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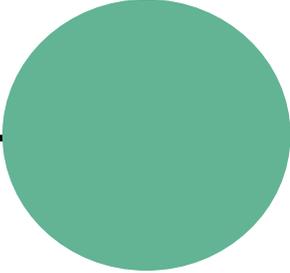
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IMPRINTS STORY

Imprint— “to impress or to stamp”

Part of the reason many of us value being ordained in the UMC is the connection we have with colleagues. One cannot help but marvel at all the different gifts and graces God has given to the clergy in the Central Texas Conference. And scripture tells us that God uses the whole of the body of disciples to make to further the message of Christ in this world.

Out of this desire to strengthen the connection and to celebrate different given gifts and graces, *Imprints* was born.

Imprints is a curated collection of the published works of the clergy in the Central Texas Conference. Authors are invited to contribute responses to set questions. Those responses are edited and formatted to create *Imprints*.

It is the big dream of *Imprints* that others might see and understand the “imprint” the Central

Texas Conference clergy are making in the Christian discussion.

It has been said the only way to change culture is to make different culture. May this publication help be an agent of culture change in our conference.

Thank you for writing, reading and sharing.

Grace and Peace to you.

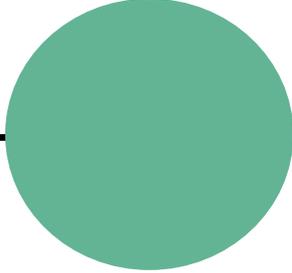
Rev. Jason Valendy

Want to contribute to *Imprints*? Email requests to JasonValendy@gmail.com or fill out the form directly at: <http://bit.ly/1D5frud>

**The content of this publication is the responsibility of the editor and contributing members and it does not speak for or on behalf of the Central Texas Conference.*

CTC Blogroll

CTC clergy write or contribute to



David Alexander

pastordavidalexander.com (Author)

Seedbed.com (Contributor)

Ethan Gregory

umclead.com (Contributor)

Sarah Miller

thevicarofhogsmear.wordpress.com (Author)

revgalblogpals.org (Contributor)

Steve Heyduck

noncon.wordpress.com (Author)

Jarrod Johnston

liturgynerd.com (Author)

Jason Valendy

Jasonvalendy.net (Author)



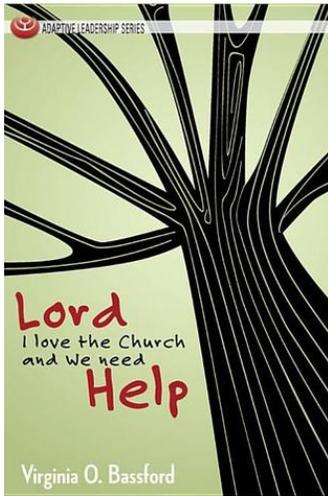
Rev. Virginia O. (Ginger) Bassford, PhD

ginger@ctcumc.org

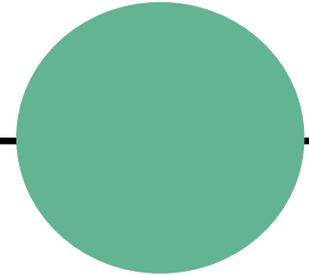
My family lived in Albert Lea, Minnesota when I was born in 1959. I was the "late in life" one of four siblings. We migrated to Texas when I was about three months old and I grew up in the Austin area. Melvin Olaf Olson, my dad, was a carpenter and cabinet maker. My mom, Dorothy Mae Olson received her nursing license as an LVN when I was about ten. It was in high school on the square dance floor that I met my husband of 37 years. Ken and I bought nine acres in Dripping Springs and built our dream log home – where we intended to both rear our children and retire.

Ken and I did volunteer youth ministry at my home church, Faith Lutheran in Austin. When we moved to Dripping Springs we began attending First Methodist and I soon went on staff as a part-time youth director in addition to my "day job" in the operating room. Our children, Matthew and Erin were born in 1985 and 1986.

We left "Drippin'" in 1992 – so that I could attend Perkins School of Theology at SMU. In 1993 I was blessed to be the dreamer and designer who initiated the Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission project so that we could go to Missouri in 1994 to work on flood damaged homes. Through that work, the CTC became home.



Lord I Love the Church and We Need Help!



Details

Print Length: 112 pages

Publisher: Abingdon Press (February 1, 2012)

Availability: [Cokesbury](#) or [Amazon](#)

Content

“Do we ask too much? No, we’ve asked too little. Change, chaos, confusion how can a pastor make sense of it all? The tap root of United Methodism goes deep into fertile soil firmly planted in Scripture and enriched by the Holy Spirit. Our theology is rich and grounded into the depths of community and accountability, but the way we live out that theology is wide and deep-- both bane and blessing. United Methodists are neither blown away like chaff nor root-bound. Our calling is still to strive to be methodically faithful and alive in Spirit. This is our heritage and our vision. But will we dare to lean into the winds of change and be strengthened by the challenges we find? Only with God's help.”

Why did you write this

“I was invited to write this book by Abingdon in preparation for General Conference 2012.”

What do you hope people gain

There is hope! For each of us, and for the UMC.

Where can people read more

Faith and Leadership "Reflections of a baby DS" (Duke University, 2009)

Faith and Leadership "Adaptive Change" (Duke University, 2014)

New Literati "The Storm" (short story) (St. Edward's, 1993)

Central Texas Conference "Reporter" (various articles)

<http://www.gingerbassford.com>

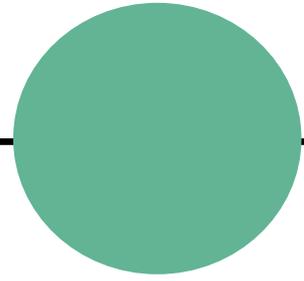


Rev. Sarah E. Howe Miller , PhD

thereverendmom@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Sarah E. Howe Miller is Pastor of United Methodist Church of the Covenant, Arlington, Texas where there is a geocache hidden. Sarah has a way of working geocaching into conversations and trying to convert others to adopt her favorite hobby believing, as others do, that “all who wander are not lost” and that sacred moments can happen when you walk together making discoveries. She is the single mom of two daughters about whom she is prone to brag. The Reverend Dr. Howe Miller earned her Ph. D. with a focus on Clergywomen and grief.

Clergywomen and Grief: Local church pastors and their experiences



Available

<http://bit.ly/1AKGk2I>

Abstract

The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore the experiences of clergywomen who have had times of personal grief in the midst of professional responsibilities within a local church context specifically as it related to officiating "hard funerals" for non-family members. Using a Narrative approach, the researcher interviewed 11 clergywomen. Three main themes emerged. The predominant theme was Overarching Responsibility. The second theme was Plans for Processing Grief which addressed the various ways the clergywomen handled their own grief. The third theme was Women as Clergy in which the clergywomen made note of gender differences in ministry. A proposal of a new term, Numinous Grief, for clergy who appropriately hold expressions of grief while officiating services or other duties relating to their professional role and, at another time, may appropriately cry with a family.

Why did you write this

"Grief is one of the stressors for clergy and everyone realizes that clergy are utilized during times of grief for families but there is no literature or studies examining the effects of grief on clergy."

What do you hope people gain

As more Baby Boomers die, local church pastors need to be aware of the effects of grief for themselves and their church members. Judicatory leaders need to have a greater sensitivity to the levels of grief and stress being carried by their pastors and how they can be helpful to local churches. Laity can be supportive of their pastors by being more aware of the weight of grief carried by their pastor or pastoral staff. Clergy appropriately put their own grief on hold while helping church members in crisis and re-engaged in private, this type of grief is named "Numinous Grief."

Where can people read more

www.thevicarofhogsmeade.wordpress.com/

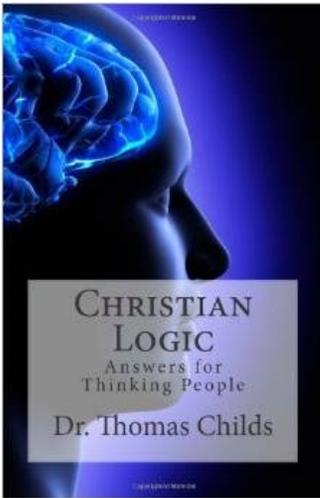
www.revgalblogpals.org/



Rev. Dr. Thomas Childs

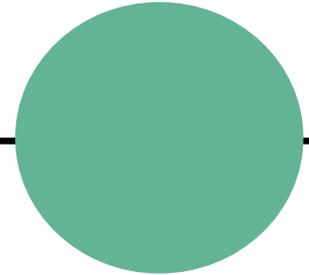
pastor@lifepointumc.com

Dr. Thomas Childs earned a Bachelors of Music in Jazz Studies from Loyola New Orleans, Masters of Divinity from Southwestern seminary in Fort Worth, language certification from the Goethe Institute in Manheim Germany, Masters of Theological Studies from Perkins/SMU, and his Doctorate of Ministry from St Paul in Kansas City, Missouri. Thomas has toured with the Christian band TRUTH, as well as playing in the New Orleans Symphony, the New Orleans Saints Jazz Band, the Desire Brothers band, the Harmon Lights jazz band, and others. Thomas has been an adjunct faculty for Christian Leadership in the clinical pastoral education program at Harris Methodist Hospital, as well as teaching Christian Leadership at Texas Wesleyan University. In the Central TX conference, Thomas has served Blooming Grove and Dresden UMCs, the Dido UMC, he is the founding pastor of the LifePoint UMC, and he was the host operations director for General Conference 2008.



Christian Logic:

Answers for Thinking People



Details

Print Length, 102 pages

Publisher, CreateSpace (December 10, 2013)

Availability: [Amazon](#)

Content

“Christian Logic provides answers for some of life's toughest questions. Why am I here? Is God real? What is God like? What about heaven and hell? How do we deal with hypocritical Christians? And more. This book offers teaching that is relevant and insightful, avoiding empty platitudes that often accompany critical questions about faith and God. It is designed for thinking people who embrace questions raised by science, logic, and critical reflection, yet who also seek answers about God. Without adequate answers, these ideas can seem incompatible. When substantive answers are discovered, you find not only truth that changes how you look at life today, you also find these ideas provide a lifetime of meaning and signifi-

cance. May this book help you on your journey of finding answers about God that lead to personal transformation.”

Why did you write this

“A desire to walk my congregation through accessible answers to some of their most commonly asked questions through a 40-day study that would include both Sunday School and worship teaching.”

What do you hope people gain

Thinking people can embrace both faith and critical questions that most of us have about faith. Accessible answers exist for our deepest, most important questions about faith and God. Often, it is simply a matter of identifying the true questions at hand, as well as thinking through our responses with balance and logic.

Where can people read more

[LifePointUMC.com](#)



Rev. Dr. Todd Renner

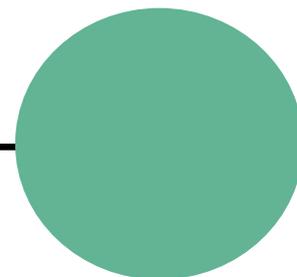
trenner@whiteschapelumc.com

Todd was appointed to White's Chapel in 2003 while finishing his master's degree at Brite Divinity School at TCU. As Co-Pastor, Todd assumes the primary preaching/teaching responsibilities for The Bridge community at White's Chapel and works hand-in-hand with Dr. McKellar in the sculpting and implementation of the church's strategic vision and ministries.

A native of Florida, Todd moved to Texas to attend Baylor University where he received his B.A. in Religion (Hebrew Bible and Semitic Languages). He completed his Masters of Divinity at Brite Divinity School (TCU) and took his doctoral degree at The Graduate Theological Foundation (South Bend, IN). Todd is an ordained Elder in Full Connection with the Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Todd and his wife, Keri, have two sons: Caleb and Ford. In his spare time, Todd enjoys writing, hiking, rock-climbing, and embarrassing himself at golf.

Simple Harmony: Thoughts on Holistic Christian Life



Details

Availability: [Amazon](#)

How to use this book: Devotional

What do you hope people gain

“John and I wanted to address the issue of sin in a way that was non-threatening and in a manner that did not raise people's defenses. Drawing from the historical "seven deadly sins," we modernized and applied the list to life in the 21st century. At its heart the book was intended to help our readers understand the pervasiveness of sin and the reality of the human condition. More, though, we wanted our book to offer hope and healing to those who'd long given up on themselves and on the promises of God's love and forgiveness. We wanted to break the cycle of guilt and shame and, in their place, to invite people to consider what mercy and freedom might feel like. ”

Where can people read more

"When God Dies" in *The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, 2007.

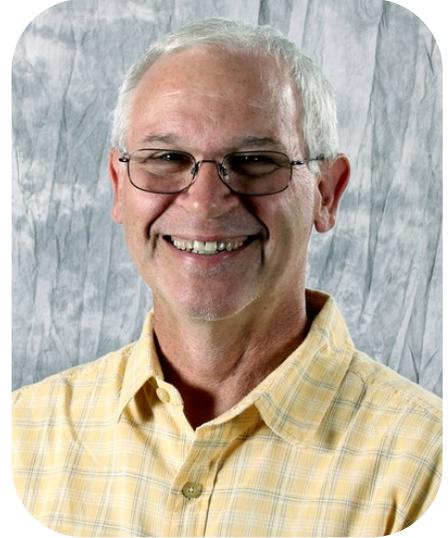
A Heart Wide Open: A Guided Season of Prayer, 2010.

The Enemies Within, 2012.

The Promise of Dawn, 2013.

"26 Pastors: Honest Talk," featured interview in *Outreach Magazine*, August 2013.

Why We Do What We Do: A Worship Resource for the Curious, 2014.



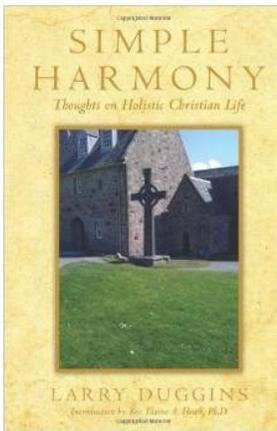
Rev. Dr. Larry Duggins

lduggins@whiteschapelumc.com

Larry is a pastor and a business person. He is equally comfortable in the worlds of spiritual leadership and financial analysis, and he seeks to understand the margins in which those worlds meet. Central themes in Larry's theology include the transformational power of pilgrimage, the importance of living into the mission Christ set forth for us, and the centrality of the Holy Spirit in prayer, discernment and ministry.

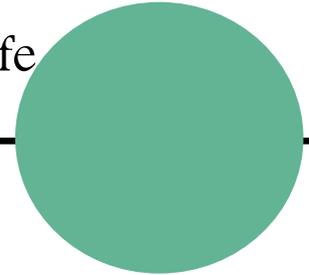
Larry and Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath co-founded the Missional Wisdom Foundation, and together with Rev. Dr. Bret Wells, they work as a collaborative lead team to direct the activities of the Foundation.

Larry holds a D.Min. with an emphasis in Missional Church and an M.Div. from the SMU Perkins of Theology, and an M.B.A., M.S. Finance, and B.A. from Louisiana State University. He is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church.



Simple Harmony:

Thoughts on Holistic Christian Life



Details

Availability: [Amazon](#)

How to use this book: Group study and/or individual reflection

What do you hope people gain

The Greatest Commandment, the Hymn of Kenosis, and the High Priestly prayer combine to form a simple yet rich set of guidelines for Christian life.

Why did you write this

As a business leader and entrepreneur, it became clear to me that people need a clear understanding of tasks and goals to be productive and effective. Few Christians can articulate the "what, how and why" of Christian life clearly, so they flounder in uncertainty. This book is an effort to provide a simple, scripturally based explanation of the "what, how and why" of being a follower of Christ.

Where can people read more

Feasting on the Gospels : Luke, Vol. 1. Contributor. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2014.

Missional. Monastic. Mainline. A Guide to Starting Missional Micro-Communities in Historically Mainline Traditions. Co-authored with Elaine Heath. Eugene: Cascade, 2014.

Abide: A Guide to Starting Intentional Communities. Contributor. Missional Wisdom Foundation, 2014.

Simple Harmony: Thoughts on Holistic Christian Life. Southlake: Columbkille Press 2013.