

## Church Libraries: More than Books on a Shelf

Yes, church libraries are much more than books on a shelf! That's just the beginning. There must be the selection of the appropriate media, the cataloging, processing, promotion, promotion and promotion! Even that's not enough. Team members of the library must work together to provide the necessary help for customers to choose their media. That means that a team member should be present when the library is open.

There is more--much more! The church library should be a visible part of the church program. Work with the church staff and leaders of the organizations of the church to find out what role you can play to help them. After that first step it will be easier to find your role in being an integral part of the church program.

Get the entire library team involved. Meet regularly for making plans. It is a gradual process and one that will take time. Brainstorm about what the library can do and then try it one at a time. Don't try to do too many things too fast. There are so many opportunities to become a vital part of the church life as you reach out beyond the books on the shelf.

The church library must play a vital role in church life for its own existence. Begin making plans. In doing so, let one of the church library conferences be a part of those plans.

## Church Librarian's Network

Are you a member of Church Librarian's Network? If not, you may be missing out on some great information. It's free and it is just for church librarians. More than 1,700 from all over the world and many denominations have already joined this group. It was started by our National Life-Way leader for Church Libraries, Morlee Maynard. The easiest way to join is to email Morlee at: [morlee.maynard@lifeway.com](mailto:morlee.maynard@lifeway.com) and tell her that you would like to join and she will help you. Also join the Alabama group for announcements concerning conferences in our state.

On this website you will find many helpful articles about library work. Church librarians participate in questions and answers to various library situations. There are also pictures of displays and bulletin boards from many libraries. Become involved. It can be both fun and helpful. You will discover that many other librarians have problems similar to your own.

# ALABAMA BAPTIST CHURCH LIBRARY HOST

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## Need Help?

Get the help you need to start a church library or revive your current library by contacting one of our Alabama Baptist Church Library Strategist. Marty Woodall or Eva Nell Hunter will be happy to give you some great ideas on how to build your library into a ministry that will make an eternal impact in the lives of your patrons.

They have dedicated their lives to the Church Library Ministry. Librarians all across the state and beyond have expanded their own Church Library Ministries because of their obedience to the call of Christ in serving in this capacity.

Marty and Eva Nell invite you to attend one or all of the Church Library Workshops/Conferences that are being offered in 2019.

Go to [www.alsbom.org/churchlibrary](http://www.alsbom.org/churchlibrary) for more information.



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Alabama Baptist Church  
Library Organization

**Monitor**  
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## Church Libraries: More than Books on a Shelf

**Central Alabama Spring  
Library Workshop**  
Shoal Creek Baptist Church  
May 4, 2019

**North Alabama Church  
Library Conference**  
Central Baptist Church  
November 2, 2019

## Central Alabama Spring Library Workshop

DATE: Saturday May 4, 2019  
LOCATION: Shoal Creek Baptist Church  
13214 Holtville Rd.  
Deatsville, AL 36022  
GUEST AUTHOR: Cindy Criswell Ducker  
CHECK-IN: 8:00  
CONFERENCE: 8:30 am till 3:30 pm

Registration and opening session in Fellowship Hall.

Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5.00.

There will be no other cost for the workshop.

**For more information and to register contact:**  
Marty Woodall @ 334-569-3854 (Home)  
(Please leave a message if no answer)  
334-569-2482 (Library)  
or by email [martybooks1@juno.com](mailto:martybooks1@juno.com)

## Central Alabama Spring Library Workshop

Dear fellow librarians,

I hope you had a wonderful 2018. Now we need to look ahead. I'm sure that some of you feel like you are losing an uphill battle to keep your library functioning as more than just books on shelves. The reason I'm sure of this is because I have been there, and occasionally still having to fight that feeling. When our circulation is down for a month even, I get discouraged. But then we have a new family begin using the library it gives me hope for the future! We all have times when we become discouraged. I know that is Satan's way of making us give up on the library ministry. Our libraries are storehouses of knowledge, hope, wonder and excitement. Satan does not like any of those things. He knows if we feel our libraries are worth fighting for, he is going to lose the battle! There are many things we must do to show our church staff, our congregations and even our patrons that the library is alive and well.

First, we need to promote the library often. I know that does not make mathematical sense, but we must promote the library 150%, and that is along with all the many other things that are required to keep the library relevant. Second, we must "BE OPEN" when people are at the church so that it is convenient for them to visit and use the library. This is one of the hardest things to convince library teams of. They all understand there are many things that must be done to get the

books on the shelves but find it difficult to work out a schedule to be open more than 10-15 mins. While the congregation is at the church. I think that may be because it is difficult to get a lot of work done when we are serving our patrons. It is hard to get "Stuff" completed when there are interruptions. Just remember that Jesus always made time for interruptions. He took time to STOP to serve the people that came to him with their needs! Third to stay relevant to our patrons we need to keep up with the times. We cannot be a library of just books! We need to ask ourselves what else can my library provide that my congregation needs. Do we need to be the location that "Sells" the workbooks for all studies being planned for the church? If events are scheduled that will require "tickets" does the library need to be where our congregations are told to "Pick them up" on Sunday. Are we open to the community? This could really be important to a small community that is several miles from a public library. Do we plan and host some sort of outreach program for our community to draw non-Christians into our churches? We also need to keep up with technology as much as possible. One of the largest circulated items in my library is DVD's This has been true for several years now. We have family movies for them to watch at home along with DVD's that can be used to support homeschooling curriculum. But sometimes we just need to provide a cup of coffee or tea!

## North Alabama Church Library Conference

DATE: Saturday November 2, 2019  
LOCATION: Central Baptist Church  
2801 Highway 31 South  
Decatur, AL 35603  
GUEST AUTHOR: Lisa Worthy Smith  
CHECK-IN: 8:00  
CONFERENCE: 8:30 – 3:30

There is no cost for this event however registration is necessary. Each attendee receives more than \$100 of free materials plus a free lunch

**For more information contact:**  
Eva Nell Hunter: 256-353-5912 (church) or 256-303-7739  
Email: [enhunter1946@gmail.com](mailto:enhunter1946@gmail.com) or  
[library@cbcdecatur.org](mailto:library@cbcdecatur.org)

**Website:** <https://cbcd.booksys.net/>  
for information, schedule, course descriptions and registration after September 1st.

## North Alabama Church Library Conference

North Alabama Conference for Church Librarians will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd at Central Baptist Church, 2801 Highway 31 South in Decatur, Alabama. It will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m., general session at 8:30, and close at 3:30 p.m. The theme for this conference is "Church Libraries: More Than Books on a Shelf"

Conferences will include every aspect of church library work—administration, collection development, weeding, processing, Bible repair, automation with Concourse and Atrium, promotion of all sorts, and classification and cataloging. Church history, card making as a ministry, and making something useful out of useless materials will also be offered.

Lisa Worthy Smith will be our guest author for this year. She is an excellent Bible teacher and her books are so very inspiring and different. She has written three and her fourth one will be out soon.

Leaders will include Lonette Berg, Jean Blass, Sandra Fitts, Bill Jones, Bev League, Allison Maynard, Sandy Shepherd, Amanda Thompson and Marty Woodall.

Your only expense is your transportation. To make packets, bags and lunch preparations, it is necessary that you register. Registration for this conference will be done by contacting Eva Nell Hunter in one of the following ways: Telephone: Church—256-353-5912  
Email: [library@cbcdecatur.org](mailto:library@cbcdecatur.org) Mail: Central Baptist Church, 2801 Highway 31 S, Decatur, AL 35603. Needed will be name, address, telephone number, email address if one, church and association. More than one hundred have attended the past few years. We are preparing bags, etc. for 125. Register early to be included. We do ask that if you register and find you cannot attend that you please notify us so others can take your place. Even though there is no deadline for registration, it would be appreciated if you would register by Wednesday, October 30th.

After September 1st information about the conference, the complete schedule and course descriptions may be found on the church library website: [www.cbcd.booksys.net](http://www.cbcd.booksys.net). You may also register on line after that date.

