

Policies

Any person who is a member of the church or Sunday School may check out materials.

A limit of three items per person may be checked out at a time and may be kept for 14 days. Items may be renewed for an additional 14 days.

Overdues: Five cents (5¢) per day will be charged per overdue item. Overdue notices will be sent monthly. If the overdue material is not returned after three months, a notice will be sent requesting payment for the lost media. Patrons with overdue media or outstanding fines will not be allowed to check out additional material until such items are returned and fines are paid. The patron must pay for damaged materials.

Print materials dealing with personal interests and concerns of all age groups include: Christian growth, prayer, marriage and family, finance, illness, hobbies, history, biography, and fiction. Other materials available include evangelistic tracts, BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR, and large print books. Audio and videocassettes and DVDs are also available. Materials related to current units of study are available for Sunday School and missionary organization leaders and members.

The library has computers available for the card catalog and for Internet access.

A TV and VCR are available for previewing or small group viewing of videos.

Story Times during Sunday School are available for preschool and children's classes.

The Library staff gladly accepts suggestions for book to purchase. Donations of memorial funds are welcome supplements to the library budget. We request no donations of used paperbacks because of a lack of shelf space.



The Library
Hope Building Third Floor Room 2326
Hours Sunday: 9 am-12 pm & 5pm-6 pm
Wednesday: 4 pm-6 pm
(931) 572-1526

First Baptist Church

Library

DATE

ISSUED TO

03/06/49

Grand Opening

12/20/09

60th Anniversary
Celebration

The mission of the Library is to advance Christian education and growth and promote beneficial media resources and services important to the ministry of First Baptist Church, its staff, members, visitors, and prospects.



The Library History

The Church Library began as a dream of Mrs. Christine Smith and her husband Howard. Mrs. Smith worked for the Baptist Book Store so she was very knowledgeable about books. Mrs. Lillian (Earl) Bradley, Mrs. Bess (J. E.) Sharpe, and probably Mrs. Helen Sadler (CHS librarian) first met at Mrs. Smith's home in 1948 to make plans for this new ministry.



The Smiths

The dedication and opening of our Church Library was held Sunday night, March 6, 1949. Mrs. Christine Smith became the first director; and her associates were Mrs. Helen Sadler, Mrs. Bess Sharpe, Mrs. Lillian Bradley, Miss Ann Holt and Mr. Howard Smith.

The first Church Library was located in the back of what is now the Faith Building. The church office was located where the bridal dressing room is on the Fifth Street entrance. Under the balcony of the sanctuary was a row of rooms, long since removed, and the library was in the room nearest the office.

The Church Library opened with 158 books, and the first report to the church in October 1949 stated 359 books presently in the Library and 1,614 books checked out in the first seven months. The Church Library celebrated its sixth anniversary on March 6, 1955. In its report to the church, it was stated that the library had grown from 158 books to 1,934.



The Educational Building and Memorial Chapel were dedicated Sunday, January 13, 1955; and the library moved to the second floor at the head of the stairs just off the vestibule of the Madison Street entrance. Because the library was such a vital part of the church, it was included in the church budget in 1954 and continues to receive support each year. In addition many books are given as memorials and donations each year. It was also reported that circulation had increased since moving into its new facilities on the second floor of the new building.

Mrs. Smith continued as director until 1956 when she and her husband moved to Winter Park, Florida. Our loss was another church's gain as they started another church library in the Baptist Church there.

We are indebted to Mrs. Howard L. Smith for the love and work that went into the beginning and growth of our library. Mrs. Florence Strassheim became director and served the library until 1971 when Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth (Richard) Hawkins was elected Director of Library Services.



Mrs. Strassheim



Mrs. Hawkins

The Library was temporarily closed in 1974 in preparation for the observation of its 25th Anniversary on April 28, 1974. Complete redecorations, with fresh paint and added shelving, made it very attractive. The guest speaker for the service held on Sunday evening was Miss Jacquelyn Anderson of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Mrs. Mae Douglass (James) Darnell, was recognized as the only member of the library staff who had continuous service in the library since its beginning.

Mrs. Richard M. Hawkins continued as the Director of Library Services until she moved to Nashville in the mid-seventies. Mrs. Strassheim was the director again for several years with Mrs. Lillian (John) Roe taking over the position until 1992.



Mrs. Roe & Company



Mrs. Sumner

The Church Library closed again for another makeover, and Mrs. Florence Strassheim was honored in March 1992 at the Open House that also served as a grand reopening for the remodeled library. The facility contained a new ceiling, lighting and carpet, a videocassette new books bringing its total inventory to more than 6,000 books and 30 videos. Mrs. Frances (Bob) Sumner became director and still holds

that position.

In March 2001, with the opening of the Grace Sanctuary, the library moved to its present location on the third floor of the Hope building. The library circulation and card catalog were computerized in 2005 with the entry of church/SS members into a patron database. Gwen Adkins, library staff member, keyed in over 5,000 media entries.

DVD's have been added to replace the older VHS technology along with two computers for looking up books and Internet research. For the past 20 years an average of 200 items are checked out monthly with a total number of checkouts of over 44,000 items! We hope to see these statistics increase as more people become aware of the location of the library and take advantage of its resources.

Through the years many others have worked in various capacities to help make our library what it is today. Some of the long time volunteer workers at the library in addition to the ones mentioned earlier are Mrs. Julia (Maurice) Martin, Mrs. Cornelia (Paul) Rudolph, Mrs. Judy (John) Dollinger, Mrs. Robbie (Charles Ed) Smith, Mrs. Myrtle (Preston) Council, Mrs. Doris (Tom) McGilloway, Mrs. Emma Mae (Bernard) Palmore, Mrs. Louise (Orman) Boyd, Miss Juliette Varela (Mrs. Dickson Roake), Mrs. Sybil (Harold) DeWein, Miss Betty Lu Strassheim, Mrs. Lynn (Bill) Hall, Mrs. Evelyn (Lacy) Richardson, and Mrs. Lois (George) Durisko.

Mrs. Lillian Bradley, present at the first organizational meeting in 1948, continues serving today introducing pre-school children to the library during Sunday School time by reading stories and preparing "extras" to give to the children. We are so grateful to those who have had a part in helping with the establishment of our Church Library and to those who continue to work in this educational ministry of the church.



Mrs. Bradley

You are invited to come use the library and become a part of this vital ministry of First Baptist Church.



History Researched and Written by Mike Stinnett