

ORDER OF WORSHIP

"Train us, Lord, to fling ourselves upon the impossible, for behind the impossible is your grace and your presence; we cannot fall into emptiness."

- *Luis Espenal*

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Paul Simpson Duke

VOLUNTARY Pastorale "Zion hears the watchmen singing..." - *Wayne Wold*

***INVOCATION** Gareth Phillips

***HYMN 196** Come, thou long-expected Jesus *HYFRYDOL*
(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

***THE PSALM** from Psalm 25:1-5

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

People: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame.

Leader: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame.

People: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Leader: Lead me in your truth, and teach me;

All: for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

***GLORIA** (Hymnal, 72)

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia! (sung twice)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Danciu/Dasilva family: Alex, Theodora, Alexandra & Caterina

Response: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

Barbara Griffin

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

Paul Simpson Duke

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

For the beauty of the earth

- *John Rutter*

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sue Ellen Glover

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gareth Phillips

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

TIME AS CHILDREN

Sue Ellen Glover

***HYMN 626** Let all mortal flesh keep silence *PICARDY*
(Preschool – 3rd grade may leave for Children's Worship or Tiny Grace Notes at this time.)

SERMON

Unexpected

Paul Simpson Duke

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING OF GIFTS

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

- *Paul Manz*

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their all!

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession and the Lord's Prayer ("debts")

(Lord's Prayer on hymnal page 896)

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

The Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP

(PG. 557)

Blest be the tie that binds

(1st stanza)

DENNIS

BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Postlude on "Veni Emmanuel"

- *Craig Phillips*

* If you are able, please stand

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of George H. Sanders*

~ *Nancy Rushton* ~

The Prayer Concern Cards are for your use. If you have a prayer concern in addition to those listed here, please fill out a card and pass it to the end of the aisle during the first hymn. We pray for Lloyd Crabtree, Ruth & Bill Kerr, Helen Foley, Bonnie Bates, Carole Lamerson, Juhn Han, Dannie Jones, Elizabeth Lee, Linda Ames, Conrad Juchartz, John Moyer, Bonnie Jensen, Ruth Kitchen, Marian Carter, Mildred MacGregor, Marjorie Shannon, Blanche Williams and John Caddell.

Today's Fellowship Offering will go towards the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. Please give generously. We will continue to take your gifts to RMMO through the month of December.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

517 East Washington Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Telephone: 734/663-9376

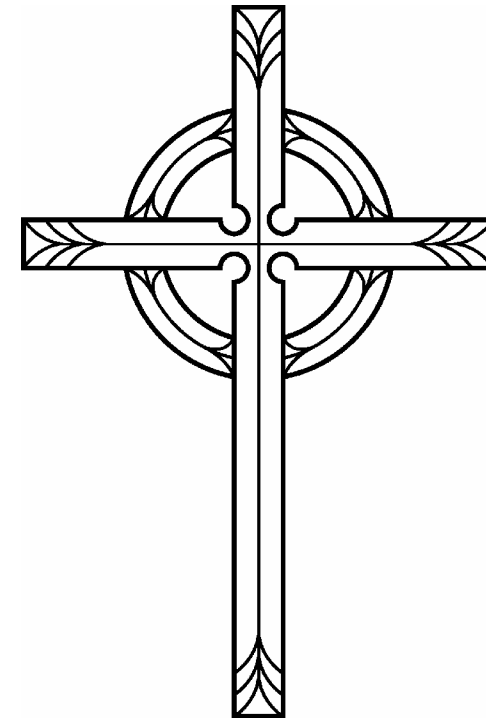
Fax: 734/821-0361

Email: office@fbca2.org

Website: www.fbca2.org

The Reverends Paul and Stacey Simpson Duke, *Pastors*

THE WORSHIP OF GOD



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2008

*Please sign the Welcome Pad during the Offertory and pass it down the pew.
If you are a visitor, please also fill out a yellow "Welcome" slip and place it in the offering plate.*

~ *Please turn off all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.* ~

Children's Calendar Sale The church school children are once again selling God's Creation calendars to raise money in order to provide two scholarships for children in Nandasmo to attend our Sister Church's school. We know you get many free calendars in the mail but these are heavy-weight, beautifully photographed calendars which have a great surface for writing down all those appointments and activities. Plus there are scriptures for inspiration each time you glance at the calendar during your busy schedule! At \$8 they are a real deal compared to other heavy-weight calendars found in stores – and these calendars make great gifts! The children will sell them before and after worship, or you may contact Sue Ellen and she will mail you one (or two or three).

Advent And Christmas Stories The Board of Christian Education's Family Resource Center has many Christmas-themed storybooks available for borrowing. They are located on a table in the classroom wing (middle level) and all you have to do is check out each book on the clipboard. Find time this season to curl up with your child or grandchild and enjoy the Christmas story.

Advent Devotionals And Resources The time before Christmas can be stressful! To make this season more meaningful and more focused on the coming of Christ, the Board of Christian Education is offering Advent resources for all ages: fun activities and calendars for children and families to use in counting down the days to Jesus' birthday as well as daily devotionals for Youth and adults. Treat yourself and your loved ones to times of wonder and joy as you reflect on the holiness of this season.

Youth Collecting Warm Clothing The Youth are collecting warm clothing for our Vespers guests and others in need. A basket will be out for the next several Sundays for your donations. Socks, hats, gloves, mittens, long-underwear and any other warm clothing will be greatly appreciated.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Please plan to attend "A Festival of Lesson and Carols" at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24. Based upon the annual presentation at King's College, Cambridge. Readings from the Christmas Story are alternated with choral and congregational singing of carols. Childcare will be offered for children 5 years old and younger. (In order to adequately prepare with enough caregivers, please let Sue Ellen know if your family or guests will need childcare.)

Announcements

We warmly welcome all those who have come to worship with us today! Everyone is invited to join the events listed in this insert. Immediately following the service, please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| TODAY, Nov 30 | 10:00 a.m. - | Worship Service (Sanctuary) |
| Tuesday, Dec 2 | 5:30 p.m. - | Vespers (Fellowship Hall) |
| Wednesday, Dec 3 | 1:30 p.m. - | Bible Study (Lounge) |
| Thursday, Dec 4 | 6:30 p.m. - | Handbells rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| | 7:30 p.m. - | Choir rehearsal (102B) |
| Sunday, Dec 7 | 10:00 a.m. - | Worship Service (Sanctuary) |
| | 2:00 p.m. - | 25th Annual Alternative Holiday Fair (Lounge and Fellowship Hall) |

Fundraising Pledge Campaign 2009

Enclosed in the bulletin is a pledge card and a return envelope for you to complete by December 31, 2008, marking the end of our pledge drive. If you have already pledged, thank you. If you have not, please consider a pledge commitment to First Baptist. Your support enables us, through our ministries, to increase the love of God and neighbor in our community. Thank you. -- David Cave, Chair

Nursery Care is available on the 3rd floor from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Children's Music & Arts Ministry (Sunday Mornings)

No choir rehearsals today. The schedule next week, December 7, will be:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Jr. Handbells (Room 306)..... | 9:15 – 9:45 |
| Tiny Grace Notes (Rm. 306)..... | 10:30 – 10:45 |
| Grace Notes Choir (Room 306)..... | 12:00 – 12:30 |
| Jr. Choir (sanctuary)..... | 11:30 – 12:30 |

Children and Youth Christian Education

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 or to Tiny Grace Notes. Children in Kindergarten – 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship. Church School begins after worship (about 11:00).

Preschool

10:00 – 10:30 Worship
10:30 – 10:45 Tiny Grace Notes
10:50 – 11:00 Children's Worship
11:00 – 12:30 Church School (in K-2nd grade class)

K – 2nd grade

10:30 – 11:00 Children's Worship (Room 202A)
11:00 – 12:30 Church School (Room 202B)

3rd – 6th grades

10:00 – 11:00 Worship
11:00 – 12:30 Church School (Room 304)

Youth (7th grade – High School)

10:00 – 11:00 Worship
11:15 – 12:30 Youth Worship

Adult Christian Education 11:30-12:30 (Lounge)

Today: Sermon Discussion Pastor Paul Duke, leader

Please join us for a discussion of the morning's scriptures and sermon.

Other Adult Learning Opportunities

Wednesday Bible Study (1:30-2:30; Memorial Lounge) Ron Tipton, Leader

The Wednesday Bible Study for this week (Dec 3) will focus on The Parable of the Sower found in Luke 8:1-15. This is a rare case where a parable is turned into an allegory. We will share our reflections on the sower, the seed, the good soil, and the impediments to the sprouting of the seed.

Adult 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.

Visit of President of American Baptist Churches U.S.A.

Next Sunday it will be our privilege to welcome to our pulpit the President of our denomination, the Reverend Mary Hulst, of Denver, Colorado. After serving a term as Vice-President Mrs. Hulst was elected to the Presidency at the 2007 Biennial in Washington D.C. and took office on January 1, 2008. She will be in the chair when the 2009 Biennial convenes in Pasadena, California next June and will face the challenge of moderating discussions which will have a significant impact on Baptist life and witness in the years ahead.

In anticipation of taking up her responsibilities as a denominational executive Mrs. Hulst resigned from the pulpit of Calvary Baptist Church where she has served for many years, initially as associate pastor and later as senior minister. Calvary is a vibrant and active congregation which benefited greatly from the leadership skills now available to all of us in the person of our incumbent President.

In addition to delivering the sermon during the worship service President Hulst has agreed to speak during second hour about the changes which are taking place in our denomination, and the restructuring which is being considered to better equip us for the demands of the future. Please plan to attend.

25th Annual Alternative Holiday Fair

Twenty-five year ago the first Alternative Holiday Fair was held at First Baptist. Through the years many people have worked to keep this event a success. This year's Fair will be held on Sunday, December 7th, 2008, 2-6 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season in an alternative way by purchasing handmade goods for your friends and family made by artisans living in third-world countries. Purchase unique toys, jewelry, ornaments, leather crafts, pottery, and more. Also, purchase through Heifer International farm animals, trees, and fish to be sent in the name of your loved ones to farmers throughout the world. You may also purchase a blanket in the name of a friend or loved one through the Church World Services.

The local 4-H is providing an array of animals for the children, and the youth group will be selling snacks to help you keep up your shopping strength!

Join us for holiday shopping to help others!