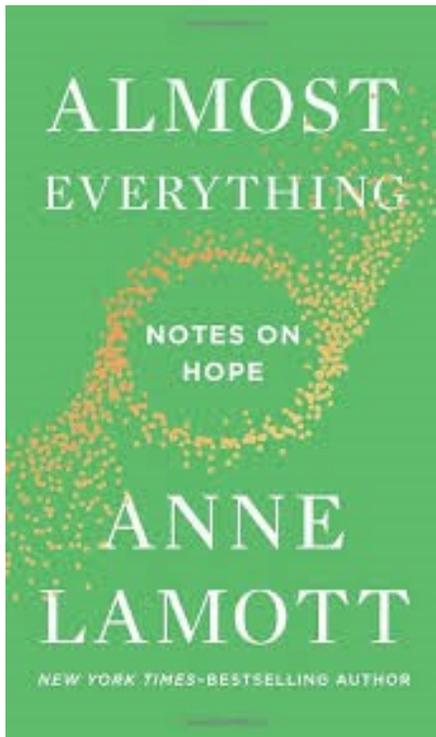


SMALL BOOK GROUPS AT ST. MARK'S—

Sign ups in the church office.

Almost Everything—A 3 Week Study



In her new book *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*, bestselling author and spiritual seeker Anne Lamott attempts to write down some “big” truths she has learned about life and God. In her Prelude (she calls it that instead of a “Preface”) she writes, “In general, it doesn’t feel like the light is making a lot of progress. It feels like death by annoyance.”

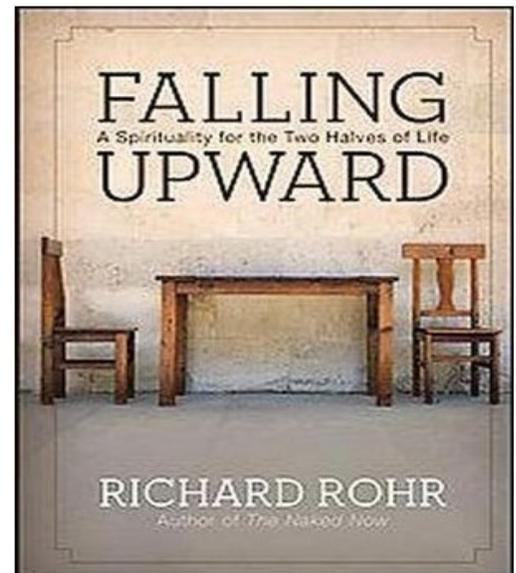
But then she says, “Love and goodness and the world’s beauty and humanity are the reasons we have hope. Yet (no matter what we do) we see that our beauty is being destroyed, crushed by greed and cruel stupidity. And we also see love and tender heart carry the day. Fear, against all odds, leads to community, to bravery and right action, and these give us hope.”

Rev. Craig will lead a three-week study of Lamott’s readable, funny, and insightful book on **Mondays, Feb 25, March 4 and March 11 from 1 to 2:15 p.m. in the New Room**. Books will be available from the church office for \$14, starting Sunday, February 3. It is very helpful if you sign up by emailing, calling, or visiting the church office. Book payment may be made by check, or online via the secure link on the St. Mark’s Giving page.

How Can Our Failings Be the Foundation for Our Ongoing Spiritual Growth?

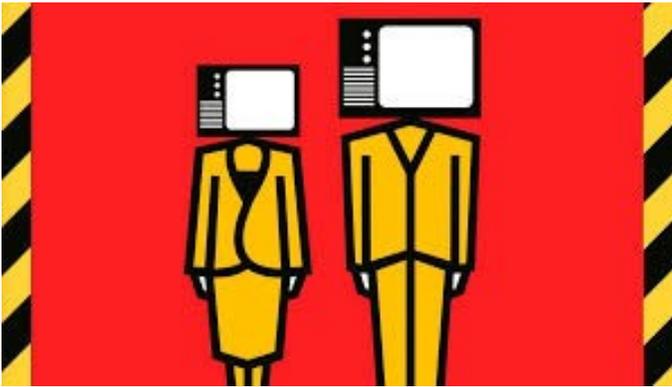
Thinking about your childhood faith, what do you remember believing? What was important to you? How has your faith changed since then? Rev. Jeri will lead a six-week book conversation on Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward, A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* beginning Thursday, March 7 at 6 PM in the New Room. All ages are invited to join in the conversation.

“When you get your, 'Who am I?' question right, all of your, 'What should I do?' questions tend to take care of themselves.”



Keep your spiritual life expanding by joining one or more small book groups during the Lenten season. Sign-up in the church office, call 858-273-1480 or send an email to office@stmarksumcsd.org.

OVER



Where Is God? Monday Lenten Study

More than 10 years ago, Rev. Craig led a study at St. Mark's called "How Have TV and the Internet Changed Us?" A lot has changed since then, especially with the ubiquity of smartphones, fast wireless, Facebook and Twitter. So it's time for a new study!

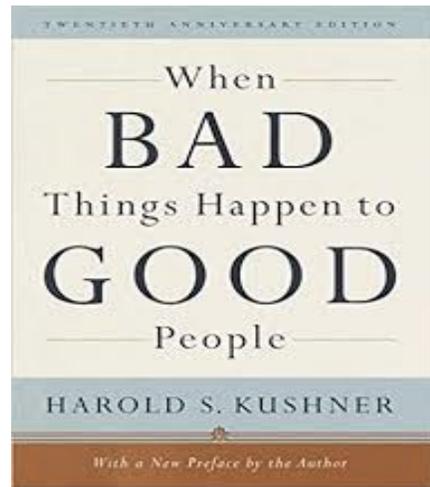
We will look once more at Neil Postman's brilliant and prescient 1985 book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, in addition to Brooke Gladstone's bestseller *The Influencing Machine*, Nicholas Carr's *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*, and several essays reflecting on the uses and abuses of Facebook and Twitter.

This Lenten study is called *Google, TV and Twitter Are Everywhere: Where is God?* It will meet on **four Mondays in Lent: March 25, April 1, 8, and 15, from 1 to 2:15 p.m.** in the New Room. Sign up by e-mailing, calling, or visiting the church office. Study materials will be available in March.

Coming soon

Counseling Psychologist Megan Divine lost her partner in a tragic accident in 2009. In her work and personal life in the years that followed, she learned that our culture just doesn't understand grief and loss. As a result, she has written a book that offers a new and deeper approach to grief, entitled *It's OK That You're Not OK: Meeting Grief and Loss in a Culture That Doesn't Understand*.

In May, plan to join us for a three-week study and reflection, on **Monday May 6, 13, and 20th, from 1 to 2:15 in the New Room.**



When Bad Things Happen to Good People

Tuesday Afternoon Lenten Study

Have you ever wondered why bad things happen? If you have, come join in a book study of Harold Kushner's *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. This book was published in 1980, but the wisdom contained in it is timeless. His writings and our discussions will lead us into a positive way to deal with disastrous situations.

Carol Brown will lead an investigation into the book on **Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 2:30 on March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9th** pondering the various ways that Rabbi Kushner helps us come to terms with these situations. The book will be available in the church office for \$9 by the end of February. Sign up by e-mailing, calling, or visiting the Church office.

