

Library Newsletter

Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, GA

www.oakhurstbaptist.org

Issue #3, Winter 2009

Library Leads Wednesdays

The Library Committee planned and led two Wednesday night prayer meetings in January. The first night, Jan gave an overview of the committee's accomplishments over the past two years and our plans for the future. Harold talked about the rich resources in our library and showed a videotaped news report about the importance of libraries and books in our society. Carolyn led a discussion about how she selects books for her reviews and how and why certain books have special meaning for her. She invited everyone to write down the names of three books with a descriptive word about the books' meaning. Her compiled results of this survey are on page 2 of this newsletter (see "Experiences in Reading").

On the second Wednesday night, Harold showed a video recording of a PBS interview with author PHYLLIS TICKLE, founding editor of the Religion Department of *Publishers Weekly*.

We were quite honored to have guest speaker LETITIA M. CAMPBELL from Emory University, who made a very interesting presentation about how religious material publishing has evolved over the years, which generated lots of discussion—far more than we had time for.

Oakhurst Writers Corner



This beautiful shelf was generously built and installed in our library by Jim Holmes to display some of the books, pamphlets and articles written by Oakhurst members, including:

Robin D. Booth
Joe Canzoneri
Jerry Gentry
Wayne Grinstead
David Hilton
Walker Knight

Lanny Peters
Tina Pippin
David Rensberger
Katherine Moon Swint
E. Warren Woolf

Why have a Church Library?

A good question...here are some answers.

- Circulate books for children, many classics, favorite authors, and award winners. We have a young children's collection with many picture books, a junior collection (grades 3 - 5), and books for teens and young adults.
- Furnish resources for Sunday School
- Provide a quiet place
- Provide a place where students of any age can do homework research
- Provide a computer with suggested links to Bible research sites
- Provide periodic displays of materials on a certain topic on tables around the church
- Publish a newsletter and maintain a library webpage on the church's website

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Volunteer Opportunities

What can you do to help? There are many places where your time and talents can benefit your church community. The library is only one of many. You can volunteer to assist the library committee on an as-needed basis, doing some of the following:

- Processing new materials on a Saturday work session
 - Assist with designing bulletin board displays
 - Help with a summer reading program for children (contact Bea Hoffman at (404)371-8266)
 - Wednesday night Prayer Meetings - be in the library to assist patrons and do filing
 - Help with shelving books when new spaces are created
 - Write book reviews
- Please contact Jan Murphy or Harold Hoffman for more information or to express your interest in helping the committee

- Display copies of books, pamphlets and articles written by church members
- Provide comprehensive reviews of featured books
- Provide magazines and journals (see Summer 2008 Newsletter)
- Offer a place where volunteers may help with this mission project (see also "Volunteer Opportunities")

CSLA Happenings

The Church & Synagogue Library Association Metro Atlanta Chapter held its Winter meeting at Oakhurst Baptist Church. I believe it was a near-record turnout of 14 members to join in a lively discussion of BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR's book entitled *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2006). A copy of *Leaving Church* is available in our library for you to check out. She has also recently published *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* (HarperOne, 2009).

BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR will be the guest speaker at the CSLA's Spring meeting on April 18. If you are interested in attending the meeting to hear Ms. Taylor, please contact Jan Murphy or Harold Hoffman. She will also be participating in the James Ross McCain Faith and Learning Lecture at Agnes Scott College on March 3-4. ☺

Experiences in Reading

In a small survey conducted recently during a Wednesday night prayer meeting, Carolyn Copenhaver of the Library Committee asked the audience to list books (excluding the Bible) according to their reaction: *Transcendent*, *Transformative*, and *Meaningful*. Any book could also be labeled Unorthodox. Here are the results, showing that many Oakhurst members' tastes in reading are exceptionally diverse and sometimes creatively unconventional. "U" marks an "unorthodox" work. To save space, most subtitles have been omitted.

Transcendent: Reading that evokes "a state of being above and beyond the limits of material experience"

- Burma Boy by Biyi Bandele (2008)
- Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer by Richard Rohr (2003)
- Gilead by Marilynne Robinson (2006)
- Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World by Henri J. M. Nouwen (1999)
- She Who Changes: Re-Imagining the Divine in the World by Carol B. Christ (2004)
- Signatures: New and Selected Poems by Bonaro W. Overstreet (1978)

- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (1960)
- The Red Bird: Poems by Mary Oliver (2008)
- The Shack by William P. Young (2007)

Transformative: Reading that evokes "a qualitative change"

- Ahab's Wife by Sena Jeter Naslung (2005) (U)
- Angels and Demons by Dan Brown (2003)
- All We're Meant to Be by Letha Dawson Scanzoni and Nancy A. Hardesty (1992)
- Brother to a Dragonfly by Will D. Campbell (2000)
- Look Homeward, Angel by Thomas Wolfe (1929)
- Meeting Jesus for the First Time by Marcus J. Borg (1995)
- My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey by Jill Bolte Taylor (2008)
- No Exit: A Play in One Act by Jean--Paul Sarte (1958)
- She Who Is by Elizabeth A. Johnson (2002)
- Social Intelligence by Daniel Goldman (2007)
- The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1959)
- The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown (2003)
- The Faith Club by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner (2007)
- The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck (1939)
- The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis (1945)
- The Great Santini by Pat Conroy (1976)
- The Last Temptation of Christ by Nikos Kazantzakis (1961)
- Who is Jesus by John Dominic Crossan and Richard G. Watts (1999)

Meaningful: Reading that has exceptional personal value

- Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand (1957) (U)
- Beyond Words: Daily Reading in the ABCs of Faith by Frederick Buechner (2004)
- Christ the Tiger by Thomas Howard (1967) (U)
- Dale Loves Sophie to Death by Robb F. Dew (1981)
- Field Notes on the Compassionate Life by Marc Ian Barasch (2005) (U)
- Goddesses in Older Women by Jean Shinoda Bolen (2002)
- Mystic River by Dennis LeHane (2001)
- Religions of the World by Houston Smith (1991)
- Sophie's Choice by William Styron (1979)
- The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson (1924)
- The Fifth Sacred Thing by Starhawk (1994)
- The Gods of Noonday by Elaine Neil Orr (2003)
- The Heart is Deceitful Above All Things by J. T. LeRoy (2002) (U)
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (2005)
- The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver (1998)
- The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (2001)
- William's Doll by Charlotte Zolotow and William Pene Du Bois (1972)

Check out the library's webpage by going to www.oakhurstbaptist.org, then find "The Library" under "Oakhurst as Family" heading on the left.