

Supporting Faith, Growing in Knowledge, Together



We call it Faith Formation now; we used to refer to it as Christian Education. Whatever the term, we are making space to “find and be found by God.” That does not mean that our minds should be a receptive blank, but rather that we should continue to learn and grow, to focus on the ways that God acts in our lives. Donn Morgan, former president of Church Divinity School of the Pacific, speaks of congregations as people who “try to make sense of their faith in a

sometimes confusing and hostile world.” ([Manifesto for learning](#), p.8)

We believe that trying to make sense of our faith, faith formation if you will, is a lifelong commitment and opportunity, one we signed on to in our baptismal covenant. We open our minds to the world around us, to our mission as Christians. We also believe that we support each other in the enterprise, that we are engaged in it together. Here you will find some approaches to the materials in our Reference Center library, and some online resources. The great thing about growing faith is that it can and does happen anywhere, so this is certainly not a definitive list. Let us share our successes and learn from the ones that are not so successful.

Does your congregation want to begin a Bible study? There are almost countless approaches. Well known are the [Kerygma Bible studies](#), which provide in-depth look into biblical books and themes, and there are many books on every book and aspect of the Bible, and various ways to approach the texts. If you are interested in studying a specific book such as the Psalms, or the women of the bible, or in getting an overview of the entirety, there are books for you. Many DVDs are available as well. Check out our online catalog for the Resource Center Library [here](#) and look further in this document for search tips.

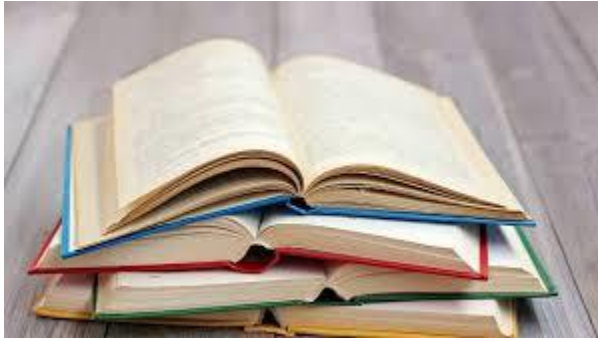
Your Resource Center library includes material on leading small groups, working with social media, working for social justice, attracting and incorporating newcomers, considering the environment and our faith, stewardship, Church year, Anglican principles, leadership, contemplative practices, liturgy, Christian life, Spiritual formation and much more.

In the sections below you will find some search tips for finding material in the [Resource Library catalog](#). We are always happy to mail materials to you. Beyond that you will find some of the online resources for continuing formation and growth.



Sue Tait

Finding material by subject in our catalog



If you are looking for material on a specific subject, go to the online catalog and select the search box in the middle of the page.

1. Type the topic you seek, and press enter. Your default search is by keyword, so you will get a list of all the material that includes that word in the title or description.
2. You can also enter the topic you seek (i.e. Environment) and click on the “subject” button below the box. This will give you material which includes your word or topic as one of the assigned subject headings. You may need to search under several different words or headings to find all of what you want.
3. Another way to search is to find a title that fits what you seek, and then click on that title. The next screen that appears will list the subject headings the cataloger used to describe the book.
4. Click on one or more of these subject headings to find out if we have any other material in our collection that was described in the same way. The lists that result from this search reflect both print and nonprint material. Books are visually identified in the online catalog, and below are several other icons you will see.



DVD



Material that belongs to Earth Ministry, and is housed here. It is shelved with similar books in our collection, and available for checkout.



Material identified as curriculum. There is additional material that includes study guides, or reflection questions, but is not actually cataloged as curriculum.

Finding a video

If you know you want to show a video, but don't have a title or topic in mind, you can locate a list of the DVDs in our collection by following the steps below. We also have a number of VHS tapes, but they are not cataloged. Contact us if you would like to use that format.

- 1) Go to the online catalog for the Diocesan Resource Center.
- 2) In the upper left corner of the opening page you will see a search box
- 3) Click on the button below the box labeled "media"
- 4) At the resulting page; select DVD and then "search"
- 5) You will get a list of the cataloged DVDs in our collection.
- 6) You can also search within the DVD category
 - a. At that second search box, type in a subject, or keyword. Select DVD, and "search".
 - b. Of course, if you know the title you want, you can search in the general online catalog as well.
 - c. **Or**, select "media" and at the next search box enter the title, click DVD and then "search"
 - d. The resulting list show DVDs in our collection matching your search.

A Selection of On-Line Resources

Building Faith: a ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary

Claiming to provide resources for disciples of all ages, this web site aims to equip, teach, and form. Explore the website [here](#). Often used in ministry with children, there are sections on choosing curriculum, including the popular curriculum charts, seasonal resources for the yearly rhythms of our faith, and a section for Faith at Home. Typing "adult" in the search box on the home page allows you to find the article "Adult discipleship: courses, program, books & more."

This article mentions the 'Embracing' video series from Church Publishing. These five-session studies are led by popular teachers and include a DVD in which the host interacts with a "live" group of adults. There are also Participant's Workbooks for group participants. *Building Faith* editors point out that the presenters generally represent a progressive-leaning theology. The Resource Center owns copies of all the DVD and workbook combinations, but when Church Publishing sells to Resource Centers they ask that use of the Resource Center copies will be for examination only.

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Known as CALL (Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership) this program presents a series of seven-week courses throughout the year, designed so the learner can participate at his or her own time and pace, and taught by experienced online instructors. Courses are open to lay or ordained of any denomination, or none. Groups can register, but each student is asked to register separately. Tuition is currently \$230.00 per course. Check [here](#) for their catalog.

ChurchNext: Introducing online Christian learning

Although initially developed for individuals, a second track for small group use was recently added. Each session includes a short video presentation by the instructor (usually 10-15 minutes) and then questions for reflection. Some parishes have used the clips to kick off a topic, and then turned to in-house discussion. The charge per class is quite low and the catalog of topics is growing. Get more information [here](#).

Department of Lifelong Learning: Virginia Theological Seminary

A very recent development from the Virginia Theological Seminary combines several areas of interest into a new department, headed by the Assistant Dean of Lifelong Learning, Lisa Kimball. She says that it “provides continuous opportunities for theological education in the service of faithful leadership. We exist for the committed and the curious, lay and clergy, who are eager to claim and explore their Christian vocations in today’s world.” Find out more [here](#).

Lifelong Christian Faith Formation for all ages

Projects, workshops, and resources developed by John Roberto and [LifelongFaith Associates](#). Sections include “Lifelong Faith Books”, and “Faith Formation practices.” LifelongFaith Associates are committed to helping congregations develop lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations, increasing the capacity of leaders and communities to nurture faith growth.” One section, “Curated Resources”, provides links to sources for digital content for various age groups.

Podcasts

You can receive podcasts on any portable **media player** or on your computer. Unlike Internet radio, users don’t have to ‘tune in’ to a particular broadcast. Instead, they download the podcast on demand or subscribe via an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed, which automatically downloads the podcast to your chosen device.

Reclaiming Jesus

In a declaration signed by a host of well-known religious leaders, including Michael Curry, the authors say that we are living in “perilous and polarizing times as a nation....it is time to be followers of Jesus before anything else...identity in Christ precedes every other identity.” A section of resources is part of the [website](#), including the nine-session “Reclaiming Jesus Bible Study” which you can find [here](#) and a five-week curriculum on Civil Discourse also downloadable in the Resources” section. Leader’s guide and participant handouts are available with each curriculum.

TED online community

TED began in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: **Technology, Entertainment, Design**. Since then the scope has become ever broader. TED includes the award-winning TED Talks video site, and TED-Ed. TEDx was created in the spirit of TED’s mission, “ideas worth spreading.” It supports independent organizers who want to create a TED-like event in their own community. For instance, Brene Brown presented her talk, “Power of vulnerability” on TEDxHuston and it has been watched by some 195,000 people. To see what else they offer, click [here](#). You can also [search](#) by topic

Transforming Questions

This downloadable course by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe is free from Forward Movement. It is intended to help both new Christians and longtime churchgoers move into a deeper life in Christ. “Over the course of ten sessions, participants engage the basic questions of the Christian faith through a combination of teaching and conversation.” The format is a familiar one, a shared meal, a presentation from a leader, and then small groups for deeper reflection and engagement with the topic. The downloadable course includes a Facilitator’s Guide and Participant’s guide. It can be downloaded [here](#)

Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life

As you know, Presiding Bishop Curry has invited the whole church to take up “The Way of Love”, focused on practices for a Jesus-Centered life. The practices are collected in seven stages: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go and Rest. You can find more information and a video about the Jesus Movement, and about rules of life [here](#). Lists of print and online materials for each of the seven practices are being posted on our diocesan website and materials may be borrowed from the Resource Center.

Meditations online

Many online sources provide daily meditations delivered to one's inbox, and there are meditations on the Sunday lectionary readings online as well.

[Forward Movement](#) posts a meditation for every day of the year. Many congregations have these small books available, but not so many know that they are also available online. [The Society of St John the Evangelist](#) offers "The daily word", meditations on specific words to use as the focus of prayers. Meditations can be found in the "Speaking to the soul" section of the [Episcopal Café](#). Devotional materials from other denominations are available at [Daily Devotionals](#)

Sermons and sermon aids

For many of us, sermons inform the way we learn to think about our faith and our life. There are a number of resources online, as well as in-print commentaries and preaching aids such as [Feasting on the Word](#) (251.53 Fea) and "Synthesis CE: a lectionary study guide following the Revised Common Lectionary." We have it in the Resource Center.

[The Episcopal Digital Network](#) posts bible study materials, texts and reflection questions; "Sermons that work" especially assist small congregations, "where lay leaders often shoulder the responsibility of delivering the sermons on Sunday." Seekers can find archives, grouped by lectionary years, bible study, bulletin inserts and study resources. Many different points of view are represented over the course of weeks. They also link to other resources as study aids, as noted below.

[Scripture in context](#) - Weekly contextual background and analysis of the Revised Common Lectionary (Track 2 readings) prepared by Tom O'Brien, a Canon and Examining Chaplain for Holy Scripture in the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida.

[Text Week](#) – a wide variety of resources for study and liturgy based on the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary cycle.

[Modern metanoia](#) - a lectionary-based Gospel commentary written by an ever-expanding group of faithful Christian preachers, pastors, teachers, scholars, and lay leaders.

In 2009 General Convention approved [The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation](#) – "Lifelong Christian Faith Formation in The Episcopal Church is Lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ and is informed by Scripture, Tradition and Reason."