

Library Newsletter

Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, GA

www.oakhurstbaptist.org

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A CENTENNIAL MOMENT



Alverta Wright 1983

Kathe Swint 1983

Pastor Ted Dougherty came to Oakhurst in 1954 with goals to publish a weekly newsletter, adopt rules of procedure, update the church roll, **set up a library**, support missions and construct new buildings. Because of his own reliance on library resources and his conviction that church members needed a wide range of materials for Christian growth, personal development, and enrichment, he suggested the election of a committee to establish a library at Oakhurst. **Pauline Martin** was the first committee chair, succeeded by **Kathe Swint**, a professional librarian, in 1956. Kathe discovered that **Alverta Wright** had taken a short course in library administration, so recruited her to assist with plans to open a library. The committee met regularly in Kathe's basement to process books. In 1955, the beginnings of the library shared space with a women's Sunday School class. By May 1956, a permanent room was found on the driveway level near the prayer meeting room and young children's department and a floor plan was drawn up by **Ruth Brown**. The first permanent church library was officially opened on **September 30, 1956**, and was dedicated to the memory of Virginia Mae Dougherty, the pastor's daughter who died of cancer. By the end of the first year, the library had 466 books, which grew to 1,000 in 1959. Believing in the importance of the library and the ability and leadership of Alverta Wright, Kathe recommended that the church create a position on the staff for a part-time paid librarian. Alverta served in that position from 1959 through 1986, succeeded by **Ruth Berberich**. Some of the committee members who assisted with the early formation and growth of the library included ...



Alverta Wright



Hazel Grady 1983

Patsie Jackson, Anne Stapleton, Hazel Grady, Thelma Cowart, Evelyn Peck, Harriett Miller, Barbara Underwood, John Jayne, Kathryn Farmer, Mrs. Hubert Wilson, Mrs. Frank Perkins, Cecile Montgomery, and Kay Sloan.

In 1960, the library opened a branch in the Fellowship Hall of the Education building on Howard Avenue and the main library moved to a more accessible location on the sanctuary floor in the office area. That was also the year of the first summer reading program. In 1963, the library added Spanish language books to serve the Cuban refugees. In 1964, the rules of procedure provided that the librarian would also serve as church historian. The library moved for the 3rd time to the 2nd floor of the Youth building outside the choir room. Alverta was well known for taking the books to wherever the children were, including to the neighborhood skating parties in the church parking lot. By 1967, the library had over 3,000 books. In 1969 when the church leased the Howard Avenue building to Southern Bell, the library consolidated all of its operations into one location and added a 2nd room in 1970 to house audio-visual equipment. **LaVerne Batchelder** joined the committee in 1977 when she inspired the weekly Hear-a-Book, Read-a-Book program for girls in the community who needed help with reading. On September 25, 1983, the library held its 3rd "open house" and celebration when the above photos were taken. During the 1980's the library provided space for tutoring, storytelling, instruction, research, and leisure reading.

The church presented a book to Alverta Wright commemorating her 41 years of service to the library. **The library celebrates its 57th anniversary during OBC's centennial celebration in September 2013.**

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NEW AND IMPROVED JUVENILE BOOKS

One of our goals for 2013 is to update the collection of juvenile books for the elementary school age children, middle schoolers and young adults in our congregation. **Carolyn Copenhaver** is leading this effort by soliciting donated books that fit that category and other books that can be swapped or sold to buy new books. **Pat Brown** is assisting us by finding books to add to our collection at a thrift store where she does volunteer work. Please come in and browse the shelves located to the right of the desk as you enter the library. Here are some of the recent additions to our collection.

The Time Warp Trio is a book series written by Jon Scieszka and illustrated by Lane Smith and Adam McCauley. It chronicles the adventures of three boys who travel through time and space with the aid of the mysterious book. We have four books from this series in our library:

- *It's All Greek to Me*
- *See You Later Gladiator*
- *Knights of the Kitchen Table*
- *Viking It and Liking It*

The **Magic Tree House** series is an award-winning series of books written by American author Mary Pope Osborne. There are three books from this series in our library:

- *Moonlight on the Magic Flute*
- *Leprechaun in Late Winter*
- *A Good Night for Ghosts*

DragonKeeper Chronicles by Donita K. Paul won a finalist medal in the Christy Awards. *DragonSpell* and *Dragonquest* are two books from this series in our library.

Three new books for young adults recently added to our collection are *Star Girl* and *Love* by Jerry Spinelli and *Angel's Grace* by Tracey Baptiste. *Love* and *Star Girl* were on the *USA Today* Bestseller List, *Publishers Weekly* Bestseller List and also listed on a Book Sense Children's Pick. *Angel's Grace* is Tracey Baptiste's first novel and is a coming-of-age story set on the island of Trinidad. The book explores the meaning of identity and truth, and the unbreakable ties of family.

Updating the juvenile book collection is still a work in progress, so come by from time to time to browse our new additions and let us know what you think. We would love to have feedback from some of our young readers and suggest books to add. ☺

MY TREASURED BOOKS

* indicates book or author is in OBC library

BOOK THAT INFLUENCED **DONNA WOOLF'S** LIFE: *The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold - It opened up more than I had imagined about how heaven might look.

BOOKS THAT INFLUENCED **PAT PAINTER'S** LIFE:

1. *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova – fictional story written in the first person about a 50 year old female's journey with Alzheimer's.
2. *You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know* by Heather Sellers – An autobiography of a young woman growing up with face blindness. I have a relative with face blindness and know others with this condition.
3. *A Widow for One Year** by John Irving

BOOKS THAT INFLUENCED **JIM HOLMES'** LIFE:

1. *The Road Less Traveled** by M. Scott Peck. I was greatly influenced by his chapter entitled *The Case of Theodore*—a wonderful account of an agnostic coming to terms with his namesake.
2. *The Prophet** by Kahlil Gebran. This book of 26 prose poetry essays written in English by the Lebanese artist, philosopher and writer has some real gems that I love to read and re-read.
3. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values* by Robert Pirsig. I come back to this often when I need some encouragement and feel "stuck".
4. Howard Thurman*—take your pick of any of these: *With Head and Heart: The Autobiography of Howard Thurman*, *Meditations of the Heart**, *For the Inward Journey*, *Disciplines of the Spirit**, *The Creative Encounter*.

BOOK THAT **DONNA WOOLF** RE-READ: Almost any Barbara Kingsolver* novel. I have just finished *Flight Behavior: A Novel*

BOOK THAT **DONNA WOOLF** IS READING NOW: *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain - a must for those of us who are introverts. Wouldn't be a bad idea for you Extroverts, too.

BOOK THAT **DONNA WOOLF** RECOMMENDS FOR CHILDREN: *Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs** by Tomie dePaola - For those of us trying to explain death to young children.

Your Library Committee (we're here to help):

Harold Hoffman, co-chair - Halbea2000@bellsouth.net
Jan Murphy, co-chair - jamnga@bellsouth.net
Rachael Beascochea - robeas138@bellsouth.net
Carolyn Copenhaver - CdenC@aol.com
Al Crisp - ACCrisp@aol.com