



Collection Connection

Gainesville First United Methodist Church
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Library Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 1
Winter 2009



**You are Invited to Attend
Two Collection Conversations
In the Library**



**Thursday, March 5
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Led by Nancy Story**

**Thursday, April 16
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Led by Sally Darden**

Margaret Laurence's *The Stone Angel* is a compelling portrait of the problems associated with old age. Narrated by Hagar Shipley, a crotchety old woman who takes up smoking cigarettes at age 90, the book chronicles her spiritual journey and her struggles with family members as she approaches death. Hagar is a wanderer in exile who desperately needs to connect with the human community and experience spiritual rebirth. The book moves between present events and Hagar's memories of past experiences. Readers will enjoy its realistic portrayal of life in the prairie towns of Western Canada in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Through Hagar's reflective sifting through the layers of her own life, Laurence offers readers innumerable insights into the dangers of pride and the consequences of alienation.

The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan, is the tale of a simple act of faith between two young people—one Israeli, one Palestinian—that symbolizes the hope for peace in the Middle East. In 1967, not long after the Six-Day War, three young Arab men ventured into the town of Ramle, in what is now Jewish Israel. They were cousins, on a pilgrimage to see their childhood homes; their families had been driven out of Palestine nearly twenty years earlier. One cousin had a door slammed in his face, and another found his old house had been converted into a school. But the third, Bashir Al-Khairi, was met at the door by a young woman called Dalia, who invited them in. This act of faith in the face of many years of animosity is the starting point for a true story of a remarkable relationship between two families, one Arab, one Jewish, amid the fraught modern history of the region. In a region that seems ever more divided, *The Lemon Tree* is a reminder of all that is at stake, and of all that is still possible.

Both books are available in the Library (2 copies of each) and for purchase from Books-A-Million at Lakeshore Mall, Gainesville. Ask for them at the sales desk and join us for two interesting evenings of literary conversations.

Library Committee

Sharon Farkas
Barbara Fuss
Dave Gines—Chair
Paul Hanna
Helen Powell
Nancy Story
Myra Taylor
Ali Thompson
Debby Fox—Staff

Winter Hours

Library

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
8:30 a.m. - Noon

What Pastor Terry is reading this month...

I am reading *The Memoirs of David Rockefeller*. I have always found biographies and autobiographies extremely insightful and helpful. I am trying to read a biography a year and learn from those who have traveled the road of life ahead of us. When I finish I plan to read *My Journey* which is the autobiography of Robert Schuller.



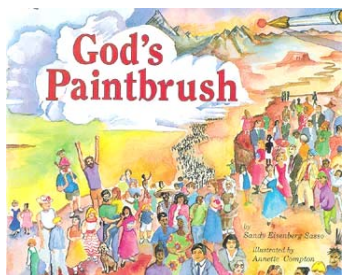
Gines' Lines by David Gines, Library Committee Chairperson

There was an article in *Smithsonian* magazine in 1995 about a young father who began reading aloud to his children as infants. At first, they were not old enough to read or speak the words on the pages but over time, as he held them on his lap, they began to form words. They started to speak the words they heard that were associated with the pictures they saw on the pages. The father observed that his children began speaking earlier than the other neighborhood children. As his children matured, their love for reading and learning increased into their teen and adult years. That man is Jim Treelease and he is founder of the National Read Aloud program. The Gainesville Kiwanis Club began a Read Aloud program in 1996 by having club members go into local schools to read to kindergarten classes. Both the adult readers and the children in the classes were very enthusiastic about the program from the beginning.

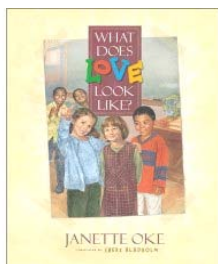
Anna and I read aloud to our grandchildren every time they stay with us. They look forward to our reading from their favorite books both at their house and ours. We cherish the opportunity it gives us to bond with them and listen to them talk about the stories we read. Payton, who is almost 10 years old, is now reading what he calls "chapter books." We look for books for him that can stimulate his mind and introduce him to stories that make a difference in other people's lives. Recently, we got him the young reader version of *Three Cups of Tea*. It is the story of Greg Mortensen, who in 1993 tried to climb the K2 and got lost in the mountains of Pakistan. He wandered into a poor village where the village chief and his people took him in. Moved by their kindness he promised to return and build a school for the village children. Over the next decade, Mortensen built more than 60 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. How meaningful it has been to share this important story with Payton.

The GFUMC Library has copies of both the adult and youth versions of *Three Cups of Tea* as well as other books suitable for reading to children. Why not start you own Read Aloud program with the children in your life? I think you'll be glad you did.

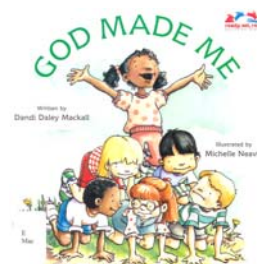
Here are just a few of the children's books available in the Library to help!



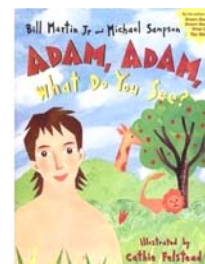
God's Paintbrush
By Sandy Sasso



What Does Love Look Like?
By Janette Oke



God Made Me
By Dandi Daley Mackall



**Adam, Adam
What Do You See?**
By Bill Martin Jr.
& Michael Sampson

Library Check-Out Process



1. Sign your name and phone number on the card and leave on the Library counter.
2. Books may be checked out for two weeks. All other media, including reference books and magazines may be checked out for one week.

If you are looking for a particular book, a book request form is provided on the counter of the Library desk.

Get Connected with Our Collection

**Volunteer to help in the
Library on the
Great Day of Service
Saturday, March 21**



Register online www.gfumc.com/gds, or in the Gathering Room. Help reorganize the Library collection, clean and dust shelves, and update the Library look!