

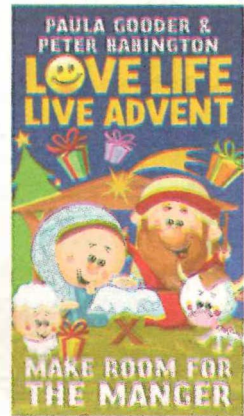
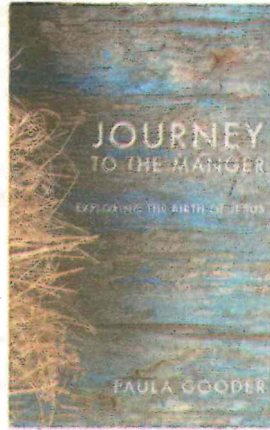
Journey to the Manger

By Paula Gooder
Fortress Press, 176 pp., \$19
www.fortresspress.com

This book explores the New Testament's various accounts of the birth of Jesus: their origins in Old Testament prophecies, the genealogies, the angelic announcements, the journeys and arrivals, and the aftermath of Jesus' birth for the powerful and the poor alike.

Engaging biblical and historical criticism, Paula Gooder uncovers similarities running through the Gospel writers' accounts and focuses on their shared understanding of the significant events they describe.

Her detailed exploration of the texts can provide new perspective on the familiar Christmas stories heard year after year in churches, hymn sings, and nativity plays. It includes devotional reflections and discussion questions.



Love Life, Live Advent: Make Room for the Manger

By Paula Gooder and
Peter Babington
Church Publishing, \$4
www.churchpublishing.org

"Love Life Live Advent" is a colorful booklet designed to heighten a family's anticipation of Christmas and enrich under-

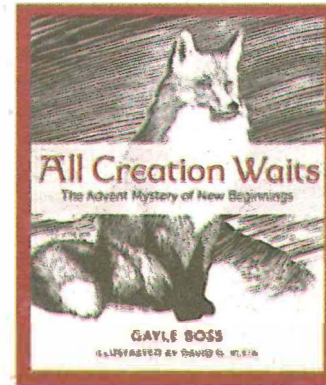
standing of this season of waiting and preparation. It includes a simple prayer and/or activity for children and families to do together every day in December as well as a check-off box to keep track of each idea completed. "Love Life Live Advent" is available separately or in a package of 25 booklets.

All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings

By Gayle Boss
Paraclete Press, \$18.99
www.paracletepress.com

In this book, the reader opens a window each day of Advent onto the natural world. Twenty-five chapters explore the foundational truth that lies beneath and within the Christ story. In portraits depicting how wild animals of the Northern Hemisphere ingeniously adapt when darkness and cold descend, the reader sees the ancient wisdom of Advent: The dark is not an end but the way a new beginning comes.

Short, daily reflections that paint vivid, poetic images of familiar animals, paired with original wood-cuts, are intended to engage children and adults. "All Creation Waits" aims to provide an antidote to the consumer hype of "the holiday season" and a path to eternal truth revealed in the natural world.

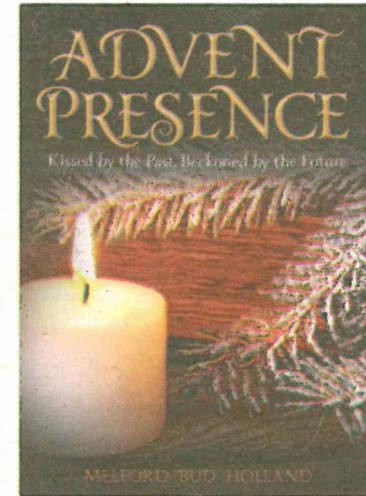


and being thoughtful about the true meaning of Christmas. It also is available in Spanish. ■

Advent Presence

By Melford "Bud" Holland
Church Publishing, \$14
www.churchpublishing.org

One of the themes of Advent is preparing for Christ the Prince of Peace, who is coming again at an unknown time. By using the lens of Christ's call to live a radical



lifestyle by living into the baptismal covenant, one can explore the meaning of Advent to awake oneself to the "Second Coming."

This book looks at the four weeks of Advent through the perspectives of morning, mid-day, late afternoon and evening and night. It explores: What images, energies, awakening

occur during those moments of the day and night? What hopes, work, resting, and dreams will inform spirits and prepare for a new birth and new life?

Throughout the book, photographs, stories and perspectives are offered to enrich the journey and invite the reader other dimensions of experience, seeing Advent not only as a season but also as a resource for daily living.

The book can serve as a devotional for individuals and small groups. ■