Dr. Mitzi Budde, Professor and Head Librarian, at Virginia Theological Seminary recommends the following books as part of the Bishop Payne Library’s monthly series highlighting a faculty member’s “picks”.


From the author of *Smilla’s Sense of Snow* comes another quirky mystery set in Denmark. A fourteen-year-old narrates how he and his 16-year-old sister search for their devout and eccentric pastor father and organist mother when they disappear from their church. Racing against an angry bishop, police, and various nefarious characters, the teens use their knowledge of their parents’ ability to induce convenient miracles for their own purposes to deduce their whereabouts. When the children realize that their parents’ trail leads to the priceless religious artifacts on display for an international interfaith religious leaders’ conference in Copenhagen, the teen-agers spring into action, interspersed with side reflections on those who keep elephants in their souls.


This biography portrays a pioneering and progressive female architect in the 19th century in Britain who has been, until now, nearly forgotten. Her signature building, the village church at Wreay, built in 1842 has been called a crazy building, yet the most forward-pointing design of a Victorian church building: gargoyles of turtles and dragons, the pulpit a hollow tree trunk, pinecones everywhere as a symbol of the “sacred geometry of nature.” A compelling read about a creative mind at work in a fascinating era.


I recommend the Fellowship for the Performing Arts’ stage version, directed by Max McLean, which is currently touring major U.S. cities ([http://www.screwtapeonstage.com/](http://www.screwtapeonstage.com/)). Whether on stage in 2013 or in first print release in 1942, this classic work is well worth revisiting. Screwtape, a senior devil writes a series of letters to his nephew, Wormwood, a junior tempter, offering advice and counsel on how to tempt Wormwood’s human subject to hell.