Wood Lake has been telling stories for more than 35 years.

During that time, it has given form and substance to the words, songs, pictures and ideas of hundreds of storytellers.

Those stories have taken a multitude of forms — parables, poems, drawings, prayers, epiphanies, songs, books, paintings, hymns, and curricula.

Wood Lake uses the ancient and enduring art form of storytelling to connect, educate, and inspire readers of every age and culture.
Donald Schmidt has had a love affair with the Bible for many years. Rather than something to be worshipped, he sees it as an amazing tool and way to learn more about God and ourselves. He holds MDiv and DMin degrees, as well as undergraduate degrees in theology and Jewish studies. He has been in active ministry in a variety of churches in both Canada and the USA for almost 40 years and, in his spare time, likes to work with wool – knitting, spinning, and weaving.

Donald Schmidt

Easter for Progressive Christians
A Five Session Study Guide
Donald Schmidt

This guide does not set out to “prove” or “disprove” that Jesus physically rose on Easter Sunday. Instead, it invites participants to engage with the biblical stories of Christ’s resurrection to try to understand what the gospel writers meant to tell us, what they wanted us to take from these stories. They did not set out to prove a point of history; they wrote them down because these stories had transformed their own lives, and the lives of many others at the time.

ISBN 978-1-77343-150-5 | 5.5” x 8” | 100 PP | Paperback | $14.95

Birth of Jesus for Progressive Christians
A Five Session Study Guide
Donald Schmidt

What if the Christmas story is not really what we think it is? What if things happened differently than tradition has maintained over the centuries? What if the biblical account differs—sometimes quite substantially—from the story most of us know from the nativity plays we participated in as children, or that our own children or grandchildren participate in? And what if the truth the authors of those stories are pointing to is not that Jesus was born in a miraculous way, but something that goes much deeper?

ISBN 978-1-77343-287-8 | 5.5” x 8” | 80 PP | Paperback | $14.95

Death of Jesus for Progressive Christians
A Five Session Study Guide
Donald Schmidt

The resurrection of Jesus is, of course, the most important event for Christians, yet the events that led up to it are almost as important. According to all the biblical sources and a wide variety of non-biblical texts, Jesus was put to death because the message he brought threatened the powerful of his era. There are many more nuances than that, of course, and lots of ways one can spin the story to make one’s point, but the simplest truth is that the gospel message was too toxic for the imperial stomach to bear.

ISBN 978-1-77343-279-3 | 5.5” x 8” | 96 PP | Paperback | $14.95

Also available
Revelation for Progressive Christians

Coming Fall 2020
Creation for Progressive Christians
Responsive Prayers
For Every Week of the Church Year
Year B, Revised Common Lectionary
David Sparks

By inviting the congregation to participate in the worship prayers, leaders will nurture the growth and engagement of everyone in the gathered community.

Responsive Prayers offers an entire year’s worth of responsive prayers that can be adapted to a variety of settings and circumstances. This collection includes full prayers for the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Words of Assurance, Offering Prayer, and Commissioning, as well as an outline for the Pastoral Prayer, for each Sunday of the lectionary year. Some weeks include additional prayer options. Includes a scripture index. Authorization to reproduce and freely adapt all the prayers in the collection for use in worship in the local congregation is included with the purchase of the book.

An eminently useful collection of worship resources tailored for the lectionary year. – The United Church Observer

Responsive Prayers
Years A and C

The Family Story Bible, 3rd Edition
Ralph Milton and Margaret Kyle

From its first publication, The Family Story Bible has held a special place among children’s Bibles. Its use of inclusive language for God, its emphasis on stories that depict a God of love, its commitment to telling the stories of the women as well as the men in the Bible, its positive and life-affirming tone – all of these things have made The Family Story Bible a modern classic of children’s religious literature. Every bit as marvellous as the text by Ralph Milton, Margaret Kyle’s art – bright and colourful, full of wonder and joy – pulls it all together and helps bring the stories to life in the imaginations of children and adults alike.

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Imagine a Joyful Economy
James Gustave Speth & Peter Denton

James Gustave (Gus) Speth and Peter Denton – world experts in their respective fields – are two voices to which we should listen. Co-chair of the Next System Project, Speth argues that despite victories in environmental law, habitat protection and conservation, the momentum of the destructive path we are on, driven by profit and the desire for perpetual growth, has only accelerated toward planetary catastrophe.

“We desperately need a new American Dream,” says Speth, “a dream of an America where the pursuit of happiness is sought not in more getting and spending, but in the growth of human solidarity, devoted friendship, and meaningful accomplishment; where the average person is empowered to achieve his or her human potential; where the benefits of economic activity are widely and equitably shared; where democracy and civic participation flourish at all levels; where the environment is sustained for current and future generations; and, where the virtues of simple living, community self-reliance, good fellowship, and respect for nature predominate. These traditions do not always prevail today, but they are not dead. They await us, and indeed they are currently being awakened across America.”

Looking at Christianity’s role, Denton sees both complicity in the destruction of the natural world, and the positive role it could still play. “Faith is entirely personal and individual, but it can also be collective and communal. Faith can mobilize whole communities into action, to ends which are both practical and which bring glory to God – and which transform our world in the direction of a sustainable future, one better choice at a time.”

ISBN 978-1-77343-161-1 | 4.75" x 7" | 80 PP | $12.95

The Architecture of Hope
Douglas MacLeod

“Our communities are overpriced, poisonous, overcrowded, unhealthy, wasteful energy pigs – not because they have to be but because it suits the vested interests that build, operate, and control them…” Strong words spoken by a character in The Architecture of Hope, Doug MacLeod’s compelling glimpse into the near future. And yet this is not, at its core, a work fiction. The Architecture of Hope offers an immediately compelling glimpse into the future, a near future only 15 years hence, in which we can live and work together to build better communities for tomorrow. Set in the fictitious town of Hope in the Okanagan Valley, it imagines the idea of cooperative communities where people can produce more energy than they use; purify more water than they pollute; grow more food than they consume; and recycle more waste than they produce, with technologies that already exist, or that will be within our grasp in a few years. Most important of all, the people of the community own and profit from these resources. The Architecture of Hope depicts a way of living that is decentralized, re-localized, and regenerative.

As one of the characters notes, “The big idea is that we could restore rather than destroy; we could produce rather than consume; and we could purify rather than pollute – not just the Earth but our bodies and minds as well.”

ISBN 978-1-77343-174-1 | 4.75" x 7" | 80 PP | $12.95
Recent Releases

Prayer for People Who Don’t Believe in God
Vance Morgan

Many progressive Christians struggle with prayer – or, at least, with the kinds of prayer they are often exposed to: shouted, whispered, forceful, timid, begging, and demanding; everything from essay length unscripted petitions, to poetry read from a book, to rote recitations that no one pays much attention to, to pronouncements, to communications in a “prayer language.”

This is not an academic book, nor a “how-to” document. Rather, it poses questions that are important to progressive Christians and to the “spiritual but not religious.” Working only with the assumption that prayer might have value even for those who are not sure what, or who, or even if God is, this book is about opening oneself to the “possibility of God.”

ISBN 978-1-77343-164-2  | 5.75" x 8.5" | 160 PP | $19.95

Power for Life
Inspirational Guidance for Daily Living
David Sharp

There are many ways to grow spiritually. Learning, especially spiritual learning, involves an enduring change in behaviour. The questions and reflections in this book are meant to encourage spiritual growth in daily increments. In other words, this book reflects a slow and steady approach to spiritual growth and learning, with each daily encouragement connected to the day before.

ISBN 978-1-77343-159-8 | 6" x 9" | 248 pages | $24.95

Activist Alphabet
Donna Sinclair

This book is aimed at people of faith who find themselves involved in resistance of any kind; but especially against those projects that hurt creation. Like pipelines or large dams or massive quarries. It will have 26 sections, each under a different letter of the alphabet. Some sections may emphasize more than one word. For instance C is for Community, Congregation, Courage. In the case of multiple readings each one will be shorter, of course.

ISBN 978-1-77343-154-3 | 5.5" x 8.5" | 176 pages | $19.95

Universal Spirit
The Seasons of the Christian Year in the Company of Northrop Frye
Don Collett

To a church that increasingly addresses itself to bibliically illiterate people, to people who may have little or no church experience, and to those who simply call themselves spiritual-but-not-religious, Don Collett’s look at the Christian year inspired by the work of the great Canadian scholar Northrop Frye offers a priceless gift.

ISBN 978-1-77343-034-8 | 5.5" x 8.5" | 192 PP | $24.95
**Recent Releases**

**Read, Wonder, Listen**
*Stories from the Bible for Young Readers*
*Laura Alary and Ann Sheng*

“Every person who tells these stories does it in a slightly different way. And every person who reads these stories hears something a bit different. So even though these stories are very old, they are also always new.” So writes Laura Alary in the Introduction to the new children’s story Bible Read, Wonder, Listen. Alary combines her gift for telling the biblical stories, with historical research, contemporary concerns about language, and a compassionate and inclusive theology, making Read, Wonder, Listen a perfect children’s Bible for progressive Christians.

ISBN 978-1-77343-041-6 | 8.25” x 11” | 244 PP | Hardcover | $24.95

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**Radical Gifts**
*Living the Full Christian Life in Troubled Times*
*Gene W. Marshall*

“We are living in the midst of a turning point in the history of Christianity that is more radical than the Reformation period, perhaps as radical as the birth of Christianity itself. This emerging form of Christianity is so new that it does not seem to be Christianity at all to many people.” Progressive Christians will be immediately drawn to Marshall’s discussions of “Spirit” sickness and how to heal it, his reflections on the nature of God, the relevance of the life of Jesus for people today, and the importance of community and of ethical thinking, which are fresh and challenging.

ISBN 978-1-77343-147-5 | 6” x 9” | 264 PP | $19.95

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**Superabundantly Alive**
*Thomas Merton’s Dance with the Feminine*
*Susan McCaslin and J.S. Porter*

In these early though fruitful days of Merton scholarship, we are well-advised to lift our heads from our desks briefly in order to reflect on Thomas Merton the human being, along with our dedication to his writings and influence. How often have those of us who have devoted our minds to his thought also gathered to listen to the stories told by those who knew him ... the carefully drawn portraits of his “uncaged mind,” his ability to “see around corners,” his prophetic understanding of social inequities, and his profound concern for the America that he saw well ahead of what we observe around us today.

ISBN 978-1-77343-035-5 | 6” x 9” | 240 PP | $24.95

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**Revelation for Progressive Christians**
*A Seven Session Study Guide*
*Donald Schmidt*

More material has probably been written about the biblical book of Revelation than the rest of the Bible combined – or at least it can seem that way. What’s more, people who write or talk about Revelation often have a passion that defies all logic. They speak vividly and forcefully about plagues, and judgments, and the end of the world. All interesting themes – but are they the real concern or message of Revelation?

ISBN 978-1-77343-150-5 | 5.5” x 8” | 100 PP | Paperback | $14.95
Recent Releases

**The Gift of Story**

*Ralph Milton*

In *The Gift of Story*, Ralph Milton romps through a lively reflection on what stories mean to humans, “the storytelling animal,” how we can all use stories to enrich our lives, and rejoice in the complementary role that stories and the logic of science play in our lives.

*The Gift of Story* picks up where Milton’s live StoryFest events leave off. Those events – led by gifted musicians, artists, and storytellers – were designed to provide a spiritual “shot in the arm, focusing on evocative Bible stories and personal faith experiences.” The 10 StoryFest videos and other downloads, available at www.woodlakebooks.com/storyfest, help people come together to enjoy the rich and varied stories of the Bible, and discover ways those stories connect with their lives.

978-1-77343-032-4 | 6” x 9” | 240 PP | $19.95

**Our Spirits Aligned**

*Aboriginal Voices of Healing and Reconciliation*

*JoAnn Restoule, Wedlidi Speck, Karen Close*

How does one define reconciliation in a way that gives meaning to those who have experienced and suffered from colonization and to those who have not? Is it even possible? This book presents a collection of storytellers who have set out to do just that. As Wedlidi Speck states in his introduction to this important book: “By sharing the stories in this book, we hope each reader will find a role in reconciliation by placing all these stories together in a mixing bowl of sorts and coming up with a broader view that will heighten our country’s cultural awareness, deepen Canadian sensitivity, sharpen Canadian agility and grow cultural safety in all our country’s homes, villages and work spaces.”

ISBN 978-1-77343-157-4 | 4.75” x 7” | 100 PP | $12.95

**Sorry**

*Why Our Church Apologized*

*Carolyn Pogue, Bill Phipps, Maggie McLeod, & Stanley McKay*

Sometimes it is not so hard to say sorry. Sometimes it is very hard. What matters most is meaning it when you say it. This is the story of why the United Church people apologized for the suffering caused by the Indian Residential Schools.

ISBN 978-1-77064-803-6 | 26 PP | 5.5” x 8.5” | Paper | $9.95
In one of his best-known songs, Bruce Cockburn sings about “lovers in a dangerous time.” Well, there’s no doubt that our world is under siege and that we are living in a dangerous time. With massive crises threatening life all over our planet – economic crises, social crises, ecological crises, the list goes on and on – our faith can’t afford to ignore the reality of our diverse and fragile world. Our faith needs to move or inspire us to get our hands not just dirty, but downright bruised and bloody as we work against the tremendous forces of hatred, death, and suffering in our world.

That’s what this third volume in the “Faith Forward” series is about. Like the other books in this series, Faith Forward Volume 3 collects the wisdom of some of the leading “thinkers” and “shakers” and “movers” in the arena of ministry with children and youth, including Alaa Basatneh, Brian D. McLaren, Soong-Chan Rah, Waltrina N. Middleton, Daniel White Hodge, Lisa and Mark Scandrette, Marcia J. Bunge, Leslie Neugent, Ivy Beckwith, Eboo Patel, Almeda M. Wright, and Amy K. Butler.

ISBN 978-1-77343-027-0 | 6” x 9” | 208 PP | Paperback | $19.95

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ISBN 978-1-77064-574-5 | 6” x 9” | 288 PP | Paperback | $29.95
Faith Forward Volume 2
Faith Forward 3 Volume Set
ISBN 978-1-77343-165-9 | 6” x 9” | Paperback | $59.95

Meet Aleda Vastag – a feisty, single, female pastor who wears red rubber boots, keeps a cranky old horse as a pet, and doesn’t mind a good drink, sometimes even in the church basement!

Newly established as the parish’s first female pastor, Aleda struggles with feelings of inadequacy and questions the relevance of her ministry as she faces all the characters and challenges, both large and small, that define village life. What happens when the strawberry social is threatened, and when a tragedy shakes the village to its core? The Season for Strawberries is a heartwarming and heartbreaking tale brimming with all the joys and sorrows of real life.

Dorothy Brown Henderson lives in Exeter, Ontario, Canada. The Season for Strawberries is her first novel, although she has many previous publications including a cookbook, Loving it Local: Preparing delicious fresh local food, published in 2014.

ISBN 978-1-77343-143-7 | 6” x 9” | 272 PP | Paperback | $19.95

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Reviving a Sense of the Sacred in Everyday Life
Tom Stella
“The fact that you are not dead is not sufficient proof that you are alive!” So begins Tom Stella’s insightful, important, and inspiring exploration into the life, death, and rebirth of the soul. He shares the deep, eternal wisdom that knows that the lines separating the sacred and the secular, time and eternity, humanity and divinity, are false. Or, at the very least, blurred. God, by whatever name, is found in the midst of everyday life, work, and relationships. All people, all creation, and all of life is holy ground. This remarkable book offers a revival for the soul, a reminder that “we are one with something vast” – a “something” that “is not a thing or a person, but a spiritual source and force at the heart of life.”
ISBN 978-1-77343-039-3 | 5” x 8.5” | 248 PP | Paper | $19.95

Passion & Peace
The Poetry of Uplift for All Occasions
Compiled by Diane Tucker
All cultures we know of, at all times, have had poetry of one sort or another – chants, songs, lullabies, epics, blessings, farewells – to mark life’s most important moments, transitions, and transformations. Ever since our species began using words, we have arranged them to please, to experience the pleasures, the fun, of rhythm and rhyme, repetition and pattern. Passion & Peace: The Poetry of Uplift for All Occasions was compiled to speak directly to this deep human need, with 120 of the best poems from almost as many classical and contemporary poets, and including a thematic index. A welcome addition to any library and the perfect gift for any occasion, Passion & Peace is a heartwarming, uplifting, and inspirational volume.
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Carolyn Cowan & Karen Close
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Keri K. Wehlander
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Saleema Noon & Meg Hickling
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Maggie Reigh
Many parents are waking up to the fact that parenting is not about controlling their children, but about empowering themselves and their children. 9 Ways to Bring Out the Best in You and Your Child is about turning power struggles into powerful relationships. It is about raising children who are full of spirit and life, and about teaching them to be caring human beings. Reigh shows parents how to raise respectful, responsible, and resilient children, and at the same time, add more life and laughter to their children’s lives and their own.
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Louise Cummings
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*Wendy Read*

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Lee Simpson
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Simpson invites readers into her world to witness first hand the struggles she faced, the decisions and compromises she had to make, and the epiphanies and wisdom she won during her year-long attempt to shed her “consumer” skin and live a more sustainable, more authentic, more earth-friendly life.
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*Donna Schaper*

Donna Schaper offers encouragement and advice on how to leave the land of famine and find a seat at the feast. Discussing and then moving beyond the systemic sources of the time famine, Schaper’s ultimate goal is to explore “the inner way, the way we have internalized the commandments of multiple systems and feel bad or wrong or in violation or out of compliance if we don’t obey our orders to be busy, active, connected, overworked, and time famished.” Schaper provides a spiritual practice for each week of the year, designed to bring us to our place of feast.

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*Donna Sinclair*

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*Lois Huey-Heck*

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*Laura Alary*  
*Illustrated by Ariane Elsammak*

What Jesse wants most is a guitar. But it seems beyond his reach. His mom can’t afford to buy him one, but she gives him an ocarina instead. Jesse is grateful and disappointed at the same time, so he goes out for a walk. Along the way he meets others who need his help. He gives what he can and learns that we can’t always predict the results of our actions.

Author Laura Alary’s charming story is full of unexpected twists and is based on a well-loved tale from India about giving (and receiving). Ariane Elsammak’s whimsical illustrations draw us into the story, as we journey with Jesse and find ourselves surprised at how open-hearted giving is a gift in itself.  
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*Laura Alary*  
*Illustrated by William Kimber*

Victor loves his pink (accident-in-the-washing-machine) pyjamas. But not everyone does. His father and sister think pink is just for girls. But Victor knows that lots of wonderful things are pink – like strawberry ice cream, bubble gum, and walruses basking in the sun – and they’re not just for girls. What will happen when Victor outgrows his pink pyjamas and needs a new pair? This engaging and humorous book explores what it is like to make choices that are different from the cultural norm.  
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*David Giuliano*  
*Illustrated by Meghan Irvine*

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*Laura Alary*  
*Illustrated by Margaret Kyle*

In words and images sure to delight children and adults alike, *Is That Story True?* explores the kinds of “truth” that live within the stories we tell. As Maggie listens to a story about a little girl who grew up on the prairies, about a ruler who cut a knot in two, about a shepherd who went looking for a lost sheep, about a king who made a foolish wish, and finally, about a giant who lived in a beautiful garden, she discovers that some stories are true because they actually happened.  
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**Donna Sinclair**
Illustrated by William Kimber

When Tommy’s dog, Paddy, dies, Tommy is sad. He doesn’t want another dog. He just wants Paddy. Then an angel visits Tommy. The angel reminds Tommy that he was a great dog owner, and that Paddy loved him very much – as much as Tommy loved Paddy. Tommy finds that his heart can hold even more than his enormous love for Paddy. This gentle and honest look at the loss of a loved one ends with “I wonder” questions for children, and a section for adults on talking to children about loss.

ISBN 978-1-77064-569-1 | 8” x 9” | 32 PP | Paper | $12.95

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**David Giuliano**
Illustrated by Marlene McBrien

There’s an alligator in her pillow and she needs mom and dad to make it go away. Over a few nights, Naomi’s parents groggily try different approaches to rid Naomi’s pillow of the alligator, but in the end it is Naomi who comes up with a way to face her scary nocturnal visitor. Naomi’s parents gently and sleepily allow her to explore her fear of the alligator in a supportive way. What can be seen as a troubling and upsetting event (for both parents and child) is sensitively and realistically dealt with by a deft and light hand.

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**How Do I Pray for Grandpa?**
**Laura Alary**
Illustrated by William Kimber

Miriam’s Grandpa gets ill one day and everyone in the family is worried. Miriam asks God to make Grandpa better, but he stays sick. During this time, Miriam finds that there are many ways to see and speak to God, and that prayer may not be answered in the way we would like it. She learns that prayer can be like many things – bubbles in the wind, or water being soaked up by plant roots, and that prayer can always comfort, whether we are aware of it or not. This is book is a gentle exploration of how children might pray, and how adults can help them understand some of the mystery of prayer.

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**Nancy C. Reeves & Linnea Good**

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