

# Library Newsletter

Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, GA

[www.oakhurstbaptist.org](http://www.oakhurstbaptist.org)

Issue #4, Spring/Summer 2009

## Give Way to the Wind : A Collection of Oakhurst's Poetry

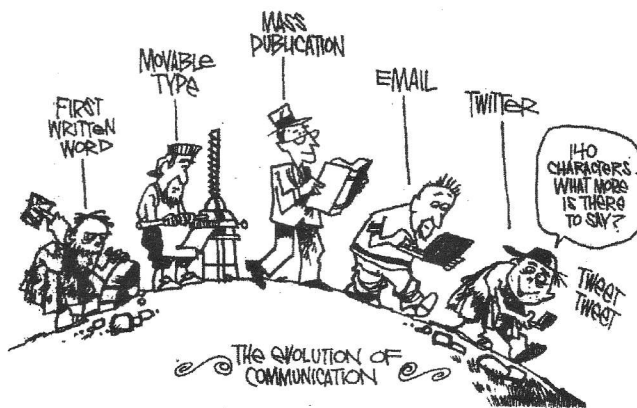
That is the title of the book of poems written by Oakhurst members and related folks which may be ordered now and will be available in July 2009. The title is a line from "For All the Saints," a poem by **Leah Lonsbury**. The inspiration for this book came from the worship service entitled "Poetry in Ordinary Time," led by **Lanny Peters** in September 2006, and the suggestion for the collection came from **Shannon McCormick**. The final product is the result of the tireless efforts of **Lynn Farmer** and **Terri Sarratt** (editors), **Joe Canzoneri** (designer/typographer), and the 67 talented poets who contributed 264 wonderful poems, 175 of which are included in the book. Also, the beautiful cover art is a watercolor by **Carol Burgess** entitled "Birdhouse in Swint Courtyard."

According to the description on the back cover, this book of poems "...reflects in a unique way the amazing congregation which composes this church. These individuals have grappled with the issues of their day, and they have struggled and delighted in their own lives. The works are often profound, funny, truly emotional, and strongly experienced. Above all, you will find them heartfelt and entertaining. In these poems, the writers take the risk of letting the reader look deeply into their hearts to see the thoughtful, warm, and joyful emotions they express."

We thank the editors of this book not only for putting together what promises to be a beautiful collection of poems from our talented congregation, but for generously contributing the profits from the sale of the book to the library. However, it is not just the library that will benefit from the sale proceeds, but the entire congregation and more specifically, the future new members of Oakhurst. The profits will be used first to purchase a number of used copies of **Walker Knight's** book, *Struggle for Integrity* to be made available to future new members' classes as an excellent resource book about Oakhurst history. The remaining profits will be used to purchase books and materials for the library collection.

Contact Lynn ([farmerdl@msn.com](mailto:farmerdl@msn.com)) or Terri ([terrisarratt@comcast.net](mailto:terrisarratt@comcast.net)), if you wish to reserve copies.

## Just for Laughs



Mike Keefe The Denver Post, dePIXion Features

Stay at the top of the curve and visit our library.

## Library Sponsored Events

### Book Sale

The library removed about 150 books from our collection this past year that were outdated, unused, and/or no longer relevant in the current times. We offered the withdrawn books to members during May 2009, raising \$51.50. Thanks to all who participated and contributed. One person found a book that was a real treasure...a reminder that our library does have some wonderful books, but if nobody checks them out for 10 or 20 years, they may become prime candidates for extinction.

### Children's Summer Reading Program

**Angela Riccetti** and **Bea Hoffman** have organized a summer reading program for children ages 3 to grade 5, encouraging the use of our library resources. Bea even made a cushioned seating area on the floor under the windows for children to use for storytelling time, relaxing and reading. The program began May 31<sup>st</sup> and will end August 9<sup>th</sup> with the goal to read 10 books in 10 weeks. An ice cream party for all participants will be held at the end.

## Periodicals

A number of the books on our shelves on the subject of needed social change are now ten to twenty years out of date. The methods our missionaries used to bring a better life to people at home and overseas are not as effective as they once were. If you want to read of methods being used today that will make your lips pray "God have mercy", then read the April issue of *Sojourners*—the magazine of faith, politics and culture. Read the article "The Cross and Crossfire" where Central American Christians are converting some of the most violent young criminals in this hemisphere. If creation care is your thing, be sure to see the deeply spiritual approach in the Sept/Oct '08 issue of *Weavings* which makes the point that we should "care not just for the poor and needy, but also for the land itself." The periodicals rack contains numerous articles on controversial subjects. For example, see *Christianity Today* May '09, page 39 on Darwin and St. Augustine. Periodicals may be checked out for two weeks by completing a periodicals check out card located on the desk in the library. ☼

## Where Does the Money Go?

### ...Missions money, that is

Our church supports about fifty different mission organizations through its budget and individual giving. Many of these, such as the Alliance of Baptists, the American Baptist Churches USA, the Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, the Decatur Cooperative Ministries, and many others publish quarterly newsletters. We usually put one copy of these newsletters on the library magazine rack and if they send multiple copies, they are placed on the book shelf beside the second floor elevator. We encourage the reading of these newsletters—at least your favorites—because it is our gifts that support the organizations and their publications. Pick up a copy or two to read and then share the good news with family and friends. God is at work and it is thrilling. ☼

## Oakhurst Writers Corner

The Rev. Dr. **David Bartlett** is a member of our church and is currently teaching at Columbia Seminary in Decatur. He has teamed up with the well known teacher and writer, Barbara Brown Taylor as co-editor of a vast new project. Using hundreds of contemporary contributors, they will eventually produce a twelve volume set of biblical commentaries covering the texts of the common lectionary. A copy of one of the first volumes is at the Writers Corner in addition to one of many other books and articles that David has written.

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## MY TREASURED BOOKS

by Katelyn Murphy-McCarthy

### FIVE BOOKS THAT INFLUENCED MY LIFE:

1. *The Rapture of Canaan* by Sheri Reynolds - Deals with religion and families and the good and the bad that come with both, and the understanding and forgiveness necessary to make it through life. Plus it's beautifully written.
2. *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell - It made me want to live in the South! And it showed that sometimes being strong and not necessarily lady-like is the best bet.
3. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt - It got me started on my love of memoirs, and it made me realize that abject poverty was not just in the Third World. And talk about excellent writing!
4. *The Golden Cage* by Hilde Bruch - It helped me see myself more clearly during a difficult time in my life, and it helped me be kinder to myself despite that clearer vision.
5. A book to which I always return: David Sedaris's *Dress Your Family in Denim and Corduroy*. There is such love of family in this book, and I can read it in little snippets. It always makes me laugh and always makes me want to hold my family a little closer.

### MY LIFE WITH BOOKS: SNAPSHOTS

1. Book I reread that I enjoyed as much or even better: *Black and Blue* by Anna Quindlen
2. Book I reread that disappointed me: *The Boxcar Children* - but do you think maybe that's because I let 35 years pass between readings?
3. Classic that I really tried to read but could never finish:  
ALL of them, with the exception of *The Scarlet Letter* and *Call of the Wild*.
4. Book that I am reading right now: *Midnight for Charlie Bone* by Jenny Nimmo
5. Book that I recommend for your children:  
For kids 10 and older, anything by Christopher Paul Curtis - get them on CD from your local library. GREAT to listen to - be aware that things turn serious in most of them. Also *Ida B. and Her Plans to Maximize Fun and Possibly Save the World* by Katherine Hannigan, and *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. There is so much good children's literature these days that I will sometimes choose it over adult fiction.

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Look for more "TREASURED BOOK" series from other Oakhurst members in future newsletters.

The 2009 summer book reading list will soon be posted on the library's webpage. Go to [www.oakhurstbaptist.org](http://www.oakhurstbaptist.org), then find "The Library" under "Oakhurst as Family" heading on the left.