniel Carroll provides Christian perspectives on immigration, the church, and the Bible. (261.8 Car)
- Novelist Louise Erdrich writes about the Old World meeting the New in North Dakota in a fascinating family epic, *The Master Butchers Singing Club*. (813 Erd)
- In *A Grace Disguised*, Jerry Sittser discusses how the soul grows through loss. (248.8 Sit)
- Authors David S. Kidder and Noah D. Oppenheim anticipate that reading *The Intellectual Devotional* prepares you to “revive your mind, complete your education, and roam confidently with the cultured class.” (909.22 Kid)

Jul 19

- In *Boom! Talking about the Sixties* Tom Brokaw takes readers “on a memorable journey through a remarkable time, exploring how individuals and the national mood were affected and showing how the aftershocks of the Sixties continue in our lives today.” (973.92 Bro)
- David Yount “offers clear explanations to common questions about Christianity” in his book, *Growing in Faith: A Guide for the Reluctant Christian*. (239.20 You)
- Mystery writer P. D. James’s story, *The Children of Men*, is about “a world with no children and no future.” (813 Jam)
- Richard Brodie writes intriguingly about answers to questions such as, “Why do people go on diets that don’t work? What *memes* do advertisers use that literally enslave people into buying their products?” in his book, *Virus of the Mind: The New Science of the Meme*. (302 Bro)

Jul 26

- In *The Evolution of God* Robert Wright “reveals the forces that have repeatedly moved the Abrahamic faiths (i.e., Judaism, Christianity, Islam) away from belligerence and intolerance to a higher moral plane.” This is out of the ordinary in a good way. (200.9 Wri)
- Wayne Dyer describes how to change lifelong, self-defeating thinking habits in *Excuses Begone!* (158.1 Dye)
- *For One More Day* is Mitch Albom’s novel about a mother and her son built around the question of what to do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one. (813 Alb)
- In *A Letter to America*, David Boren describes several of America’s challenges and provides hopeful and inspiring prescriptions for meeting them. (320.6 Bor)

Aug 2

- In *The Language of God* Francis Collins, one of the world's leading scientists, discusses how faith and science can harmoniously coexist within a person. Good reading for those who ask: "Why are we here? How did we get here? What does life mean?" (215.22 Col)
- Colgrove, Bloomfield and McWilliams offer "a different kind of guide to overcoming all your emotional hurts" in *How to Survive the Loss of a Love*. (155.9 Col)
- *Alias Grace*, a novel, is set in 19th century Canada and tells the story of a woman convicted of two murders, yet she has no memory of them. (813 Atw)
- *20,000 Years of Fashion* describes both with words and photographs the history of costume and personal adornment. (391 Bou)

Aug 9

- *Seeds of Hope*, excerpts from Henri Nouwen's writings, offers inspiration for daily living in a variety of circumstances. It's meant to be picked up and read, then put down and thought about over a period of time. (242.19 Nou)
- Novelist Pico Iyer takes readers on a magic carpet ride from California to Iran in his mystery, *Abandon*. (813 Iye)
- In *The Hidden Connections* Fritjof Capra discusses complexity theory as a way to establish a "framework in which we can understand and solve some of the most important issues of our time," such as ecologically sustainable communities and technologies. (191 Cap)
- Read Secretary of State Clinton's life story in *Living History: Hillary Rodham Clinton*. (973.92 Cli)

Aug 16

- "Today be conscious of what your heart notices" and "Go home every day, several times a day, just by consciously breathing." These are endings to two of the one-minute retreats from a busy world found in David Kundtz's *Quiet Mind*. Read more. (158 Kun)
- *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* describes the activities of a devoted teacher and her female students who gathered to read forbidden Western classics in the Islamic Republic of Iran. (820.9 Naf)
- *Seed Pods and Periscopes* is Chandler W. Gilbert's collection of stories and reflections about living deeply and living well. Don't miss it. (240 Gil)
- Vinita Hampton Wright's novel, *Dwelling Places* set in America's heartland, is peopled with families solving problems similar to those we all seem to have. (813 Wri)

Aug 23

- *Reflections on Psalm 23 for People with Cancer* by Ken Curtis contains meditations that "provide a combination of candid personal experience of what it means to battle cancer and some of the spiritual resources available from this time-honored Psalm." DVD. (220.6 Cur)

- *The Wind Won't Know Me* retells the story of the U.S. Government's mishandling of a land dispute among Navajo-Hopi Indians. "It is as well a plea for profoundly needed change." (979.1 Ben)
- *Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul* provides stories about pets as teachers, healers, heroes, and friends. (818.54 Can)
- *The Historian* is Elizabeth Kostova's "story of a young woman plunged into a labyrinth where the secrets of her family's past connect to an inconceivable evil: the dark fifteenth-century reign of Vlad the Impaler and a time-defying pact that may have kept his awful work alive through the ages." (813 Kos)

Aug 30

- In *Living Faith While Holding Doubts* Martin Copenhaver discusses such down-to-earth ideas as the important role of doubt, the differences between belief and faith, and feeling like a hypocrite. (234.2 Cop)
- Ralph Helfer, Hollywood animal trainer, recounts the true story of the greatest lion that ever lived in *Zamba*. (599.75 Hel)
- *Year of Wonders: A novel of the plague* is Geraldine Brooks' story set in 1666. An infected bolt of cloth carries the plague from London to an isolated mountain village where the villagers decide to quarantine themselves to arrest its spread. (823 Bro)
- *Perspectives* is a collection of Hugh Downs' wisdom distilled into short essays. Among the topics are these: Seeing a Century in a Single Second, Critics, and Left-Handedness. (081.20 Dow)

Sep 6

- In his own words, author Rob Bell says that *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* is intended to offer a "fresh take on Jesus," as Christianity that has room for doubts. Gen Xers, in particular, may enjoy this reading. (261 Bel)
- *The Vision of Emma Blau* is Ursula Hegi's novel about a bicultural family who comes to America from Germany to fulfill their dreams and deal with their disappointments. (823 Heg)
- Leonard J. Marcus' *Renegotiating Health Care: Resolving Conflict to Build Collaboration* offers "instruction on the methods, techniques, and styles of conflict resolution." This information could be helpful. (362.1 Mar)
- Using research from social psychology, behavioral economics, and organizational behavior, Ori Brafman and Rom Brafman describe and illustrate many of the forces that influence our personal and business lives in *Sway: The Irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior*. (155.9 Bra)

Sep 13

- In *The End of Overeating* David Kessler explains "why it is exceptionally difficult to resist certain foods and why it's so easy to overindulge." He also explains how we can regain control of our eating habits. (613.2 Kes)

- Dewi Hughes “argues that poverty is rooted in the way human beings use and abuse power.” Read more in *Power and Poverty: Divine and Human Rule in a World of Need*. (261.8 Hug)
- In a suspense novel *The Forgery of Venus*, Michael Gruber’s main character is an artist who can paint like several master artists. He suddenly “finds himself lost...and propelled into a secret world of greed, lies...and murder.” (813 Gru)
- “*Nudge* is about choices—how we make them and how we’re led to make better ones” in all types of situations ranging from personal investments, to food, to use of natural resources. (330.01 Tha)

Sep 20

- One of the seven chapters in Rodney Clapp’s *Johnny Cash and the Great American Contradiction: Christianity and the Battle for the Soul of a Nation* is titled “On Baptism, Patriotism, and Being a Christian in Public.” Sound interesting? (261.09 Cla)
- *The Biology of Belief* by Bruce Lipton describes in lay terms how “all the cells of your body are affected by your thoughts.” The link between mind and matter has “profound effects on our personal lives and the collective life of our species.” (153 Lip)
- *The Redbreast* is Jo Nesbo’s crime novel set in Oslo late in World War II through modern times. It was voted the Best Norwegian Crime Novel Ever Written. (813 Nes)
- *Tools Matter for Practicing the Spiritual Life* by Mary Margaret Funk provides many points for reflection on prayer, humility and spiritual direction. (248.4 Fun)

Sep 27

- *One Terrific Year: Supporting Your Kids through the Ups and Downs of Their Year* by family specialist Carole Calladine, “shows how the changing seasons and seasonal events affect a child’s behavior and development over and over again in a *predictable* pattern.” (649.1 Cal)
- In *A Hidden Wholeness* Parker J. Palmer discusses four important themes: the shape of an integral life, the meaning of community, teaching and learning for transformation, and nonviolent social change. (248.4 Pal)
- *The Cloud Atlas* is Liam Callanan’s novel set in Alaska near the end of WW II. A young soldier went there on “an extraordinary top secret mission...and found a world that would haunt him forever.” (813 Cal)
- *The Bill McKibben Reader: Pieces from an Active Life* is a collection of essays on a variety of topics of interest to readers who care about our earth and all who live on it. (333.72 McK)

Oct 4

- Malcolm Gladwell provides several explanations for the success of individuals, both well-known and less well known, in *Outliers*. One of these is the 10,000 hours of practice requirement. (302 Gla)

- In *What Happens When We Pray for Our Families* Evelyn Christenson offers suggestions for prayers of all types, including how to pray when loved ones hurt and when loved ones hurt us. (249.20 Chr)
- 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)
- “Missing emeralds, unexpected corpses, a cryptogram, erudition, a touch of the macabre, an old church with ringing bells, and Peter Wimpy performing feats of deduction and exercising his freakish humor” is one reviewer’s description of Dorothy Sayers’ novel, *The Nine Tailors*. (823 Say)

Oct 11

- Valerie Plame Wilson tells her story in *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House*. This book “is the historic and unvarnished account of the personal and international consequences of speaking truth to power.” (327.12 Wil)
- *Happiness Sold Separately* is Lolly Winston’s novel that sounds as if it comes straight out of real life—“infidelity, infertility, a failing marriage, and a troubled kid.” (813 Win)
- Huston Smith writes passionately “about the suffocation of the human spirit” in *Why Religion Matters: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief*. Here he advocates for religion as a moral compass for living. (200.21 Smi)
- Cynthia Gates offers a practical guide to managing money, kids and personal life in *Living Well as a Single Mom*. (248.8 Yat)

Oct 18

- In *Plain and Simple: A Woman’s Journey to the Amish*, Sue Bender describes her search for meaning, simplicity, and order. (170.44 Ben)
- John Dominic Crossan discusses what he, as a former Irish monk, discovered in his search for truth in *A Long Way from Tipperary*. (220.09 Cro)
- *The Welsh Girl* is Peter Ho Davies’ novel set in North Wales just after D-Day. It’s the story of a German POW and a young barmaid. (823 Dav)
- When she married a Canadian rancher, Sharon Butala moved to an isolated area where she “embarks on a spiritual journey to find herself as a woman and as a writer, learning along the way to find a guiding force in Nature.” She recounts this journey in *Perfection of the Morning*. (813 But)

Oct 25

- In *We Are Our Mothers’ Daughters* Cokie Roberts discusses the diverse roles played by women throughout American history as well as the distinctions and connections among different generations of women. (305.42 Rob)
- Russell Baker claims that his book, *Poor Russell’s Almanac*, is a “new, retooled, retrofitted, and otherwise gussied-up edition of the classic.” See what you think about this claim. (818 Bak)

- Jodi Picoult's *Plain Truth*, a novel set in Amish country, is a gripping story involving a tangled murder case. (813 Pic)
- *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*, by Eric H. F. Law, is practical reading for those seeking to lead in multicultural communities. (261.8 Law)

Nov 1

- In *Where God Was Born* Bruce Feiler takes “readers to biblical sites not seen by Westerners for decades” and describes from first-hand experiences “little-known details about the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.” (200.95 Fei)
- Reading Marilyn Van Hecke's *Blind Spots* can help readers understand why smart people do dumb things. The book “is a witty antidote to shoddy thinking.” (153 Van)
- *Falling Angels: A Novel* by Tracy Chevalier is set in early 20th century London and features heroines from very different social classes and the troubles that follow. (813 Che)
- Scott McGaugh relates an oral history of America's legendary aircraft carrier in *Midway Magic*. (973.9 McG)

Nov 8

- In *Synchronicity: Science, Myth, and the Trickster*, Allan Combs and Mark Holland “describe meaningful coincidences that conventional notions of time and causality cannot explain,” and include anecdotes from everyday life and literature. (123.1 Com)
- *Nighttime Is My Time* is a Mary Higgins Clark mystery about a class reunion in which people who sat at the same lunch table seem to die in a prearranged order. Large Print. (813 Cla)
- Adam Nicolson describes in rich detail 26 guided walks in the United States, England and France in his book, *On Foot*. (796.5 Nic)
- “Every day 34,000 children still die of starvation and preventable diseases, and 1.3 billion people live in relentless, unrelieved poverty worldwide.” See what Ronald Sider has to say about these problems in *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity*. (261.8 Sid)

Nov 15

- *Find Your Way Home: Words from the Street, Wisdom from the Heart* is a remarkable set of 24 rules that women of the Magdalene community live by. Read them and their backgrounds and be inspired. (242.22 Ste)
- Set in WWII Belgium, *Resistance* is Anita Shreve's novel, which tells the story of a wounded American pilot nursed back to health by the wife of a resistance worker. (813 Shr)
- Jonathan Miller, a Jewish Sunday School teacher of high schoolers, describes ten values to unite America in *The Compassionate Community*. These values include opportunity, responsibility, work, family and six others. (170.44 Mil)
- *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* is “fascinating...lays a foundation for understanding human history” according to Bill Gates. This book won a Pulitzer Prize. (303.4 Dia)

Nov 22

- Ever think about reinventing yourself? Susan Crandell's *Thinking About Tomorrow* could furnish the tools for this transformation, regardless of your age. (305.24 Cra)
- In *The War Against Parents*, Sylvia Hewlett and Cornel West "seek to unite America's 62 million parents behind an agenda that spans the divides of race, gender, and class" in their call for a Parents' Bill of Rights. (649.1 Hew)
- *Under the Gypsy Moon* is Lawrence Thornton's novel set in Paris about an avant-garde novelist, a Spanish poet and a narrator with vital inner strength and intellectual courage. (813 Tho)
- In *Growing in Faith* David Yount offers clear explanations to common questions about Christianity, such as 'ever felt like you had to endure, rather than enjoy a church service?' (239.20 You)

Nov 29

- 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)
- *Bark If You Love Me* is Louise Bernikow's story of what happened when she took into her home an abandoned boxer. (636.7 Ber)

Dec 6

Dec 13

- *Christmas Stories for the Heart* consists of short stories that "renew your faith, hope, and love for the Christmas season." (242.33 Gra)
- *The First Christmas* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, explains what the gospels really teach about Jesus's birth. (232.92 Bor)
- Richard Paul Evans' novel, *The Christmas Box*, is a must read for anyone who has experienced the death of a child; it's a powerful story of love. (813 Eva)
- *Traditional Christmas Cooking, Crafts and Gifts* is a well illustrated collection of ideas for Christmas projects. (745.59 Cy)

Dec 20

- *Joy to the World*, by Kenneth W. Osbeck, contains words, music, and stories about 25 best loved Christmas carols. (242.33 Osb)
- *Let's Keep Christmas* is an illustrated sermon by Peter Marshall. (232.92 Mar)

- Jan Karon's novel, *Shepherds Abiding*, features Father Tim and Cynthia at Christmas time in Mitford. (813 Kar)
- *Christmas is Coming* gives instructions and full color illustrations for numerous holiday projects for children and parents. (745.59 Wri)

Dec 27

- In *American Evita: Hillary Clinton's Path to Power*, Christopher Andersen describes Clinton's rise through the ranks to become a very powerful politician. Large Print. (328.73 And)
- *On the Street Where You Live* is Mary Higgins Clark's novel featuring a woman haunted by two closely-linked murders but separated by 110 years. (813 Cla)
- *The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi* recount miracles and devout examples of St. Francis and some of his holy companions. (271 Hud)
- In *Sway: The Irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior* Ori Brafman and Rom Brafman discuss the forces that influence our business and personal lives, including loss aversion and the "chameleon effect." (155.9 Bra)