

## Fall books: Reviews

Books in the [October 14, 2015](#) issue



[Rebekka Dunlap](#)

Our fall books issue includes the following reviews:

**Valerie Weaver-Zercher:** [\*Accidental Saints\*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber](#). Readers who found *Pastrix* to be a long, cool drink will find more refreshment here. Those who have tired of Bolz-Weber's cranky schtick will tire of it here as well.

**Daniel Schrock:** [\*Spiritual Companionship\*, by Angela Reed, Richard Osmer, & Marcus Smucker](#). The authors suggest a way forward for those disenchanted with polite, shallow church relationships.

**Walter Brueggemann:** [\*The Love of God\*, by Jon D. Levenson](#). Levenson's new book reflects on the theme of the love of God in the Hebrew Bible. The three components of his subtitle suggest the range and depth of his exposition.

**Anthony B. Robinson:** [\*The Crucifixion, by Fleming Rutledge\*](#). Rutledge's magnum opus is many things: a look at the ways the death of Christ has been interpreted, an argument that the how of his death matters, and a protest against Christianity-light.

**Shawnthea Monroe:** [\*Standing Naked Before God, by Molly Phinney Baskette\*](#). Baskette's book is not a robust example of the Christian practice of confession. But she does offer a glimpse into the life of a church that is thriving against the odds.

**Margaret Miles:** [\*The Many Faces of Christ, by Philip Jenkins\*](#). Jenkins's abundant evidence gives lie to the traditional assumption that all but the four canonical Gospels were effectively squelched in the fourth century.

**Sarah Morice Brubaker:** [\*The Work of Theology, by Stanley Hauerwas\*](#). Longtime Hauerwas readers will not be surprised to hear that his new book is maddening—nor that some of the most maddening aspects are also the most rewarding.