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Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of books by alumni and faculty

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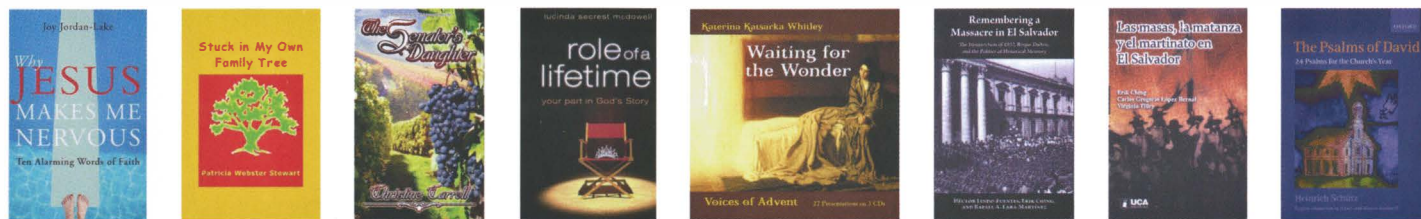
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Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of books by alumni and faculty

FROM ALUMNI

Joy Jordan-Lake '85, *Why Jesus Makes Me Nervous* (Paraclete Press, 2007). The publisher says, "In this unconventional, sharp-witted, challenging book, Jordan-Lake explores 10 reasons that Jesus makes her nervous — and why that nervousness is such a good thing!" In examining such topics as resurrection, community and forgiveness, she "explores the potentially alarming, even dangerous implications of actually living out these words" and analyzes "the often uncomfortable path of genuine faith." The author of several books and a novel due this spring, Jordan-Lake has a Ph.D. in English literature and teaches at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. Visit www.joyjordanlake.com.

Phillip Belcher '82, *The Flies and Their Lovely Names* (University of South Carolina/ South Carolina Poetry Initiative, 2007). The *Spartanburg (S.C.) Herald Journal* says that Belcher's poems in this chapbook "open up the otherwise fleeting moments in life — hunting as a boy, cutting a finger, tying flies and realizing a love affair has ended. Sadness and regret, joy and absurdity weave their way through his collection." The author won the Porter Fleming Writing Competition Prize in Poetry in 2005. He is president of the Mary Black Foundation in Spartanburg and was formerly director of the health care division of The Duke Endowment in Charlotte, N.C.

Patricia Webster Stewart '82, *Stuck in My Own Family Tree* (Lulu Publishing, 2007). The publisher describes this book as "a collection of nostalgic family stories" that extend from Europe to America. "Each new generation produces family stories

of their own, some inspiring, some so awesome they are hard to believe, some just plain funny. Stewart uses her knack for storytelling to pass on tales that will inspire and amuse the next generations." The author, a member of the South Carolina Writer's Workshop, lives in Greenville.

Linda Heatwole Jacobs '74 (writing as Christine Carroll), *The Senator's Daughter* (Medallion Press, 2008). *Romantic Times Book Reviews* gives this book four stars, and romance novelist Susan Wiggs describes it as "a first-rate page-turner, featuring well-drawn characters and a wonderful sense of place." The story follows the budding romance of sophisticated Sylvia Chatsworth and up-and-coming San Francisco attorney Lyle Thomas. Their future looks rosy until the romantic Victorian inn where they're staying burns. Does someone want them dead? Could it be her father? And is Lyle who he seems to be? This is Jacobs' second novel under her pseudonym and fifth overall, including three set in Yellowstone National Park. She wrote about her work in the Summer 2007 issue of *Furman*.

Lucinda Secrest McDowell '74, *Role of a Lifetime: Your Part in God's Story* (B&H Books, 2008). This is the author's seventh book with a spiritual/inspirational theme. The publisher says she "helps readers better understand their unique part and important purpose in the greater story of God's kingdom." *Role of a Lifetime* outlines "a pathway toward passion and significance, a life marked by radical faith and an ever deepening relationship with God that will make a difference in our own

lives and the lives of others." McDowell lives in Wethersfield, Conn. Visit her Web site, www.encouragingwords.net.

Katerina Katsarka Whitley '57, *Waiting for the Wonder: Voices of Advent* (Morehouse Publishing, 2005; audio version, 2007). The publisher says the author "places herself in the hearts and minds of the biblical characters — both real and imagined — who played a part in the Christmas narrative. . . . The voices of her characters lead us closer to the Christ child and deepen the meaning of the season of Advent for 21st-century readers." Of her audio version, Whitley, an adjunct instructor at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, says, "I was a student [at Furman] of the marvelous Dorothy Richey, who convinced me of the power of my voice and dramatic inclinations. As I was recording this book I was remembering her inspiring teaching." Visit Whitley's Web site, www.katerinawhitley.net.

FROM FACULTY

Erik Ching, associate professor of history, co-authored three books about Latin America published in 2007. Ching wrote his dissertation in El Salvador and spent part of 2005 teaching history courses at the National University of El Salvador on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Remembering a Massacre in El Salvador: The Insurrection of 1932, Roque Dalton and the Politics of Historical Memory (University of New Mexico Press) is written with Héctor Lindo Fuentes and Rafael Lara Martínez. The publisher says, "The authors provide the first systematic study of the infamous massacre now

regarded as one of the most extreme cases of state-sponsored repression in modern Latin American history."

Las masas, la matanza y el Martinato en El Salvador: Ensayos sobre 1932 (University of Central America Editores) is co-authored with Carlos Gregorio Lopez-Bernal and Virginia Tilley. The book, written in Spanish, examines the same event, in which an estimated 30,000 El Salvadorans died.

Reframing Latin America: A Cultural Theory Reading of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (University of Texas Press) is written with Angélica Lozano-Alonso, a Spanish professor at Furman, and Christina Buckley, a former Furman professor. The book is designed for use in undergraduate courses in Latin American historical, literary and cultural studies.

Albert and Marian Blackwell, editors, *The Psalms of David: 24 Psalms for the Church's Year*, by Heinrich Schutz (Oxford University Press, 2007). This anthology, the product of Albert Blackwell's final Furman sabbatical, features 24 psalms set to music by Schutz and presents them in new English translations which match the original meter and rhyming scheme. The settings may be sung in unison or in parts as anthems for a choir. Blackwell, Reuben B. Pitts Professor Emeritus of Religion, is the author of several books. He has been assistant director of the Harvard Glee Club, founder and director of the Quodlibet Singers and for 30 years director of the choir at Greenville's St. James Episcopal Church. His wife, Marian, is a writer and published poet.