

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT, Feb. 2016

### I. Introduction

The library continues to face challenges in 2016,. The new construction will make changes in the Library as well as the Parlor. Some of the shelves will be removed during the construction and we will need to move books into other parts to the building.

Meanwhile the Committee has continued to maintain the collection. We continue to add books to the library, catalog the collection, clear the cabinets and the shelves of duplicates and old supplies, and examine the shelves to identify out-of-scope materials.

### II. Finding Books in the Collection and Checking Them Out

First, find the library website, either by finding Library Committee under Committees and clicking on it, or by going to "About Us" and clicking on "Our Library."

The books in the Library have been cataloged on <http://www.LibraryThing.com>. The FMW Library catalog is viewable at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/FMWLibrary> or on mobile devices at <http://www.librarything.com/m/> by entering the collection name FMWLibrary. The Library Committee has also printed out lists of the books in the collection with call numbers arranged alphabetically by author and by title and made these available in the Library. A subject list is being created. These are more reliable than the card catalog, now out of date and no longer in the library.

Library Thing is a wonderful application through which people can find other libraries with similar books, read reviews of books and can even review them themselves.

The library website will have a list of "Tags" used in the library, which will help with subjects.

Some of the books you are interested in may be in a different part of the meetinghouse. Ask a committee member.

Information on checking out and returning books is posted in the library and will be on the library website. Try to return books within three weeks so that others may use them too. We are working on a better way of keeping track of checked out books.

### III. Size, Growth and Scope of the Collection

As of the beginning of January 2016, the Library held 2163 books in the collection, about 28 more than last year at this time. Additions to the collection came mainly from donations this year. We will continue to seek suggestions from the community and look for new titles relating to Quakerism to add to the collection.

During construction, donations can be problematic. Please talk to committee members first.

The Library's scope for collecting includes Quaker history and biography, spirituality, LGBTQ spirituality, mysticism, social justice, and non-violence.

### IV. Kindles and E-Books

The library owns 5 Kindle paperwhites which are available to be used by reading groups in the meeting and have already been. Ask the librarians about this if you are interested.

The Library has also added more links to electronic versions of classic Quaker titles to the Library's homepage, including John Woolman's *Journal*, Robert Barclay's *Apology*, and *Journal of the Life and Religious Labours of Elias Hicks*. We have included a basic introduction to Quakerism website, and a link to another Quaker library which has even more material.. If people need

assistance downloading these to their own Kindles or other e-book readers, please contact Library Committee members

V. Membership

We could always use assistance and actively welcome new members. If you have an interest, please approach one of the committee members.

Members of the Library Committee:

Abby Thomsen (emeritus)

Patrick Lynam (emeritus)

Gene Throwe [gthrowe@gmail.com](mailto:gthrowe@gmail.com)

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or feel free to send an e-mail to the clerk via the Library's homepage on the FMW website: <http://www.quakersdc.org/library> or [faithmw@gmail.com](mailto:faithmw@gmail.com)