

Library Newsletter

Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, GA

Issue #1, Summer 2008

INAUGURAL ISSUE BY POPULAR DEMAND

By Harold Hoffman, Library Committee Co-Chair

Oakhurst Authors on Display

The library has a new display rack for books, journals and articles written by authors who are members of Oakhurst Baptist Church. The new corner rack was built and mounted through the kind generosity of **Jim Holmes**. Three recent additions are:

A memoir of a remarkable life, *The only "F" I Ever Got Was in Penmanship* by **E. Warren Woolf**;

How to Talk to Parents about Autism by **Dr. Roy Q. Sanders**;

The Review and Expositor of Winter 2008, co-edited by **Dr. Lanny Peters** containing his article entitled "Sacred Hospitality: Christian Youth on a Pilgrimage in a Muslim Land."

Check it out!

Dewey Who?

Melville Louis Kossuth Dewey invented the Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDC) when he was 21 and working as a student assistant in the library of Amherst College. A pioneer in library education, Dewey also helped establish the American Library Association (ALA) in 1876.

More than 200,000 libraries worldwide—including the OBC Library—in more than 135 countries use the DDC system.

Here are the ten main classes of the DDC:

000-099 general works

100-199 philosophy and psychology

200-299	religion
300-399	social sciences
400-499	language
500-599	natural sciences and mathematics
600-699	technology
700-799	the arts
800-899	literature and rhetoric
900-999	history, biography, and geography

Source: Online Computer Library Center

The card catalog drawers for locating books by title, author and/or subject are to your right as you enter the library, next to the door to the library work room.

Library Online

Based on our library survey results, many of you would like to be able to search our library collection online. Unfortunately, putting all of our books online is very costly and labor intensive. So, that's a wish for the future. However, we do periodically post listings of recent additions, book reviews and recommended reading lists on the OBC Library webpage, as well as the hours of operation, collection description, circulation policy, goals and committee members. Please visit our webpage at

<http://www.oakhurstbaptist.org/obc/library.htm>.

Survey SAID

The library survey completed January 28, 2008, received 61 responses, or about 17%

of our active church members. The good news is that the vast majority believe we should maintain a library and affirmed that we are headed in the right direction. Over 80% of respondents believe the library should focus on books and articles by OBC members, interfaith religious books by current scholars and spiritual guidance books. A majority also believe the library should provide religious research and reference books, history, criticism and interpretations. Based on the survey results and considering our limited resources, the library committee has set a policy to not add non-religious novels and movies that would duplicate what is available in public libraries. Slightly over half of the respondents want a newsletter...and here we are with our inaugural issue. If you have comments or suggestions for future articles, please let us know. The committee member names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on the library webpage.

Periodicals

The magazine rack on the back wall behind the desk displays twenty or more magazines and newsletters. The four most popular this year seem to be:

Christian Century: a mainline ecumenical magazine published bi-weekly. Its motto is "Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully."

Its counter-part is the *Christianity Today* magazine, which has a moderate to right theological bent. It is probably the most widely read protestant magazine in America.

The third magazine is the evangelical center to left journal called *Sojourners*. Its editor and founder is the Rev. Jim Wallis. Some of its contributors also have written for Newsweek and People magazines.

The fourth most popular is of a very different type. *Weavings*, published bi-monthly, is called "a journal of the Christian spiritual life." It usually has one theme per issue. Each volume is

beautifully written and illustrated and carries no advertisements.

Summer Reading

Check out a couple of books for summer reading. The library contains a wide range of fiction and non-fiction, most of which have a religious or spiritual point of some kind. Our collection of various translations of the Bible and commentaries on the contents of the Bible number in the hundreds of volumes and take up about one-quarter of our shelf space. Those who like history and biography will find a very wide selection. The collection on the person of Jesus and books on the spiritual life are extensive. Come in before or after worship service on Sunday or on Wednesday night and browse. The self-service check-out procedures are posted on the desk.

Bible Search Websites

Libraries are for learning, researching and pleasure reading. Librarians are for listening, assisting and helping patrons find what they need. Although we don't have a staff librarian at Oakhurst, **Al Crisp** is usually there on Sunday mornings to help you find what you need as he's doing the much needed maintenance duties of shelving returned books and filing cards for checked-out books.

Technology is a wonderful partner for us in locating information and a great resource to all. You are welcome to use the library computer to search the internet for materials that aren't available on our shelves. Here are some useful Bible search websites:

www.biblegateway.com

www.ntgateway.com

www.crosswalk.com

A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone.
Jo Godwin