



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 30, 2008

Pastors' Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

On Sunday, May 11th, our church will be celebrating its 180th anniversary. In a happy convergence, that same day also happens to be Pentecost - the anniversary of the beginning of the church universal. I love the fact that on one day we will be celebrating two births - our congregation's particular beginning, and that other beginning which makes our own possible.

An anniversary is more than just a way of marking time. It is an opportunity for raising our gratitude for gifts given. It is an invitation to look at that long line of people behind us, the ones whose faith carried forward into now and helped make our own faith possible. Most of us can name at least one person - and probably many, many more - in our own personal history whose faith and witness shaped our own. Was it your grandfather? Your mother? Your third grade Sunday School teacher? Whose voice taught you the hymns that nourish your faith? Who told you the stories of Jesus? Whose quiet acts of kindness and generosity called forth your own? In whose eyes did you see the compassion of Christ?

So many faithful people stand behind us, and behind them, and further on back to the beginning. Each one of those made faithful choices that kept the fires of faith burning - they kept passing the torch forward. They lived their faith sometimes in quiet and steady ways, and other times in bold and courageous ways. They made mistakes, for sure. But somehow the gift they had been given - the good news of Christ - kept getting passed on. It kept getting passed forward.

We don't know all their stories. We don't know enough of their stories. We know a few stories of those first Christians. We know some stories from our own congregational history. And we could each share a few tales of the people in our own spiritual history. But we don't know nearly all the stories of brave faith and remarkable hope and outrageous generosity and sacrificial love.

We do, however, know the story that matters most - the one that fired their faith and gave birth to the church in all times and in each time: Christ crucified, Christ raised, Christ in us, Christ still to come. It is this story that draws us still, and in its telling and retelling, in its being fleshed out and passed on in our own lives, it keeps getting carried forward. That the Church's anniversary is a celebration of the gift of God's unbounded Spirit is a reminder that the beginning was not only then, it is also and always now. We don't just celebrate an anniversary of something that happened once long ago; we are celebrating something that is happening now, and a gift that is still being given.

That gift comes with an invitation. Can we keep receiving that Spirit? Can we keep tending the flame of faith? Can we keep telling - and believing - the stories of Jesus? Can we keep claiming Christ in all that we say and do? Can we keep loving and hoping and praying, and keep doing all of this *together*? In the end, the anniversary of the church is not so much a reminder to preserve a heritage as it is a challenge to keep taking the risk of following God's Spirit, wherever it blows. Are we up for it? My prayer is that I am, and that we are.

Nursery care is available on the 3rd floor from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the "Time as Children" portion of the worship service, preschoolers may go to the nursery for childcare and their church school class starting at 11:00 a.m. Children in kindergarten - 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship.

Children and Youth Christian Education

3 and 4 year olds

10:00 - 11:10 Worship w/ family or childcare in nursery
11:00 - 12:30 Church School (room 306)

K - 2nd grade

10:00 - 10:30 Worship
10:30 - 11:00 Children's Worship (room 202A)
11:00 - 12:00 Church School (room 202B)
12:00 - 12:30 Grace Notes Choir (room 202B)

3rd - 6th grade

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
Beginning May 11:
11:10 - 11:50 Church School (Room 201B)
11:50 - 12:30 Jr. Choir (Room 102)

7th grade - high school

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
11:00 - 12:30 Church School (room 107)

Children's Music and Arts Ministry

Jr. Handbells	9:15 - 9:45	room 306
Tiny Grace Notes (preschool)	10:45 - 11:00	room 306
Grace Notes (K - 3 rd grade)	12:00 - 12:30	room 202A, middle level
Jr. Choir (4 th grade and older)	11:10 - 11:50	room 102, lower level

Adult Christian Education (11:30—12:30)

Religion and Peacemaking in the Middle East (Lounge) Ron Gregg and Sarah Heidt, facilitators
This series of presentations by local Arabs, Jews and Christians will examine the possibilities for a peaceful outcome of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict from a variety of perspectives, especially the religious. A time for questions and discussion will follow each presentation.

May 4: *The Qur'an on Peacemaking* — Iman Ashmat Salie, professor at Oakland University and Ecumenical Theological Seminary

May 11: *The Christian Scriptures on Peacemaking* — Rev. Paul Simpson Duke

May 18: *The Jewish Scriptures on Peacemaking* — Rabbi Nathan Martin, Hillel

Earth Crammed With Heaven (Room 108) Ron Tipton, leader
Using a book by Elizabeth Dreyer, a laywoman who is concerned about a "spirituality of everyday life," we will follow a small group format. Participants will commit to consistent attendance and preparation each week (reading portions of the book), with group time spent in sharing and growing through spiritual disciplines. The book will be available in class.

Other Adult Learning Opportunities

Wednesday Bible Study (Memorial Lounge, 1:30 — 2:30 p.m.)

Rev. Paul Simpson Duke leads an in-depth study of the Gospel of John, chapters 12-21. Join us each week for fellowship, learning and great snacks!

Small Groups (ChristCare) - Centered on Bible study, fellowship, mission, prayer and worship, we currently have two groups: one which meets monthly and the other which meets every other week. See Stacey, Paul or Sue Ellen for more information about joining a group.



FBCA2 News & Happenings

Welcome New Members, Emily, Theodora and Alex!

Emily Boris transferred her membership from First Baptist in Jackson, where she grew up. She has degrees in religion and music from St. Lawrence University and Northwestern, and is a church musician as a singer and violinist. She looks forward to sharing these interests with her new and very welcoming congregation. (No picture available)

Theodora Danciu and Alexandre Dasilva:

Theodora and her parents immigrated to the US in 1984 and settled in the San Francisco Bay area. In 1990, Theodora moved to Boston to continue her studies and in 1998 she met Alexandre who came to Boston from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to complete his doctorate. After three months of being in a class together, Theodora and Alexandre started dating and got married in 2001 (at the First Baptist Church of Boston!). Theodora moved to Ann Arbor in September of 2007 and Alexandre in December of 2007 to start as faculty at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry where they both practice their clinical specialties and conduct research. Theodora is a dentist, a maxillofacial pathologist and a basic science researcher. Alexandre is also a dentist, a chronic facial pain specialist and neuroscientist. Just last Thursday, Theodora gave birth to twin girls, Caterina Danciu Dasilva and Alexandra Danciu Dasilva. Theodora's parents Ted and Aurora, will visit quite frequently to take care of the babies. In their free time, Theodora and Alex enjoy going to movies, classical music concerts, meeting friends and traveling. They are both very happy to become members of our church.



FBC Oompa Loompas!

Willy Wonka is at Pioneer HS with our own First Baptist OOMPA LOOMPAS, Christina and Marissa Alaniz!! Remaining performances are Friday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday (May 3 and 4) at 2:00 pm. Tickets available at Morgan and York (1928 Packard Road) and at the door.

Summer Sextons Needed

The church is in search of a couple students to work and live here at the Campus Center this summer (and possibly into the fall). If you are aware of a hard-working student who is in need of housing this summer, please have them e-mail Kat at office@fbca2.org. Thank you!

New Office Hours

Starting Monday, May 5, the church office hours will return to 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Monday—Friday.

MacGregor-Stitt Circle

The next meeting of the MacGregor-Stitt Circle will be held Thursday, May 15 at 12:00 noon (*note special time*) at the home of Phylis White for a potluck salad luncheon and treasure sale.

2008 Directory

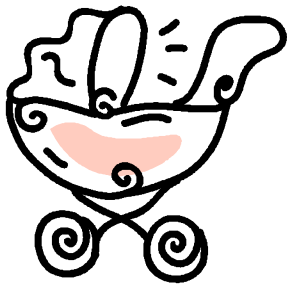
The new edition of the church directory will be available for pick up at the Information Counter Sunday mornings the next couple of weeks or from the office during the week. If you aren't able to make it to church but would like a copy mailed to you, please e-mail (office@fbca2.org) or call the office at 734-663-9376.

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome our new administrative assistant, Katherine (Kat) Becker, who started working here at FBC on April 21st. Kat brings to FBC over 20 years of office experience. She was previously employed at Fortis Investments in their Paris office. Prior to that, she worked at Lazard Frères in both their New York and London offices.

Kat graduated from Kenyon College with a degree in Political Science. She was co-captain and assistant coach of the Women's Varsity Soccer team. She grew up on Long Island (NY) and eventually made her way to Ann Arbor. After spending three years in France, she is happy to be back in Ann Arbor and close to her family.

Kat was an active member of the Church of the Holy Trinity in New York City, volunteering in the altar guild, the newcomers' committee and in the church homeless shelter. She also had great fun as a dancing bumblebee in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Kat is a loving aunt to three nieces and three nephews. She is an avid reader and loves cats, music, cooking and needlepoint.



We are pleased to announce the arrival of Caterina Danciu Dasilva and Alexandra Danciu Dasilva, born to Theodora Danciu and Alexandre Dasilva on Thursday, April 24th. Caterina was born at 9:15 a.m. and weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz., and Alexandra was born at 9:17 a.m. and weighed 7 lbs, 10 oz. Mother and babies are at home doing well.

Scholarship Money Available

Money from the Chester and Violet Loucks Memorial Scholarship Fund is available for those pursuing post-secondary education or continuing education.

"Scholarships may be granted to supplement the cost of achieving these goals:

- To obtain a post-secondary education, i.e., at the college or post-graduate level.
- To develop or improve skills, obtain training or enrichment through camps, conferences, or continuing education experiences that relate to and enhance the work and ministry of First Baptist Church Ann Arbor."

Money from the Robert L. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund is available to provide support for those wishing to attend conferences at Green Lake.

Applications for both scholarships will be available at the Information Counter or from Mary Davis via email (madrad@umich.edu). Loucks Fund applications are due by May 11. Please give or send applications to Mary Davis, 1414 Iroquois Pl, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

~ The Scholarship Committee



Special Mission Project to Commemorate FBC's 180th Birthday!

Only two more Sundays to bring in your donations for the Friendship House birthday-party-in-a-bag. We are trying to put together 18 bags to celebrate the 180th birthday of our church (on May 11)! Ingredients: a big party bag (labeled "boy" or "girl" and age range), cake mix, frosting, candles, party hats, napkins, plates, favors and a toy or two and any other party-fixings you wish. A donation of cupcake papers and cake pans has already been made to get us started. Please drop off your donations on the tables in the Christian Education wing across from the office anytime by May 11.

NOTE: The newest Friendship House newsletter reported that Covenant Baptist Church (Waterford) donated 17 bags and FBC Lincoln has donated 12. If we make our goal of 18 (or more!!), we will set a new record!

~ Sue Ellen Glover, Director of Christian Education



Beginning this Sunday, May 4, ABC-MI churches will have a chance to contribute to our Region to support the many worthy ministries that ABC-MI provides. Money given to this offering, "Sowing Seeds of Ministry," will help support efforts to grow healthy churches, cultivate health in our pastors, and sow seeds of the Gospel in Michigan. Over the next few weeks, you will learn about some of those ministries in the bulletin and newsletter. This offering will be received throughout the month of May. Please give generously.

SECOND SUNDAY

May 11th, 2008

Our final "Second Sunday" event of this season will feature a Muslim Cleric with a national and international reputation as an advocate of understanding and harmony between followers of different faith traditions.

Imam Sayed Hassan Al-Qazwini is the head of the oldest and largest Shi'a mosque in the United States, the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn. In that capacity, by his preaching and writing as well as in the press, on radio and television the Imam has sought to bridge misunderstandings between Americans and Muslims. In his latest book, "American Crescent," he describes the struggle against religious prejudice and outlines his vision of the future of Islam in America.

Born into the family of a respected imam in the holy city of Karbala, Iraq, our speaker and his family knew intense persecution under Saddam Hussein and eventually were forced to leave that country for sanctuary, first in Kuwait, later in Iran and finally in the United States. In exile he followed a family tradition of scholarship and has since become a leading spokesman for the Muslim faith. At the invitation of Congressman Dingell Imam Qazwini offered the opening prayer at the 108th Congress following which the Congressman wrote "Imam Qazwini has become a leading voice for Muslims in America. He has spoken movingly of the need for reconciliation, for tolerance and for the recognition of our humanity. He has worked with leaders in both the Christian and Jewish communities to help bridge the differences between us and to dispel prejudice. His work has touched Muslim and non-Muslim alike and his devotion to our State and our community of Dearborn has been recognized by the mayor, the governor and by President Bush."

In his talk the Imam will focus on helping Christians understand Islam and will attempt to dispel commonly held misperceptions. Illustrated by personal experiences both before and after leaving Iraq the lecture is sure to generate both intense interest and animated discussion. We will meet in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. and will adjourn no later than 8:30. Plan to come.

Arthur Francis

"DINNER THEATRE: SACRED STORYTELLING"

Sunday, May 18, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

The Interfaith Round Table invites you to the final performance of the original interfaith play, *Sacred Storytelling*. Based on conversations with over a hundred high school students from ten local faith communities, this play is designed to stimulate interfaith dialogue and understanding. In addition, enjoy a delightful Indian meal prepared by our Hindu friends at the Chinmaya Mission. Tickets: \$15, \$30, \$50, \$75 / children under 12, \$8 (charitable contribution receipt with \$30, \$50 & \$75 tickets). Location: The Chinmaya Mission, 4760 Packard, Ann Arbor (between Carpenter and Golfside). For more information or tickets, call 734-424-1535, email gbrides@umich.edu or go to <http://www.irtwc.org/>.

Panel on Religion and Politics at Ann Arbor Book Festival

The Ann Arbor Book Festival is hosting a panel discussion on Religion and Politics. This free panel discussion meets from 2-3:00 p.m., Saturday, May 17 at the Michigan League. The details may be found on the bulletin board across from the office. There will be many other interesting readings and discussions and a showing of the newly-released film "The Life Before her Eyes" based on the book of the same name by local author Laura Kasischke. At the famous Michigan Theater, this event will feature the author in conversation about the movie. Check the festival web Site www.aabookfestival.org/index.htm for all the details or call 734-663-5790



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	2	3
4 Communion 12:45 Board of Music & Arts	5 7:00 Board of Outreach	6 5:30 Vespers	7 1:30 Bible Study 7:30 Executive Council	8 12:00 ABWM Spring Salad Luncheon 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	9	10
11 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> <i>FBC's 180th Birthday</i> <i>Mother's Day</i> 7:00 Second Sunday (Newsletter Deadline)	12	13 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Board of Worship	14 1:30 Bible Study 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	15 12:00 MacGregor-Stitt at P. White's 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	16	17 9:00-11:30 Children & Youth Worship Rehearsal
18 <i>Children & Youth Worship</i>	19	20 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Board of Trustees	21 12:00 Bible Study Lunch at Weber's	22 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	23	24
25 (Newsletter & June Calendar Deadline)	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> (Offices & church closed)	27 9:30 ABWM Board Meeting 5:30 Vespers	28 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	29 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	30	31



Ron Gregg	1	Gregg Magnuson	16	Carole Ott	26
Madeline Drake	3	Kristen MacGregor	19	John Moyer	28
Ruth Kerr	4	Gary Alton	20	Beverly Inbody	29
Robert Shannon	4	Matthew Kirchner	22	Isaac Thompson	30
Bonnie Miles	11	Noelle Anne Alton	23	Nichole Alton	31
Diane Fleming	12	Thomas Scott	23	Charlie Duke	31
Astrid Beck	15	Ashley Kerns	24	Rob Duke	31

First Baptist Church
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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Mother's Day is May 11th!



Next
newsletter
deadline:

Sunday, May 11, 2008

A HUGE and HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the terrific work crew who met Saturday, April 26, and re-located the contents of the Chapman Room in preparation for the construction needed for the Co-op preschool moving in this summer. It was truly amazing the amount of work that got done in one morning - and almost all of it involved moving very heavy things down a flight of stairs with no elevator! Some of the things moved - two pianos, eight of the large storage cabinets, many, many large boxes of costumes, classroom books and resources, the children's choir robes, three couches, a two-ton coffee table, many tables and chairs.... And, of course, this one job led to many others - a very bad infestation of carpet beetles was discovered in the new space for the choir robes so carpet and padding needed to be torn up, thrown out and then cleaned up before the robes could be moved in; rolling cabinets needed to be tipped over and re-wheeled, and several loads of things needed to be taken to the re-use center, the PTO Thrift Shop and the dumpster. Somehow we were able to move almost everything in place by noon and the rooms were usable by Sunday morning! If you missed this great opportunity, there will be more chances coming up in May and June to help us move and re-arrange spaces and classrooms!

These people have my un-dying appreciation and gratitude (and quite possibly, a few sore muscles and blisters!):

The INDESPENSIBLE David Robbins, as well as the "youngsters" - Jackie Snyder, Bryan Aries and Ethan Wright, along with Cesar Alaniz, Joyce Arnn, Bob Kidd and Deb Snyder.

Thank you!
Sue Ellen