

OFF THE SHELF



Mission Statement: To energize church library ministry through education, resource sharing, spiritual encouragement and fellowship.

Summer 2015



**TCACLA Fall Meeting
October 24, 2015**

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The TCACLA Board members are currently planning the fall meeting. It will be held on Saturday, October 24, at the SpringHouse Ministry Center.

The SpringHouse Ministry Center is a unique partnership of three local congregations: First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Salem English Lutheran Church and Lyndale United Church of Christ. The congregations rotate among the three worship spaces in the church building throughout the year and each worships in its own way. They are intentional about a life together, too. They share a strong Sunday School, youth ministry, some justice activities, a few staff, a library, a Bible study group, a women's knitting group, coffee hours, and worship 4 times a year.



**SpringHouse
Ministry Center**
610 W. 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Besides the annual business meeting on October 24, there will be workshops, information on new books, opportunities to exchange ideas with other church librarians and more! Watch for more information about this in the Fall issue of *Off the Shelf*.

General Information

The Twin Cities Area Church Library Association (TCACLA) is a non-profit support organization serving church librarians.

Membership is open to individuals and churches of all denominations that desire to network with others on church library development and enrichment.

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Members: 29 churches, 2 individuals

1/31/2015	\$1,008.01	Beginning Balance
	\$592.00	Spring Meeting Registration
	<u>\$305.00</u>	2015 Membership Dues
	\$897.00	Income
	-\$129.02	Spring <i>Off the Shelf</i>
	-\$9.99	Secretary Supplies
	-\$15.00	Spring Meeting: Paper, Name Tags
	-\$100.00	Spring Meeting: Insurance
	-\$200.00	Spring Meeting: Speaker
	-\$528.74	Spring Meeting: Food
	<u>-\$66.16</u>	Spring Meeting: Meal Supplies
	\$1,048.91	Expenses
6/25/2015	\$856.10	Ending Balance



WHAT CHURCHES ARE READING

During brunch at our Spring 2015 meeting, one Table Topic that attendees were asked to discuss was books that were well received by their congregations in the past year. Some of the specific titles that were discussed are listed below. In addition, the following authors were mentioned as being consistently popular: Lynn Austin, Jan Karon, Karen Kingsbury, Anne Lamott, Beverly Lewis, Francine Rivers, and Lauraine Snelling.

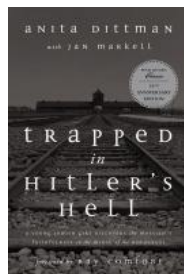
“I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of anything than of a book! -- When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library.” – Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

WOLF HALL by Hilary Mantel, Picador, 2010.



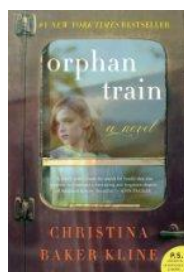
A multiple award-winning epic historical novel set in 1520's England. Henry VIII has no male heir. Without one, the country could face a civil war upon his death. He wants to annul his marriage and marry Anne Boleyn. The pope and most of Europe opposes him. Into this impasse steps Thomas Cromwell. An entertaining examination of the nature of good and evil as it applies to people who wield great power.

TRAPPED IN HITLER'S HELL; A Young Jewish Girl Discovers the Messiah's Faithfulness in the Midst of the Holocaust by Anita Dittman, WND Books, 2014.



Raised in Nazi Germany by a Jewish mother, Minnesotan Anita Dittman first heard about Jesus through a Christian pastor and neighbor when she was 6. Her powerful biography is a tale of Holocaust horror, including abandonment by her non-Jewish father, separation from her mother, and teenage years spent in forced labor in a concentration camp. It's also an inspirational tale of God's miraculous mercy on a young girl who learned to trust in the One she had come to love.

ORPHAN TRAIN by Christina Baker Kline, HarperCollins, 2013.



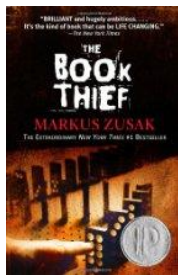
This novel moves between contemporary Maine and Depression era Minnesota. As Vivian Daly, a 91-year-old Irish immigrant, cleans out her attic, she reflects on her youth as a young orphan who was sent to MN in the hopes of finding a home for her. She is helped by 17-year-old Molly Ayer who is using a community service project to avoid juvenile hall. A friendship develops as the two discover their similar struggles with hardship and isolation.

EVERY WAKING MOMENT by Chris Fabry,
Tyndale House, 2013.



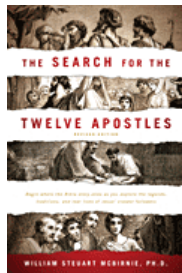
A 2014 *Christianity Today* Award of Merit winner. Treha Langsam is a mysterious young woman who has fallen through the cracks, much like many of the elderly people she works with at Desert Gardens Retirement Home. But Miriam Howard, director of the facility, sees her extraordinary gift and untapped potential. As their paths converge, each person is forced to face the same difficult question: What if this is as good as my life gets? An uplifting, human tale of an ordinary woman with an extraordinary gift.

THE BOOK THIEF by Marcus Zusak, Random House, 2006.



An unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. Liesel, a foster child living in Nazi Germany, is taught how to read and begins stealing books. She shares the stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids and with the Jewish man hidden in the basement. Narrated by Death, the novel is poignant and sad but also uplifting and joyful. Written for teen readers, it has become an adult favorite too.

THE SEARCH FOR THE TWELVE APOSTLES by William Steuart McBirnie, Tyndale House, reissued 2008.



What happened to the men who answered Jesus' call to follow him after his resurrection and ascension? In these profiles, Dr. McBirnie offers a snapshot of the lives of each apostle. His information was compiled by traveling to places where the apostles lived and visited, by studying the Scriptures and Biblical history, by listening to local traditions, and by engaging in his own original research. Picking up where the book of Acts leaves off, McBirnie brings these men to life as he explores the legends, traditions, and real lives of the Twelve as they built the foundation of Christianity.

WHO WAS JESUS? by Ellen Morgan, Penguin Young Readers Group, 2015.



This recent addition to the “who was” biography series, aimed at middle grade children, covers what is known historically about Jesus and places his life in the context of his world when Jerusalem was part of the Roman Empire. In an easy-to-read narrative, it also explains the early origins of Christianity and how it became a major religion. Other biographies in the series include famous figures in history, sports, science, literature, entertainment and more.

TCACLA SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Members and friends of TCACLA gathered at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on April 18, 2015. There were 58 paid registrations. Jeanne Weingart, Co-President, welcomed attendees and Vice President, Helen Heitz, introduced Pastor Bob Wertz who gave a short devotional message.

As people arrived, they were assigned to specific tables to encourage getting to know new people and to discuss a list of “table topics” concerning church libraries and books.



After brunch Helen introduced our speaker, Ruth Bachman, author of “Growing through the Narrow Spots.” Ruth delivered an inspiring story of her journey with cancer and coping with what she calls the narrow spots in life. Per Ruth, we must accept our losses, grieve for them, assess what remains, and explore what is possible to transform loss into growth. She left us with the call and response “God is Good, All the Time.”



Ruth donates her honorariums to the Hourglass Fund Project at the University of Minnesota Foundation. Its purpose is “to foster collaboration of the science that heals the body, with the critical role that mind and spirit play toward that end; and to support research projects that explore the intersection between cancer and integrative healing practices.”

Of course there was also time to see the beautiful sanctuary, tour the library, and look for a good book in the book swap.



MORE TABLE TOPIC RESULTS

Topic: Where do you get ideas for new books to purchase for your library?

- Committee members
- Book reviews
- Recommendations
- Christy Awards
- Inspirational Resources
- LifeWay
- Bethany House employee
- Books that are being read by church groups

Topic: Where do you donate books that your library doesn't need?

- Other churches
- "Little Library" boxes
- Missions
- Public library book sales
- Congregation members
- Books for Africa
- Children's Chance
- Children's books to HCMC

Special thanks to Janet Brownell, Dulcie Campana and Sally Onstad for their contributions to this section.



LIBRARY CARD COLLECTION CAN YOU HELP?

Over the past several years, Timothy Maloney has amassed a collection of library cards from around the world. Currently his collection includes cards from more than 2300 libraries representing all 50 states, Washington, DC, the Ak-Chin Indian Community and over 35 countries. His cards have been exhibited in 9 public libraries and a number of publications have run articles about them.

Church libraries have a very small representation in the collection – just 2: The Isadore & Rose Bloch Library in New Mexico and the Vatican. He would very much like to see this segment of his holdings grow, especially among Protestant denominations.

If you can provide him with a card from your library (it doesn't have to be active), please send it to Timothy Maloney, 602 E Shelby St., Falmouth, KY 41040.

WEBSITE REMINDER



One of the missions of TCACLA is to provide a forum for church librarians to exchange information with each other. In addition to our meetings and our newsletter, we also do this via our website at www.tcaccla.com. We're always looking for input from you. If you have an upcoming book event at your church, have had a special promotion for your library, want to recommend a new book, or have any other news that other members would be interested in, please send the information to livingoutfaith@hotmail.com.