



How to Use *Horizons Magazine*

Why This Issue Is Important

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin originated an oft-repeated saying: “In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes” (letter to Jean-Baptiste Leroy in *The Works of Benjamin Franklin*). Yet Christians believe there is another certainty, one that undergirds and lies at the heart of our faith: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? . . . But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him” (*Romans 6:3, 8*). The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) most recently expressed its affirmation of the importance of end-of-life care for humans as they move toward earthly death by co-sponsoring, along with Duke University, the March 12–14, 2007 conference “In Life and in Death We Belong to God: The Congregational Continuum of Care in the Presbyterian Church.”

The Bible attests to this reality in passages such as *Psalms 139:7–8*, *Romans 8:38–39*, and the scripture cited by Carol M. Bechtel in this issue’s devotional, *1 Corinthians 15:50–58* (among many others!). Our Western society is often prone to forgetting—or ignoring—the truth that the dying process is an integral, God-given part of human life. The articles in this issue help us begin to consider our own answers to some basic questions such as:

- How do we, as faithful Presbyterian women, use the lens of our Reformed tradition to view and to experience “living with dying,” even as we anticipate the joy of our eternal life with God in Christ?
- What are the practical applications of our faith? Of what use are our beliefs when those dearest to us in this world are “passing on” before our eyes and we are powerless to stave off the inevitable? (Remember, this can apply to any beloved living creatures, such as our pet companions.)
- What does the phrase “dying well” mean to each of us, to our family members and friends, to our medical practitioners and caregivers, to our society?

As Kathleen Long Bostrom reminds us, “Life is such a precious and priceless gift.” We do our God-given and grace-filled lives an injustice when we fail to honor and prepare as best as we can for the process that is earthly death. This issue helps us ponder, both individually and communally, some possibilities for hallowing this “end” journey as we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Advocate in all times and circumstances.

NOTE: Be aware that in any group—circle, PW, Sunday school class, etc.—there will be different experiences of familiarity with death. Some persons may not yet have had to deal with the deaths of family members or close friends, while others may feel that deaths of loved ones and friends have left them practically alone in this world. Sensitivity and a caring atmosphere are essential elements in discussions dealing with this topic. In leading or participating in any group discussion, it would be wise to remind all present of this reality.

General Resources on Dying and Death

- “Terminal Illness: A Practical Guide for Patients, Families, and Providers” includes extensive information and links. The link for Children’s Books (in the left side column) is particularly helpful and is an excellent bibliography referred to by many educators. Available at www3.baylor.edu/~Charles_Kemp/terminal_illness/Terminal_Illness.htm.
- The *Book of Common Worship* features sections for “Ministry with the Sick” (p. 967, scriptures and prayers); “Prayer at the Time of Death” (p. 1025) and “The Funeral: A Service of Witness to the Resurrection” (p. 902). Available from Presbyterian Distribution Service, www.pcusa.org/marketplace or 800/524-2612; request item #219918, \$39.95 plus shipping.
- *Living Fully, Dying Well: A Study for Small Groups* is an eight-week program “designed for people of all ages who want to talk openly about faith, life, and mortality. Topics include biblical and social perspectives on growing older, practical legal and medical decisions important to everyone, what it means to die well, and how to live more fully.” Available from Cokesbury, www.cokesbury.com or 800/672-1789; program kit is item # MX8-9780687335855, \$69.95 plus shipping; participant guide is item # MX8-9780687466405, \$8.95 plus shipping.
- “Loss, Grief, and Mourning” compact disc from the new “Need to Know” CD series published by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary—in this 45-minute disc, Rev. Dr. Allan Hugh Cole Jr., assistant professor of pastoral care, presents five things you need to know about loss, grief and mourning that will be helpful to those who mourn and those who offer support. This is an excellent resource for adult education classes, Stephen Ministry groups and other pastoral care teams. Order through Austin Seminary’s Christian Leadership Education Office, email cle@austinseminary.edu or call 512/404-4858; \$10 each plus shipping.
- “Death: An Inquiry Into Man’s Mortal Weakness” offers looks at death from scientific, philosophical, social and cultural, and mathematical aspects, along with references to art and literature about dying, death and the aftermath. It is divided into three main areas—causing death, coping with death and following death. Available at <http://thinkquest.org/library/index.html>; type “death” in the search box at the top of the screen, then from the resulting items choose “Death: An Inquiry Into Man’s Mortal Weakness.” You may receive an error message initially, but the site will come up within moments.
- *Gone from My Sight: The Dying Experience*, by Barbara Karnes, is an extremely helpful booklet for both dying persons and their families, used by many hospice programs, and authored by a long-time hospice nurse. Available to order through www.bkbooks.com.

- *Final Exam: A Surgeon's Reflections on Mortality*
by Pauline W. Chen
New York: Knopf, 2007
ISBN-10: 0307263533
ISBN-13: 978-0307263537
- *Recovering from the Loss of a Sibling*
by Katherine Fair Donnelly
Lincoln, Neb.: iUniverse, 2000
ISBN-10: 0595010423
ISBN-13: 978-0595010424
- *Recovering from the Loss of a Parent*
by Katherine Fair Donnelly
Lincoln, Neb.: iUniverse, 2000
ISBN-10: 0595140378
ISBN-13: 978-0595140374
- *Recovering from the Loss of a Child*
by Katherine Fair Donnelly
Lincoln, Neb.: iUniverse, 2001
ISBN-10: 0595140386
ISBN-13: 978-0595140381
- *A Child's View of Grief: A Guide for Parents, Teachers, and Counselors*
by Alan D. Wolfelt
Fort Collins, Colo.: Companion Press, 2004
ISBN-10: 1879651432
ISBN-13: 978-1879651432
- *A Letter of Consolation*
by Henri J. M. Nouwen
New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1990
ISBN-10: 0060663146
ISBN-13: 978-0060663148
- *No Time For Goodbyes: Coping with Sorrow, Anger, and Injustice After a Tragic Death*
by Janice Harris Lord
Burnsville, N.C.: Compassion Press, 2006
ISBN-10: 1878321307
ISBN-13: 978-1878321305
- *Coming Home: A Guide to Dying at Home With Dignity*
by Deborah Duda
Santa Fe, N.M.: Aurora Press, 1987
ISBN-10: 0943358310
ISBN-13: 978-0943358314
- *I Know Just How You Feel: Avoiding the Cliches of Grief*
by Erin Linn
Incline Village, NV: Publishers Mark, 1986
ISBN-10: 0961463619
ISBN-13: 978-0961463618
- *Seven Choices: Finding Daylight After Loss Shatters Your World*
by Elizabeth Harper Neeld
New York: Warner Books, 2003
ISBN-10: 0446690503
ISBN-13: 978-0446690508
- *Hard Choices for Loving People: CPR, Artificial Feeding, Comfort Care and the Patient with a Life-Threatening Illness*
by Hank Dunn
A & A Publishers, 2001
ISBN-10: 1928560032
ISBN-13: 978-1928560036
Note: If not available through your local book retailer order at www.hardchoices.com.
- *Life on Hold: Finding Hope in the Face of Serious Illness*
by David G. Seiler, Laurel S. Brunvoll
Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2006
ISBN-10: 1590528271
ISBN-13: 978-1590528273
- *Healing the Dying: Releasing People to Die*
by Mary Jane Linn, Dennis Linn, Matthew Linn
Publisher: Paulist Press
ISBN-10: 080912212X
ISBN-13: 978-0809122127

- *Men Don't Cry, Women Do: Transcending Gender Stereotypes of Grief*
by Terry Martin
Publisher: Routledge
ISBN-10: 0876309953
ISBN-13: 978-0876309957
- *Final Gifts: Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying*
by Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley
New York: Bantam, 1997
ISBN-10: 0553378767
ISBN-13: 978-0553378764
- *When Death Has Touched Your Life: Thoughts, Poems, and Prayers at a Time of Loss*
by John E. Biegert
Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2004
ISBN-10: 0829816259
ISBN-13: 978-0829816259
- *Good Grief*
by Granger E. Westberg
Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2004
ISBN-10: 0806651504
ISBN-13: 978-0806651507
- *Mature Grief: When a Parent Dies*
by Donna Schaper
Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley Publications, 2003
ISBN-10: 1561012106
ISBN-13: 978-1561012107
- *Remembering with Love: Messages of Hope for the First Year of Grieving and Beyond*
by Elizabeth Levang
Minneapolis: Fairview Press, 1996
ISBN-10: 0925190861
ISBN-13: 978-0925190864
- *Life Lessons: Two Experts on Death and Dying Teach Us About the Mysteries of Life and Living*
by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler
New York: Scribner, 2001
ISBN-10: 0684870754
ISBN-13: 978-0684870755
- *The Needs of the Dying: A Guide for Bringing Hope, Comfort, and Love to Life's Final Chapter*
by David Kessler
New York: HarperCollins, 2007
ISBN-10: 0061137596
ISBN-13: 978-0061137594
- *Children Mourning, Mourning Children*
by Kenneth Doka
New York: Taylor & Francis, 1995
ISBN-10: 1560324473
ISBN-13: 978-1560324478
- *Talking With Children and Young People About Death and Dying: A Workbook*
by Mary Turner
Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 1998
ISBN-10: 1853025631
ISBN-13: 978-1853025631
- *Graceful Passages: A Companion for Living and Dying*
by Michael Stillwater and Gary Remal Malkin
Novato, Calif.: New World Library, 2006
ISBN-10: 1577315618
ISBN-13: 978-1577315612
- *Beyond Absence: A Treasury Of Poems, Quotations, And Readings On Death And Remembrance*
Edited by Edward Searl
Boston, Mass.: Skinner House Books, 2005
ISBN-10: 1558964924
ISBN-13: 978-1558964921

- *Grieving: A Beginner's Guide*
by Jerusha Hull McCormack
Orleans, Mass.: Paraclete Press, 2006
ISBN-10: 1557254931
ISBN-13: 978-1557254931
- *Mama's Going To Heaven Soon*
by Kathe Martin Copeland
Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2005
ISBN-10: 0806651229
ISBN-13: 978-0806651224
- *Water Bugs & Dragonflies: Explaining Death to Young Children*
by Doris Stickney
Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2004
ISBN-10: 0829816240
ISBN-13: 978-0829816242
- *The Death Of A Child: Reflections For Grieving Parents*
by Elaine E. Stillwell
Skokie, Ill.: ACTA Publications, 2004
ISBN-10: 0879462604
ISBN-13: 978-0879462604

Focusing on the Issues

“Devotional” by Carol M. Bechtel

- Did you pray the famous children’s prayer, “Now I lay me down to sleep” as a child? Do you recall your feelings, i.e., were you comforted and reassured, or perhaps frightened, by the words? [Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.] Have you used this prayer with your own children or grandchildren? Note that alternative versions have been written; see www.kididdles.com/lyrics/n020.html.
- The author quotes portions of a poem by Emily Dickinson. The full poem is available on www.bartleby.com/113/1081/html. Does reading it in its entirety aid you in understanding the author’s use of this particular poem in the devotional?
- In your circle, PW or other group, read and discuss *1 Corinthians 15:35–53*. What is your idea of a “spiritual” or “imperishable” body?
- The Thoughtful Christian, a Web based resource center created by Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, offers some studies that are pertinent to discussions about death. Visit their Web site, www.thethoughtfulchristian.com, and look for “Is There Life After Death?” and “What Is the Soul?” (both under Bible and Theology).

“Too Close for Comfort” by Kathleen Long Bostrom

- *The Book of Confessions* is a rich resource for a tour of the topics of death, eternal life and resurrection. (Available from Presbyterian Distribution Service, www.pcusa.org/marketplace or 800/524-2612; request item #OGA04017, \$7.50 plus shipping.) The most famous citation is almost certainly the first question and answer from the Heidelberg Catechism (“What is your only comfort, in life and in death?”), but check out these citations for more:
 - The Nicene Creed: “We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.”
 - The Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in . . . the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.”
 - The Scots Confession: See 3.17
 - The Heidelberg Catechism: See 4.001, 4.057 and 4.058
 - The Second Helvetic Confession: See 5.073 and 5.074

- The Westminster Confession of Faith: See 6.177 through 6.182
- The Larger Catechism: See Q. 87
- The Confession of 1967: See 9.26
- A Brief Statement of Faith: See 10.2 and 10.4 through 10.6
- See also Questions 84–88 of The Study Catechism (full version with biblical references available at www.pcusa.org/catech/studycat.htm or from your presbytery resource center).
- Does your congregation celebrate the Easter vigil? If so, does this experience help you with your understanding of death and resurrection?
- What does it mean to you to confess, in the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in...the communion of saints; . . .the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting"?
- Under the header "A Show of Respect," Bostrom speaks of All Saints' Day and a particular experience in a worship service during the reading of the necrology. This service expresses in liturgical form one aspect of our doctrine of the communion of saints: "the whole company of God's people—past, present, and future" (*Westminster Handbook to Reformed Theology*, p. 39) and "the fellowship of all members of the church in every time and place" (*Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, p. 55). What is your understanding of the communion of saints as it relates to death and resurrection, and are you comforted or challenged by this doctrine?
- In her book *Personal Pilgrimage at Midlife* (Kelowna, British Columbia: Northstone, 2002) (pp. 30–32), Viki Hurst suggests asking oneself these questions about mortality:
 - What is death? Not the dictionary definition. But what is death to you?
 - Why do we fear death?
 - What will sustain you through death? What will you need to go from here to there?
 - What had you learned about death by the time you were 8? 18? 28?
 - When we die, what part of us lives on?
 - Are we in a constant decline toward death? Western cultures embrace what is known as a "decline model" of life, but some studies show that we continue to develop mentally and even physically even into our 70s.
 - Are you ready to die?
 - How have others who have died made an impact on your life?
 - How are life and death alike?
 - What do you need to do to accept your mortality?

"What Kind of People Are These?" By Joan Chittister

- To learn more about some of Sr. Chittister's ministries, visit the Benetvision Web site, www.benetvision.org. Read her weekly column or sign up for email alerts for new columns at <http://ncrcafe.org/node/27>; choose "Joan Chittister, OSB: From Where I Stand" on the list.
- Note: "OSB," the acronym following Chittister's name, stands for "Order of St. Benedict." Sr. Chittister shared during her plenary presentation at the 2003 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women that her father was Presbyterian.
- What place does *forgiveness* play in death? What stories of extraordinary forgiveness have stayed in your mind over the years? Do you recall any biblical stories of deep forgiveness?
- What scriptures, from both Old and New Testaments, come to mind as you read this article? See, for example, *Romans 12:19* and *Deuteronomy 32:35*. What other scriptures about hate, revenge or forgiveness would you cite?

- Chittister comments that “what really stunned the country . . . was that the Amish community itself simply refused to hate what had hurt them.” Contrast this attitude with the situation in most of the rest of the world, e.g., conflicts in Iraq, Palestine-Israel and between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland, just to name some of the most visible to us. Do you believe you could respond as the Amish did? Why or why not?
- Discuss in your circle, PW or other group: When have you experienced forgiveness from another person so immense that you were overwhelmed by that act? How have you connected that experience with your Christian faith?
- To learn more about Amish history, beliefs and culture, check with your public library. Also consider these Web and other resources:
 - The BBC Web page about the Amish,
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/amish_1.shtml
 - *Amish Society*
by John A. Hostetler
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993
ISBN-10: 0801844428
ISBN-13: 978-0801844423
 - *The Riddle of Amish Culture*
by Donald B. Kraybill
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001
ISBN-10: 080186772X
ISBN-13: 978-0801867729
 - *The Amish: How They Survive* (49-minute DVD)
Vision Video, 2006
ASIN: B000HWXVSY
Available on www.visionvideo.com.
 - *The Amish: A People of Preservation* (54-minute DVD)
Vision Video, 1991
ASIN: B0000DHFZY
Available on www.visionvideo.com.

“Psalms of Lament: The Passing Years” by Ann Weems

- If you don’t own a copy of *Psalms of Lament* (Westminster John Knox, 1995; ISBN-10: 0664220746; ISBN-13: 978-0664220747), borrow one from your church library or presbytery resource center. Read at your own pace, and in your circle, PW or other group, discuss which poems you find most meaningful, most helpful or difficult, and most memorable.
- Weems, in her first two paragraphs, says that her son’s death both seems “like yesterday” and “as though his death has lived with me for a hundred years.” Have you had similar feelings about the death of a loved one or close friend? With what words would you describe the temporal (time) experience of such a death in your own life, e.g, “it always feels like it just happened even though she died ten years ago.”

- CRI/Voice Institute is an ecumenical ministry dedicated to providing biblical and theological resources for Christians. One of their Web pages classifies the psalms, including which ones are psalms of lament. Visit www.crivoice.org/psalmtypes.html and read several of the lament psalms. With which ones do you most closely identify? Do you have a favorite psalm of lament? If you are discussing this article or topic in a group and are comfortable sharing your response, do so. Invite others to respond if they wish.
- Think about the sympathy cards you choose to send others in their bereavement. Consider the print message and visual images carefully. What speaks to you most meaningfully of Christian hope and comfort? Consider taking a group outing to a card store to view, compare and comment. Or, bring especially meaningful ones you've received and kept to your group meeting, and tell why the card itself (rather than the sender) is special to you.
- Weems says on p. 12 that “. . . people are still trying to foist upon the fresh grief of others a self-help plan for getting over one's grief.” She goes on to mention bereavement classes and related books as unhelpful to persons with “fresh grief.” If you have experience with such groups or resources and are comfortable doing so, tell how you found them helpful or not. Do any churches or hospice services in your area offer bereavement ministries for all ages? Could your church host such a group?
- The author states, “All a friend need do is be there” (p. 12). Do you find yourself able to “be there” for a grieving family member or friend? What is your customary response to bereaved persons (actions and words)?
- Try writing your own psalm of lament. Don't worry about form or rhyme—simply let words pour from your heart onto a piece of paper. After writing your psalm, you may wish to offer it to God in prayer, or share it with chosen others.
- Read “Go Down Death—A Funeral Sermon” in James Weldon Johnson's classic *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse* (New York: Penguin, 1990; ISBN-10: 0140184031; ISBN-13: 978-0140184037). First published in 1927, this particular poem articulates in strong images Johnson's picture of death. *God's Trombones* was influenced by Johnson's impressions of the rural South, drawn from a trip he took to Georgia while a freshman in college. Also try reading it aloud in a group setting.

“Tom Is Dead” by Beth Pyles

- Tom Fox's death occurred just a year ago. What are your recollections of this event and your response to it?
- See if there are any Christian Peacemaker Team members in your area who might be invited to speak to your circle, PW, or other group. A list of speakers is available at www.cpt.org/speakersbureau/speakers_bureau.php or contact CPT by phone, 773/277-0253, or by email, peacemakers@cpt.org.
- In what ways do you connect the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams with the PW Purpose? (The PW Purpose is always printed on the top left-hand side of p. 1 in each issue of *Horizons*.)
- Offer a prayer—individual or communal—for CPT members and those of similar groups, including the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (visit www.presbypeacefellowship.org to learn more), who practice peacemaking in circumstances that can be literally life-threatening.

“Preparing for a Death in the Family” by Cynthia J. O’Brien

- For another pastor’s view on funerals, and on what comes before and after, see John Fanestil’s *Christian Century* article “Graveside Hope: A Passion for Funeral Ministry (March 6, 2007, pp. 24–27). Fanestil is also the author of the widely acclaimed book, *Mrs. Hunter’s Happy Death: Lessons on Living from People Preparing to Die* (New York: Doubleday, 2006. ISBN-10 0385516061; ISBN-13: 978-0385516068).
- O’Brien speaks of remembering the church in your will. Ask if your church has bequest planning documents or a plan to deal with bequests. You may wish to check with the Presbyterian Foundation (www.presbyterianfoundation.org/ways_to_give.asp). Also, some states and synods have their own foundations that work with donors to further the mission of the church (e.g., Texas Presbyterian Foundation, www.tpf.org; Synod of the Sun Foundation at www.sunfound.org). Call your presbytery office for contact information if you can’t find what you’re looking for. Representatives of church foundations are glad to come make presentations to congregations or interested groups, as well as talk with individuals.
- When locating and safely storing important papers, as O’Brien suggests, be sure to check state law on accessibility of safe deposit boxes upon death. A safe deposit box may not be the best place for wills or documents that may be needed immediately after death.
- O’Brien talks about the importance of making a will. There are other documents that can be just as important, such as a directive to physicians and especially a durable power of attorney for health care. Talk to your attorney and your physician about these, and be sure your physician has copies on file. You’ll also want to ensure that there are copies in your hospital file if you are hospitalized, and that your chart is prominently marked to note their presence. Speak up and be your own advocate when it comes to your wishes regarding vital medical decisions and who will make them if you’re incapacitated.
- The author reminds us that it’s important to “remember the children”—of all ages. On the Web site of the Barr-Harris Children’s Grief Center, www.barrharris.org, you’ll find links to lists of books and resources about death, bereavement and grief for children and adolescents, for parents and the general public, and for students and professionals in the caring professions.
- Does someone in your congregation work for a funeral home or mortuary, or do you know someone who does? Your circle, PW or other group might invite a speaker from a local funeral home to talk about the “post death” process and options for disposition of remains. Alternatively, make arrangements to tour a funeral home.
- Inquire about options for donation of one’s body to medical science by calling a medical school, or see www.lifelegacy.com for information on anatomical tissue donation.
- Use your next circle, PW or other group meeting to go through the personal preplanning funeral form available on www.pcusa.org/pcusa/horizons/hrznmrap07/preparing.htm (see the box at the end of O’Brien’s article on p. 18). Discuss your ideas and plans with the group if you are comfortable doing so. Working together can make this task seem less daunting, and you’ll probably learn something about yourself and your friends while you work!

“Death with Dignity” by Anitra Kitts

- What is your idea of a “good death”? Be specific.
- Does your state have laws regarding assisted suicide?
- See the November 2002 Presbyterian Panel survey results on “End-of-Life Issues.” The full report is available at www.pcusa.org/research/panel/reports/1102_full_report.pdf; a four-

page summary report is available at

www.pcusa.org/research/panel/summaries/1102summary.pdf. You may want to go through the survey and give your own responses, then compare with those of the original respondents. This could also be a good discussion tool for your circle, PW or other group. Some of the areas covered in-depth are euthanasia and assisted suicide; thoughts and considerations; wills, funerals, and memorial services; and life after death.

- Have you or a loved one ever discussed with your physician your wishes for care if you should be diagnosed with a terminal illness? If not, now is a good time to start.
- Most of us have had a family member or friend in hospice care, and hospice and palliative care services are widely available, even in rural areas. Learn more from the Hospice Foundation of America (www.hospicefoundation.org) and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (www.nhpc.org). Consider inviting a hospice chaplain to your circle, PW or other group meeting to learn more about the spiritual dimensions of dying. If someone in your congregation serves as a hospice volunteer, offer an opportunity for her/him to share this ministry with your group.

“Animals are People, Too” by John P. Ferré

- Do you believe pets will greet their earthly owners in heaven? If so, what leads you to this belief, and if your response to the question was “no,” what is your reasoning?
- Just for fun, browse through children’s books about pets to see how the issue of afterlife is handled—you may want to consult a children’s librarian for specific titles. Here’s one for starters: *Cat Heaven*, by Cynthia Rylant. (New York: Blue Sky Press, 1997. ISBN-10 0590100548; ISBN-13: 978-0590100540)
- What issues and emotions does this article raise for you? Do you have pet cemeteries and/or crematories in your area? Invite your pastor or Christian educator to read this article and give a response to your circle, PW or other group.
- For a true story about a church cat that includes his death and funeral at the church (but no mention of heaven!), read *Leo the Magnificat*, by Ann M. Martin. (New York: Scholastic Press, 1996. ISBN-10 0590484982; ISBN-13: 978-0590484985).

Installation Service

- In the “Remembering Women Who Have Led Before Us” section of the service where women in scripture are listed, what names from the Bible would you list?
- With only slight alterations to the language, this service could be re-used for commissioning Sunday school teachers and youth sponsors, or for those going on a mission trip or offering other special service to the congregation.