Library Newsletter

Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, GA www.oakhurstbaptist.org Issue #5, Fall 2009

At the Heart of the Church

 *By Harold Hoffman*

I certainly agree that the heart of Oakhurst is its people and every year we celebrate a few individuals who have made significant and even sacrificial contributions to Christ’s mission through this church. However, there is another “heart” which does not beat but is situated at the very center of our church home base – the ***Virginia Mae Dougherty Memorial Library.***

Why do I believe our well maintained collection of hundreds of volumes and DVD’s represent an essential power house? First, it is a treasure house of wisdom covering over two thousand years of Christian history. Books by lay people, clergy, theologians, poets, martyrs, and heroes line the shelves.

Second, the designers of our new education building were wise in locating this room at the heart of the building. The library is located on the second floor where a large percentage of our visitors and members pass its door each Sunday. The room is a place for reading, reflecting and for meeting friends. Coffee and drinks are allowed, but food is not. It has become a resource for our pastors, seminary students, church school teachers, children and teens. I like to think that just as a great hospital has at its heart a medical library for helping the healers, our library is maintained as a help to our ministers (every member) as they go to feed the hungry, visit the sick and grieving, care for the homeless, and carry out other missions. It also explains our faith in pictures as well as words so that we can carry the good news to the world.

Finally, the library supports our church covenant which states, in part, “I will study the Bible… I will be sensitive to God’s message as it comes to me from persons, history, the arts, nature, current happenings in the world and other sources.”

Come visit us soon. You’ll be glad you did.

Member of Church & Synagogue Library Association



Library Sponsored Events

Rick Voyles’ Book Signing

The selling and signing of **Rick Voyles**’ new book, *Understanding Conflict: What are we fighting for?* (Hamilton, MI: White Feather Press, 2009) went very well on Nov. 15, 2009, right after the worship service.  This event was co-sponsored by the Library Committee and the Conflict Transformation Task Force.  Refreshments were provided.  There were 18 books sold and one was donated to the library.  Thanks to all who bought books and those who brought refreshments.  Left over refreshments were given to the ORP men. **Rev. Lanny Peters** says that this important book “…shows us how we can see conflict in a new light—as an opportunity for building relationships, even intimacy. Individuals, couples, and communities will all benefit from the knowledge, techniques and skills this book offers in a very accessible format. Learn how to fight fair with everybody winning!”

Summer Storytelling and Reading Program

In 2009, the children of Oakhurst Baptist Church were treated to a summer unlike any other. 2009 marked the debut of the Oakhurst Baptist Church Summer of Storytelling. It was a festival of storytelling for children of all ages which took place during church school hour every Sunday in the library. It began on May 31st and

concluded on August 30th. Each Sunday, a different Oakhurst member or special guest had the distinct privilege of telling stories to the children. What follows is a brief summary. We began with **Will Swinson** and the life and works of Dr. Seuss, next was **Carrie Bell** with a creative slant on the founding of the Audubon Society, then **Scott Henderson** (one of Will's professors from Furman) with some delightful fables, **Mary Jo Crawford** with the tales of James Herriot, **Emily Herndon** with stories from around the world, **Renee Kirlin** with more fables, **Ginger Pyron** with some unique storytelling of her very own, **Jim Holmes** with Stories and Songs, **Terry Allen** with a moving rendition of *Three Cups of Tea*, **Steve Vellines** with some kid friendly biblical interpretation from the books of Jonah and Numbers, and we concluded it all with the kids sharing selections from some of their own favorite stories. Needless to say, things went very well--so well that it is now going to be an Oakhurst summer tradition. So kids, get ready for another summer of fun, and grown-ups, start thinking about stories you want to share in the summer of 2010.

The first summer reading program in many years, piggybacking on the storytelling, was a success. Fifteen (15) children actually participated out of the 24 who signed up. The program was beneficial because it introduced children to the wonderful books available in our library. We hope to increase our children’s participation next year. ☺

Circulation Policy

The Library is open whenever the building is open. Self service check out procedures are posted on the library desk. A library committee member is usually available for assistance for about fifteen minutes after Sunday worship service.

All materials may be checked out for a two-week period. Materials may be renewed. There is no limit to the number of items a patron may check out. Returned materials should be placed in the basket on the desk marked “return books here”. There are no overdue fines.

The library is also responsible for circulating one copy of the video recordings of Sunday worship services and other special events/services. The original DVD recording is duplicated by the History Committee, the original is maintained in archives and the copy is placed in the library for circulation. ☺

***Photo by Lynn Farmer***

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Calling All Overdue Books

Oakhurst Members and Friends: The Library Committee plans to conduct a full inventory of our library collection in January 2010 and would appreciate the return of all overdue books. We will soon be posting a list of overdue books and materials on the bulletin board outside of the church library.  Please consult the list to see if you or your child’s name is listed there, next to the title of a long-forgotten book.  Our preference in the future is to contact borrowers by email, when possible, to alert them once a book is past due.  To achieve this, the Library Committee asks all in our beloved community of borrowers to stop by the church library to provide us with your current email address or other means for being contacted and to put your email address or phone number on the card when you check out a book or video. We appreciate your patronage. ☼

MY TREASURED BOOKS
 *by Gillian Grable*

Books that influenced my life:

1. *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Mitch Albom – remembering to treasure and acknowledge those who have taught me life lessons
2. *Sabbath*, Wayne Muller – remembering to create sacred time to stop and renew one’s soul
3. *Bird by Bird*, Anne LaMotte – remembering to slow down and take it a step at a time
4. *The Autobiography of Malcom X*, as told to Alex Haley – I read this when I was 18 years old – It opened my eyes to the reality of US history and culture in a way no other book has ever done

**A book to which I always return:**

*To Bless the Space Between Us*, John O’Donohue – a most beautiful book of blessings and writing on the meaning of blessing “may you . . .”

**Book that I recommend for your children:** *Where the Wild Things Are*, Maurice Sendak – for all those feelings inside that seems like monsters – taming them

*Look for more “TREASURED BOOK” series from other Oakhurst members in future newsletters.*

**Your Library Committee (we’re here to help):**

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