



Summer

READING LIST

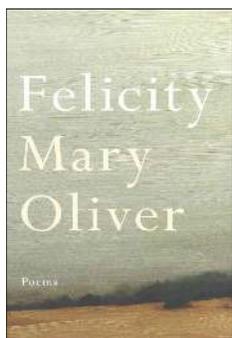
• *What the staff is reading* •

2016 Summer Reading List

What the staff is reading

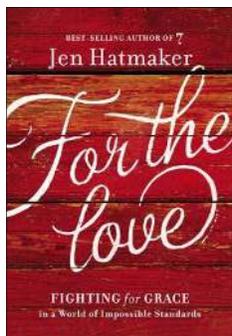
**Though all the books could be used by small groups, the books with an * are designed for small group study.*

Books available for checkout from the book cart:



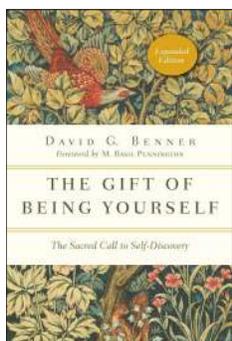
Felicity: Poems by Mary Oliver

"If I have any secret stash of poems, anywhere, it might be about love, not anger," Mary Oliver once said in an interview. With *Felicity* she examines what it means to love another person. She opens our eyes again to the territory within our own hearts; to the wild and to the quiet. In these poems, she describes—with joy—the strangeness and wonder of human connection. **Recommended by Heather Thomsen.**



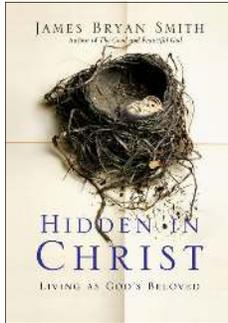
For the Love by Jen Hatmaker

Best-selling author Jen Hatmaker is convinced life can be lovely and fun and courageous and kind. She reveals with humor and style how Jesus' grace is the key to dealing with life's biggest challenge: people. The majority of our joys, struggles, thrills, and heartbreaks relate to people, beginning with ourselves and then the people we came from, married, birthed, live by, go to church with, don't like, don't understand, fear, compare ourselves to, and judge. **Recommended by Marissa Joyce.**



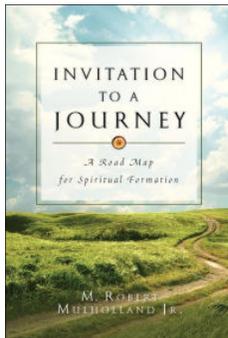
The Gift Being Yourself by David Benner *

"Grant, Lord, that I may know myself that I may know thee." —Augustine
Much is said in Christian circles about knowing God. But Christians throughout the ages have agreed that there cannot be deep knowledge of God without deep knowledge of the self. Discerning your true self is inextricably related to discerning God's purposes for you. Paradoxically, the more you become like Christ, the more you become authentically yourself. In this profound exploration of Christian identity, psychologist and spiritual director David G. Benner illuminates the spirituality of self-discovery.. **Recommended by Peter Barnes.**



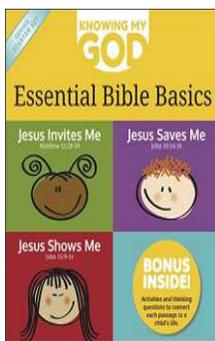
Hidden in Christ: Living as God's Beloved* by James Bryan Smith

Words are powerful. They contain ideas and shape the way we see God, ourselves and all of reality. We're transformed, in particular, by God's Word, and by "the Word," the Logos—Jesus himself—as described by John in the first chapter of his Gospel. Memorizing and studying a passage in depth can offer a deeper sense of the meaning of each word. In this unique introduction to the hidden life in Christ, James Bryan Smith walks readers through a thirty-day immersion in Colossians 3:1-17. **Recommended by Marissa Joyce.**



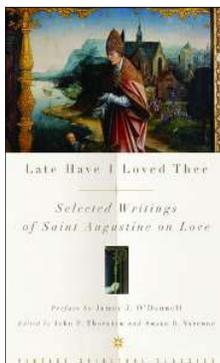
***Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation* by Robert Mulholland**

In *Invitation to a Journey*, Mulholland helps Christians new and old to understand that we become like Christ gradually, not instantly. Not every personality is suited to an early morning quiet time, so Mulholland frees different personality types to express their piety differently. He reviews the classical spiritual disciplines and demonstrates the importance of undertaking our spiritual journey with (and for the sake of) others. **Recommended by Karen Schoulda.**



***Jesus Shows Me, Jesus Saves Me, and Jesus Invites Me.* Three children's book in the "Knowing My God Series" by Callie Grant**

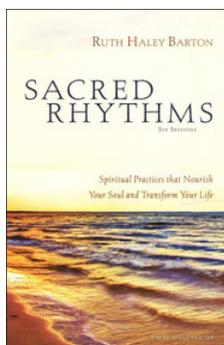
In each of these books, children engage with Jesus' words for them. Each book offers three levels of exploration: a quoted Bible passage, beautiful real-world photographs, and supportive text to relate the passage's meaning to a child's life. A parent guide gives tips for involving a baby, toddler, and child. In the Graham Blanchard book collection, *Jesus Invites Me* is a Learn book, which makes personal Bible study accessible to young children who, alongside adults, build a foundation for faith and a lifelong friendship with Jesus. **Recommended by Amy Carlan.**



***Late Have I Loved Thee: Selected Writing of Saint Augustine on Love* by Augustine**

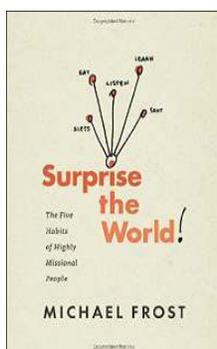
Late Have I Loved Thee is the first collection of Saint Augustine's varied writings on human and divine love, chosen to reflect his lifelong preoccupation with *ordo amoris*, the principle of rightly directed love. "My weight is my love," he writes in *The Confessions*. He sees our ability to love as disordered by sin, so that we often choose badly what and how to love. Only by recognizing that we are commanded to love God first can any other object of our love be properly ordered.

Recommended by Clay Cooke.



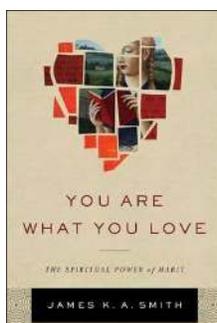
***Sacred Rhythms* by Ruth Haley Barton** * (Also a DVD study available in the Resource Room)

Do you long for a deep, fundamental change in your life with God? Do you desire a greater intimacy with God? Do you wonder how you might truly live your life as God created you to live it? Spiritual disciplines are activities that open us to God's transforming love and the changes that only God can bring about in our lives. Picking up on the monastic tradition of creating a "rule of life" that allows for regular space for the practice of the spiritual disciplines, this book takes you more deeply into understanding seven key disciplines along with practical ideas for weaving them into everyday life.. **Recommended by Marissa Joyce.**



***Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People* by Michael Frost**

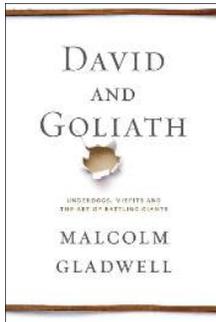
Christianity is a surprising religion. It has changed the world in remarkable ways throughout history simply through Christians living out their faith. More recently, we've become afraid of a habituated Christianity, thinking that routines will rob our faith of its vitality. The net effect is that we've replaced the habits that surprise the world with habits that mimic the world—and both we and the world suffer for it. Integrating the five habits in the BELLS model—Bless others, Eat together, Listen to the Spirit, Learn Christ, and understand yourself as Sent by God into others' lives. **Recommended by Sharon Spencer.**



***You Are What You Love* by James K. A. Smith**

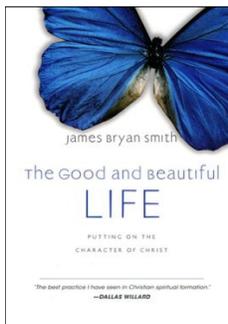
You are what you love. But you might not love what you think. In this book, award-winning author James K. A. Smith shows that who and what we worship fundamentally shape our hearts. And while we desire to shape culture, we are not often aware of how culture shapes us. We might not realize the ways our hearts are being taught to love rival gods instead of the One for whom we were made. Smith helps readers recognize the formative power of culture and the transformative possibilities of Christian practices. **Recommended by Amy Carlan.**

Other Staff Recommendations:



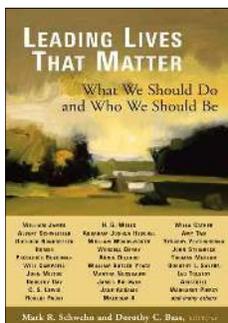
David and Goliath by Malcolm Gladwell

Three thousand years ago on a battlefield in ancient Palestine, a shepherd boy felled a mighty warrior with nothing more than a pebble and a sling-and ever since, the names of David and Goliath have stood for battles between underdogs and giants. In *David and Goliath*, Gladwell challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, suffer from a disability, lose a parent, attend a mediocre school, or endure any number of other apparent setbacks. **Recommended by Peter Barnes.**



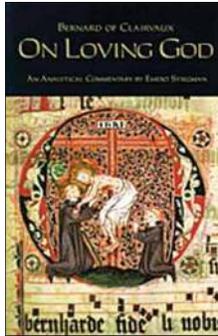
The Good and Beautiful Life by James Bryan Smith *

Following the Sermon on the Mount, this follow-up to *The Good and Beautiful God* guides us to look behind these character flaws and to replace our false beliefs with Jesus' narratives about life in the kingdom of God. **Recommended by Heather Thomsen.**



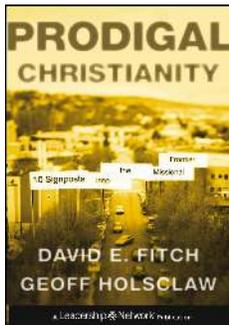
Leading Lives that Matter, edited by Mark Schwehn and Dorothy Bass.

Review by Chuck Hobbs: The authors draw from secular and Christian sources to explore, “what we should do and who we should be.” The writings are organized around themes such as what makes a life significant, vocation, source of our identity, and composing a life story. I am finding it challenging, sometimes inspiring, sometimes disquieting. **Recommended by Chuck Hobbs.**



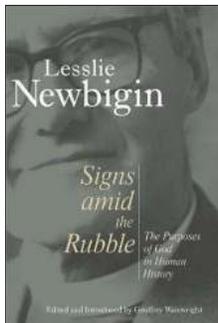
On Loving God by Bernard of Clairvaux

We should love God because he first loved us and also for his many gifts to us. Christians more than others should know this. Loving God brings a reward of peace we cannot find in earthly things. There are four degrees of love for God. It is natural that it should begin with loving God for selfish reasons, but we can love God at a higher level by loving our neighbors and by loving God for his own sake, to the extent that we love him without even thinking of ourselves but because his essence is love. **Recommended by Clay Cooke.**



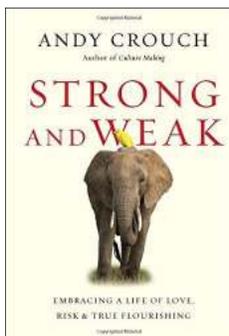
Prodigal Christianity by David Fitch & Geoff Holsclaw

An engaging and thoughtful book that guides readers into the frontiers of being a missional Christian. "Prodigal Christianity" offers a down-to-earth, accessible, and yet provocative understanding of God's mission of redemption in the world, and how followers of Christ can participate in this work. It offers building blocks for missional theology and practice that moves Christians into a gospel-centered way of life for our culture and our times. **Recommended by Petey Crowder.**



Signs Amid the Rubble: The Purpose of God in Human History by Leslie Newbigin

The late Lesslie Newbigin was widely regarded as one of this generation's most significant voices on Christianity in relation to modern society. Now that he is gone, there is a call for his unpublished writings to be made available. To that end "Signs amid the Rubble" gathers some of Newbigin's finest statements on issues of continuing relevance. **Recommended by Clay Cooke.**



Strong & Weak by Andy Crouch

Flourishing people are strong and weak. Two common temptations lure us away from abundant living—withdrawing into safety or grasping for power. True flourishing, says Andy Crouch, travels down an unexpected path—being both strong and weak. We see it in Jesus, who wielded tremendous power yet also exposed himself to hunger, ridicule, torture and death. Rather than being opposites, strength and weakness are actually meant to be combined in every human life and community. Only when they come together do we find the flourishing for which we were made. **Recommended by Petey Crowder.**



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