

Center for Worship Resourcing
The General Board of Discipleship
Compiled and edited by Daniel Benedict

Living the Journey



The heart of the journey to faith we call the catechumenate story. When people share their stories, like those on the road to Emmaus the day of the resurrection, the risen Lord draws near and joins the conversation. In mystery and grace the stories move in the direction of the sacraments and encounter with Christ. I am delighted that David Hindman has shared this story from the life of the Wesley Foundation at William and Mary. It powerfully reminds us of the torque the catechumenal process brings to the life of the faithful.

“This year I am working with a first year college student who has been mostly a C[hristmas]and E[aster] Christian, whose parents ‘wanted her to make her own decision about religion’. She has really gotten into the process quite well and is taking it incredibly seriously. That gives pause to other students who were born in the church and have not really thought much about it. Her faith friend/spiritual companion/mentor has also taken this seriously. They both meet with me weekly in a time in which we have done a variety of things, including reading scripture, discussed our personal devotion time, shared prayer forms, understandings of Communion, etc. They also meet weekly as a pair and talk about faith journey, worship, doubts, struggles, etc. What is exciting about this for me is that the mentor has found herself needing to reflect more on her own faith and is increasingly aware of the importance of her living a Christian life of integrity because of the impact that is having on the woman preparing for baptism.

“The more I do this, the more I am convinced this is a major way to make disciples. I regret that the institutional church still doesn't get it. Christendom is dead and gone, and we are in for a quite different need and opportunity for evangelization.”

Undoubtedly the story sharing has been going on in your communities as inquirers or candidates and their sponsors/mentors journey together. May the days of Lent only intensify the sharing and the deep inner readiness of the heart for the sacraments of initiation at Easter.

Dan

Events

Making Disciples the Way Jesus Did: 2004 Annual NAAC Gathering in Niagara Falls, Canada

The 2004 Gathering of the Association will take place July 22 — 25 at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Canada. Click [here](#) for information on the 2004 site at [Mount Carmel](#).



The keynote speaker will be John Hill, an Anglican priest and a prolific author on liturgy and on baptism and the catechumenate. Details on the theme and on the workshops to be offered are available at <http://www.catechumenate.org/main.cfm?sid=3>

The brochure and registration form are online at <http://www.catechumenate.org/gathering04.pdf>

The leadership for this event and the setting are outstanding. I hope to see you there. Bring a team of folk. Last year in Rochester an Episcopal Church from Texas came with a team of 7! Are they on fire or what?



Ecumenical

Oregon Catechumenate Training Event

May 20, 2004 — May 22, 2004
Aldersgate Conference Center
Near Salem, OR USA

The brochure for this training event is available for downloading by clicking [here](#).

Presenter: Dan Benedict, Worship Resources Director UMC
Sponsor: Oregon Synod (ELCA) and Episcopal Dioceses of Oregon

To register, contact:

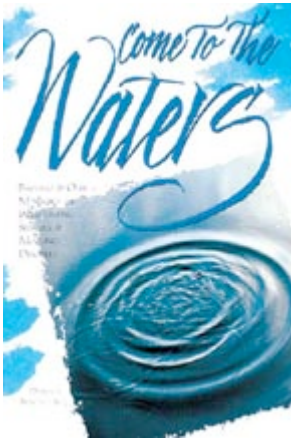
Pastor Martha Maier
Phone: 360.574.9029
Email: maierm@comcast.net

If you live on the West Coast or know someone who does and would be open to exploring the ancient-future way of making disciples, consider this event

Christian Initiation Discussion Room:

http://www.gbod.org/dm/dr_christian_initiation.asp

This discussion room has been hidden on the GBOD website and has had little traffic. I would like to invite those of you engaged in catechumenal ministries to take advantage of this room. It would help create an interactive community for us to explore ideas and reflect on practices.



Resources

Come to the Waters

http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/description.asp?item_id=154983 remains in print, but *Gracious Voices*, *Echoing the Word* and *Accompanying the Journey* are out of print. This is a sad loss to those of us working to implement adult initiation ministries.

I am talking with George Donigian, new head of Discipleship Resources, to see if we can republish them in a different trim size and with some additional material in *Gracious Voices*. Some of you have asked for more on the "Ten Commandments".

News

United Theological Seminary's Center for Worship, Preaching and the Arts offered a three-day "Come to the Waters: Ancient Rituals and Contemporary Experience" (January 19-21) at Bergamo Retreat Center in Dayton. The event was worship and art rich along with strong reflection on the rites and the biblical texts integral to the rites. For more information on the event see <http://www.united.edu/institute/worshipparts.shtml> on a "catechetical Lent." The continuing educational event was funded by a grant from the Calvin Institute. The seminary hopes to offer a similar event in 2004.

The North American Association for the Catechumenate

<http://www.catechumenate.org/main.cfm?sid=1> continuously updates its website and offers catechumenal process leaders articles, workshop outlines, news of events and much more.

Quotes

"If there is no struggle, there is not progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation ... want crops without plowing the ground ... rain without thunder and lightening. The struggle may be a moral one, or ... physical ... But, it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without demand; it never has and it never will." --Frederick Douglass, 1857.

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--a quote from David Hindman's signature lines

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