



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 25, 2007

## Pastors' Reflections

*by Paul Simpson Duke*

Last Thursday night, Stacey and I had the privilege of hearing Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, presented by the University Musical Society and performed by the Netherlands Bach Society. A good friend had been kind enough to give us tickets. For us it was a powerful experience, both musically and spiritually. On our way home I pondered a truth that is perfectly obvious, but that I'd never much considered. It is simply this: we hear great music more deeply and more truly in live performance than we do when listening to recordings of it.

I have listened to good recordings of the B Minor Mass. I have loved what I have heard. But I heard it differently - heard it better - when I was present to a living, breathing, visible presentation of the work. Is this in part because in listening to recorded music I am not disciplined enough or astute enough or too easily distracted? Probably. But another factor strikes me as crucial.

To be in a room with the musicians is to receive what they offer in a wholly different way. In large part, it's because you are *seeing* what they do and how they are doing it. Real faces and bodies lean in to the giving of the gift. You witness their passion. You see the light in their eyes. You catch a glimmer of actual human personalities. You notice their alertness to each other. You see the great, artful physical movement that is necessary for making and projecting such sound. You realize that real music isn't just a sound-event, it's a *kinesthetic* event. And you are led to think (at least if you are me) about the countless other very real and particular human beings who have poured their bodies, energies, and art into the performing of this work over the last two-and-a-half-plus centuries.

Other dynamics are also at work. The audience and the performers are affected by each other. You draw energy from them; they draw energy from you. Both groups are enclosed within the same echoing walls. The sound travels through the air that all of you are breathing together.

And because of all this, I actually *heard* the music differently. I noticed subtleties I hadn't noticed before. I caught astonishing new connections between the music and the text. And every human and spiritual quality expressed in the work - anguish, longing, hope, proclamation, and praise - grew more vivid, more present, more real. I had heard the music before; but in this living, present, human event, I heard it in startling new ways.

And what is true of great music is true of other great realities: love, peace, hope, God. I've heard about them all, pondered them all, had a sense of them all, and can read volumes about them all any day I choose. To do this gives me great reward. But when these realities are *lived* in my presence, in breathing flesh-and-blood performance, with integrity and passion - then I start to *get* it.

The claim of our faith is that this is exactly what God has done in Christ. The church's calling is to join in such a living performance. The church can be a society that hands out copies of the music that God has sung over the world. Or we can put all we've got into the glad performing of that music. That's how the gospel starts to come alive. To be present to a live human performance of the love of God is to be blown away by how real it is and to be startled by more beauty and power than you had ever known was there.

# Christian Education for Children and Youth

(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 service, preschool - 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship in room 202A until 11:00 a.m.

## Preschool - 2<sup>ND</sup> grade

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

## 3rd - 5th grades

(3rd graders may attend Children's Worship)  
11:00 Church School (304)  
3<sup>rd</sup> graders leave at 12:00 for Grace Notes (305)  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders leave at 11:50 for Jr. Choir (102)

## Youth

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

**April 29 – Youth Worship** (grades 4 thru high school): Meet in the Youth Room (107) immediately after worship.

## Children's Music and Arts Ministry

Jr. Handbells	9:15 - 9:45	room 305, upper level
Tiny Grace Notes (preschool)	11:00 - 11:15	room 305, upper level
Grace Notes (K - 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade)	12:00 - 12:30	room 305, upper level
Jr. Choir (4 <sup>th</sup> grade and older)	11:50 - 12:30	room 102, lower level

# Christian Education for Adults

**Addressing Contemporary Issues in the Study of Women in the Bible** (Lounge) Astrid Beck, leader  
Women are some of the most distinctive, unforgettable, and diverse characters in the Bible. Women, led by their faith in God, used their wits to defeat their circumstances. They were spunky, smart, and assertive. It is important for our understanding of the Bible, and for our faith, to study the women who speak so eloquently, to note their implications for the masculine and feminine paradigms, to hear their voices. This spring we are talking about the women in the life of Jesus:

April 29 - Mary, mother of Jesus (Matt 1:16-20, 2:11, 13:55; Mark 6:3; Luke 1:1-56, John 2:1-4; Acts 1:14)

May 6 - Elizabeth (Luke 1); Anna (Luke 2:36-38)

## **Share and Prayer Group** (Room 108)

Stacey Simpson Duke, facilitator

A time for sharing, singing, silence, centering, and group prayer. Together we will engage in a ministry of prayer for our church, for other members, for specific concerns, and for local and world events, as well as having time to become more connected to one another and more personally grounded and rooted in God. This is not a class about prayer, but a time for actually engaging in prayer together (no one will be obligated to pray aloud, but anyone who wants to will be welcome to).

## Other Adult Learning Opportunities

**Second Sunday Series ~ Living the Questions:** Our next session will be May 13 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Following a simple potluck and time of fellowship, we gather in the Memorial Lounge for a time of engagement with some of the most challenging issues of the Christian faith. After viewing a 30-minute DVD of clips of leading theologians, biblical scholars, sociologists, and church leaders, we will have time for in-depth discussions of the issues they raise. Please sign up at the Information Counter and pick up your copy of the participant's guide for lesson 9, *Lives of Jesus*.

**Wednesday Bible Study (Memorial Lounge, 1:30 - 2:30):** Rev. Paul Simpson Duke leads a study of First Corinthians. 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 meets monthly and the other meets every other week. Please see Stacey, Paul or Sue Ellen for more information about joining a group.



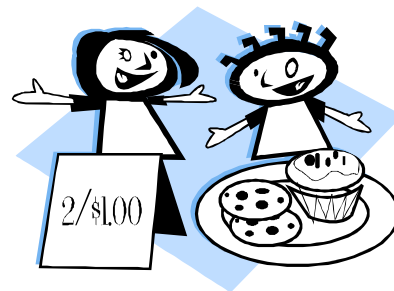
... to Missy Snyder who graduated from Alma College on April 21st with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics!

And to Becky Miller who will graduate from the University of Michigan this weekend with a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics.

## Mother's Day Bake Sale

Sponsored by the youth

Sunday, May 13



\* All proceeds donated to our Sister Church in Nandasmoo \*



Attend the 2007 Biennial/Centennial, June 29-July 2.  
Reflect on God's word.

Interact with missionaries and denominational leaders.  
Share the joy.

Experience the power of prayer and song with  
thousands of people in worship together.

Affirm God's work in your life.

Nurture old friendships and make new ones.

Discover creative ministries in pre-Biennial events.

Sense God's presence.

Hear dynamic speakers.

Immerse yourself in Baptist History.

Navigate our nation's Capital.

Engage in stimulating Bible study.

[www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)

# CINCO DE MAYO EVE



## FUN NIGHT

MAY 4

6-8PM

## FELLOWSHIP HALL



### Mexican Potluck

Sign - up at the Information Counter

Games and Pinata

Bring your friends!



# Faith Talk for Families

(adapted by Sue Ellen from *Taking Home Faith* newsletter by Pastor Greg Priebbenow;  
[www.formingfaith.com](http://www.formingfaith.com))

Scriptures: Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

**#1 - Faith Talk:** Discuss in your household or small group:

- Where do you feel safe? Why?
- Jesus calls us his sheep, and says that no one can snatch us away from his hand. What do you think he means?
- How is Jesus your Good Shepherd?

**#2 - Devotional Practices:**

Traditionally, Good Shepherd Sunday is associated with prayers for people who are serving in specific ministry roles in the church. Use your family devotion times this week to pray for those God uses to shepherd his people - here are some suggestions for each day:

*Monday:* Denominational Church Leaders  
*Tuesday:* Pastors  
*Wednesday:* Christian Teachers or Educators  
*Thursday:* Church Musicians  
*Friday:* Missionaries and Evangelists  
*Saturday:* Chaplains of various types

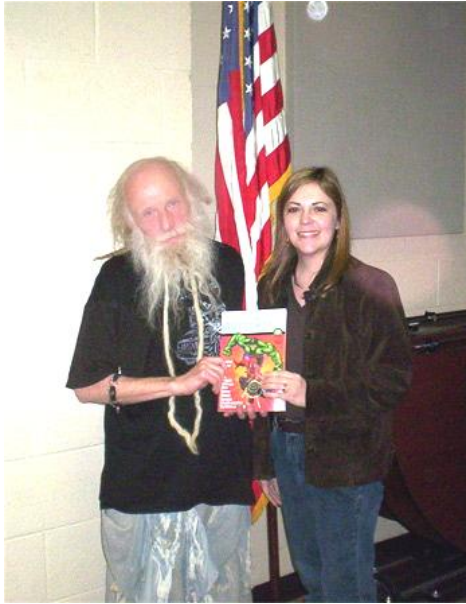


**#3 - Rituals and Traditions:** A good tradition to develop in a Christian home is that of scripture memorization. When a whole family works together to memorize bible verses, they are able to support and encourage one another, and even come to relish the challenge. This week, aim to memorize Psalm 23 (6 verses) as a family. Start by learning the first verse, and then add a verse each day. Decide on a family reward to enjoy once you have met the challenge. As an additional activity, rewrite the Psalm as a family, using images that are relevant and meaningful to you.

**#4 Service:** In Acts 9:36-43 we read of a Christian lady named Dorcas who was "always doing good and helping the poor." Designate this week "*Dorcas Week*" in your home. Donate some grocery items to a food pantry helping the poor, or plan a way to raise funds for a charity assisting the poor in your community.



## VESPERS NEWS



Casey & Sarah

One of our regulars at Vespers is comic book writer T. Casey Brennan. During the 1970's he wrote *Vampirella*, and also for DC Comics' *House of Mystery*. In the 1980's he campaigned to have depictions of smoking in comics banned. He was able to convince then Gov. Bill Clinton to issue a proclamation designating January 1990 as "T. Casey Brennan Month."

Recently "The Hero Initiative: Helping Comic Book Creators in Need" released its first "benefit" volume, which features a new comic by T. Casey. The book is available at the Vault of Midnight Comic book store 219 S. Main Street in downtown Ann Arbor and some percentage of proceeds from sales go to T. Casey, who is currently homeless. Come to Vespers for an autograph!

Another regular Vespers guest, Sharron, who supports herself by doing gardening work, recently had a bicycling accident and has injured her leg. Since she cannot do her normal gardening at present, she asked me to let everyone know that she experienced and able to sharpen gardening implements. If you have tools that haven't been sharpened in a long time, please consider her offer and speak to Sarah Heidt for more information.

David Bucholtz will be leading the Vespers service on Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup>. We are happy for folks from the congregation to simply join us for the meal at 5:30, and get to know our guests a little better, and then enjoy the service at 6:15. Don't feel that you have to volunteer in the kitchen in order to come to Vespers. Our guests are also seeking fellowship, in addition to the food we provide.



*Dear FBC Friends,*

*Samuel Kidd is a member of the Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, as many of you already know. I am the Concert Choir conductor of this organization and we will be having our annual Spring Sing on Saturday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Bethlehem United Church of Christ. This concert will feature the Descant Choir which are the young singers and training choir, as well as the Concert Choir which Sam is in. We will be singing many wonderful songs in this concert and would love to see you there. My choir will be traveling to Toronto next week, May 3 - 6 to sing with the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus. We will sing for you the pieces that we will perform in Toronto. Sam and I are both very excited about this. Tickets for the 12th can be purchased at the doors of Bethlehem Church and they are \$10.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for seniors and students. We know that you will enjoy this wonderful concert and I know that Sam really loves seeing so many of his church family there.*

*Thanks,  
Bonnie Kidd*

# COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

## Interfaith HIV/AIDS Weekend of Prayer

The Washtenaw Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network is organizing a weekend of prayer. We will have an event encompassing all religions and days of worship throughout the weekend ending with a Candle-light Vigil Sunday Evening. The Weekend of prayer will commence May 4th through May 6th. With the vigil being held on May 6th at the Quaker House, 1420 Hill St, Ann Arbor, at 6:30 p.m.

Some of our guest speakers will include State Representative Alma Wheeler-Smith, Rev. Johnny Joplin from the Glad Tidings Worship Center Church of God and Charles Boyer from the Zen Buddhist Temple. There will be musical inspirations along with testimonials of people infected with HIV/AIDS.

Come show your support by lighting a candle of hope and being part of the circle of light. For more information please contact me with the information below.

Phil Volk, WIHAN Coordinator  
[info@wihan.org](mailto:info@wihan.org) / 734-340-4868

## "One Step Closer To God: Unleashing The Culture Of One"

On May 4-6, the Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor, 2275 Platt Road, is hosting its 2007 Men's Conference titled "One Step Closer to God: Unleashing the Culture of One." Speakers include Charif Haddad, State Middle East Strategist, Southern Baptist Convention, and Rabbi Mark Kinzer, Congregation Zera Avraham, a Messianic Jewish congregation. Other speakers include Dennis Fair, Sanctuary Gospel Center; Lydia Clarke, Labor of Love Ministries; and Tyrone Kelsey, Jesus, Race & You. Registration includes Saturday breakfast and lunch. For more information, visit [www.vineyardmen.com](http://www.vineyardmen.com) or contact the Vineyard Men's Ministry at [A2VineyardMensMinistry@umich.edu](mailto:A2VineyardMensMinistry@umich.edu) or 734-477-9135 x111.

Dana Fair / Mark Vashon  
Men's Ministry Co-leaders  
Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor

## "Sacred Storytelling"

"Sacred Storytelling" is a play based on the stories told by over a hundred high school student from Washtenaw County. Asked to discuss their beliefs and experiences, students from ten faith backgrounds engaged in many hours of conversation saying what is important to them and what struggles emerge from being part of a religion or faith community. Here is a powerful new initiative to help build bridges of understanding and overcome stereotypes and prejudice.

This project has been drawn together by the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County and playwright/director, Jeffrey Steiger. The play itself is a composite of voices and experience of the students engaged in dialogues with Jeffrey over the last year. "Sacred Storytelling" is an effort to retell these stories in a way that honors and respects the persons that shared them, and in a way that gives all of us the chance to hear them with new ears and open minds. Following the play itself, there will be a talkback with the director and cast. \$10 for adults, \$5 for high school students and younger. For more information and tickets, call 734-424-1535, email [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu) or go to [www.irtwc.org](http://www.irtwc.org).

Sunday, May 20, 7:00 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington

Monday, May 21, 7:00 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard

# May 2007



Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

		1 5:30 Vespers	2 1:30 Bible Study	3 12:00 ABWM Spring Salad Luncheon 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	4 6:00 Fun Night <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	5
6 Communion	7 7:00 Board of Evangelism	8 7:00 Board of Worship	9 1:30 Bible Study 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	10 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	11	12
13 <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i> 5:30 Second Sunday Newsletter Deadline	14 7:00 Board of Mission Action	15 12:00 Beecher-Brewer Potluck 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Board of Trustees	16 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Board of Christian Education	17 1:00 MacGregor-Stitt (White's) 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	18	19 9:00 Children & Youth Worship Rehearsal 1:00 Rummage Sale Stage Clean-up
20 Children & Youth Worship	21	22 9:30 ABWM Board	23 12:00 Bible Study Luncheon 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	24 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	25	26
27 Newsletter Deadline	28 <i>Memorial Day</i> (office & church closed)	29	30	31 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir		



Ron Gregg	1	Gregg Magnuson	16	Carole Ott	26
Madeline Drake	3	Kristen MacGregor	19	Laura Paul	26
Ruth Kerr	4	Gary Alton	20	John Moyer	28
Robert Shannon	4	Matthew Kirchner	22	Beverly Inbody	29
Kate Zell	8	Noelle Anne Alton	23	Isaac Thompson	30
Bonnie Miles	11	Thomas Scott	23	Nichole Alton	31
Diane Fleming	12	Ashley Kerns	24	Charlie Duke	31
Astrid Beck	15			Rob Duke	31

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[office@fbca2.org](mailto:office@fbca2.org)

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

Next Deadline:  
*Sunday, May 13, 2007*



## ***AB Women's Ministries Spring Salad Luncheon***

The AB Women's Ministries annual "Spring Salad Luncheon" will be held Thursday, May 3 at 12:00 p.m. in the Memorial Lounge. There will be a potluck salad luncheon followed by our program guest speaker, Lindsay Ambridge, who will speak to us about Egyptology. We have invited the women from Northside Community, Ypsilanti First Baptist and Ypsilanti Immanuel Baptist churches to join us. We also welcome all of our First Baptist women to join us for this festive occasion.



***Please join us!***

