



## Florida United Church of Christ Women

### Reading for Renewal List

2011 - 2012

# *Growing in God's Garden*

Any number of books from the list that are read during the year should be reported. Reports are due in February 2012 to the church's Reading for Renewal Chair.

A qualified reader must read SIX (6) books from the list, including one Mission Study Book on the Carribbean Islands.

In addition to retail bookstores, the books are available at many public libraries and from on-line booksellers such as BN.com, booksamillion.com and Amazon.com. Most are available in more than one format, including large type, compact disk, and various kinds of electronic media.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Florida UCC Women Reading for Renewal Chair Barb Coons at (239) 549-8283 or [kayebarb3344@aol.com](mailto:kayebarb3344@aol.com) (please reference Reading for Renewal in the subject line). You may also send her information about books to be considered for next year's reading list.

# Reading for Renewal List - 2011 - 2012

Books are listed alphabetically by title. F = Fiction, NF – Non-fiction

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1. **Ape House** by Sara Gruen. (F) A family of apes teaches us what it means to be human in this riveting, funny, compassionate and deeply moving novel.
2. **The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein. (F) Take a look at the human condition through the eyes of a dog. Enzo is the constant companion of race-car driver Danny Swift, sticking by his side through all of life's peaks and valleys.
3. **City of Refuge** by Tom Piazza. (F) Katrina is the catalyst for the dissection of the catastrophic effect of the hurricane on two disparate families, one black, one white who are driven from their homes, forced to live in shelters, and forging new lives in other areas of the country.
4. **Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World** by Harold S. Kushner. (NF) Drawing on religious and secular literature and true stories of people who have faced their fears, Kushner helps us see that fear can present us with extraordinary opportunities.
5. **The Cross Gardener** by Jason Wright. (F) Filled with sorrow over the fatal car accident of his wife and their unborn child, John Bevan erects a small cross near the scene of the accident and then withdraws from life and love until he meets the mysterious Cross Gardener.
6. **Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese. (F) An enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home. Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon at a mission hospital in Addis Ababa.
7. **Flashback** by Nevada Barr. (F) Running from a marriage proposal, Anna Pigeon takes a post as a temporary supervisory ranger on remote Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas National Park. A tangled web woven before she arrived begins to threaten her sanity and her life.
8. **Half the Sky** by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. (NF) Two Pulitzer Prize winners issue a call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women in the developing world.
9. **Honolulu** by Alan Brennert. (F) Unforgettable story of a young "picture bride" who journeys to Hawai'i in 1914 in search of a better life. Instead of the affluent young husband and chance at an education that she has been promised, she is quickly married off to a poor, embittered laborer who takes his frustrations out on his new wife.

10. **Infinity in the Palm of Her Hand** by Gioconda Belli. (F) In this lyrical retelling of Adam and Eve, the serpent tempts Eve with freedom equal to that of Elokim, the god who created them. This act results in confusion about worlds seen and unseen.
11. **Little Bee** by Chris Cleave. (F) Londoners Saran and Andrew, in a last ditch effort to save their marriage, vacation in Nigeria, oblivious to the suffering around them until a traumatic incident forever changes the trajectory of the lives of everyone involved.
12. **Matters of Faith** by Kristy Kiernan. (F) The Southwest Florida author tells of a young man's search for faith and its unintended consequences. The story tests not only faith, but the limits of family, forgiveness, and our need to believe.
13. **One Simple Act: Discovering the Power of Generosity** by Debbie Macomber. (NF) This illustrates how simple acts of generosity have lasting life-changing impact on both recipients and givers by sharing true stories of random acts of kindness.
14. **Orchid Thief** by Susan Orlean. (NF) This story of beauty and obsession in Florida weaves a seductive talk of plant smugglers, swamp explorers, and the strange effects orchids have on the eccentric collectors who must possess them.
15. **Outlive Your Life: You Were Made to Make a Difference** by Max Lucaddo. (NF) This are difficult days in our world's history. We've been given an opportunity to make a big difference. Let's live our lives in such a way that the world will be glad we did.
16. **The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane** by Katherine Howe. (F) While readying her grandmother's abandoned home for sale, Connie discovers an ancient key in a 17<sup>th</sup> century Bible with a scrap of parchment bearing the name Deliverance Dane.
17. **Skeletons at the Feast** by Charles Bohjalian. (F) As Hitler's Third Reich crumbles, an aristocratic Prussian woman and her child flee west away from the approaching Russian army, eventually forming an unlikely alliance with a concentration camp escapee.
18. **South of Broad** by Pat Conroy. (F) A brother's suicide results in Leopold Bloom Kings' developing enduring friendships that are ultimately tested in an unexpected way.
19. **Spoken from the Heart** by Laura Bush. (NF) Laura Bush tells with compassion, humor, and grace the story of her unique journey from dusty Midland, Texas, to the world stage and the White House
20. **Still Alice** by Lisa Genova. (F) Alice, in the prime of her life at 50, plummets into a desperate battle with Alzheimer's disease. Heartbreaking, inspiring and terrifying, this novel captures in remarkable detail what it is like to literally lose your mind.
21. **Take One** by Karen Kingsbury. (F) The first book in the Above the Line Series follows two unknown producers as they struggle to make a name for themselves while being true to their religious beliefs.

22. **Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother-Daughter Story** by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor. (NF) A wise and involving book about feminine thresholds, spiritual growth, and renewal, this is a revealing self-portrait by the beloved author of "The Secret Life of Bees" and her daughter, a writer in the making.
23. **True Compass: A Memoir** by Edward Kennedy. (NF) In this landmark autobiography, five years in the making, Sen. Kennedy tells his extraordinary personal story – of his legendary family, politics, and fifty years at the center of national events.
24. **The Year of the Flood** by Margaret Atwood. (F) Adam one, the kindly leader of the God's Gardeners - a religion devoted to the melding of science and religion, as well as the preservation of all plant and animal life - has long predicted a natural disaster that will alter Earth as we know it. Now it has occurred, obliterating most human life.
25. **Zeitoun** by Dave Eggers. (NF) A devastating portrayal of humanity – good and bad – in the days after Hurricane Katrina. Both heartwarming and sad.

## **MISSION STUDY BOOKS on the Caribbean**

1. **Angels of a Lower Flight: One Woman's Mission to Save a Country – One Child at a Time** by Susan Scott Krabacher. (NF) The moving, true story of a former *Playboy* Playmate who rededicated herself to Christianity and is building a world of hope in the small impoverished nation of Haiti, just five hundred miles off the coast of Florida.
2. **A Brief History of the Caribbean: From the Arawak and Carib to the Present** by Jan Rogzinski. (NF) This comprehensive volume takes the reader through more than 500 years of Caribbean history, beginning with Columbus's arrival in 1492. Copyright in 2000, it covers the area through the 1990s.
3. **Caribbean** (World of Food Series) by Jen Green. (NF) Dive into this feast of tasty facts about the food and cooking of the Caribbean. Learn all about the climate, history, religion, and culture of these islands and how they have influenced Caribbean cuisine.
4. **Island beneath the Sea** by Isabel Allende. (F) This is the story of a mulatta woman, a slave and concubine, determined to take control of her own destiny in a society where that would seem impossible. Translated from Spanish, the book begins in the French colony of Haiti in the 1770s and moves to New Orleans.
5. **Leaving Glorytown** by Eduardo F. Calcines. (NF) In this autobiography, a successful American businessman recounts what it was like to grow up under Fidel Castro's rule.
6. **A Trip to the Beach: Living on Island Time in the Caribbean** by Melinda Blanchard and Robert Blanchard. (NF) Sick of their New England bed-and breakfast, a couple opens a restaurant on the Caribbean island they've been visiting and discover that even paradise has its pitfalls.



**2011-2012 READING FOR RENEWAL RECORD SHEET**  
*Due to your church's Reading for Renewal Chair in February 2012*

Each reader is asked to record the books read from this list during the year. Please indicate the books you read by circling the number of the title listing below. Any number of books may be recorded. A qualified reader must read SIX (6) books from the list, including one Mission Study Book on the Caribbean.

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5. The Cross Gardener by Jason Wright
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7. Flashback by Nevada Barr
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**Mission Study Books on the Caribbean**

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Total Number of 2011-2012 Reading for Renewal Books Read: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a Qualified Reader: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Reader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_