

Library Committee 2021 Annual Report

Despite the pandemic, the Library continues to be used by many Meeting members and attenders. This year, we purchased 12 new books in the spring that are now on display in the lobby of the Meetinghouse. Five books are from the Quaker Quicks collection. These are short paperbacks that explain certain aspects of Quakerism. They are: What do Quakers Believe?; Quakers DO WHAT! WHY?; In Step with Quaker Testimony; Why I am a Pacifist; and The Guided Life: Finding purpose in troubled times. The other three adult books are When the Spirit Calls: Engaging the Challenges of Ministry; Walk Humbly, Serve Boldly: Modern Quakers as Everyday Prophets; and White Awake: An honest look at what it means to be white. We have four books for our younger Friends: A biography about Greta Thunberg, called Greta's Story: The Schoolgirl Who Went on Strike to Save the Planet; Good People Everywhere which shows people being kind, helpful and living with gratitude; Kid's on the March: 15 stories of Speaking out, Protesting, and Fighting for Justice; and What do you Stand For? (For Teens): A guide to Building Character.

We are in the midst of our first inventory. At present, we have 686 books: 33 are checked out, 37 are missing. We do not adhere to a specific time period as to how long a book should be borrowed. We trust that after a book is read, it will be returned. We have found that some folks still have books on loan since 2019 and need a nudge to return them, so we have started making a friendly call, or sending an email. There are 37 books missing that have not been checked out. We plan to publish these titles in the next newsletter and have confidence that they too will be returned. We are happy people are reading our books and invite everyone to stop by the bookshelves and take a look for yourself. Just fill out the card at the back of the book and drop it in bin on the shelf. Return your book to the book return box and we'll put it back on the shelves. Easy!

This year, we contributed used children's books to: Fair Hill Library and BookSmiles, an organization that distributes books to 'book deserts' in Philadelphia and Camden. We learned about BookSmiles via the Newtown Ministerium and Fair Hill Library through Marguerite Chandler. We are anticipating additional children's book donations and are happy to receive information about other charities or endeavors that are looking for book donations.

We continue to oversee the stock of Faith & Practice books on behalf of Care & Counsel, Inreach/Outreach and Children's Religious Ed Committee.

We are grateful for the many donations of books from the meeting community, and as stated last year, we look forward to the time when we can reschedule a used book sale.

If anyone is interested in writing a book review or just a brief blurb in the newsletter about a book they read from the library, please let us know. Sharing reviews or passages on the Facebook page would be most welcome.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hulihan
Library Committee, Clerk