The Rev. Allison St. Louis, Ph.D., Director of Field Education and the Second Three Years Program at Virginia Theological Seminary, recommends the following books as part of the Bishop Payne Library’s monthly series highlighting a faculty member’s “picks”:

Anthony Ciorra, *Beauty: A Path to God* (Paulist Press 2013)
A lovely exploration of a spirituality of beauty. Drawing upon the theological writings of Hans Urs von Balthasar, Ciorra invites readers to reflect upon, and embrace the transformational power of beauty - in poetry and art, through an appreciation of the present moment, through the valleys in our lives, in acts of forgiveness and in expressions of gratitude.

Susan Cain, *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t Stop Talking* (Random House 2013)
A well-researched, gracefully written and highly readable exploration of the gift of introversion. Through the use of quantitative and qualitative data, Cain challenges misconceptions about introversion, deepens our understanding of the inner life of introverts, and reassures introverts that, like extroverts, society needs the gifts we have to offer.

John Allen, Jr., *10 Things Pope Francis Wants You to Know* (Liguori Publications 2013)
Ten pearls of wisdom from a truly wise leader. From the importance of preaching about a merciful God and leading a merciful life, to being attentive and responsive to the needs of the poor, to cultivating a hopeful, playful spirit, this book serves as gentle reminder of our call as people of faith.