

Church Library Promotion

Church Libraries are a ministry. If you are on a library committee – you are in a specialized ministry to your congregation.

Toot Your Horn! Promote the library at every opportunity. Be bold in asking for additional funds.

Don't let the details overshadow the big picture. The most important thing is offering quality materials to the congregation. Although it's necessary to be organized and tidy, it's more important to focus on the services you offer. (If you spend 20 hours cleaning up the accession book or card catalog make sure to spend the same amount of time getting new materials ready). See next item.

Be present! You should spend at least as much time being available in the library, (helping people, checking out materials, promoting) as you do behind the scenes, in meetings and processing. Have someone in the library, ready to offer assistance during the peak activity times in the life of the church - Sunday morning and Wednesday night.

Continuity is important. Every committee should have carry-over. You might consider appointing a person as church librarian for long term, as opposed to each person staying on for only 2-3 years.

Network like crazy! Talk to other librarians, book lovers, your pastor about new materials.

Weed when appropriate! See Weeding Handout.

Think More with Less. Ask for discounts, freebies and promote a wish list of things you need and would like to see donated to the library.

Be invitational! Invite groups into the library for refreshments and promotion: pastors and deacons/elders; youth sponsors; teachers; children's groups. As each group comes, briefly highlight 8-10 items that directly connect to their ministry. Always ask them: how can we support you in your ministry? Make sure you personally invite and guide new attendees to your library.

What else? Add other items you want to work on , emphasize.....

Got a question about church library stuff? Call Marlene Bogard at 316-283-6300