

An(incomplete) Bibliography for Diocesan Council

Compiled by Jonathan Weldon

Suggestions of additions are welcome

INSIGHT INTO MAINLINE CHURCH RENEWAL:

Butler Bass, Diana, *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith.* *Christianity for the Rest of Us* tells the story of moderate and progressive mainline Protestant congregations—and how they found new vitality through spiritual practices and deeper meaning by pursuing God's hope for transformation in the world. Harper San Francisco, 2006.

Butler Bass, Diana: *The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church.* Geared toward congregational leaders, both ordained and lay, *The Practicing Congregation* lays out a hopeful vision for change in mainline churches by exploring postmodern culture, the concept of "re-traditioning," and the role of Christian practices in fostering vitality. Since its publication, this has been the Alban Institute's best-selling book. *The Christian Century* chose *Practicing* as one of the best books in pastoral theology in 2005. Alban Publishing, 2004.

Buttry, Daniel, *Bringing Your Church Back to Life: Beyond Survival Mentality.* "Encouragement and practical, biblically-based guidance for struggling churches from a minister who successfully nurtured his congregation to a new vision of ministry." (The Rev. Rob Droste, priest of All Saints' Church, San Leandro, CA, who was sponsored for ordination by Resurrection, Eugene, told me about this book. Reading it was a catalyst for him in the renewal of vision for his work with the people of All Saints. – Jonathan Weldon) Judson Press, 1988.

Hauerwas, S. and Willimon, W. *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony.* A provocative exploration of the nature and mission of the church in the modern world by a leading theologian and a widely. Abingdon Press, 1989.

Mead, Loren B, *The Once and Future Church: Reinventing the Congregation for a New Mission Frontier.* An important read from the founder and president of the Alban Institute. Loren Mead is an Episcopal priest with important insights to share with a post-Christendom Church. A classic read. Alban Institute 1991

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society.* From an Anglican who was a bishop in the Church of South India and a leading ecumenist, a profound analysis of contemporary culture which suggests how Christians can more confidently affirm their faith in such a context. Eerdmans, 1989.

INSIGHT INTO THE "EMERGING CHURCH" FROM A MAJOR SPOKESMAN:

McLaren, Brian D., *A Generous Orthodoxy.* McLaren writes: "This book, released in late August 04, has elicited a lot of response already. The book turned out to be a confession - as in a confession of faith, not of sin (although some might think ...). The title is elucidated in a wonderful foreword by Dr. John Franke of Biblical Theological Seminary (thanks, John), and the overly long subtitle gives the table of contents of the book: Why I am a missional, evangelical, post/protestant, liberal/conservative, mystical/poetic, biblical, charismatic/contemplative, fundamentalist/calvinist,

anabaptist/anglican, methodist, catholic, green, incarnational, depressed-yet-hopeful, emergent, unfinished Christian. It's my only book to contain a "Chapter 0." Zondervan, 2004.

McLaren, Brian D., *A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey From Library Journal*

McLaren, pastor and author of *The Church on the Other Side*, proposes that postmodernism is the road to take in order to move on from the current stalemate between conservative evangelical and liberal Christians. His books are part of his activist work to promote "innovation, entrepreneurial leadership and a desire to be on the leading edge of ministry." Here he has adopted the fictional tale of an earnest, very conservative pastor who has become so burned out in his church life that he is planning to quit the pastorate. Instead, he makes friends with his daughter's science teacher, who leads him to an enthusiastic embracing of postmodernism as applied to the Christian message. In this fictional conversation, McLaren describes this process as a journey of Holy Spirit-guided faith "through the winds and currents of change." His conservative pastor character comes to accept the Bible as a premodern text that presents its message in story and does not have to conform to our modern expectations. The book's attention-grabbing format is an effective mode of presenting McLaren's ideas. Recommended for all public libraries. Eugene O. Bowser, Univ. of Northern Colorado, Greeley
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To read about more books by Brian McLaren go to

<http://www.brianmclaren.net/books.html>

SOCIAL RESEARCH FINDINGS ON RELIGION

Barna, George, (The Barna Group) *Barna Lists the 12 Most Significant Religious Findings from 2006 Surveys.* George Barna has been conducting national public opinion surveys on religion for a quarter-century. See the December 20, 2006 *Barna Update* at <http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdate&BarnaUpdateID=252>

Killen, Patricia O'Connell: *Religion and Public life in the Pacific Northwest: the none zone.* Published in cooperation with the Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. This is a map of the uniqueness of the Northwest's religious climate. The basic insight is that many people in the Pacific Northwest claim "none of the above" on surveys of religious affiliation, and would describe themselves as "spiritual, but not religious". This may not surprise you, but how do you interpret this finding? Should we give up on these people, or address their need for spirituality by being more intentionally spiritually focused ourselves, and inviting them into communities of true seekers of spiritual authenticity? (AltaMira Press, c2004.)

A Powerpoint Presentation on Religion and Public life in the Pacific Northwest: the none zone.

www.wkconline.org/resources/powerpoint/2004_religion_Killen_Shibley.ppt Use this with your vestry or BAC or in a Convocation Meeting.

C. Kirk Hadaway, Office of Research, Episcopal Church Center, and Penny Marker, Samford University, *New Church Development: A Research Report.*

The Episcopal Church, through the Office of Congregational Development, participated with other mainline Protestant denominations in a watershed study of new church development. Congregations that were founded between the years of 1980 and 1996 were surveyed to determine the state of new church development and the commonalities of successful new starts. The Lilly Foundation and the participating denominations funded the study.

http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/newchurch_51487_ENG_Print.html

Church Planting: What Have We Learned? An experienced group of Congregational Development leaders recently gathered to discuss what we have learned about planting new churches. The result of their work is found in the following pages.

http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/newchurch_4318_ENG_Print.html

The Church Planting Process: Why plant new churches? We know from research that it is much easier for people to join a new church plant than it is to become a member of an existing congregation. We also know from research there is an enormous number of people who don't know Christ. Up to 40 % of the American population remains unchurched. And we know from Scripture that every human being matters greatly to God. God calls us through Christ to go and find the ones we can reach and walk with them long enough so they can introduce Christ to others. We also know that in fishing, the initiative is with the fisherman, not the fish!

http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/newchurch_4321_ENG_Print.html

New Church Planting Models Here are 8 models of Church Plants identified by church planters in the Episcopal Church. Each has specific strengths and challenges (+ or -) depending on the demographics and vision and resources available. Below are 8 models of Church Plants identified by church planters in the Episcopal Church. Each has specific strengths and challenges (+ or -) depending on the demographics and vision and resources available. http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/newchurch_4327_ENG_HTM.htm?menu=undefined

How To Kill Your Church Plant: (Not that you would want to)

http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/newchurch_4328_ENG_Print.html

STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDING MISSION

Terry Parsons, Stewardship Officer for the Episcopal Church, *Stewardship and Philanthropy: The Christian Strategy with Regard to Funding Mission*

"While we talk often talk about stewardship and philanthropy together when we talk about funding mission, they are different concepts," writes Terry. For the whole article:

http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/stewardship_3275_ENG_Print.html

For more wisdom on Stewardship, go to

http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/stewardship_51706_ENG_HTM.htm?menupage=51414

For more excellent resources on Stewardship: ***The Episcopal Network for Stewardship*** <http://www.tens.org/>