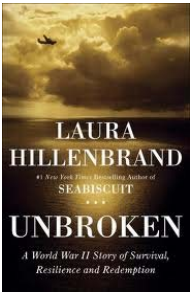




Bill's Book Club

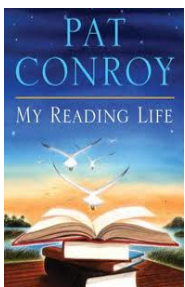
First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC

Selections 2011-2012



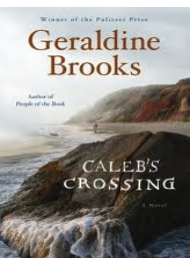
UNBROKEN (Laura Hillenbrand) – September 6, 2011 (Tues.)

This World War II story of survival, resilience and redemption, comes from the author who gave us the popular *Sea Biscuit*. It's the true story of Louie Zamperini, a rough and tumble kid, a wit, prankster, and reformed juvenile delinquent who survived the sharks of the Pacific to refine his thieving skills in Japanese POW camps. Not only that – but the story also takes readers to places as disparate as the 1939 Olympics in Berlin, and to Billy Graham's 1949 Los Angeles Crusade. Yes, it is also a story of faith.



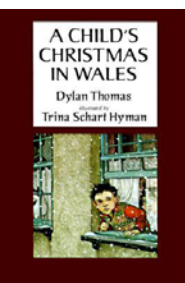
MY READING LIFE (Pat Conroy) – October 3, 2011

The popular author shares stories and thoughts about books that shaped his life and literary career, and the people who encouraged him along the way. In many ways, it is a book about books for people who enjoy books. This is not a voluminous tome, but it is a serious reflection on how a lonely young boy with little opportunity to make friends because his military family was constantly moving from base to base, a boy tormented by an abusive father, was able to find both an escape and a calling in books.



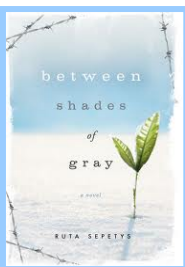
CALEB'S CROSSING (Geraldine Brooks) – November 7, 2011

In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. Upon this slender factual scaffold, Brooks has created a tale of love and faith, magic and adventure. The narrator, Bethia Mayfield, lives in a tiny settlement amid a small band of pioneers and Puritans. At twelve, she encounters Caleb, the young son of a Wampanoag chieftain, and the two forge a tentative secret friendship. A test of faith comes when her minister father tries to convert Caleb, who will soon find himself among the colonial elite in a crossing of cultures.



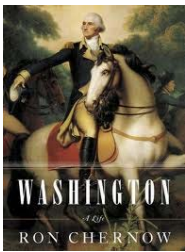
BBC – CHRISTMAS GATHERING – December 5, 2011 – 7 PM

Members of the Book Club, and their guests, will gather for a festive evening as they share bits and pieces of favorite Christmas literature – and enjoy scrumptious desserts and other Christmas dishes derived from family recipe books. Perhaps each will offer a bit of a personal story as they share their Christmas “treats” with one another, and hear some readings from selections like Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*.



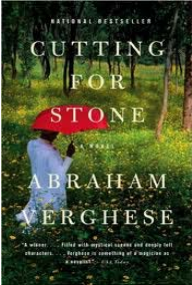
BETWEEN SHADES OF GRAY (Ruta Sepetys) – January 3, 2012 (Tues)

The story of a teenage girl, set in 1941 against the backdrop of Stalin's “cleansing” of the Baltic States, deportations to Siberia, and the threat of Hitler's Germany. The author, a niece of Ruta Allen, based her book on numerous interviews with Lithuanian relatives. A review in *The Washington Post* says “Few books are beautifully written, fewer still are important; this novel is both.”



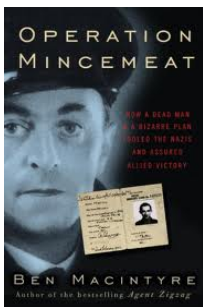
WASHINGTON: A LIFE (Ron Chernow) – February 6, 2012

Bill Arthur will review this recent biography of America's first President, just days before Presidents' Day. While some members will want to read Chernow's splendid work, others may want to read David McCullough's *John Adams*, or Doris



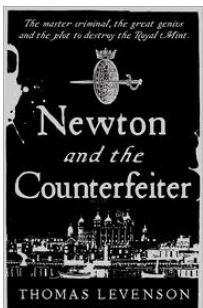
CUTTING FOR STONE (Abraham Verghese) – March 5, 2012

A sweeping novel that moves from India to Ethiopia to an inner-city hospital in New York City over decades and generations. Sister Mary Joseph Praise, a devout young nun, dies birthing twin boys: Shiva and Marion, the latter narrating his own and his brothers long, dramatic, biblical story set against the backdrop of political turmoil in Ethiopia, the life of the hospital compound in which they grow up and the love story of their adopted parents, both doctors at Missing. The boys become doctors as well and Verghese's personal experience as a practicing physician adds to the story.



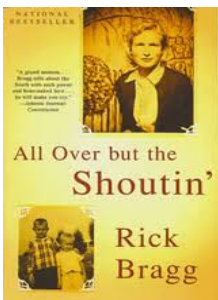
OPERATION MINCEMEAT (Ben Macintyre) – April 2, 2012

An entertaining updating of WWII's best-known human intelligence operation. In 1943, British intelligence conceived a spectacular con trick to draw German attention away from the Allies' obvious next objective, Sicily. The bait was a briefcase full of carefully forged documents attached to the wrist of "Major William Martin, Royal Marines"—a fictitious identity given to a body floated ashore in neutral Spain. The carefully constructed documents outlining a bogus operation against Greece and Sardinia convinced even Hitler himself. Thus, the man who never was entered the history and folklore of WWII.



NEWTON AND THE COUNTERFEITER (Thomas Levenson) – June 4, 2012

In 1695, Isaac Newton—already renowned as the greatest mind of his age—made a surprising career change. He left quiet Cambridge, where he had lived for thirty years and made his earth-shattering discoveries, and moved to London to take up the post of Warden of His Majesty's Mint. Newton was preceded to the city by a genius of another kind, the budding criminal, and master counterfeiter, William Chaloner. In the courts and streets of London—and amid the tremors of a world being transformed by the ideas Newton himself had set in motion—the two played out an epic game of cat and mouse.



ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTIN' (Rick Bragg) – May 7, 2012

A "memoir" that presents in a powerful way the story of a poor family, loving aunts and uncles, a wayward father, and a heroic mother in the textile mills of North Georgia. It is raw, honest, and full of beautiful anecdotes, descriptions, and human feelings. Though many books have been written regarding the socially deprived black community, "white poverty" is often overlooked. While Rick made his way out of the pain and havoc of his childhood and youth, his brothers, like many others did not. How much of this travail is self-created?

Visitors and new friends always welcome

Morning Group 10:30 a.m. — Evening Group 7:00 p.m.

The BBC Meets in THE ANNEX - Chestnut Street

If you are interested or have questions please contact Dr. Bill Arthur

(864-991-5354 or barthur@fpcspartanburg.org)

Check out our blog - <http://billsbookclub.wordpress.com/>

http://www.fpcspartanburg.org/Ministries/Education_Discipleship/adults_bookclub.html