



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

September 5, 2007

## Pastors' Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

Rob and Charlie adore Charles, the man we pass on the way into the church building almost every time we come. Recently, when the boys and I were at the church on a weekday afternoon, Charles was standing on the Washington Street sidewalk with his back to us. The boys insisted that we go over and say hello.

"Hi, Mr. Charles!" we called out as we approached. He turned around, "Hi, Robert and Charles!" he said brightly to the boys. "How are you?" "We're going to school," Charlie announced. I explained to Charles that the boys are beginning preschool next week and are very excited about it. "Is that so?" Charles said. Then he stuck his hand out to shake hands with each of them, and as they did he said, "Happy scholastics!" As we walked back to the car he called out, "Have a good time at school. We will need you someday!"

I found the whole scene touching, both because of how much the boys enjoy visiting with Charles and because of how much he seems to like them. But it was that last sentence of his that has continued to ring in my ears: "We will need you someday!" These little boys will happily go off to preschool on Monday, and they will play and sing and dance and listen and have snacks. But what is happening is more than that - a foundation is being laid for the future, the first of many days of education, to be formed into young men who have a contribution to make. The world will need them someday. Everything that happens now is preparation for that.

I have been thinking about this not only with respect to my own children, but also as children everywhere head back to school, and especially as our church embarks on another year of Christian education and spiritual formation. Everything we do as a church for children, for teenagers, for college students, is an act of hope for the future and an investment in harvests we may not see. The world is going to need these young people some day, and they are going to give the world what we've helped prepare them to give. With Church School, and the nursery, and Vacation Bible School, and children's choirs, and Campus Ministry, our reach as a congregation is extending far beyond our walls - it is touching the future.

At First Baptist, we are blessed with a beautiful depth of resources - an amazing and tireless Christian Educator, dedicated volunteers, a nurturing congregation of adults who care, a well-stocked library, abundant classroom space, and the means to provide whatever curriculum and other resources we need. A lot of the work of the formation of our young people is hidden to many of us - it happens in the classes and the choir rehearsals we do not see; it happens at The Gathering on Wednesday nights; it happens at youth lock-ins and bonfires. In ways seen and unseen, our congregation pours itself into the nurture and formation of young disciples.

To those of you directly involved in such nurture - as Church School teachers or children's choir directors, as volunteer cooks for The Gathering, as chaperones for youth events, as volunteers during Vacation Bible School, as members of the Board of Christian Education - I want to say a huge *thank you* for the work you are doing on behalf of our congregation, and on behalf of the future of the church universal. To the congregation as a whole, I want to say *thank you* for being a congregation that cares about the enrichment of the mind and the development of faith, and especially for caring about children, youth, and college students. To be given a ministry such as this is quite a heritage, and quite a trust. Please keep our young people, our volunteers, and these ministries in your prayers, especially as the new school year and new church program year begins. The world is going to need these kids someday, and it is our privilege and responsibility to shape them in the Christ-life as best we can.

## Children and Youth Christian Education

Nursery: 9:30 -11:30 a.m., room 307

All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the Time as Children portion of the worship service, children in preschool - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to Children's Worship. No church school classes on September 9 due to the Ice Cream Social. The new church school year begins September 16 with the following schedule:

### 3 and 4 year olds

10:00 - 11:15 Childcare in nursery  
11:15 - 12:30 Church School (Room 306)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades

11:00 - 11:50 Church School (Room 304)  
11:50 - 12:30 Jr. Choir (Room 102)

### K - 2nd grade

10:00 - 10:30 Worship  
10:30 - 11:00 Children's Worship (202A)  
11:00 - 12:00 Church School (Room 202B)  
12:00 - 12:30 Grace Notes Choir (Room 305)

### Youth (7<sup>th</sup> - High School)

10:00 - 11:00 Worship  
11:15 - 12:30 Church School (Room 107)  
11:50 - 12:30 Jr. Choir (Room 102)

## Adult Christian Education

***No Adult classes on Sunday, September 9 due to the Ice Cream Social. These new Adult classes begin Sunday, September 16:***

### **The Jesus Class (Memorial Lounge)**

**Ron Gregg & Sue Ellen Glover, leaders**

In recent decades there have been new conversations, speculations, questions, and convictions -- among scholars and in churches -- about Jesus. There has been new dialogue about his identity and his mission, a re-visioning of traditional understandings of what we mean when we say "God is in Christ." This class will be examining the issues and questions that are currently being raised. It will be a safe place to think, ask questions, and exchange views about important theological and spiritual issues. We don't expect everyone to agree on one theological position, but we will thoughtfully engage each other on the issues.

### **Young Adult Bible Study (Campus Center Living Room)**

**Marlene & Arthur Francis, leaders**

We will engage in a study of the books of the Hebrew Bible known as "The Minor Prophets." The name speaks to the relative length of the books and not to their importance. In these often-overlooked writings are to be found some of the earliest articulations of the principles of justice and compassion which today are essential elements of the Christian Gospel. We will begin by considering how the moral and ethical decay which began soon after Solomon's kingdom was divided led not only to the prophetic calls for repentance, but also to the eventual conquest and exile of the peoples of both Israel and Judah. A brief manual, giving dates, some historical and biographical background and a summary of the basic message of each book, will be available on the first Sunday of the class.

## Other Adult Learning Opportunities

### **New Second Sunday Speaker Series (Memorial Lounge)**

Each month will feature scholars and visionary church leaders addressing theological and social concerns, through a lecture and discussion period. Next Sunday, September 9, we welcome Dr. Gary Dorrien, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York, and Professor of Religion at Columbia University. His lecture will be titled, "Militaristic Illusions: Iraq, Empire and the Ethics of Resistance."

### **Wednesday Bible Study (Memorial Lounge)**

The 2007 fall series of the afternoon Bible study class will begin on Wednesday, September 19, with its traditional potluck luncheon in the Memorial Lounge at 12:00 p.m. If you are able, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. Starting Wednesday, September 26, Pastor Paul will lead the class in an in-depth study of the Gospel of John. Classes are from 1:30-2:30 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for interested persons to join the group and increase their knowledge of the Holy Scriptures in an informal setting. This will be the 16th year of the Wednesday Bible Study class.



# *FBCA2 News & Happenings*

## **Ice Cream Social**

This Sunday, September 9 in the Fellowship Hall (following worship), we will gather together to celebrate the beginning of a new church school year. This event is sponsored by the Board of Christian Education.

## **Church School Classroom Clean-up Parties**

Friday, September 14, 6:00—8:30 p.m. (FREE pizza!)

Saturday, September 15, 8:00—11:00 a.m. (FREE donuts!)

Everyone is invited to help organize and spruce up the church school classrooms. Childcare for little ones will be provided upon request. Please let Sue Ellen know if you are able to help out.

## **MacGregor-Stitt Circle**

The MacGregor-Stitt Circle meets Thursday, September 20 at 12:30 p.m. (note special time) at the home of Robert Hause. There will be Subway for lunch and the program will be a "Summer Review."

## **Cooks Needed for The Gathering**

Volunteers are needed to cook meals for our campus ministry program, The Gathering. This is a much-appreciated ministry of hospitality for students who are away from home and don't often get a home-cooked meal. Please sign up at the Information Counter and take an instruction sheet with you.

## **CROP Walk 2007 - Sunday, October 7th**

A reminder that walkers will be needed for the 2007 CROP Walk on Sunday, October 7 (registration is at 1:30 p.m.) Ask a friend to walk with you, think of the health benefits and keep in mind that it's all for a good cause. If you're unable to walk, please consider donating to one of the walkers.

## **Men's Book Group**

The men's book group will meet at 7:15 p.m., Tuesday, September 11 at the Gregg's - 911 Robin Road in Ann Arbor. We will be discussing "American Gospel - God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation" by Jon Meacham. The book deals with the historical interaction of faith, religion and political governance in the U.S. All men are invited to participate.

## **Communion Servers and Greeters**

If you are interested in greeting folks before worship and/or serving communion some future Sunday, please visit the Information Counter where sign-up sheets reside. Filling both of these roles is an on-going need and the Board of Worship very much appreciates everyone who participates.

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## **Attention College Students**

Today, Wednesday, September 5, marks the beginning of a new year of ***The Gathering***, our campus ministry program. We would love for you to join us! We gather every Wednesday evening in the Campus Center next door, at 5:30 p.m. for a free, home-cooked meal followed by a time of study and fellowship. This fall we are doing a book study of the book *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* by Rob Bell. Books are free for any interested student, but you do not have to have read the book to attend the sessions. Throughout the year, we offer other opportunities for fellowship, prayer, and service. Questions? Contact Stacey at [stacey@fbca2.org](mailto:stacey@fbca2.org).



# 2007 VBS

## All God's Kids



August 20 - 24

What an exciting week! There were certainly challenges as our numbers increased by at least 10 children per day over 2006 - but the blessings far outweighed the difficulties and the laughter and fun helped us through heat, humidity, thunder storms and a lot of NOISE!

Our experiment with switching to the end of the summer evenings seems to have been a good change. Our attendance from the FBC kids and their friends doubled over 2006, while the number of children from Hikone tripled! We averaged 31 children per day, with a low of 27 and a high of 41! There were a total of 48 children who attended at least once (17 from FBC, 9 of their friends and 22 children from Hikone). Twenty-three children attended at least 4 days.

Each evening's schedule varied, but generally the children arrived around 5:00, and we started the evening in the Lounge with Sue Ellen introducing the theme for the evening, based on a Bible story and verse as well as a sea creature (e.g. the dolphin represented working together to help others, with a Bible lesson from the Acts account of the early church) Stacey truly jump-started the evening with joyous music - sometimes rousing, sometimes quiet.

At 5:30 dinner was served and enjoyed until about 6:15, when the group gathered for Bible lessons led by Pastor Paul. The interactive lessons included dramatizations and discussion of Bible stories such as the Good Samaritan, the wise Man/Foolish Man and Zaccheus stories. After Bible lessons, the group divided into groups for crafts. Some of the activities included making salads and placemats for Vespers, making a pillow and sea bath salts to show caring, and using shells to make a beautiful cross with a strong foundation built of rocks. Games were led by Jackie and were lots of fun, though we discovered that 40 children plus 10 adults can make the Chapman Room seem very small and VERY noisy!

Evenings were finished with yummy and creative snacks (octopuses out of rice cakes and Twizzlers; fish out of watermelon and fruit slices) then a short closing in which the children wrote (or dictated) on an ocean reef animal card, how they each could show the evening's theme (care, help, believe, trust and listen).

I almost forgot to mention our Thursday evening guest! Bob Douglas brought in the most wonderful llama and each of the children got to pet him. (I will send you a short movie clip of the visiting llama if you email me.) The Bible story was Jesus' parable about the lost sheep and the llama was so much cooler than a sheep!

I started off the summer asking for volunteers and I figured we needed fifteen volunteers each evening. You responded wonderfully!! We averaged 26 volunteers each evening - with at least 16 helping the children, 3-5 providing transportation to and from Hikone, and 5-8 people preparing, serving and cleaning up dinner and snacks. There were also at least two people helping me in the morning and afternoon with set-up, others helping with clean-up, and 3 people providing childcare for the preschoolers of volunteers.

I will admit to some post-VBS exhaustion and I will admit that there are things that need to be changed or tweaked for next year, but once more I am convinced that this ministry is one of the best things that happens in our Christian Education program and certainly one of the best examples of "Being Church."

*(Continued on next page)*

Thank you to all of the many, many people who gave their time, talents and efforts to VBS 2007, and who showed 48 children lots of welcome, love and care.

~ Sue Ellen Glover, Director of Christian Education

*The Board of Christian Education:* Bill Foster, Toni Stearns, Emily Rahim, Maryann Bowen, Becky Miller and Jackie Snyder

*Unofficial Assistant Director and Game Leader:* Jackie Snyder

*Dinners:* Brandy Kirchner with substitute cooks Mary Davis and Jose Barrantes

*Snacks:* Vicky Rushton and Nancy Rushton

*Transportation Coordinator:* Toni Stearns

*Childcare:* Kathryn Gregg, Melissa Snyder, Geoff Halliday

*Pastors, Story-Teller and Music Director:* Stacey and Paul Simpson Duke

- *VBS Volunteers:*

All 5 days: Astrid Beck, Esther Floyd, John Floyd III, Jeanette and Geoff Halliday, Becky Miller, Jackie Snyder

4 days: Jose Barrantes, Bill Foster, Kathryn Fortune-Gallagher, Journey Inhmathong, Nancy Rushton, Vicky Rushton, Toni Stearns

3 days: Marissa Alaniz, Lily, Brandy Kirchner, Emily Preston-Rahim, Lucy Thompson

Also - Cesar Alaniz, Joyce Arnn, Maryann Bowen, Elizabeth David, Mary Davis, Scott Diels, Betty Doman, Sharon Edwards, Mary Gregg, Ron Gregg, Roberta Hause, Bob Kidd, Bonnie Kidd, Matt Kirchner, Nathan Kirchner, Mary Munson, Rob Rushton, Rob Snyder, Calista Stafford, Jim Stearns, Owen Stearns, Janice Stumpf

- *Transportation:* Tony Stearns, Bill Foster, Emily Preston Rahim, Geoff and Jeanette Halliday, Bob and Bonnie Kidd, Cesar Alaniz, Ron Gregg and Scott Diels

- *Food Donations:* Helen Johnson, David Robbins, Lyn Davidge, Mary Davis, Mary Munson, Roberta Hause, Astrid Beck, Janice Stumpf

- *Gifts:* Ginny and Bill McKeachie, Iris Martin

- *Decorations:* Bev Inbody, Joyce Arnn, Becky Miller, Emily Rahim

- *Craft Preparation:* Jeanette and Geoff Halliday, Joyce Arnn

- *Set-Up:* Adam Dolson, Esther Floyd, Mary Munson, Jackie Snyder, Owen Stearns, Jim Stearns, Nathan Kirchner, Matt Kirchner

- *Clean-up:* Elizabeth Davis, Cesar Alaniz, Janice Stumpf, Becky Miller, Jackie Snyder, Jose Barrantes, Journey Imhmathong

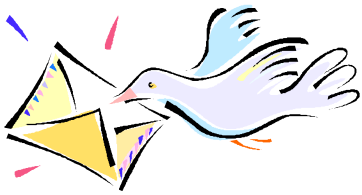
- *Nametags, signs, overall support:* Carey Viviano

- *Shells, milk jugs and baby food jars - I do not know everyone who donated; some of you just left these wonderful bags outside the classrooms. Thank you so very much - the shells were especially appreciated by the children who got to take a container home at the end of the week. These are the names I know - forgive me if I have left you out of the list. I am still very grateful!: Lois and Lloyd Crabtree, Betty Doman, Helen Johnson, Helen Foley, Bud and Phyl White, the Heidt Family, Bill and Ginny McKeachie, Edgar and Zella Willis*



# 2007 VBS





Dear FBC Family,

Thank you very much for the Loucks Scholarship money. It'll help out a lot when the time comes to buy books. Thanks again!

Love,  
**Nick Dodson**



A VBS thank-you:

Thank you for teaching the class, Ms. Sue Ellen. I had a lot of fun being there. I loved it. I can't wait until next year.

Love, your friend,  
**Blanca**



**Annabel** would like to thank everyone for all of the cards, calls and prayers she has received. She is very happy to be back!

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As people of faith we have a sacred obligation to protect our children, including making sure they have health coverage. The State Children's Health Insurance Program (known as SCHIP) has been a blessing to millions of children who would otherwise be uninsured - many of them with at least one working parent. But SCHIP ends on September 30 and President Bush has threatened to veto legislation to renew or expand the program. If you are concerned, I encourage you to call PICO's toll free Cover all Children Legislative Hotline at 1-866-633-6432. For more information visit [www.coverallchildren.org](http://www.coverallchildren.org). You may also want to read this compelling first-person story: <http://blog.beliefnet.com/godspolitics/2007/08/a-mothers-testimony-by-adam-ta.html>.

~ Sue Ellen

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## SENIOR FALL FLING

The Cooperative Ministries Committee of the Central Area is sponsoring a **Senior Fall Fling** on Thursday, September 20, 2007, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at **Olivet Baptist Church**, 5455 Willoughby Road, in Lansing. Lunch will be served followed by a fantastic music program by **Bob and Becky Brunton**. Bob and Becky have been performing all over the United States and in several foreign countries since 1979. Their concerts feature original compositions as well as familiar favorites. Reservations can be made by calling the Olivet Baptist Church office by September 11 at 517-887-0988. The cost is only \$5.00 per person.

**Jean Ellen Tracy Amick** of Ann Arbor, Michigan, age 80, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, August 16, 2007. Jean was a gifted artist as well as a devoted wife and mother. Her sunny outlook and enthusiastic nature endeared her to all. She adored colorful clothing, hats, and fancy earrings. Known for her generosity and compassion, she was always able to find and appreciate the best in everyone. All who knew Jean will miss her very much, and are happy to have her artwork as a reminder of her passionate view of the world.

Jean was born August 12, 1927 in Mishawaka, Indiana to Merrill and Henrietta (Ross) Tracy. Her brother Neal was born three years later. She had many fond memories of life in Mishawaka. A favorite, oft-recounted tale was how she met her husband-to-be at a USO-sponsored dance for naval officers called the Midshipman's Ball. She was randomly matched with a tall young Ensign, and it was love at first sight. Jean married James L. Amick one year later on April 5, 1947.

The couple eventually settled in Ann Arbor, Michigan, spending summers at a cottage in upper Michigan with their five children. Jim bicycled to work at the University of Michigan while Jean raised the kids and also found time to be a community activist. She served as a den mother for Cub Scouts, sang in church choirs, and convinced the city to build an overpass on Plymouth Road to protect Northside Elementary students walking to school. She was a member of the Faculty Women Painters and Ann Arbor League of Women Painters. In 1975, Jean, as president of the Ann Arbor Art Association, was instrumental in the initiative that led to the purchase of the Walker Building on W. Liberty, current location for the AAAA, now called the Ann Arbor Art Center.

Jean's artistic talent was evident at a very young age, drawing and painting at the kitchen table on paper scraps and in her teens, taking the train into Chicago to the Art Institute for drawing classes. In 1976, at age 49, Jean enrolled at Eastern Michigan University - at the same time as her youngest son! - and graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Six weeks in Italy with her art class in the summer of 1979 inspired much of Jean's later artwork. Eventually, her lifetime portfolio included several hundred works in various styles and media from simple charcoal drawings to oil landscapes to vivid abstracts in pastels. She received many portrait commissions, exhibited in the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, and won awards in countless juried shows.

Jim and Jean enjoyed 55 years of marriage before Jim's death in 2002. After a 2001 car accident left Jean with a brain injury, she was cared for at home by her eldest son, Jim, his wife Beth, and daughter Anna. Their dedication made Jean and Jim's final years bearable, and the family is very grateful to them for their selflessness and devotion. Special thanks to caregiver Helen Couch, to Deborah Wieringa, RN, and to the Tifft family for their care in Jean's final days.

Jean is survived by her children Jim (Beth) Amick; Richard (Tracy Skinner) Amick; Marilyn (Jim) Acheson; Doug (Chuanping) Amick; and Ron (Kith) Amick. Jean is also survived by 10 grandchildren: Nathan, Miriam, Rebekah, Anna, David Amick; Kathryn, Harvey, Ross Acheson; Leta Amick; and Alistair Amick; and eight great-grandchildren. Also surviving are Jean's brother Neal, his two children; in-laws Robert and Connie Amick, their four children; Walter Amick and his two sons.

A memorial service will be held at 7:00 p.m., September 7, 2007 at the First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, where Jean was a member for many years.

Contributions in Jean's name may be made to the Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48103; or to The U of M c/o Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (MADRC), University of Michigan, 300 N. Ingalls Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0316; or to the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor.

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*The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors*

Next Deadline:

*Sunday, September 23, 2007*

Fall Rummage 

Friday, September 28 & Saturday, September 29

Donations may be placed on the stage in the Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings or during the week, Monday–Thursday, 9-5 or Friday, 9-1. Remember that we are in need of clean fall and winter clothing, shoes and boots, all children’s clothing and toys, baby clothing and toys, household goods, small working appliances, books, tapes, CDs, sporting equipment, etc. Please no furniture or computers. We will set up on Thursday, September 27 starting at 9:00 a.m. and happily welcome helpers. We usually finish by 1:00 p.m. The Friday sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 5:00 p.m. and the Saturday sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. Again, helpers will be needed to clear away the leftover items, which usually takes a couple of hours. Please place donations on the stage, behind the curtain, away from the stairs and fuse boxes.

*Thank you!*