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Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of recent publications by alumni and faculty

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Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of recent publications by alumni and faculty

PATRICIA GANTT McNEELY '60, Debra Reddin van Tuyl and Henry H. Schulte, *Knights of the Quill: Confederate Correspondents and their Civil War Reporting* (Purdue University Press, 2010). The publisher says the book “offers a unique assessment of war correspondence in Southern newspapers during the American Civil War. The men and women who covered the battles and political developments for Southern newspapers were doctors, lawyers, teachers, editors, and businessmen, nearly all of them with college and professional degrees . . . [and] they exhibited a dedication that laid the groundwork for news gathering in the twenty-first century. . . . With its emphasis on primary sources, the book offers an important and enduring historical perspective on the Civil War and also meets the highest standards of historical scholarship.” McNeely and Schulte were journalists and professors at the College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of South Carolina. Van Tuyl is a professor at Augusta (Ga.) State University.

GRAY FITZGERALD '66, *The Bible Confronts the Bible: A More Wonderful Image of God Emerges* (Mill City Press, 2009). The author lives in Concord, N.H., and has enjoyed an extensive career in lay ministry and social service work. He says his book “addresses the concern that on one hand, large parts of the Bible depict God as ordering genocide, racism, ethnic cleansing and other forms of violence. God is also portrayed as punishing not only sinners but their descendants for many generations. On the other hand, the Bible is understood as the holy, inspired word of God and the ultimate guide for our lives.” Even though the Bible contains these

“disturbing characterizations” of God, it also includes descriptions that counter these images. “Out of this conflict of understandings,” says Fitzgerald, “a more wonderful image of God emerges.” Visit <http://bibleconfrontsthe bible.com>.

EDWARD HAMMETT '78, James R. Pierce and Steve DeVane, *Making Shifts Without Making Waves: A Coach Approach to Soulful Leadership* (Chalice Press, 2009). Amid the upheaval created by fast-paced lives, an unpredictable economy, population diversity, and church and denominational challenges, this book is designed to help churches and non-profits address change and transition with courage and hope. Leonard Sweet of Drew University Theological School says, “This is an absorbing and accomplished look at a ‘coach approach’ to soulful living and leading . . . a stellar contribution to the coaching literature.” Hammett, who has written several books, is a longtime church leader and serves as church and clergy coach for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. Pierce is an expert in business development and organizational behavior, and DeVane is an editor and a certified coach. Visit <http://soulful-leadership.com>.

ELNITA LIPFORD WILLIAMS '83, *I'm First Lady, Now What?* (Voice of Truths, LLC, 2010). This book examines issues that pastors' wives often encounter, particularly during their early years with a church, addressing both the humorous and serious sides of the job. The publisher says the book “touches on [the author's] spiritual journey as well as her own love story. For those who are First Ladies in the church, this book serves as a guide, a challenge and a call for reflection.” Williams lives

in Florence, S.C., and is married to John Williams, a Baptist minister. She holds a master's degree in counseling and has been a teacher, college instructor, human services worker and mentor.

DAVID MATHIS '03 and John Piper, editors, *With Calvin in the Theater of God: The Glory of Christ and Everyday Life* (Crossway Books, 2010). John Calvin was a prominent 16th-century theologian and Protestant reformer. Of this collection of essays, Timothy George of Samford University, executive editor of *Christianity Today*, says, “From the recent flurry of studies on Calvin, it is evident that we can understand neither the 16th century nor our own times without reference to the reformer of Geneva. This little book reveals Calvin to be a God-saturated theologian whose love for Jesus Christ and his church touches every area of human life. A jewel of a book!” Piper is a minister and author in Minneapolis, Minn., where Mathis works as his theological assistant.

FROM FACULTY

SHELLY MATTHEWS, *Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity* (Oxford University Press, 2010). Matthews, the Dorothy and B.H. Peace, Jr., Associate Professor of Religion, has taught at Furman since 1998. Of her latest book, the publisher says, “*Perfect Martyr* illuminates the Stephen story as never before, offering a deeply nuanced picture of violence, solidarity, and resistance among Jews and early Christians, a key to understanding the early development of a non-Jewish Christian identity, and an innovative reframing of one of the most significant stories in the Bible.” Ra'anan S. Boustan, a Judaism scholar at UCLA, says, “Matthews shows

how [the Stephen] narrative perfectly encapsulates the anti-Jewish rhetoric of Luke-Acts and traces its seminal role in the construction of Christians as distinct from Jews and of Jews as murderous and savage. Matthews' important contribution to the study of early Jewish-Christian relations thus also demonstrates a broader truth: the act of narrating the violence of others is a potent strategy for legitimating one's own use of violence.”

ECHOL NIX, JR., *Ernst Troeltsch and Comparative Theology* (Peter Lang, 2010). The author is an assistant professor of religion and has taught at Furman since 2005. This book compares the Christian truth claims of theologians Ernst Troeltsch and Robert Neville and investigates their methodological attempts to discern Christian normativity. Nix argues that both thinkers offer creative insights for theology that make possible a critical comparison of truth claims regarding the validity of Christianity in and for a historically conscious age.

PAUL THOMAS, *Challenging Genres: Comics and Graphic Novels* (Sense Publishers, 2010). The Furman education professor's latest book offers teachers, students, parents and comic book readers a comprehensive exploration of comics and graphic novels as a challenging medium. The book presents a history of comic books and graphic novels and includes several chapters devoted to examining various subgenres. Readers will discover key comics, graphic novels, and film adaptations suitable for the classroom — and for anyone serious about high quality texts. Thomas also places comics and graphic novels within the growing understanding of multiliteracies and critical literacy.