

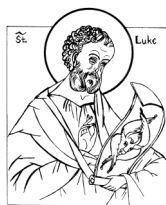
## Welcome to Burning Books

St. Luke's book discussion group meets monthly (except December) during the school year. The selected books are generally recent, well-reviewed publications, both fiction and non-fiction, that are available in paperback editions. The group seeks to find through reading and informal discussion what the authors have to say about major themes of human life—love, fear, redemption, mortality, and forgiveness. These “burning” issues give us the title of the discussion group.

The group meets on the **fourth Monday of the month** from 7 - 8 pm in the Old Rectory building at 806 13th Street, next to the church. The group is open to the public; discussions are informal. For more information, please call the parish office (942-1372).



*Discussion of fiction and non-fiction is open to all.*



## St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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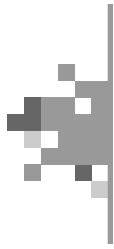
St. Luke's  
Episcopal Church

## **Burning Books: a Book Discussion Group 2009-2010**

Monthly (except  
December) on the **fourth  
Monday** of the month  
from September through  
May.

Time: 7 - 8 PM

St. Luke's Old Rectory  
806 Thirteenth Street  
Altoona, PA 16602  
(814) 942-1372



## Reading List 2009 - 2010

**September 28**

### *The Guernsey Potato Peel Pie and Literary Society*

by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

Set in London and on the island of Guernsey just after World War II, the novel focuses on Juliet Ashton, a high-spirited, independent-minded young woman who has yet to find the right chap. As the story begins, this successful writer and newspaper columnist embarks on a tour to promote her latest book. Constructed as a series of letters, the book, charts, not only her romantic progress, but also the Nazi occupation of Guernsey and the travails of the locals who lived through it.

Discussion will begin at 6 pm with a light meal of things “potato-y”.

**October 26**

### *Feather in the Storm*

by Emily Wu & Larry Engelman

Emily Wu's true life account of her childhood under Mao begins on her third birthday when she meets her father, for the first time, in a concentration camp. He had been designated as 'ultra-rightest' and class enemy, their family torn apart and subjected to humiliation and abuse. In this story of the courage of one child, Wu relates a hidden holocaust in which millions of children and their families died in a world of terror.

**November 23**

### *Thyme of Death*

by Susan Wittig Albert

China Bayles leaves her life as a criminal attorney in Houston, Texas to establish an herb shop in Pecan Springs. But the sweet life turns sour when a community-activist friend is found dead and China sets out to learn the truth about the last days of Jo's life. Did Jo commit suicide or is it an elaborate cover-up to murder?

**January 25**

### *The Rag Man's Son*

by Kirk Douglas

Kirk Douglas, son of an illiterate, immigrant Russian-Jewish rag picker, recounts the ways in which his difficult childhood dominated his life as an actor, father, and man. It tells of his humble beginnings in a small upstate New York town, his years in Hollywood, successes and failures in his personal life, and his battles with anti-Semitism.

**February 22**

### *The Shack*

by Wm. Paul Young

Mackenzie Allen Phillip's daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, he receives a suspicious note, inviting him to that shack for a weekend. He returns - and walks back into his darkest nightmare.

**March 22**

### *An Irish Country Doctor*

by Patrick Taylor

The time is the early 1960's; the place, a tiny village in Northern Ireland; the tale, pure magic. Newly-minted physician Barry Lavery is looking for a job - and love, if he can find it. Lucky for him, he finds his way to little Ballybucklebo, where a blustery country GP takes him under his intimidating wing, and romance is waiting just a train stop away.

**April 26**

### *Skinner's Drift*

by Lisa Fugard

In her first novel, the daughter of acclaimed South African playwright Athol Fugard writes with haunting lyricism about family secrets on a border farm community on the edge of the Limpopo River at the height of apartheid and in the recent past.

**May 24**

### *House of Spirits*

by Isabelle Allende

Niece of the Chilean president slain in the military coup of 1973, Allende has written a compelling chronicle that details the life of the Trueba family, spanning four generations, and tracing the post-colonial social and political upheavals of the Latin American country in which they live.

