

THE (*book*)WORM

For down-to-earth communication among members of
The Episcopal Booksellers Association
Spring 2009

The Worm's Turn: a note from EBA Executive Director, Henrietta Speaks

This is a weighty *Worm*. It tugs a valuable resource, store buyers' combined terrific list of Best Sellers. BEFORE YOU PRINT—please note that The Bestseller List is included in the e-mailed text (pages 5 – 12) and as an attached Word document. No need to print both formats. Choose what is easiest for you and print the Bestseller List for future reference. Many thanks to all who contributed and to Elizabeth Wirles who created the list provided here.

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For Your Calendar

Early in August — Watch your mail for a large white envelope from the Association of Logos Bookstores. You will receive essential ordering information about the Episcopal book catalog, the first edition (for Christmas marketing) will be produced soon for EBA stores by Logos.

September 24, 2009 2 p.m. Eastern Time — EBA Board Members meet via conference call. Meetings in 2010 are **January 28** and **April 22**.

Member Store Profile

Just as the Worm was wiggling off the desk, the mail brought news of a **New Member Store!** Welcome **Steeple People** to EBA. Paul Ritter owns Steeple People, in Columbus, Ohio, where the store (formerly part of the Augsburg-Fortress family of stores) supplies textbooks to two cooperating seminaries – Lutheran Trinity Lutheran and Episcopal Bexley Hall. Steeple People sells church supplies, general books and merchandise. If you are in Columbus, visit the store at 2199 E. Main Street; zip 43209. The telephone number is [614-236-4237](tel:614-236-4237). The store is closed only on Sundays; they're open Monday – Friday from 9 to 5 and Saturday from 9 to 1.

Another store with a dual focus is Hofmann's Church and Religious Goods, managed by Julie Hofmann in Erie, PA. An established shop with a primarily Roman Catholic focus for many years, Hofmann's always served the larger Christian community. When Julie, an Episcopalian herself, stepped into management, she intentionally broadened the inventory of books of interest to Episcopalians. We've supplied contact info for Julie in an earlier missive. For more details, check out www.hofmannserie.com.

Vendor News

Some EBA stores already sell beautiful and affordable jewelry created by **dvb new york**. They are the reason dvb new york made the decision to join EBA as our newest Supporting Vendor. Please take out your 2009 Membership Directory and add website www.dvbny.com. Donald Burns is our liaison. The company's website uses a detailed menu to lead you through a wide variety of imaginative pieces, from symbols from great religions to Edward Gorey's dogs and cats. The Worm liked these gifts for people moving toward new horizons in life and work:

Mark Twain

*Catch the tradewinds in your sails.
Explore. Dream. Discover.*

Walt Whitman

*now voyager
sail thou forth
to seek and find*

(There's a tiny sailboat in this design)

To recognize accomplishments or interests, you can find an artist's palette, a Degas ballerina, a boy training a horse, even an acorn— an ancient symbol of growth. To celebrate a new baby, consider the cuff bracelet engraved with a verse from Psalms 139:14 -- *For I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

New from a Supporting Vendor
submitted by Sue Tierney in Atlanta, GA

Perhaps you were lucky enough to meet **Sister Bridget Haase**, OSU, at RBTE. She was signing her new book *Generous Faith: Stories to Inspire Abundant Living* at the Paraclete Booth. NBC news thought she was pretty special as well. They ran a feature story on Sister Bridget Haase on July 14, 2009 on the *Evening News with Brian Williams*. Her delightful short stories and accessible reflections are based on ordinary yet universal experiences where it easy to feel God's love and generosity. I think it's a perfect book to hand someone looking for a little inspiration!

My other favorites from Paraclete Press's current list are *Will I See My Dog in Heaven* by **Jack Wintz** and *Making Crosses: A Creative Connection to God* by **Ellen Morris Prewitt**. Obviously no one knows what God's plans might be for any of us in the next life but **Wintz** cites examples from Scripture, tradition and liturgy that he believes show God's intent to include pets and animals in the afterlife. The book ends with "Three Prayers of Blessing for Any Animal, Fish, Bird or Other Creature."

One of our all time bestselling books is *Praying in Color* by **Sybil MacBeth**. I think it's so popular because it is "doable" especially for people who have trouble expressing themselves in prayer. *Making Crosses* by **Ellen Morris Prewitt** is another title in Paraclete's Active Prayer Series. It is every bit as wonderful as "a new, active, and creative way to pray." I especially like the building blocks of cross making: 1) Take what the world doesn't value... 2) Give them new, godly life, and 3) Engage in an activity that takes you directly into community with God.

To order from Paraclete Press call [800-451-5004](tel:800-451-5004). Visit www.paracletepress.com.

EBA News

The Worm announces the Board of Directors elected at our Annual Meeting. Thanks to all who agreed to serve!

EBA Board of Directors

For term ending in May, 2010:

Dinny Adamson, Burlington, VT

Cindy Funderburk (Treasurer), Birmingham, AL

Harrison Simons (President), Oxford North Carolina

For term ending in May 2011:

Nancy Barber, Little Rock, AR

Karen Fast, La Jolla, CA

Carol Lamond-Walker (Secretary), Phoenix, AZ

For term ending May, 2010:

Marijane Marks, Greenwich, CT

Sue Tierney, Atlanta, GA

Elizabeth Wirls (Vice-President), Memphis, TN

Full minutes: Annual Meeting minutes will be sent from Carol Lamond-Walker, EBA secretary.

Successful launch of Friends of EBA: Watch your mail for membership applications, signage, and other encouragement from Katherine Pinard and Carol Lamond-Walker. Friends of EBA is ideal for former store employees, stalwart volunteers, clergy, and all who value keeping a visible Episcopal presence in the community.

Website Woes: Some months ago the Board resolved to explore providers of web design and hosting that would give better service at lower cost. Shortly thereafter, a giant national tech company bought our provider and they dumped small accounts into limbo. There we sit awaiting the Board's solution. EBA Committee of Advisors volunteer, Dean Nicholas Knisely in Phoenix, is working with others to find better, cheaper hosting. Until then episcopalbooksellers.org is functioning but not enjoying updates. We hope to announce new service soon.

Best Sellers & Good Books

You did it! EBA buyers from across the country developed a useful list of Best Sellers. You've built a resource of excellent titles and things, arranged in categories to guide you and your customers to proven good choices. Eight pages follow as an Addendum to this issue of *The (book)Worm*. The same list is provided for convenience as an attachment. Soon the list will be in our website to suggest products to online shoppers.

Solutions and Problems

“What do I need to sell?” Starting a new store or revitalizing a flagging enterprise requires making hard decisions about where to invest capital. EBA wants to help by suggesting basic inventory. The **Suggested Core Inventory** will be the list of products our Managers believe Episcopal customers expect and buy regularly even if not in quantity. For example: stocking altar guild calendars might not make you rich, but it will make you reliable as a source for parish essentials. St. Augustine’s *Confessions* may not outsell the BCP, but buyers can turn to you for Christian classics. The Suggested Core Inventory list will be a proprietary document, a protected EBA resource to assist managers and inform budget projections for people opening new stores.

What to Do:

Take the Best Seller List included in this issue of *The (book)Worm* as a guide. We will repeat the same categories even if we add more. Select from the “Best Sellers” the titles and products you consider essential inventory in your store. Then add other essential books and products. Create a list of Suggested Core Inventory, and send your list electronically if you can to cbs3@mindspring.com and use subject line “Core” to help Sue sort her e-mails. You may of course mail your list to Sue Tierney, Manager, Cathedral Book Store, 2744 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30305. Sue has gallantly volunteered to collate the information and to create an Excel spreadsheet that can be updated as necessary. Thanks Sue!

Deadline for Core Inventory: Halloween. Don’t be scared; that’s 3 months out.

SEE ADDENDUM below editorial info.

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 EBAxutivDIR@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](tel:205-824-0555).