

# While you wait ...

## Preparation

Please watch the G-dcast video of Psalm 42:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kT4hCs-iMgQ>

## Poll questions

- *What is your role?*  
(a) clergy (b) faith formation (c) vestry member (d) other
- *Which of these devices do you use regularly?*  
(a) desktop (b) laptop (c) smartphone (d) tablet (e) multiple
- *How connected is your congregation online?*  
(a) lots of interaction (b) some interaction (c) no interaction

# Timeless wisdom, modern expression:

spiritual resources online



**Slides:**

**[bit.ly/spiritualECF](https://bit.ly/spiritualECF)**

Kyle Matthew Oliver ([@kmoliver](https://twitter.com/kmoliver))  
Center for the Ministry of Teaching ([@VTS\\_CMT](https://twitter.com/VTS_CMT))  
Virginia Theological Seminary

# Prayer

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

--Collect for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany

# Outline: New media resources offer timely, multisensory, interactive faith experiences

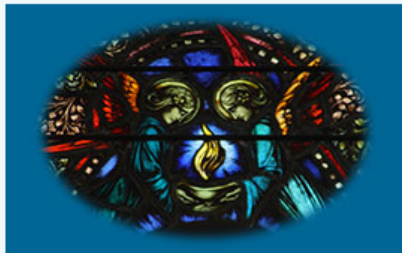


Using: Experiencing the “[w/W]ord made fresh”

Finding: “Lord, to whom can we go?”



Spirit Link is Here!



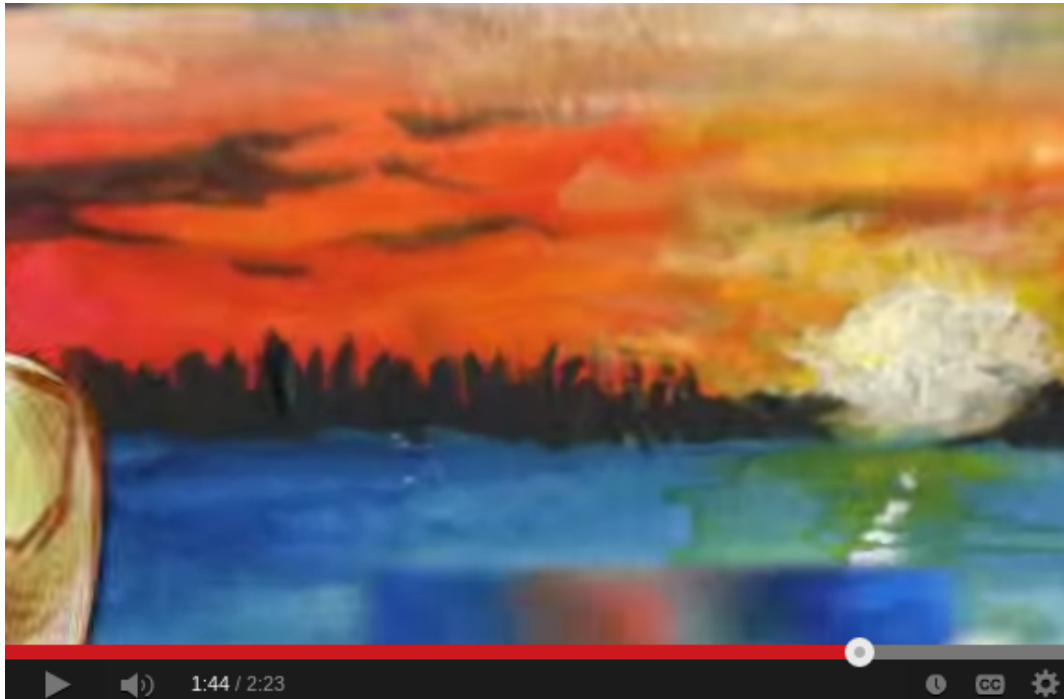
Welcome to Spirit Link, the digital resource center of St. Columba's Episcopal Church. Come

Sharing: “Breaking ground and sowing seed”

# Using online resources

Experiencing the “[w/W]ord made fresh”

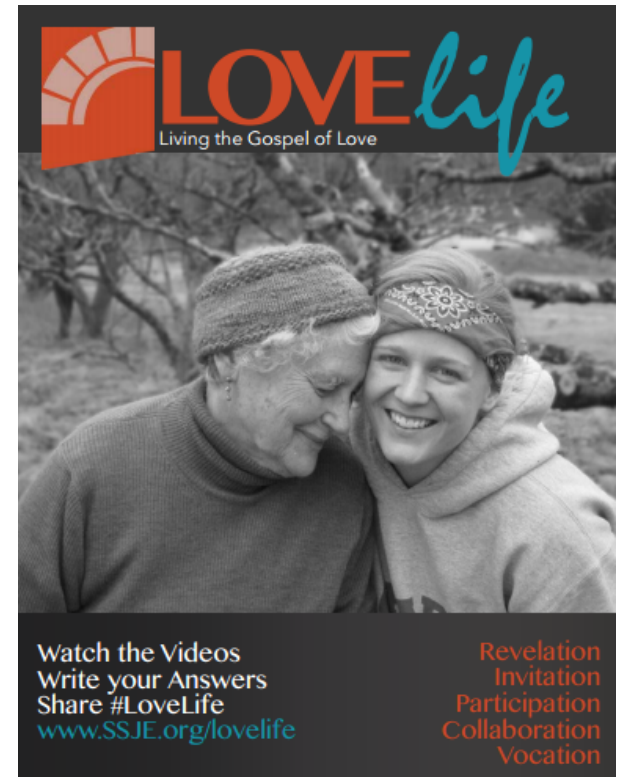
# Meet G-dcast, a new media company for innovative Jewish education



- How about a game? Check out [Exodus](#) or [Leviticus!](#)
- Maybe a song? Break it down with “[The Ten Comandments](#)”

[Psalm 42](#) by Jina Davidovich via [G-dcast](#)

# Sadly, there's no standout Christian equivalent. But there's lots to discover.





# Prayer: Apps and other media can help create sacred space on the go



**Featured:** [Pray-as-you-go](#)

**What is it?** Daily audio guided prayer with scripture

**Who's it for?** Busy commuters, people new to prayer



[Meditation timer](#): varied timer tones, soothing images



[eCP](#): Book of Common Prayer in app form



[Mission St. Clare](#): Daily office with embedded music



[Sacred Space](#): Self-paced guided prayer



# Bible: Websites and apps can open up the text in rich, interactive ways

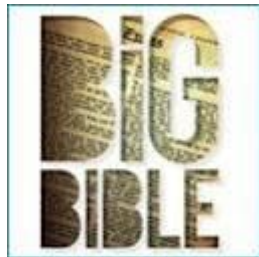


**Featured:**

[Old & New Project](#)

**What is it?** Intriguing visual interpretations

**Who's it for?** Visual learners, art lovers



[Big Bible Project](#): Scripture conversation & learning



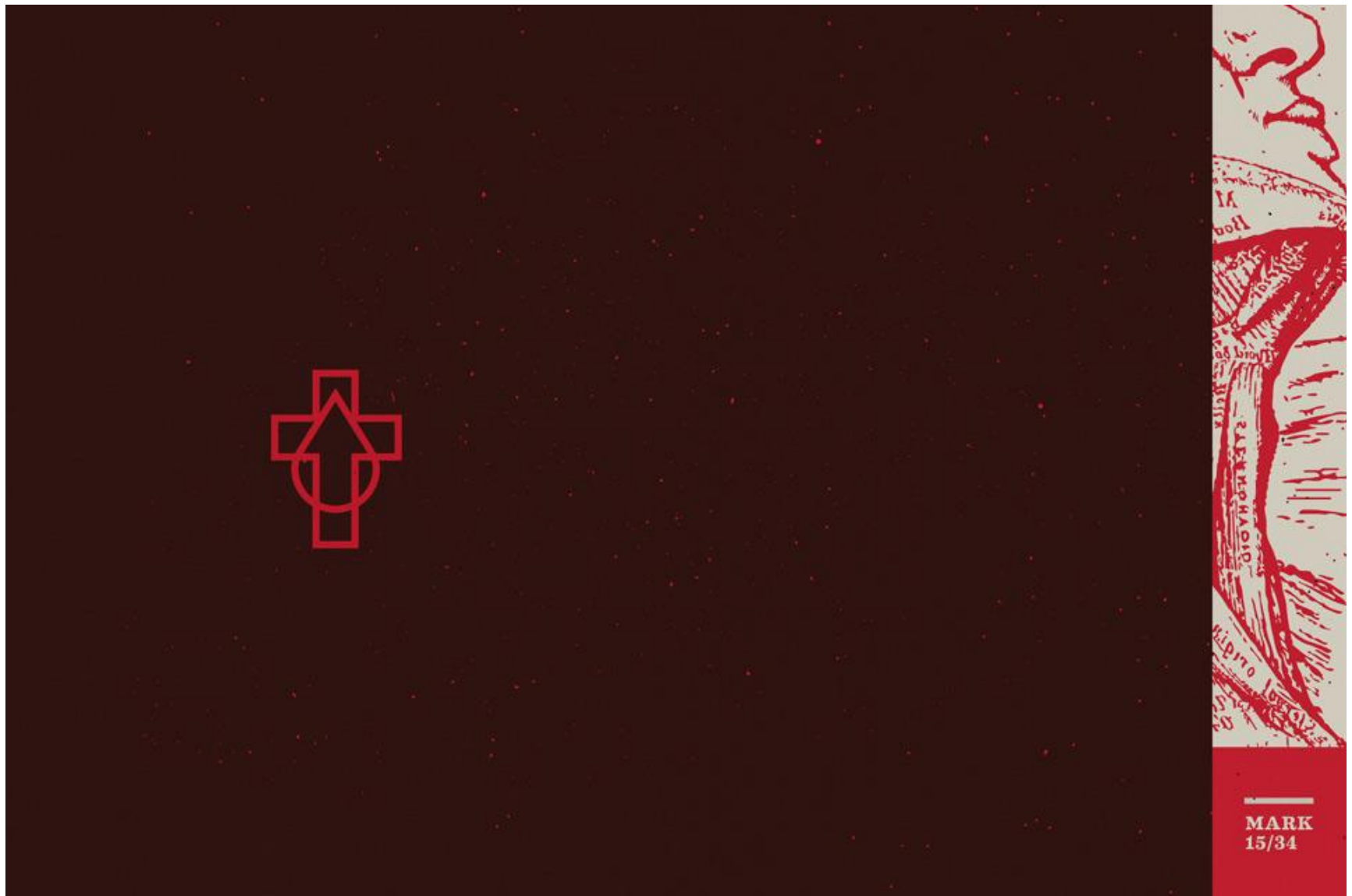
[YouVersion](#): Most popular Bible app; NIV, CEB free



[Blue Letter Bible](#): Powerful exegesis tools

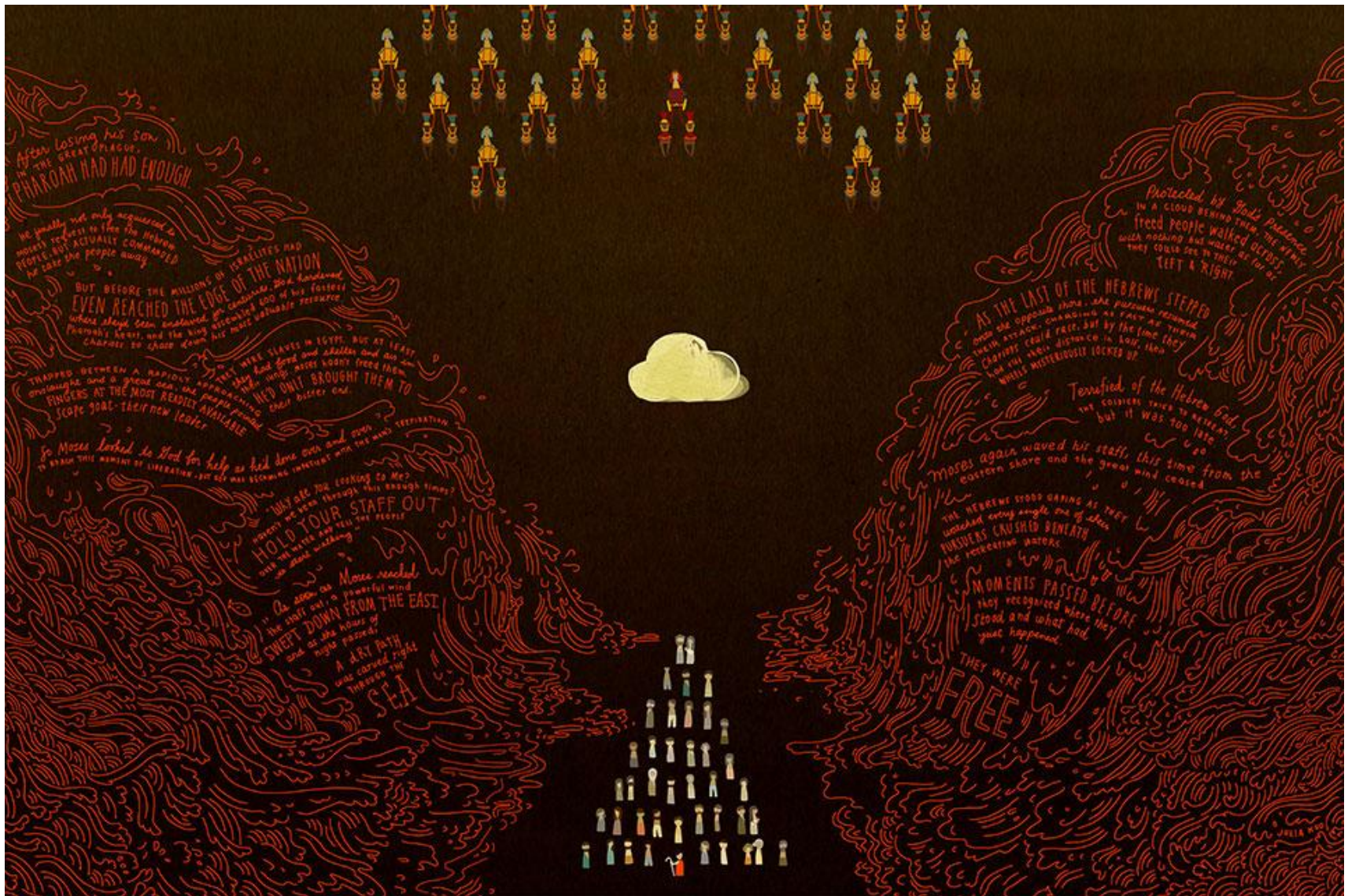


[Samuel Hear's God's Voice](#) by Corbin Watkins via [Old & New Project](#)



[Why Have You Forsaken Me?](#) by Scott Allen Hill via [Old & New Project](#)





[Parting of the Red Sea](#) by Julia Kuo via [Old & New Project](#)





[Paul & Silas Singing in Prison](#) by Alice Potter via [Old & New Project](#)

# Learning: The Web is changing the way we teach & learn, including about faith

**Featured:** Online courses from [ChurchNext](#)



**What is it?** A library of accessible faith learning

**Who's it for?** The spiritually hungry, and busy



[SSJE](#): Daily email meditations, video teaching resources



[Intnt'l Arts Mov't](#): Wrestling with Qs of art, faith, & humanity



[New Tracts](#): Short Anglican teaching videos



[Redeem the Commute](#): Xianity 101 video courses

# Commentary: Leaders, learners reflect for faith growth, fun



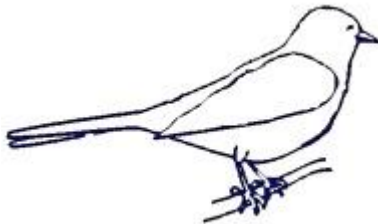
Featured: [The Collect Call](#)

**What is it?** Weekly deep dive into the Collect of the Day

**Who's it for?** People who love liturgy, laughter



[Nomad](#): Interviews with innovative church leaders



[Mockingbird](#): Law and gospel in faith and culture



[Easter People](#): Hopeful faith & culture conversations



# **Finding online resources**

“Lord, to whom can we go?”

# Avoid 'blind' searches; results often dated, theologically problematic

Especially true of generic searches. First hit for "Who is God?"



## **Who Is God - Who Does He Claim to Be?**

Who is God? He's been described as everything from an impersonal life-force to a benevolent, personal, almighty Creator. He has been called by many names, including: "Zeus," "Jupiter," "Brahma," "Allah," "Ra," "Odin," "Ashur," "Izanagi," "Viracocha," "Ahura Mazda," and "the Great Spirit" to name just a few. He's seen by some as "Mother Nature" and by others as "Father God." But who is He really? Who does He claim to be?

## **Who Is God - Father God or Mother Nature?**

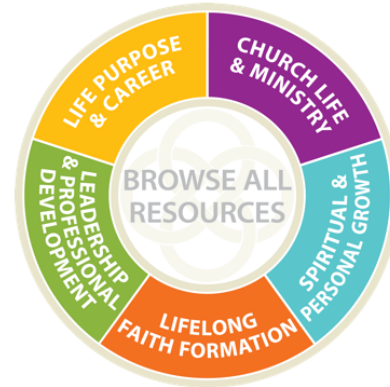
Who is God? What has He revealed about Himself? To begin with, whenever He refers to Himself in parental terms, He always addresses Himself as "Father," never "Mother." He calls Himself "a Father to Israel,"<sup>1</sup> and in one instance, when His "children" were particularly disrespectful to Him, He said to them, "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence?"<sup>2</sup>

# Savvy searches will be specific, iterative, use 'mainline' language

- Bible study
- Bible study resources
- Bible study resources creation care → *narrows to specific topic*
- Bible study resources environmental stewardship → *eliminates “creation care” brand*
- Bible study resources environment creation episcopal → *eliminates generic stewardship resources, zooms in to Episcopal resources*

# Search curated collections to efficiently improve your chances of success

[Center for Spiritual Resources:](#)  
collaborative clearinghouse



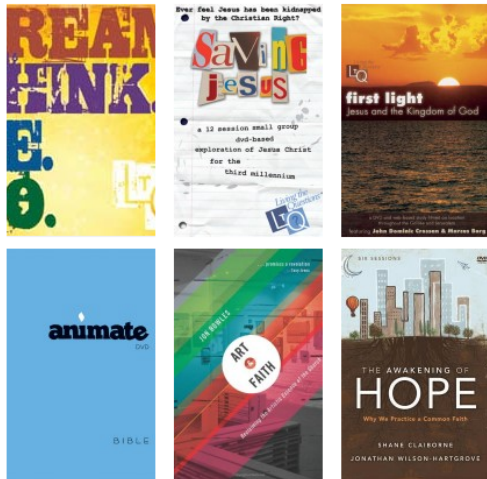
[Vibrant Faith at Home:](#)  
realistic family activity guides

[Videos for Your Soul:](#) engaging,  
embeddable reflection material



# Search curated collections to efficiently improve your chances of success

[Building Faith](#): accessible, practical ministry ideas

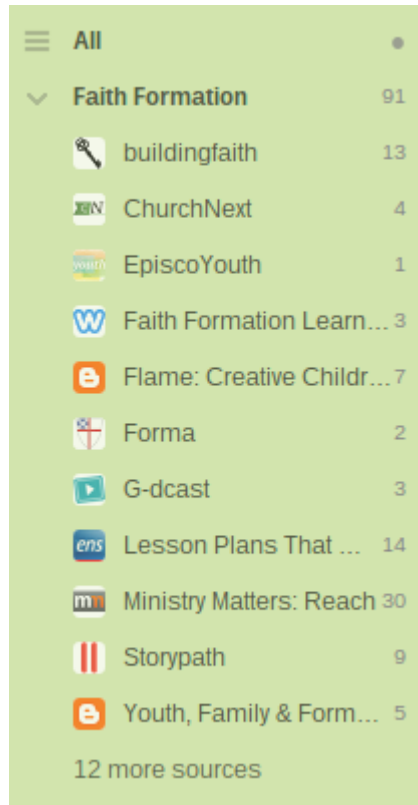


[Resource Center for Churches](#): attractive browsing of traditional congregational resources

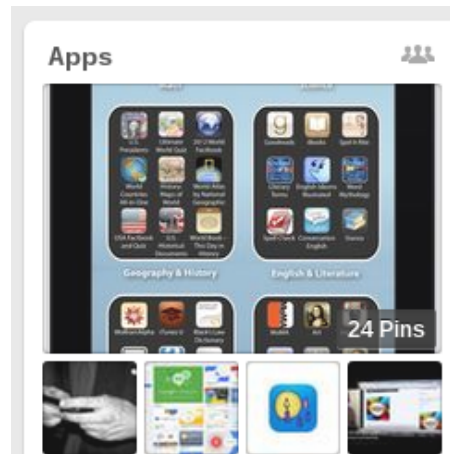
[Storypath](#): children's literature + faith themes



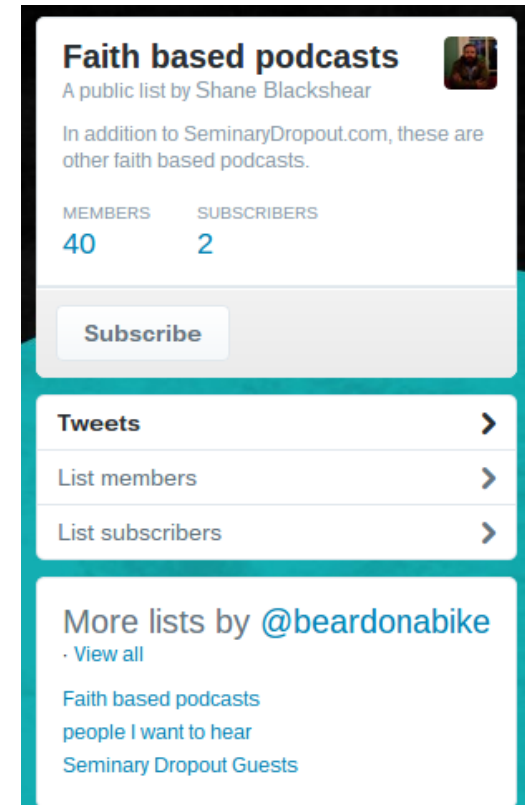
# Collect new resources by subscribing to, liking, following trusted sources



Feed reader



Pinterest!



Twitter lists

# **Sharing online resources**

“Breaking ground and sowing seed”



# Curating resources for others requires “deciding how to decide”

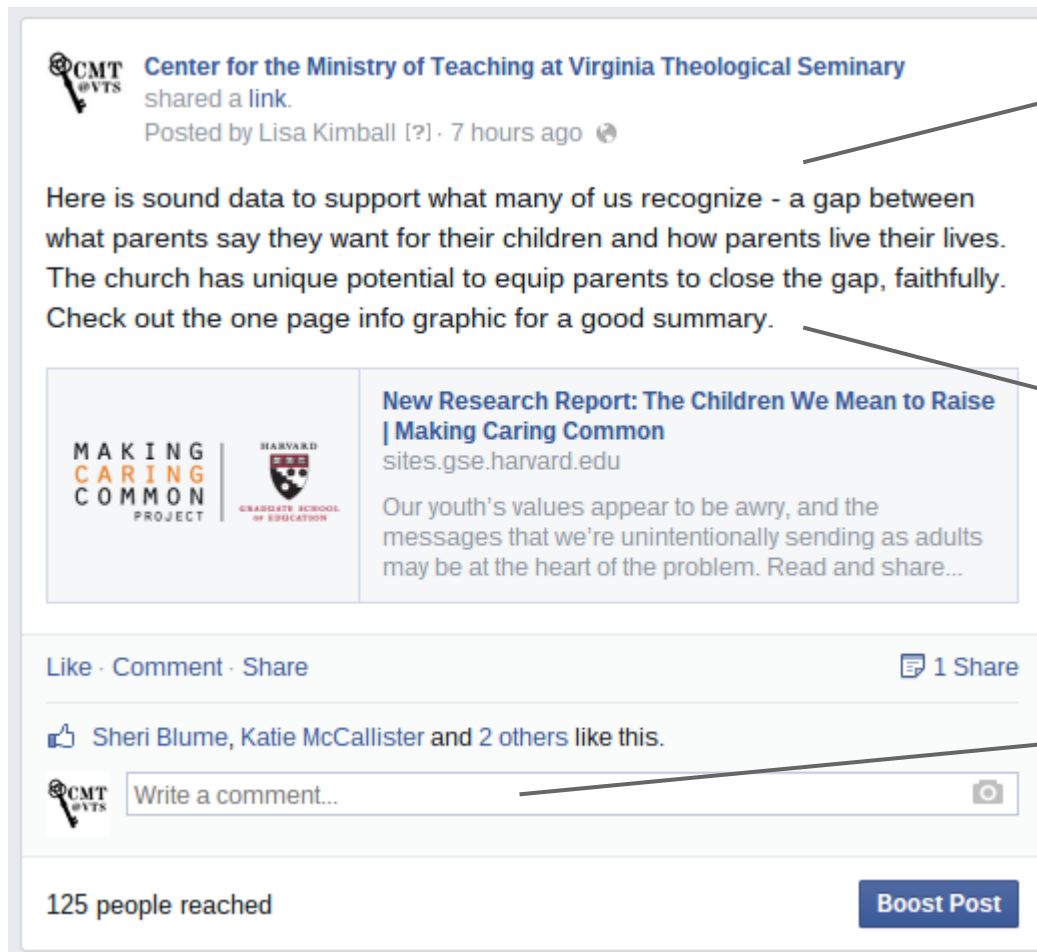
Important criteria include

- theological sensitivity
- Biblical groundedness
- non-expert accessibility
- age-appropriateness

Full list of curation guidelines  
brought to you by [CSR](#) and [CMT](#)



# Get social: Networking with members lets leaders share resources



Don't just share blind link; explain why resource matters

Consider suggesting a starting point

Tag interested parties in a comment, if appropriate

# Supplement your communications: Share in newsletters, sermons when relevant

Reflect on a resource and point others to further information

## Words of Wellness

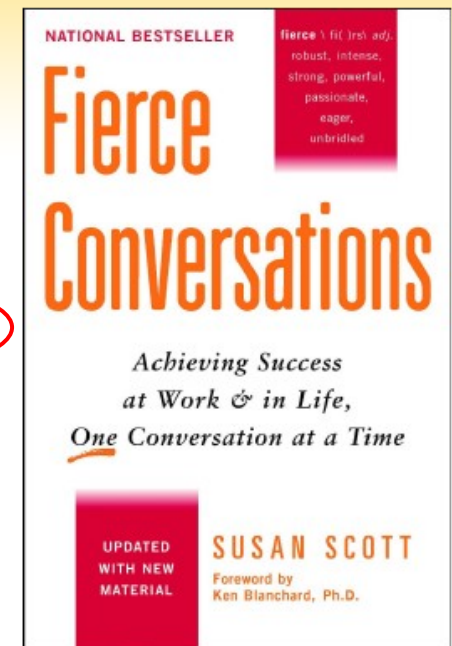
September 12, 2014 | The Rev. Dr. Scott Stoner

### "Gradually, Then Suddenly"

This week I had the honor to co-facilitate with three of my colleagues a two and half day Fierce Conversations workshop for leaders in the Episcopal Church. The Fierce Conversations materials, which include two books and a series of other leadership resources, have had great success and popularity in the business community and are now being used in schools and churches. You can learn more about Fierce Conversations at [www.fierceinc.com](http://www.fierceinc.com).



One of the most important principles taught in the Fierce Conversations materials is based on a line from an Ernest Hemmingway novel. In Hemmingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, a character is asked how he went bankrupt. He answers, "Gradually, then suddenly." Most problems, including bankruptcy, develop gradually and then...suddenly. Fierce Conversations takes this idea and expands it to matters other than one's financial stability, stating, "Our work, our relationships, and, in fact, our very lives succeed or fail, gradually then suddenly, one conversation at a time."

There is much to unpack in this statement but here I would simply like to focus on the phrase, "gradually then suddenly." Most of the time when we experience a "suddenly" in our lives, that "suddenly" follows weeks, months, years, or even decades of "gradually." As problems develop gradually, it is easy to choose not to have



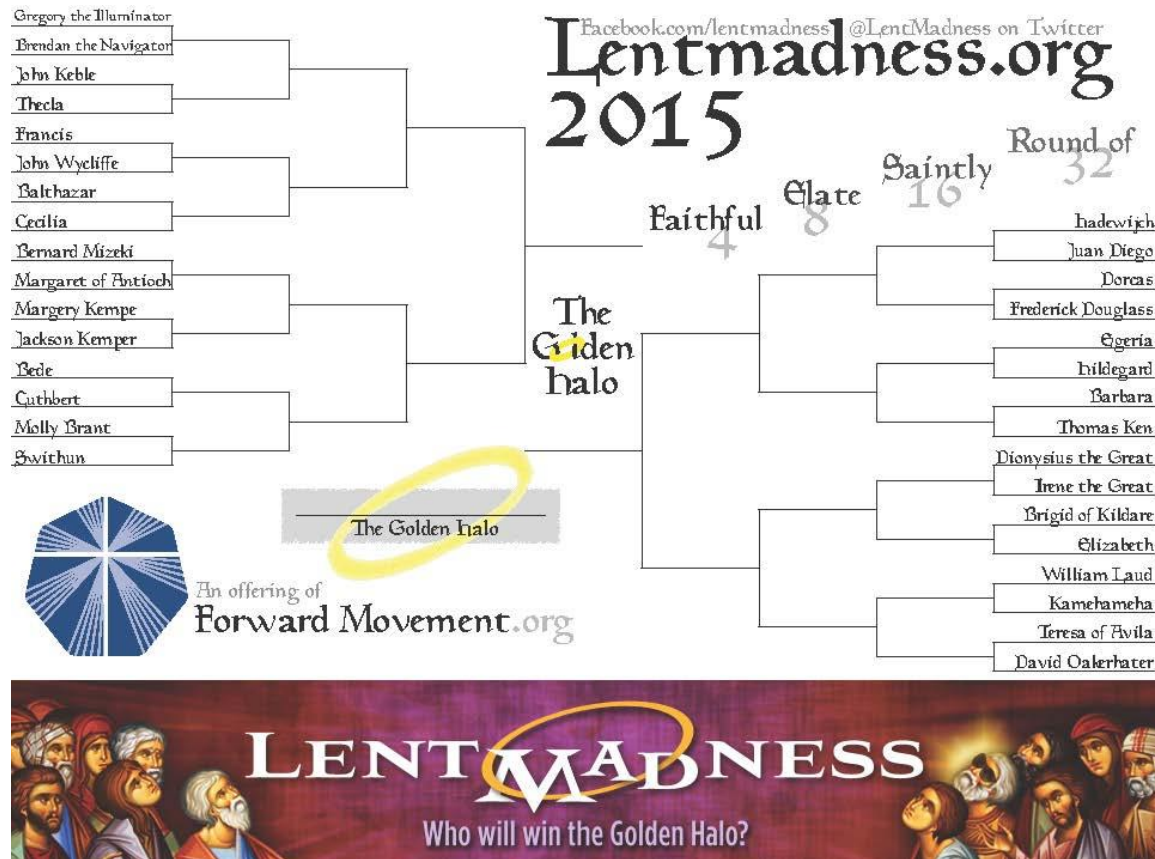
# Gather them up: Consider an online resource center for your congregation

A Washington parish recently launched & dedicated “Spirit Link”

<p><b>Greetings!</b></p>  <p><b>“All who hunger gather gladly.”</b> Those words from a favorite hymn say something about who we are at St. Columba’s. We gather because we yearn to be fed. Our community is built around a holy table where we are nurtured, challenged and transformed in Christ. We are then sent out in loving service to God’s creation. <a href="#">More &gt;&gt;</a></p>	<p><b>Spirit Link is Here!</b></p>  <p><b>Welcome to <a href="#">Spirit Link</a>,</b> the digital resource center of St. Columba’s Episcopal Church. Come explore our spiritual resources for faith formation and education. All persons no matter where they are on their spiritual path may benefit from these rich resources. You do not need to be a parishioner to use it, but we <a href="#">invite</a> you to become one!</p>
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Read [more about the launch](#), or about [more resource sources](#)

# Learn in community: Increase motivation, accountability by participating together



E.g., get your whole parish to play [Lent Madness](https://www.lentmadness.org/) together

# **Questions & Conversation**

# Follow the Center for the Ministry of Teaching for resources & reviews.

- [www.vts.edu/cmt/connect](http://www.vts.edu/cmt/connect)
- [www.keyhallonline.org](http://www.keyhallonline.org)
- [facebook.com/VTSCMT](https://facebook.com/VTSCMT)
- [facebook.com/eformationvts](https://facebook.com/eformationvts)
- [twitter.com/VTSCMT](https://twitter.com/VTSCMT)
- [vts-cmt.tumblr.com](http://vts-cmt.tumblr.com)
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