



Church Officer Development
Foothills Presbytery Resource Center
Greenville, SC
February 23, 2008

YOUTH MINISTRY

 <p>277.3083 Lytch</p>	<p>Choosing church: what makes a difference for teens / Carol E. Lytch. Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.</p> <p>Widely known theological educator and sociologist Carol Lytch presents this well-researched study of what attracts teenagers to the church and what keeps them there. The cogent research includes interviews of a number of teenagers and their parents from mainline Protestant, evangelical, and Roman Catholic congregations. Groundbreaking and fascinating, <i>Choosing Church</i> ultimately serves as a highly useful description of the most effective ways that congregations and parents can foster faith in early teenagers that will help them value the church as a place to obtain identity, belonging, and growth.</p> <p>"Without presuming to prescribe a formula for youth ministry for all to follow, Lytch offers a wealth of wisdom that is theologically sound, grounded in excellent research, and practical for use in congregations. In a word, she offers hope to us all." Rodger Nishioka, Associate Professor of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary (Book cover)</p>
 <p>259.23 Dean</p>	<p>The godbearing life: the art of soul tending for youth ministry / Kenda Creasy Dean. Upper Room Books, c1998.</p> <p>In <i>The Godbearing Life</i>, the authors offer a lively spiritual primer and practical guide for those who pastor young people. Dean and Foster rechart a course for youth ministry through the classical spiritual disciplines of the church. The book identifies families, congregations, and mentor relationships as the "holy ground" where young people are most likely to say "Yes!" to God. (From publisher's website)</p>
 <p>259.23 Holderness</p>	<p>Teaming up: shared leadership in youth ministry / Ginny Ward Holderness. Westminster John Knox Press, c1997.</p> <p>"The genius of Ginny's approach is having theory and rationale stated as well as interpreted into action. She provides the reader with actual accounts of her ideas on developing an effective youth-led youth ministry. She instructs the reader on how to enlist effective leaders, both youth and adult, create "lock-ins," and develop a variety of youth retreats that meet the different needs of youth by including a myriad of activities. She also gives actual illustrations of establishing rituals that grow out of youth experience. We all know how important these rituals are in theory, but we are not always sure about what they look like in practice. . . This is a key document for anyone who cares about doing a good job in youth ministry." --Sara Little, from the Foreword</p>
 <p>305.235 Hersch</p>	<p>A tribe apart: a journey into the heart of American adolescence / Patricia Hersch. Ballantine Books, c1999.</p> <p>For three fascinating, disturbing years, writer Patricia Hersch journeyed inside a world that is as familiar as our own children and yet as alien as some exotic culture -- the world of adolescence. As a silent, attentive partner, she followed eight teenagers in the typically American town of Reston, Virginia, listening to their stories, observing their rituals, watching them fulfill their dreams and enact their tragedies. What she found was that America's teens have fashioned a fully defined culture that adults neither see nor imagine -- a culture of unprecedented freedom and baffling complexity, a culture with rules but no structure, values but no clear morality, codes but no consistency. Is it society itself that has created this separate teen community? Resigned to the attitude that adolescents simply live in "a tribe apart," adults have pulled away, relinquishing responsibility and supervision, allowing the unhealthy behaviors of teens to flourish. Ultimately, this rift between adults and teenagers robs both generations of meaningful connections, for everyone's world is made richer and more challenging by having adolescents in it. --Book cover</p>



259.23 Olsen

Youth at risk: ministry to the least, the lost, and the last / Peter Christian Olsen. Pilgrim Press, c2003.

"All teenagers are at risk. At risk is a trait common to all adolescents. They are born that way. Each one of them is dependent upon the society in which they grow up to provide for their needs, and when that society, that culture, those parents, those schools, those communities upon which they depend fail them, they face the consequence of becoming at risk...Youth at Risk is a resource designed for those who do ministry with at-risk youth. In his capacity as a youth ministry and counselor to at-risk students, Olsen has become astutely aware of four very basic needs that affect the development of all young people: acceptance-belonging, new beginning and second chances-forgiveness, significance-generosity, freedom-independence. --Adapted from book cover



268.433 Miller

Making God real for a new generation: ministry with millennials born from 1982 to 1999 / Craig Kenneth Miller. Discipleship Resources, c2003.

The Millennial Generation is on the verge of a key moment in its life. By 2006, we will see a youth boom larger than any of the youth booms of the past. Fueled by the largest generation the world has ever seen, this youth boom will shape the values and trends for the next twenty years. This resource is the voice of many contributors: clergy, laity, and specialists in the fields of Christian education, youth and young adults, generation studies, age-level ministries, and family ministries.