

# THE (*book*)WORM

For down-to-earth communication among members of  
The Episcopal Booksellers Association  
Spring 2010

*The (book)Worm's* editor cedes this editorial note to EBA President Harrison Simons with sadness. This is a difficult announcement to publish, yet our valued colleague and leader must tell his own story to the EBA family he loves.

## *The Worm's Turn: a note from EBA President, Harrison Simons*

Being an Episcopal bookseller means staying informed about Christian intellectual life, knowing about books and writers, knowing our customers and being in tune with their needs, establishing good relationships with publishers. This ministry has always been challenging. Publishing diversifies with new media. Marketing explodes in news way to catch attention. The ministry of the written word will not alone provide a profit, so booksellers add interesting programs and specialty gifts. Still it is not enough to focus on selling our products and services. Our boards or vestries, our rectors or CFOs may not always share our priorities. To them we must sell the vision of the bookstore ministry's intent to serve the Lord in serving God's Church and people.

I thought we were doing that in our Oxford store, just as we have since our beginning in 1979 to be a resource center for the churches and members of the Episcopal Church in and beyond our parish and diocese. We steadily advanced and had the support of vestries and members. We were blessed with gifted volunteers. However a new vestry decided a debt was too risky. So we were recently informed that Education/Liturgy Resources shall close at the end of our fiscal year, September 30.

This date enables us to continue service to many customers and our specialized ministry to the three conference centers we serve. We can give them time to find new suppliers or enlarge their own purchasing. If you are interested in such a ministry to Kanuga, Shrine Mont or Trinity Center in East Carolina let me know. If you have book needs and we can supply them, give us a call. If you want to buy us out as a store, make us an offer. By all means pray for us that we can close with the same pride of service and commitment for Christ and the Church that has made these 30 years spiritually and personally meaningful.

**Harrison Simons**

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## For Your Calendar

April 22: **EBA Board Members meet via conference call.** This is the last regular, scheduled board Meeting before we meet together at RBTE. 2 p.m. Eastern time.

June 1 – 4: **RBTE**, the Religious Bookseller Trade Exhibit, will take place in St. Charles, IL. Coordinated within the schedule of informative, valuable programs and the trade show itself, EBA holds our Annual Meeting, Annual Board Meeting, and other occasions to work and worship together. Full RBTE schedule at [www.rbte.net](http://www.rbte.net).

June 3: **Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Booksellers Association**, 7:30 a.m., St. Charles, IL

June 9 – 29: EBA's Executive Director will be out of the country. During this period, contact EBA Board members if you need information or assistance. They're listed in all Membership Directories.

## Member Store Profile

EBA embraces 77 Member Stores and one membership pending at this date. **The Advent Shoppe** in Spartanburg, SC, is new and managed by **Bill Hunter**. New Mexico boasts two new stores: **Episcopal books Store and More** in Scottsdale, owned by T. F. Krahn, and **St. Philip's in the Hills Little Shop** in Tucson, managed by the church's rector, **the Rev. John E. Kitagawa**. It's a pleasure to welcome back the **Monk's Cell** in West Park, NY, after an absence. **Br. Charles Mizelle** is in charge there. Welcome to these new members and others who are new managers in familiar Member Stores. We urge all members to take an active role in the organization. We are strongest when we share our strengths as well as our burdens.

## Vendor News

**Twenty Three fine companies hold Supporting Vendor Membership for 2010.** Remember to promote the books and gifts from our Supporting Vendors. It helps everybody!

## Welcome EBA's newest Supporting Vendor: Convivium Press

**Convivium Press** is a recent independent US Publisher (Miami, Florida) founded by a group of young theologians and philosophers inspired by Judeo-Christian humanistic values. Through the publication of religious books this new editorial endeavor aims at promoting diversity of thought, at strengthening bonds across cultures and religious beliefs and at supporting study, reflection, formation and education in the Christian faith. Authors are carefully chosen by Convivium Press among respected and sound theologians and philosophers around the world to provide discerning readers with books with a balanced combination of well founded contents and beautiful design and printing.

The editorial line of Convivium Press covers the areas of Theology, Bible Studies, and Christian Spirituality and Philosophy and although its current offer mainly consists of academic books for Theology – Religion professors and students, some of the already published books have caught the interest of a more general audience. Convivium Press will soon make available a larger offer of this line of publications for the religious community, including material for ministry formation. Finally it is important to say that some of the books published by Convivium Press are in Spanish language (Series Hispania) to support Christian education of the Hispanic community in the US and other countries.

**Dr. Rafael Luciani** is Editor in Chief. **Maritza Hidalgo** is Business Development manager. To learn more and to order through the website, find [www.conviviumpress.com](http://www.conviviumpress.com) E-mail [sales@conviviumpress.com](mailto:sales@conviviumpress.com), telephone 786-866-9718, or fax an order to 305-887-5463.

[Note from EBA Exec. Director: I have a few sample books sent from Convivium. If you have a special interest in books in Spanish for scholars or clergy, let me know. Likewise I have Michael Cuyper's "The Banquet" in hand, a "ground-breaking contribution to Islamic-Christian studies." This is textual analysis and ideal for serious study. Write to me if you would like the complimentary copy. First come, first served. **Henrietta**]

## Two Supporting Vendors Appearing for the First Time in EBA Directory

**Saint Marks Press** (lectionaries and liturgical resources. Watch for the RCL in Spanish next year!) and **dvb new york** (well-crafted sterling jewelry with a high creativity quotient) joined EBA mid-2009, so you see them for the first time in your 2010 Membership Directories. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the companies and their product lines.

## Solutions and Problems

The EBA web site, [www.episcopalbooksellers.org](http://www.episcopalbooksellers.org) is back up and under the group's personal control after great work by Lydian Media in Phoenix, AZ. Board Member Elizabeth Wirls bravely stepped in to learn how to edit and keep the site up to date, but she would welcome relief troops. The Board decided last year to try to save money by maintaining our own site, but that will only work if members work together to keep things correct and fresh. If you can spare even a few minutes a month to learn the techniques and help with the site, please contact Elizabeth, in her Tennessee store, or write to the Executive Director.

## **Core or Bore?**

Development of a Core Inventory list revealed once again how very diverse EBA stores really are. Core inventory for a resort community is far from Core at the diocesan HQ. Regional differences and church member/passersby ratios affect what buyers regard as Core Inventory. When Board Member Sue Tierney began to gather your suggestions, she recognized that one size rarely fit all.

Beyond the Bible, the hymnal, and the BCP, EBA can recommend that each manager become familiar with the liturgical preferences of churches in the customer pool – what texts and what study guides the clergy recommend, what daily devotionals or instructional materials each parish prefers. At this stage of our research it looks like your store's Core Inventory should rise from frequent contact with clergy, teachers, and administrators in the parishes you serve. Pry out titles your leaders recommend. Post what books "The Bishops Recommend," "The Staff Recommend," "Our Kids are Reading." And listen, listen. As you say Goodbye, ask the customers, "Did you find everything you came to look for today?"

We muddle on in our efforts to keep useful lists of Best Sellers and Core Inventory. People new to the business need the information gained from your experience. Step out and volunteer if you have insights to help us keep our resources current.

## **Best Sellers & Good Books**

Please submit titles! Recommend some books for summer reading. Vacation time may give readers an opportunity to explore a historical period, enjoy a period of guided reflection, or relish a readable "page-turner." What can you recommend to take on vacation, send with a child to summer camp, or stack on a bedside table. *The (book)Worm* wants to circulate all your ideas. Just send them to the address at the end of this issue.

## **EBA News**

The Board is charged by our Constitution to nominate a slate of candidates for its membership each year. All managers of Member Stores in good standing are eligible. Part of our mission is to unite stores geographically distant, yet this means we don't all know one another personally. That's why it's vital to share in the development of the slate by recommending someone you know or identifying yourself and the talent you can offer to EBA. Do Not Hesitate to contact a serving Board Member or the Executive Director with your confidential nomination.

Need advice about getting the most from RBTE? Our annual Hints will come out soon. Meanwhile, use the EBA list service or your trusty telephone to find someone to split costs of a drive to Chicago, a room at Pheasant Run, or a ride from the airport. If you use the list service, make your subject line specific. Members not going to RBTE will save time by ignoring such messages and clicking delete.

To respond to items in *The(book)Worm* and to submit material for inclusion in future editions, please contact Henrietta Speaks. E-mail is preferred via [EBAXxutivDIR@aol.com](mailto:EBAXxutivDIR@aol.com). Address regular mail to 2286 Summer Ridge Drive, Birmingham, AL, 35226. Phone calls stand the best chance on Mondays or Fridays during Central Time office hours, but the message machine will capture your calls in other periods. Call (205) 824-0555.