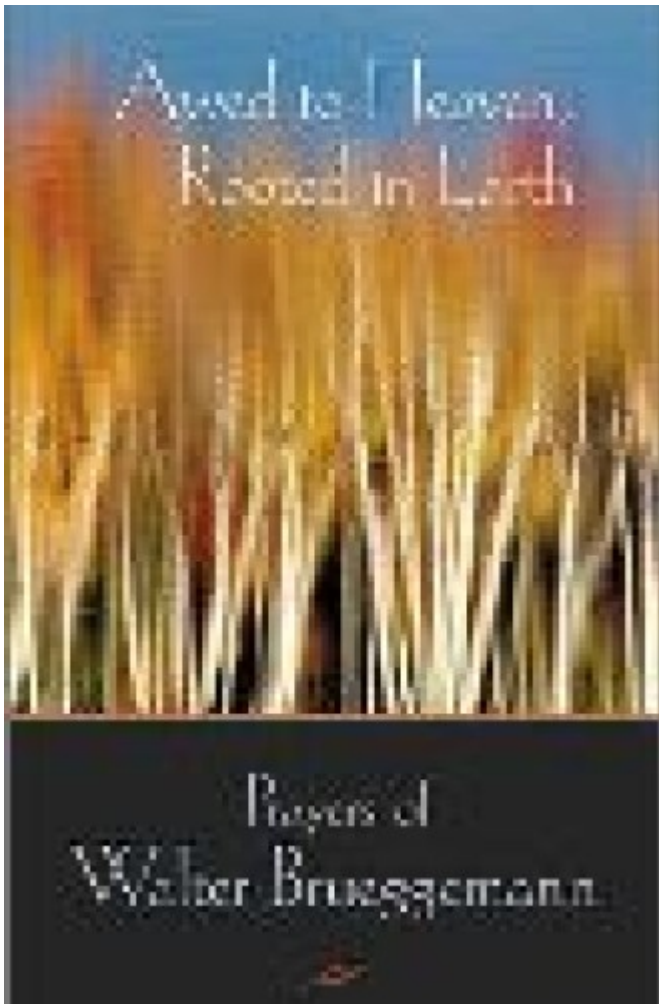


Take and Read

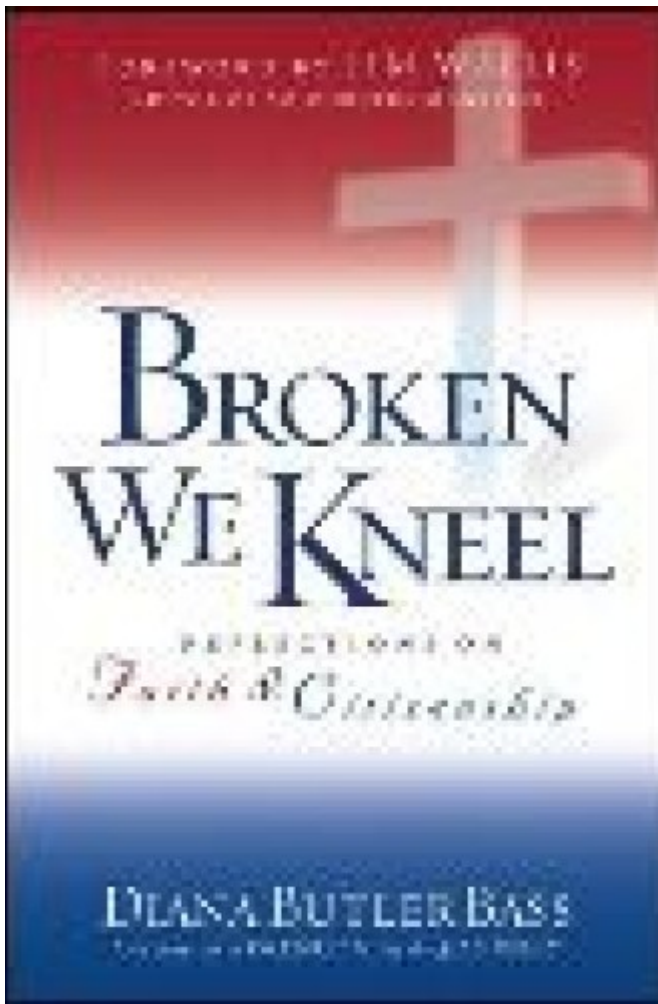
By [Anthony B. Robinson](#) in the [October 19, 2004](#) issue

In Review



Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann

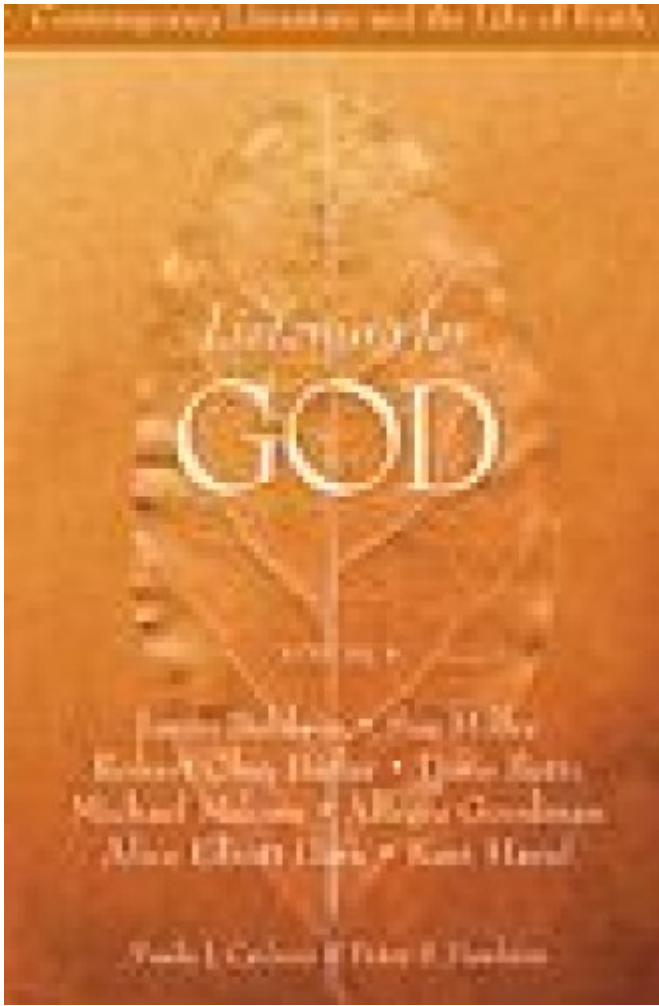
Edwin Searcy, ed.
Fortress



Broken We Kneel: Reflections on Faith and Citizenship

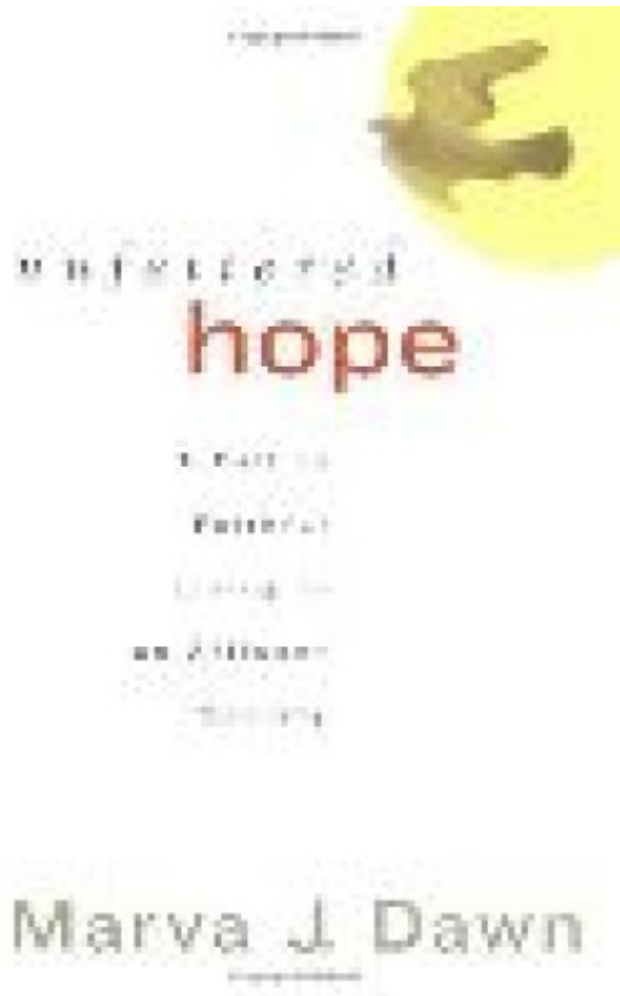
Diana Butler Bass

Jossey-Bass



Listening for God (Vol. 4)

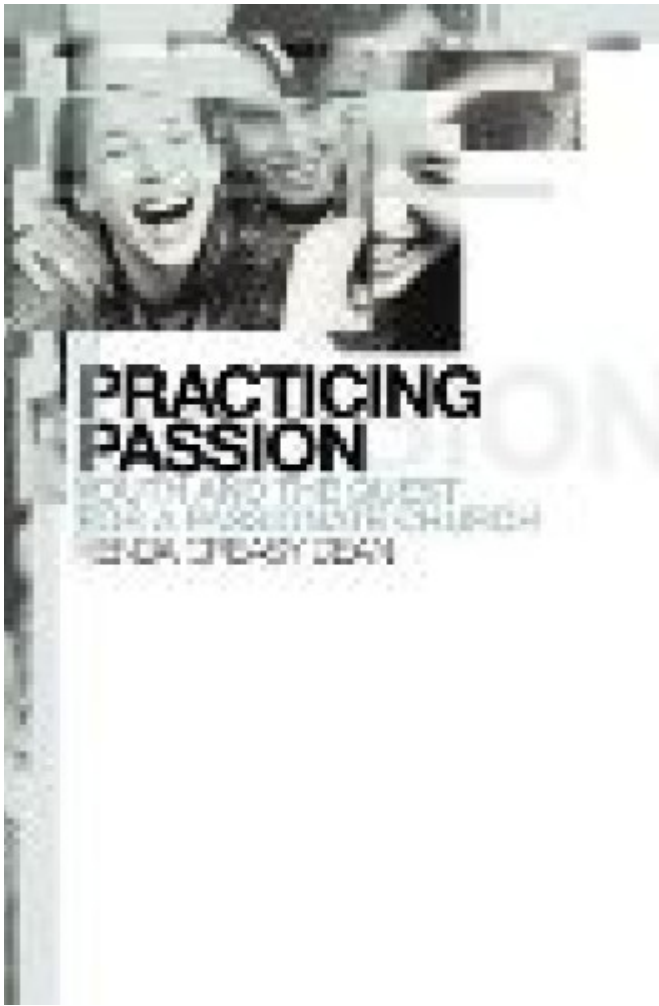
Paula J. Carlson and Peter S. Hawkins, eds.
Augsburg Fortress



Unfettered Hope: A Call to Faithful Living in an Affluent Society

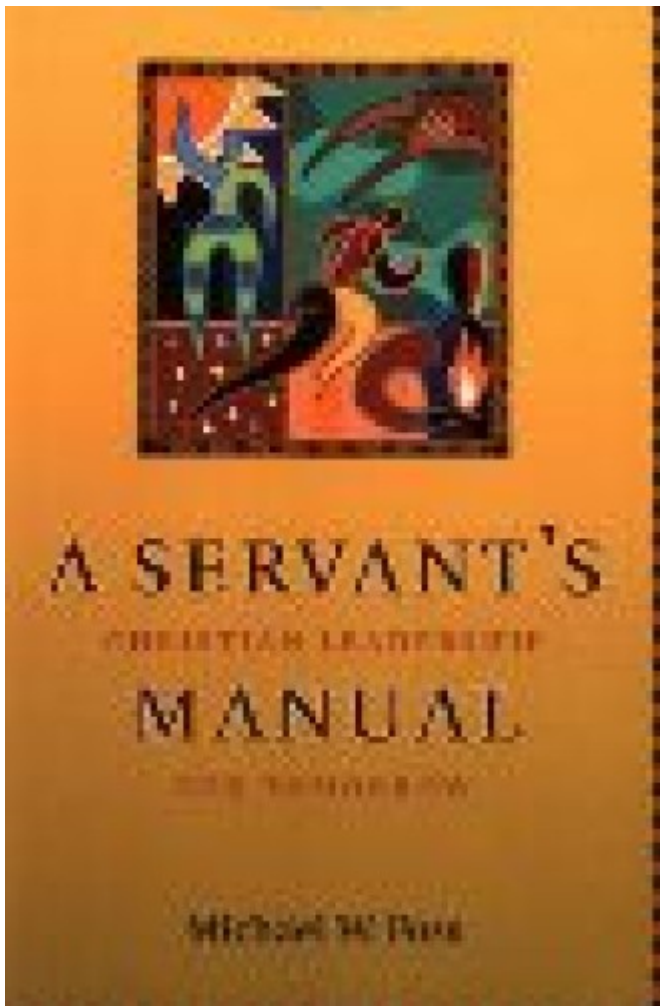
Marva J. Dawn

Westminster John Knox



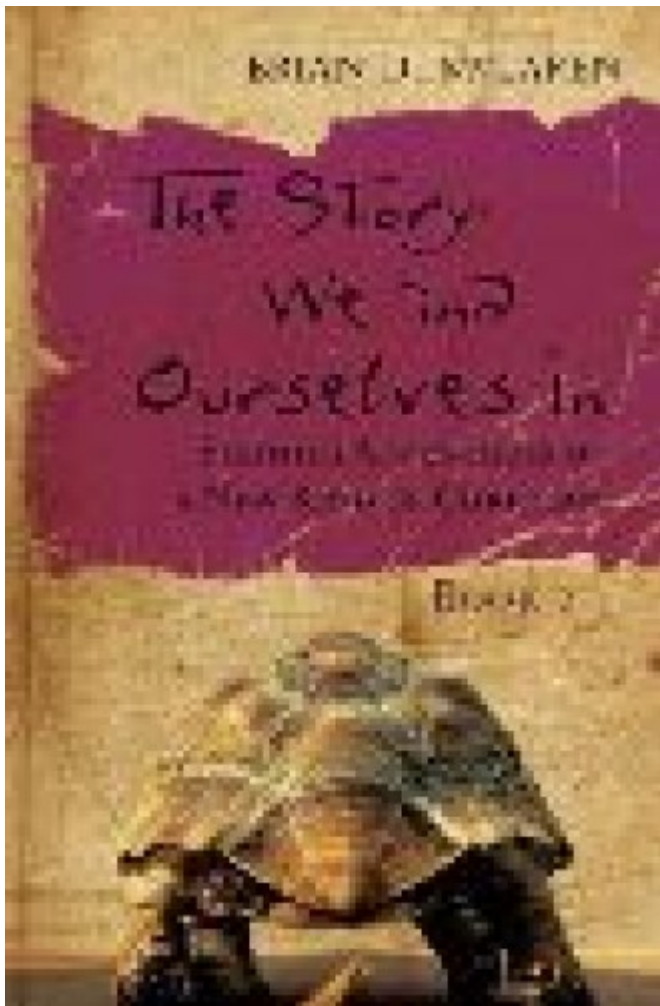
Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church

Kenda Creasy Dean
Eerdmans



A Servant's Manual: Christian Leadership for Tomorrow

Michael W. Foss
Fortress



The Story We Find Ourselves In: Further Adventures of a New Kind of Christian

Brian D. McLaren
Jossey-Bass

EMERSON
INSPIRED BY CHRISTIANITY

Take the Next Step

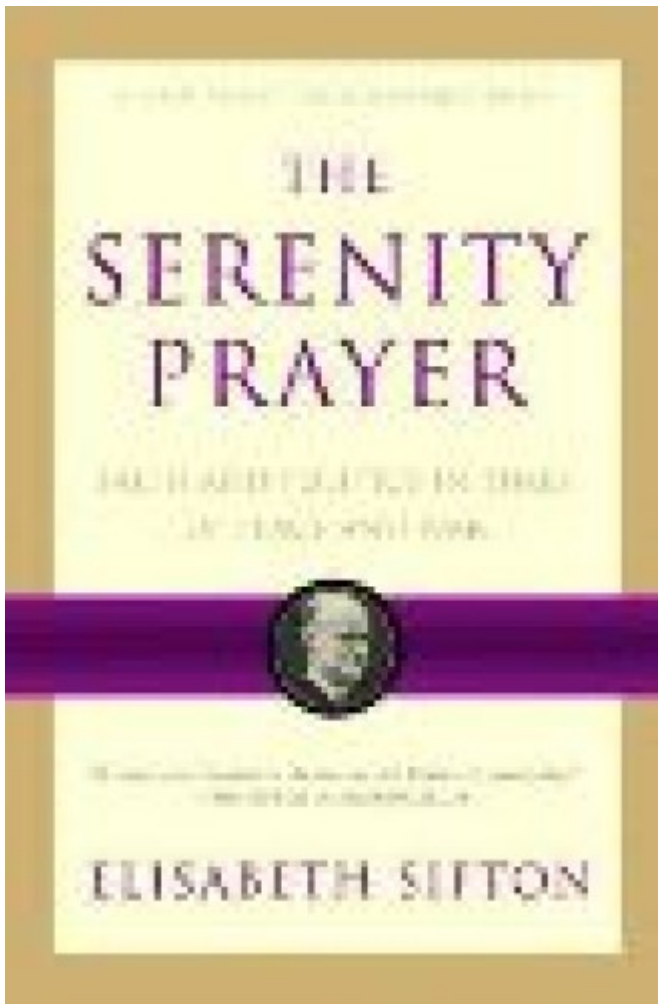
LEADING LASTING CHANGE IN THE CHURCH



Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

Take the Next Step: Leading Lasting Change in the Church

Lovett H. Weems Jr.
Abingdon



The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War

Elisabeth Sifton
Norton



Beyond the Ordinary: 10 Strengths of U.S. Congregations

Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce
Westminster John Knox

This volume collects prayers with which, over 42 years, famed Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann began his classes and led worship. The prayers are rich in imagery, grounded in scripture and passionate in faith.

This is a powerful reflection on the response of churches to 9/11 and to the war on terror. Bass explores the difference between being a chapel of the state and a church of the world in these challenging times.

What a gift to the church the volumes in this Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith series are! Each selection from noted contemporary writers has a fine introduction and is followed by questions for reflection and discussion. Great for adult-study groups.

Dawn explores the seldom asked but critical questions for faith and discipleship raised by 9/11. She makes excellent use of Albert Borgmann's work on technology and culture.

I can't say enough good things about this rethinking of youth ministry, which really amounts to a rethinking of the whole church. Read it for youth ministry, read it for all ministry.

This is a follow-up to Foss's earlier book, *Power Surge*. Foss is a Lutheran pastor who writes from the heart of pastoral life and ministry. His books offer a helpful reframing of the church and its ministry for a new time.

This follows on McLaren's earlier book, *A New Kind of Christian*. Both interweave the fictional stories of Neo, Dan and Kerry with a retelling of the biblical story—"the story we find ourselves in"—for postmodern people and times.

Reinhold Niebuhr's daughter seeks to rescue her father's famous prayer from the status of "a familiar, agreeable cliché" by filling in the story of the history and lives from which it emerged. It's a kick to hear Niebuhr referred to as "Pa."

If change is more evolution than revolution, Weems provides a good guide to "taking the next step." His book will be especially helpful to new pastors or to those beginning a new pastorate.

Another fruit of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, this book can help congregations see strength as multifaceted. It provides special encouragement for smaller congregations, though it is useful for all sizes.