

Check It Out

Charity Kropf Memorial Library
Zion Mennonite Church

October 2008

Do you know...what

purpose the church library serves? Maybe the responsibilities listed in the church bylaws can provide insight into some of the factors in book choices.

"To provide a resource center for the selection, circulation, and conservation of materials that can be used to enhance and extend the total ministry of the church. This service is available by providing:

1. Bible study, inspirational, and devotional material for the enrichment of individual lives.
2. Christian practice and guidance material for the spiritual growth in family life.
3. Materials for the strengthening and supporting of the church educational program.
4. Denominational and Christian reference materials for study and research."

We would like your suggestions for resources that you think would enhance the fulfillment of these goals in any of the areas listed.

Thank you.

Do what you can
where you are
with what you have.

-Unknown

From the Library Staff

Have you been too busy this summer to read? Well, 'Tis the season' to prepare for those rainy, cool evenings when curling up with a good book can take you to sunny places, adventure and history. It's also a good time to begin exploring the shelves in your church library to find those gems that provide inspiration, broaden your knowledge of church and local history, or just pure enjoyment. There are many noted Christian and Mennonite authors whose names you will recognize. You will also find most of the various translations of the Bible along with many good commentaries and other resource material.

As noted in the library's annual report, circulation this past year was about half of last year's. So if you enjoy reading we hope you will avail yourself of the wonderful opportunities for reading that the library provides.

The following are some of the books that have been newly added:

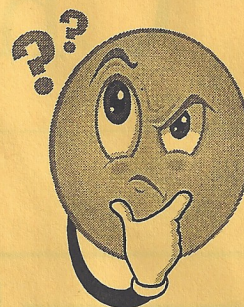
- *SLEEP IN PEACE* is a children's book by Ingrid Hess that received the 2008 Church and Synagogue Library Association's Rodda award for best book in children's literature. This book was published by Herald Press. The repeating phrase "God loves you sweet child, Sleep in Peace" assures the child that God watches all children as they sleep.
- *LOST SONS* by Judy Clemens is an artful interweaving of the story of the son of a fictional police detective with the true facts of Clayton Kratz's disappearance in Russia while working with MCC in 1920. It is set in Goshen, IN.
- *TREASURE HUNT* is a Shenandoah Valley mystery by Eunice Geil Smith. In 1949, eleven year old Maggie stumbles across her grandfather's Civil War diary leading her to investigate a family secret hinted at in its pages. Though written for the younger reader it proves to hold interest for adult readers as well.

- *SHATTERED DREAMS* -- This book describes the life of the author, Irene Spencer, as a polygamist's wife and her endurance in abject poverty while suffering the neglect of a husband with divided loyalties. In the end she and her children found their way into a life of truth and redemption through faith in Christ.
- *EMERALD ANGEL* is a novel by Wilma Derksen that is an imaginative creation conveying truths about living at peace with God and humankind. See Janis Burkhalter's review in the November FOCUS.
- *MAKING SENSE OF THE JOURNEY: THE GEOGRAPHY OF OUR FAITH* -- You may recognize many names of the various Mennonite writers in this book who share their memoirs about the changes that time brought into their lives. Edited by Robert and Nancy Lee. Robert became a Christian while attending the Portland, OR Mennonite Mission.
- *MENNONITES, AMISH, AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR* by James O. Lehman and Steven M. Nolt. During the American Civil War, Mennonites and Amish faced moral dilemmas testing their core of faith. These authors provide an account of the Anabaptist experience during the bloodiest war in American history.
- *PLAIN DIVERSITY: AMISH CULTURES AND IDENTITIES* by Steven Nolt and Thomas Meyers explores the diverse culture found in 19 settlements in Indiana. The authors share their finding of a common identity in the absence of uniformity with an insightful analysis that can relate to the broader Amish settlements throughout America.
- Lauraine Snelling's *RETURN TO RED RIVER* series has been donated and added to the library.
- Three sets of *THE SALESIAN TRILOGY* books are full of poetry and colorful pictures. You will find them in the poetry section. The following is a poem from the Salesian Trilogy book "A Song Within My Heart":

" This my daily prayer will be;
 These things, O Lord, I ask of thee--
 Strength to face the trials I'll meet,
 Faith to accomplish the goals I seek,
 Hope to keep my vision bright,
 Courage in the darkest night.
 Smiles to brighten a gloomy day,
 Laughter to chase the blues away,
 Trust to keep my thinking sound,
 Abounding love to pass around."

---Ruth Moyer Gilmour

Exercise Your Brain



How many words can you find in ZION MENNONITE LIBRARY?

No proper nouns are allowed. Letters may be used

more than once but not in the same word, e.g. Mama would not be allowed; briar would be ok. Make your list and return to the library. We will announce the winner in the next newsletter. All ages may participate.

The unfortunate thing about this world is that the good habits are much easier to give up than the bad ones.

-W. Somerset Maugham

News Note

If you have read Dorcas Smucker's books *Ordinary Days* and *Upstairs the Peasants are Revolting*, you may want to check out her blog at dorcassmucker.mysite.com. Her monthly letter in the Eugene Register Guard is included and other interesting reading. Check out the site if you haven't read her books and you will want to read them!