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Hannan, Kiger, and Newman's "Authentic Communication: Public Speaking for Everyone" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Authentic Communication: Public Speaking for Everyone,
by Jeffrey Hannan, Travis Kiger, and Ganer Newman. New York: IDEA, 2015.
239 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 978161701016

*Reviewed by Laura Walton, Circulation Librarian,
Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI*

Authentic Communication is written by three individuals who have coached a variety of different audiences on the art of public speaking. Though the writing and tone of this volume is more informal, the authors have done a great job in giving practical guidelines for learning how to improve one's public speaking. Many aspects of public speaking, from the theory and history of the practice to the actual vocal delivery, are illustrated in this volume. Every chapter dissects a different element of public speaking with clear and relevant examples. Furthermore, exercises at the end of each chapter allow the readers to practice what they have learned and speaker spotlights give real world examples of how different public speaking elements are used in a variety of different educational and professional settings. The sole critique is the importance the authors place on the use of Google searching techniques as a primary means of research. Only a brief sentence was given about more helpful research techniques such as using libraries and library databases to research and find credible information (pp. 99-100). Otherwise, this was a very enjoyable read and would be a great supplementary text to any undergraduate level communication, speech, or debate course. It may even inspire some thought-provoking, persuasive, or entertaining speeches.

Baptists in Early North America: First Baptist, Providence,
edited by J. Stanley Lemons. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2013.
496 pp. \$60.00. ISBN 9780881464436

Reviewed by Rusty Tryon, Head, Collection Management, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

The initial two of thirteen planned volumes in the Baptists of North America series edited by William Brackney, who serves as professor of Christian thought and ethics and director of the Acadia Centre of Baptist and Anabaptist Studies at Acadia Divinity College, these titles represent the firstfruits of a substantial

effort to preserve and disseminate the original records of prominent Baptist congregations in North America from the colonial era. Local experts assisted in the composition of the two volumes. Charles Hartman was a former pastor of the Swansea congregation and is an adjunct professor of history at Roger Williams University. J. Stanley Lemons is emeritus professor of history at Rhode Island College and is the historian of the First Baptist Church in America.

Each volume is organized similarly. The historical introduction provides the congregational history, biographies of key members and pastors, and the contributions the congregation made to Baptist life and history. The bulk of the volume contains the transcribed church records (membership rolls, minutes of meetings, correspondences, etc.), which have been thoroughly and carefully footnoted. Comprehensive indexes of subjects, places, and people conclude the volume.

With an emphasis on transcriptional accuracy (the records of the Swansea congregation took three years to prepare), these works provide researchers a reliable repository of primary source material, which will comprise a significant corpus upon the completion of the series. These titles are essential additions for libraries supporting programs in early American church history, Baptist studies, and those with Baptist denominational affiliations.

Beyond Matter: Why Science Needs Metaphysics,

by Roger Trigg, West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2015.

162 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 9781599474953

Reviewed by John D. Laing, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology & Philosophy, Harvard School for Theological Studies, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Houston, TX

In this relatively short but dense volume, Roger Trigg, emeritus professor of philosophy at the University of Warwick and senior research fellow at the Ian Ramsey Center (Oxford University), masterfully argues that a coherent undergirding philosophy is needed in order for science to proceed.

Trigg begins by noting that many (scientists) have claimed that science needs no metaphysical framework or philosophical foundation, but he correctly points out that historically, science was a sub-discipline of philosophy. Those who make this claim typically follow logic akin to that of the so-called Vienna Circle, a group of preeminent scientists and philosophers in the early twentieth-century, who adopted a theory of truth and knowledge dependent upon empirical verification; if a proposition or theory cannot be explained/proven by the scientific method, it is nonsense, and metaphysics (including theology) falls into this category. The Vienna