Extended Annotated Bibliography

General works on healing and health:

Droege, Thomas A. *The Faith Factor in Healing*. Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1991. Droege lifts up the interdependence between the physical and emotional/spiritual realms of healing. He treats the history of Western understandings of medicine to help us understand how we have gotten to where we are, and suggests ways for faith communities to close the gap between spirituality and the medical establishment.

Droege, Thomas A. *With Open Arms: Receiving Care with Grace and Gratitude*. Bloomington, MN: The Youth and Family Institute, 2005. This helpful guide to learning how to receive, based on Droege's own experience, identifies the limits of a Christianity in which we feel as though it is not okay to receive but only to give.


The Intersection of healing and church, broadly:


Byrd, Julian L. "The Church’s Responsibility to the Person with Cancer". Pages 31-38 in *Journal of Pastoral Counseling*, vol. 10 (Spring-Summer 1975). Based on Gospel accounts of Jesus’ concern for the physical bodies of the people he meets, and understanding salvation as here-and-now as well as then-and-later, Byrd calls for churches to become actively engaged in preventative measures and pastoral care for people with cancer.


worship considerations. Chapter five offers suggestions for congregation-sponsored education on health and wellness issues.


**Counseling**


Hall, Douglas John. “Preaching to People with Cancer: The Eschatology of the Body”. Pages 29-36 in *Journal for Preachers*, vol. 29 no. 2 (Lent 2006). Reflections on mortality and spiritual, emotional, and cultural maturity. Notes the interplay between telos (‘end’ in the sense of purpose) and terminus (‘end’ in the sense of stopping point). There are preaching and counseling perspectives.


Ramshaw, Elaine. *Ritual and Pastoral Care*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1987. From our advisor, this book lays a theoretical and practical groundwork for ritual life that is attentive to pastoral needs, as well as to the liturgical practices that we’ve received and sometimes not questioned.

**Compassionate Presence and Listening**


**Ritual, general**

Epperly, Bruce. *Healing Worship: Purpose and Practice*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2006. Excellent insights into pastoral and theological considerations of providing care to persons facing illness. Among many great suggestions, Epperly offers healing affirmations as a conceptual way to understand how to speak proactively about God’s love without suggesting promises that might not be fulfilled.


Congregational Care and Cancer: Rituals and Resources for Healing Through the Seasons


Ramshaw, Elaine. “Liturgy for Healing”. Pages 9-17 in Liturgy vol. 9, no. 4 (fall 1991): Ritual and Reconciliation. A case for expanding the repertoire of types of rituals that congregations deploy for cancer-related situations, to include, for instance, transition or rites-of-passage rituals. Ramshaw also stresses that we should understand the work of healing as liberation.


Specific Rituals and Practices


Patterson, Rev. Dr. Deborah L. “The Church’s Call to Health Ministry”. In Healing Words for Healing People: Prayers and Meditations for Parish Nurses and Other Health Professionals. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2005.

Phillips, Jan. Divining the Body: Reclaim the Holiness of Your Physical Self. SkyLight Paths Publishing: Woodstock, VT. 2005. This beautiful book seeks to highlight the sacred in all parts of one’s body through prayerful reflections and exercises addressing specific areas (feet, hands, back, organs, etc).

Personal Stories and Testimonies


Bible Study and Prayer Group Reflection


Schaper, Donna. *Healing*. In the series, “insights: Bible Studies for Growing Faith”. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2006. This booklet offers a helpful overview of important healing-related themes as we can discern them from stories and episodes in the Gospels. It is formatted for small-group or individual use.

**Additional Print Resources**


Haugk, Kenneth C., *Don’t Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart: How to Relate to Those Who are Suffering.* St. Louis: Stephen Ministries, 2004. Practical guide for folks visiting with those who are suffering.

Humphrey, Loren J. “New Insights on the Emotional Response of Cancer Patients and their Spouses: Where do they find help?” Pages 149-156 in *Journal of Pastoral Care,* vol. 49 no. 2 (Summer 1995). A clear call for support for caregivers, with some practical suggestions including how doctors are trained, chaplaincy, and trained congregational visitation teams.


**Websites**

www.CaringBridge.org

www.Lotsahelpinghands.com

https://fivewishesonline.agingwithdignity.org/

www.ucc.org/assets/pdfs/totenfest.pdf

www.chreader.org

www.hopeandhealing.org

Faithfully Facing Dying: http://www.ucc.org/justice/health/faithfully-facing-dying/

www.growthhouse.org

Tiffany Vail, “Blue Christmas services a comfort for many”

www.macucc.org/UCNews/dec01/blue.htm