

What's been happening with the Saint David's church library?

- In November of 2009, Verne, Ralph and Ray built the library shelving on the east wall of the Flex Room from the same Indiana red oak that is used for trim all through the building.
- On December 7, 2010, as part of a series of resolutions winding up the work of the Building Committee, the Vestry voted to assign responsibility to the Education Commission to design cabinetry for the west wall of the Flex Room.
- At the same meeting, the Vestry voted to authorize Carol Walker to convene a work group to authorize selection and placement of books in the new library shelving in the Flex Room. Shortly after this meeting, Carol agreed to run for Vestry herself on the condition that she not also be in charge of the library.
- Judy Laffin and Margie Hill brought the books over and arranged them in the new shelves.
- Margie has been working along on cataloging the books. We have a catalogue!
- We have several current and former librarians among us at Saint David's, and as the Vestry liaison for Christian Formation and Education, I have been emailing and talking with them for a couple of months. I'm not interested in being in charge of the library, but I'm always happy to make opportunities for people to talk about ideas.
- We finally got a chance to get a few of them together to talk things over on Wednesday, June 23. At our meeting: librarians Margie Hill and Sandy Ridenour, book lover & rector Don Jones, Parish Life vestry liaison and furniture decision-maker Jane Herr, book lover & interior designer Ed Fleming, and myself. We reviewed earlier visioning on the library and talked about our own visions.

We'd like to invite all interested parties to get together and talk on Sunday, July 25 after church for about half an hour about the church library. New ideas and different approaches will be warmly welcomed!

The way Saint David's plans things –

In the last few years, it's worked very well here for a small group to come up with some ideas and share them with everybody, to see who else has energy and ideas to contribute to the project. This seems to generate more interesting discussions than just passing out blank pieces of paper.

So – here are the ideas we came up with on June 23.

Why have a library in the first place?

For many of us, reading is part of the life of faith – just as music is, or visual art. It's an important part of our spiritual growth. We'd like the library at Saint David's to support that growth, for adults and for children, by inviting people into encounters with books that will add meaning and insight to their lives. We do not need a big collection – we need an inviting, interesting collection.

What about the Flex Room itself?

We spent some time in silence, just noticing the room. We think this room could be a warm, home-like place for small meetings, conversations, classes, and personal prayer and study. We'd like to add some comfortable chairs and a wooden study table, and Jane Herr is going to start looking around for these. If you see something you think might be appropriate, see if you can take a picture and email it to Jane.

Inviting people into the experience of reading –

We agreed that having the books there spine-out on the shelves wasn't enough to invite people into the experience of reading. We'd like the shelving on the west wall to have display shelves at both adult and child level, as well as straight shelves.

We'd like to feature book reviews in the newsletter.

We'd like a book cart to park near the entrance to the nave on Sunday mornings, with books for children (on the low shelf) and adults (on the high shelf). Pamela would like to be able to display books on a given topic for a few weeks at a time.

We'd like to invite people to reflect on whether, instead of calling the room the Flex Room, it would be comfortable and appropriate to call it the Reading Room. We think the name allows for all kinds of uses for the room, but is also a gentle reminder to take a look at some books, too.

Intentionality

There is considerable one-ness of opinion that the library should not be a dumping ground for random books, which leads directly to the question of collection development.

Collection development

We'd like to see materials on interpreting and studying the Bible and we think it's appropriate for our rector to be the one who chooses them. Don says a budget of \$300/year would be appropriate for this, making acquisitions each year that would speak to that year's lectionary choices.

We'd like to see good books on the life of faith for children – not heavy, preachy books, but lively, interesting books. Sandy Sasso's books would be an example of these.

And – we'd like to have books that you value and want to share with others, and books that others value and want to share with you. What are you interested in? What nourishes your wonder?

As usual, God is generous to Saint David's.

Let's begin with gratitude for all that we have – a beautiful room, wonderful shelves, orderly books, a catalogue, ideas, book lovers, librarians, readers.

Cheryl Fleming is interested in coordinating collection development for the church library. She'd like to hear from you about what books are meaningful for you and what you'd like to see in your church library. When we have the collection development process sorted out, we'll start looking for ways to acquire some books.

We need a few children's library aficionados to think about the cabinetry for the west wall. Someday, when their calendars clear up, we'll need to ask Ray, Ralph and Verne to build them.

We think there's probably a lot of passion at Saint David's – for certain books, for certain kinds of books. We'd like to find ways to connect that passion to the library itself.

Please join us for conversation, Sunday, July 25 after worship!

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