Highlighting New Resources in Disability, Theology, and Inclusive Spiritual Supports*
2011-12

A Good and Perfect Gift: Faith, Expectations, and a Little Girl Named Penny. Bethany House
Amy Julia Becker, a graduate of Princeton University and Princeton Theological Seminary, writes about the birth and first years of their daughter with Down Syndrome. Listed as one of the “Top Ten” religious books of 2011 by Publisher’s Weekly

Amazing Gifts: Stories of Faith, Disability, and Inclusion. Alban Institute
Long-time religion writer for the Orlando Sentinel, Mark Pinsky has written a collection of 64 stories of inclusive congregations and leaders in the US, with stories from all major faith groups. Foreword by Ginny Thornburgh. Six of these stories are related to Pennsylvania congregations and leaders.

Benjamin Conner challenges congregations to adopt a new, practice-centered approach to congregational ministry — one that includes and amplifies the witness of adolescents with developmental disabilities.

Autism and Faith: A Journey into Community. The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center
This 50+ pp booklet, originally done several years ago, is now available in Spanish. Hard copies can be ordered from The Boggs Center or downloaded for free: http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/products/Product_FaithBased.html

The Bible, Disability, and the Church. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company
Amos Yong, a theologian from the Pentecostal tradition and with a brother with Down Syndrome, argues for new ways to read biblical texts, saying the way that we read the Bible, not the texts themselves, has too often contributed to marginalization of people with disabilities. Amos Yong also has two recorded lectures from the 2010 Summer Institute, below.

Rev. Susan Richardson is an Episcopal priest. This is a guide for integrating children and teens with learning differences—and their families—into the fabric of everyday church life. Grounded in theological principles, the new guidebook provides a useable on-the-ground resource for church leaders with specific suggestions, samples, and processes for adapting curricula, training volunteers, and supporting parents and caregivers.

John Swinton, pastoral theologian at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. A lecture based on his work in dementia is part of the audio-tapes files from the Summer Institutes on Theology and Disability. (See below)

Disability and Isaiah’s Suffering Servant. Oxford Press
Jeremy Schipper teaches at Temple University. He makes a detailed case, from both Jewish and Christian scholars and texts, that the figure of the Suffering Servant can be legitimately interpreted as a person with a disability rather than the usual portrayals that make little reference to disability. In doing so, the reader learns a lot about the language used to portray the social and political experience of disability in the Bible.


No Easy Choices: A Story of Disability, Parenthood, and Faith in an Age of Advanced Reproduction
In this book from Westminster/John Knox Press, Ellen Painter Dollar tells her story of growing up with osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone), a genetic bone disorder that was passed down to her first child, and their struggle about whether to have a second child. A careful exploration of how the ethical issues in advanced reproductive technologies are lived out in one family’s story.

Our Doors are Open: Building Welcoming Cultures in Helping Organizations. www.communityactivators.com
In this CD, broken up into short sections for group use and discussion, Bruce Anderson explores key issue and learning about hospitality and community building from working with a variety of human service, religious, and other community organizations. Great for a hospitality team exploring ways to be more welcoming. He also has another CD that is excellent for human service organizations: Finding Hope at Work: Creating Positive, Resilient Organizations
**Professional Spiritual and Pastoral Care: A Practical Clergy and Chaplain’s Handbook.** Skylight Paths Publishing.
Edited by Rabbi Stephen Roberts, this book is meant to be an introductory textbook in pastoral care, with a focus on hospitals and other human service systems. It includes a section on special populations with a chapter on disabilities written by Bill Gaventa for chaplains in various kinds of health care facilities, from birth to end of life.

**Summer Institute on Theology and Disability.** Mp3 files and cd’s from the 2010 and 2011 Institutes.
Individual talks are downloadable from The Boggs Center website or the cd’s available for purchase. Large discounts for bulk orders. Presentations by Hans Reinders, John Swinton, Amos Yong, Erik Carter, Jeremy Schipper, Deborah Creamer, Bill Gaventa, Tom Graves, Sam Kabue, Peggy Johnson, Leonard Hummel, and others.
[http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/products/Product_FaithBased.html](http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/products/Product_FaithBased.html)

**Supportive Care in the Congregation: Providing a Congregational Network of Care for Persons with Significant Disabilities.** MennoMedia by calling 800-245-7894 (U.S.) or 800-631-6535 (Canada).
Tapping the potential of congregations to organize congregational based “circles of support” for individuals and families. This booklet comes out of the Mennonite communities and many of the excellent supports they have provided. It is an updating of a classic booklet from them with the same name, done over twenty years ago.

**TASH Newsletter Connections in spring of 2012 entitled Spirituality: From Rights to Relationships.**
Edited by Bill Gaventa and Erik Carter, this upcoming issue is full of interfaith stories, strategies and resources for use by people with disabilities and their families, provider agencies, and congregations.

**The Story of Beautiful Girl.** Grand Central Publishing
A novel by Rachel Simon, one of whose earlier books was Riding the Bus with my Sister. This is a novel about two people with disabilities, institutionalized in the middle of the last century in Pennsylvania and their stories, both apart and together, mirroring the changes in services and supports over the past sixty years. The novel includes several passages wrestling with spiritual and theological themes.

**The Year of Our Lord: Faith, Hope, and Harmony in the Mississippi Delta.** Mockingbird Publishing. 2010
An essay and photographic book about Lucas McCarty, a young white man with cerebral palsy, his life, and his inclusion in the black Pentecostal church, Trinity House of Prayer. Text by T.R. Pearson, Photographs by Langdon Clay. This was not written as a disability ministry resource but rather as a human interest story, which has since made its way to CNN.

**Mental Illness: Two books recommended by John Swinton**

**Adult Education Curricula:**
- **Beyond Suffering: A Christian View on Disability Ministry.** Joni and Friends
  A course for use in Christian seminaries, colleges, and adult education/training programs with professional articles written by 35 experts (on a CD) with a study guide of 16 lessons organized into four modules: An Overview of Disability Ministry, The Theology of Suffering and Disability, The Church and Disability Ministry, and An Introduction to Bioethics. [www.joniardfriends.org](http://www.joniardfriends.org)
- **Same Lake, Different Boat DVD Christian Education Series.** Stephanie O. Hubach
  Based on her book by the same title, Stephanie Hubach has developed this adult education series. Each of the thirteen DVD chapters begins with interview vignettes of ministry leaders, of individuals who have disabilities, and of family members—followed by a 30-minute teaching segment—and concludes with additional interviews that correspond to discussion questions. A 44-page Leader’s Guide is also included on a PDF file. [www.stephaniehubach.com](http://www.stephaniehubach.com)

*This listing is meant to be a sampling of the many new resources becoming available that may be of interest to clergy, congregations, families, people with disabilities, seminary faculty and students, human service professionals and others. Our involvement with a number of them was made possible with funding from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council for the Pennsylvania Faith Community Leadership project. For more information, go to:* [http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/projects/faith_based.html](http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/projects/faith_based.html). See also:
- **Key Resources for Creating and Building Partnerships between Provider Agencies and Religious Organizations/Congregations to Address Spiritual Supports for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families.**
- **Sampling of New Resources: 2007-2010.**
- **Beginning and Strengthening Inclusive Ministries**
- **Ten+ Ideas and Strategies for Provider Agencies and Advocacy Groups to Enhance and Tap Spiritual Supports in States or Regions**

**A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service**