



Advent is a great opportunity to bring folks together in preparation for the birth of Christ. Whether it is a book club within or outside of church or a pastor led study group or individual devotional reading we must prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Light – that particular Light that comes from God, that Light that reveals God to each of us. What will your Congregation be studying this Advent season? A visit to your Resource Center at the Presbytery office will show you many ways you can get ready for Christmas including ways to participate fully in Advent. Your Resource Center has a few new choices and some older favorites.

- 1) New for 2016 from Walter Brueggeman and Westminster John Knox Press is, **NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH: AN ADVENT STUDY**. With four lessons as well as questions and prayers for each lesson, Brueggeman has based this study on what has been written in Isaiah 9:6,

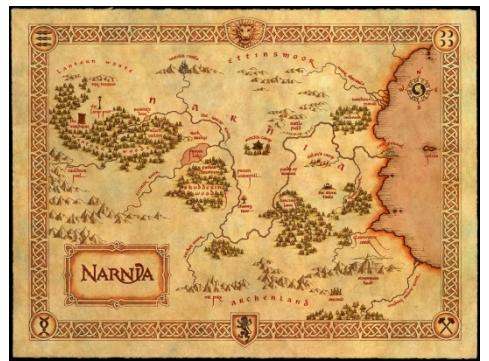
*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*



- 2) New to your Resource Center is **ANGELS WE WILL HEAR ON HIGH: STORIES FOR CHRISTMAS** by Arthur F. Fogartie. A gift to the Resource Center, published by Geneva Press, this resource is a collection of eight stories the author wrote for, and presented to, his own congregation as Christmas Eve story-sermons. It is a good resource for personal enjoyment, Sunday school, or for a sermon resource. You can probably think of other ways to use these stories.

- 3) If you would your Advent reading to take you into some deep reading, **WATCH FOR THE LIGHT** provides thoughtful readings. We are offered readings for every day of Advent from November 24 through January 7, from a three-page poem by Sylvia Plath to Bernard of Clarvaux's *In Defense of Humility* to Karl Barth's view on believing – or disbelieving – in *to Believe* written as a response to Luke 1:11-22. We are also given thoughts from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Annie Dillard and Martin Luther as well as others. **WATCH FOR THE LIGHT** was probably written for personal devotion time but wouldn't it make a great study for a book club or study group? At your weekly gathering, members could respond to the articles read during the week.

- 4) Last year we wrote about **ADVENT IN NARNIA: REFLECTIONS FOR THE SEASON** by Heidi Haverkamp. Well, nobody checked it out and I think it is a missed opportunity. Besides daily readings with questions for reflection which are related to C.S. Lewis' book, *the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, we might decide to watch the movie either before or after the study. The book's appendix provide a brief description of three movie forms of the actual book. We are even given an easy recipe for Mrs. Beaver's Sticky Marmalade Roll as well as instructions for creating a Narnia Night for Families with decorations, activities and a closing prayer service.



If none of these seem just what you are looking for, come on in to the Resource Center and see what else we have available including more books and some videos as well as activity books, dramas and special event planning guides.