

# MennoMedia

## Faith & Life Resources Division

### *Purpose*

STORIES OF FAITH AND PROMISE

#### Monthly themes

*Purpose* is a monthly publication of Faith and Life Resources, a division of MennoMedia. It is intended to nurture adults in their life of Christian discipleship.

Monthly themes for issues of *Purpose* magazine are described in the following listing. These are intended to help writers make informed choices in their submissions for publication in *Purpose* magazine. The descriptions are guidelines only—other topics that fit the theme will be considered.

Guidelines for writers are described in the document, “Writer Guidelines Purpose.” The writer guidelines provide details as to the needs of the magazine. It is available as a download from the website, [www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org). Writers may also contact the editorial office by email to receive electronically the Word files of the writer guidelines and monthly themes.

Carol Duerksen, editor

[CarolD@MennoMedia.org](mailto:CarolD@MennoMedia.org)

August 2012 Celebration

Due Dec 1, 2011

Life markers such as baptisms, weddings, child dedications, significant birthdays give us reason to celebrate. What are the rituals, both traditional and re-imagined, that make these celebrations unique? How do we use celebrations as a time to name and proclaim our faith and our connectedness to our family and faith community?

Sept 2012      Redemption      Due Jan 1, 2012

Redemption is ongoing in our lives, in our communities, and in the earth. Salvation stories and stories of recovery from addictions are natural fits for this theme, but so are stories of redeeming and reclaiming relationships, re-using and restoring material possessions, and re-creating community spirit.

Oct 2012      Widening the Circle      Due Feb 1, 2012

As followers of Jesus, who embraced and called persons from a variety of lifestyles and life situations, we are challenged to discern what that means for us today. How do we relate when we have differences that are political, theological, cultural, and social? How do the words and actions of Jesus provide a model for us to follow?

Nov 2012      Dying Well      Due March 1, 2012

Death is a part of life, so how can we plan to do it well? How do we leave a legacy with our finances and our relationships? How do we make decisions about prolonging life or prolonging death? What are the rituals of dying well? What are ways that we can accompany each other on this journey?

Dec 2012      Expectation (Advent)      Due April 1, 2012

An old German proverb says: "The anticipation is the greatest joy." As we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Christ, we are aware that often the hope is different from the reality. Such was the case for the Jewish people awaiting the Messiah, and such is the case in our lives as well. How do we live in the full joy of expectation, knowing that the reality may be different? Story possibilities include pregnancies and/or adoptions, Advent practices, and examples of hope in everyday life.

Jan 2013      Epiphany      Due May 1, 2012

Epiphany means "appearing or manifestation," and it is a season of taking hold and responding to what has been revealed. The theme will be addressed through stories of divine intervention, such as reflecting on the journey of the kings to see Jesus and their return by another route. We welcome stories of being called in a direction that is different from what was expected. As a result of divine intervention, what are we being called to do? What is being revealed to us?

Feb 2013          Confession (Lent)                      Due June 1, 2012

Lent is a time of letting go, confessing, setting aside, and acknowledging the wilderness in our lives. Confession frees us because of God's love and mercy, and creates space for God's presence in our lives. What are we called to let go of so that God can take over and help us grow? Stories may focus on what we must confess or release so that God's presence is apparent in our lives and we can grow in faith.

March 2013        Proclaiming (Easter)                      Due July 1, 2012

Easter is about new life—spiritual, physical, and emotional. Through Easter we are restored into wholeness, and this restoration gives us another opportunity to live in right-relationships. How are we “risen indeed” with Christ in the Easter story? Stories may focus on how people see signs of resurrection in their lives, and how it is proclaimed in relationships, neighborhoods, and the world.

April 2013        Humor    Due August 1, 2012

Humor can heal, bring hope and comfort, and provide perspective. People can use humor to deal with the pain of their past and difficult memories. Jesus was a joyful person and had a sense of humor in his debates. This issue will address the benefits of humor as well as include funny stories and jokes.

May 2013         Holy Spirit (Pentecost)                      Due Sept 1, 2012

The Holy Spirit enables and empowers us to move from fear to confidence, and it brings together individuals and communities who may have significant differences. Inner nudgings and promptings by the Spirit carry us beyond what we can dream of or carry out on our own. Stories will reflect the Spirit's work in the lives of individuals, congregations, and communities.

June 2013         Belong, Behave, Believe.                      Due Oct 1, 2012

Belonging is outreach and community ministry, behaving is discipleship, and believing is catechism and doctrine. How do we value and prioritize these three aspects of faith? How has that changed through the years? How do these pull us together and when do we struggle with them dividing us? What are the multicultural, generational, and missional aspects?

