



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 5, 2006

## Pastors' Reflections

by Paul Simpson Duke

Easter requires preparation. Easter celebrates the most profound mystery of our faith. It ponders impossible news and invites us to see ourselves and to see the world transformed by this impossibly good news. Such a mystery and its implications will not unfold themselves to those who approach them casually. Reflection is wanted, and other exercises in spiritual preparation.

Though each of us are individually responsible for our own spiritual discipline and practice, the church offers help. Since our worship service on Ash Wednesday, the church has tried to assist you in the forty-day journey (plus six Sundays) of Lent. But now we are drawing near to the end of that journey, and I want to draw your attention to special opportunities that are yours in Holy Week.

First, I want you to be aware of a service we are hosting on Maundy Thursday, April 13, at 7:30. The word *Maundy*, incidentally, comes from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning command, since it was on this night that Jesus, after the meal with his disciples, told them: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." We will be joined that night by Northside Community Church and also by members of a small new African American church, This Rock Baptist. The pastor at Northside, Chris Grapentine, will preach. Our choir will sing. We will join in Holy Communion.

On Good Friday, two kinds of event occur. Beginning at noon, there is an ecumenical time of worship, in three thirty-minute services at the First United Methodist Church, next door to us. The final one, beginning at 1:00, features our choir and Joel Hastings.

The second Good Friday worship opportunity takes place for our own church and begins at 8:00 in the evening. Such a late starting time is made necessary by Daylight Savings Time, for this service cannot be done with sunlight streaming through the windows. It is a *Tenebrae* service, *tenebrae* being the old Latin word for shadows or darkness. In this service we read the New Testament texts about the suffering and death of Jesus. Bonnie Kidd and Carole Ott will sing. Spoken meditations will be offered by Stacey and me. And as the service progresses, candles will be extinguished and the room will grow darker until, at the end, having come to the death of Jesus, we will find ourselves in total darkness and weighty silence. People who have attended this last service in particular have spoken of how moving it was for them. I am writing these words, in part, to encourage those of you who have not yet attended to join us this year.

Beyond this, I am simply reminding you that no one is likely to arrive at Easter who has not, in some way, made a journey toward it. If Easter is about the overcoming of death, then we must sit with death. If Easter is about freedom from all that has enslaved us, we must survey our sickness and sin, and how God in Christ has borne these into terrible death. If Easter is about living new life, we should ask before the day dawns, what has kept us from living such life.

On Easter Sunday I hope we'll sing our Alleluias with unusual gusto and gladness. In the days and nights between now and then, let's take the steps that make the journey that will help us to arrive at such an Easter.

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Nursery	Room 307	9:30 - 12:30
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*All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the "Time as Children" portion of the service, preschool - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to Children's Worship. Church School classes begin at 11:00 or when worship concludes.*

Preschool - 2nd grade	Room 202B	11:00 - 12:00
3rd - 6th grade	Room 304	11:00 - 11:50
Younger Youth (7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> )	Room 107	11:00 - 11:50

**Easter, April 16** - Children 1st grade and older will worship with their families. Childcare will be provided for children younger than first grade. There will be no church school classes after worship.

### ***Children's Music & Arts Ministry***

Jr. Handchimes	Sanctuary	9:15 - 9:45
Grace Notes (preschool - 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade)	Room 305	12:00 - 12:30
Jr. Choir (3 <sup>rd</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> grades)	Room 102	11:50 - 12:30

## **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*Both of these classes conclude on April 9th.  
(There will be no church school classes on Easter, April 16th.)*

### **The Birth of a New Religion: Christianity (Lounge)** **Ron Tipton**

This class seeks to answer this question: How did Christianity come into existence following the short ministry of Jesus? Jesus left his followers with no system of doctrine, no plans, no organization, and no new scriptures. Christianity as we know it was formed over a period of at least 300 years. We hope that our study of this formative period in Christianity will have three outcomes: to better understand our faith, have greater insight into the New Testament, and be better equipped to deal with current problems in Christianity.

### **Becoming a Blessed Church (Library)** **Stacey Simpson Duke & Sue Ellen Glover**

A study based on the book *Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power*. We are looking at what it means to be a "blessed church" and what stands in the way of becoming such a church, especially for mainline congregations, and we are exploring simple, basic acts of faith and trust as ways of becoming more grounded in God's purpose, alive to God's presence, and open to God's power.



### **Directory Proofing**

The new edition of our church directory will be available on April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend church in the next couple of weeks, but would like to update or have your information added to the directory, please call the office at 663-9376. If you will be at church, please review your information and make corrections at either the table near the Information Counter or the table outside of the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

### **Annual Report Deadline**

In order to prepare the Annual Report for the Annual Meeting which will take place on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, Carey would appreciate receiving reports for the Board Chairs in electronic format by Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please e-mail her at [carey@fbca2.org](mailto:carey@fbca2.org). Thank you!!

## *FBC News & Happenings*



### **ABWM Beecher-Brewer Circle**

On February 21st the Beecher-Anderson and Waterman-Chapman Circles joined to create the new Beecher-Brewer Circle. Dorothy Beecher had formed the Beecher-Anderson Circle to better serve the business women of the church and we hope to continue that idea by meeting the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Memorial Lounge. Helen Brewer was a long time member of Waterman-Chapman and the women from both circles agreed to honor Helen in this way. For the remaining calendar year, Betty Doman and Beverly Inbody will co-chair the circle and then new officers will be elected in June. We invite any business women, new women to the church, or anyone interested in our activities to join us at the next meeting on April 18th.

### **"The True Words on the Cross"**

Copies of Mr. Scott's "The True Words on the Cross" will be available at the Information Counter beginning Sunday, April 9.

### **April MacGregor-Stitt Circle Meeting**

The next meeting of the MacGregor-Stitt Circle will take place Thursday, April 20th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Maria Pierantozzi. The program will feature Edgar Willis speaking about his very own book on humor. Other circles are invited to join them.

### **Spring Rummage Sale**

The AB Women's Ministries Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29, with the set up on Thursday, April 27. As you do your "spring cleaning" please save your gently used items that you no longer plan to use, and donate them to our sale. Please keep in mind that while we cannot accept computer equipment and large furniture, baby furniture is much appreciated.

You may have recently noticed the name "Justin Kerns" listed in the prayer concerns in the bulletin. Justin is the fiancé of Ashley Harrison and he is currently stationed in Iraq. They sincerely appreciate everyone's prayers and concern for him. If anyone would like to write Justin, they can address the envelope (w/ a 39¢ stamp) to:

LNC CPL KERNS  
1/7 C Co. 2nd PLT  
Unit 41530  
FPO AP 96426-1530



At our March 30 Perspectives, Jason Crosby presented information regarding the **Bread for the World Offering of Letters**. Here is some information for those of you who were not able to be there. Brochures are also available at the Information Counter.

Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers. Every year during worship services and other events, tens of thousands of BFW members and others offer to God letters we have written to our members of Congress on legislation that is important to hungry people. Many people of other faiths also join in this high-impact work. Again and again, our Offerings of Letters win significant victories. Through our current Offering of Letters, *Make Hunger History*, we are working to get our leaders in Washington to rekindle our country's commitment to the achievable, accepted goal of ending hunger in the United States. Learn more about the campaign, recent legislative developments in Congress, or take action! Urge your senators and representative to approve a budget resolution that allows for an additional \$5 billion for poverty-focused development assistance.

#### Points to Make:

- The United States has promised to double assistance to Africa and the developing world by 2010. This will help meet our commitment to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals.
- We are not on track to meet these commitments: an additional \$5 billion is needed for fiscal year 2007.
- Globally, more than 850 million people are undernourished. Poverty-focused development assistance gives hope and opportunity to some of the poorest people in the world.



**HOPE CLINIC'S Annual Spring Banquet** will be held on Thursday, April 27 at Washtenaw Country Club on Packard Road in Ypsilanti. The evening will feature the presentation of the Daniel D. Heffernan Humanitarian of the Year award to Dr. Wally Niemann. Entertainment will be provided by "The Cornerstone." This trio has performed at Power Center for the Performing Arts, banquets, retreats, TV shows and more. Their tongue-twisting, fast-moving songs with a humorous storyline maintain a sweet vocal sound with light harmonies. Visit [www.thehopeclinic.org](http://www.thehopeclinic.org) for more information on the banquet. Contact Judy Tice, 484-2989, [jtice@thehopeclinic.org](mailto:jtice@thehopeclinic.org), for ticket information or to make reservations. This is a great way to support Hope and have an enjoyable evening out.

## Observing Holy Week in the Home

by Sue Ellen Glover

*(Adapted from an article by Lynn Gilliam in Pockets magazine)*

We spend much time during Advent preparing for Christmas, but it seems more difficult to observe Holy Week at home. Baby Jesus, stable animals, stars and angels are much easier to discuss than crosses, denial, darkness and death. But just as the observance of Advent helps us to prepare for the celebration of Christmas, observing Holy Week helps prepare us for the joyous celebration of Easter. Here are some ideas to help families journey toward Easter together:

**Consider having simpler meals than usual.** Fasting, one of the most ancient of spiritual disciplines, is not appropriate for everyone, certainly not for young children. But all of us can simplify our meals in order to remind ourselves of the solemnity of the week leading up to Good Friday. Simply eliminating desserts is an easy way to do this.

**Read together about the events leading up to Easter in your Bible or in Easter storybooks available near the Christian Education classrooms on the middle level.**

**Attend the week's special services.** While it may be tempting to exclude our children from these solemn and sad observances, these are an important part of understanding and experiencing the joy of Easter morning. Give your children opportunities after the service to talk about what happened and their feelings. Talk about your own feelings as well.

**Add the events of Holy Week to your family prayers** (i.e. "God, we remember today how Jesus served his friends by washing us their feet. Help us to serve others, too.").

**And when Easter arrives, celebrate at home (as well as at church) in a big way.** Make "Christ is risen!" banners to hang around the house. Have a special food. If fresh flowers are available, bring some in to decorate the spaces where your family gathers. Teach your children the traditional Easter greeting: "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" and the response: "Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!"



A huge **THANK YOU!** to Annabel Erskine, Carol and Jerry Rees, Megan Hudson, Elli and Annie Barron, Maryann Bowen, Mary Davis and Scott Diels, Aletta and Richard Tibbetts, and Graham Miles for helping with the 2006 Rotating Shelter.

*We had a nice group of men who appreciated the time our volunteers put in. I hope we will have even more volunteers next year.*

Beverly Inbody  
Mission Board Member

## FBC PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS

The proposed changes to the constitution, which will be voted on at the Annual Church meeting on April 30th, include reducing the minimum number of members on the boards of the church from 7 to 5 for Worship, Educational Ministries, Care and Community, Music and Arts, Evangelism and Mission Action; and 10 to 7 for Trustees. Some other sections were also reworded. Changes are highlighted below. The entire document with the changes shown will be available at the information desk on April 9. You can also get a copy by contacting Mary Davis at 747-8131 or [madrad@umich.edu](mailto:madrad@umich.edu).

### Section 5.12

The Board of Educational Ministries consists of a minimum of five (5) members. The chairperson serves on the Executive Council. Responsibilities of the Board are:

- a. plans, develops, and administers the educational program for children, youth and adults;
- b. assists the Director of Educational Ministries in recruiting leaders and teachers for programs, events and activities;
- c. works with other boards and groups within the church to provide the educational components necessary for these groups to achieve their mission;
- d. engages in other areas of educational ministry such as leadership development, youth discipleship, camps and conferences, family ministry, oversight of the church library, etc.

### Section 5.15

The Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of **seven (7)**. The chairperson serves on the Executive Council. Responsibilities of the Board are:

#### **Legal Matters**

- a. causes all property to be held in the name of the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan, a non-profit corporation, duly organized under the laws of the State of Michigan;
- b. acts as legal representative of the church and its Executive Council;**
- c. establishes and administers **legally sound and consistent** employment policies **and procedures and works with the relevant groups as described in 5.06 regarding hiring and dismissal of employees.**

#### **Financial matters**

- d. raises funds to support the operating budget **and monitors revenue and expenditures, and communicates results to spending groups;** exercises fiduciary responsibilities for church property, monitors receipts and expenditures in accordance with the budget adopted by the congregation
- e. **maintains** provides for appropriate accounting and audit functions **for all funds;**
- f. **monitors** supervises the investment of the endowment and trust funds of the church **and makes investment decisions.**
- g. oversees the memorial gifts program and encourages deferred giving to the church.

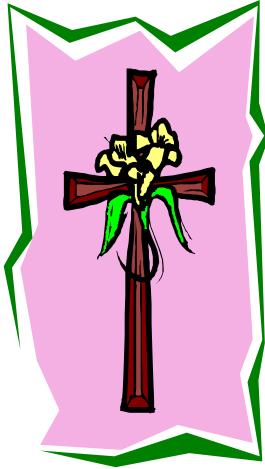
#### **Property matters**

- h. provides for the maintenance of tangible church property **and for appropriate insurance coverage**
- i. develops building use policies and has oversight of their implementation;
- j. recommends **any major** improvement of the facilities and plans for funding;
- k. ensures a safe environment for those who use the facilities.**



*I don't know what else to say except "Thanks" so much for all the cards and Best Wishes I received from my church family. You all made my 90th birthday the best yet!*

*- Iris Martin*



# EASTER EVENT

*April 9 • 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.*

*Lunch followed by crafts, the Easter story,  
and an egg hunt*



## EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

I / We would like to order an Easter Lily (\$15 each) to be given:

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_.

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is my check made out to "First Baptist Church" for \$\_\_\_\_\_, for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s), which will be displayed on the chancel Easter Sunday, and may be picked up following the service that day. Paid orders must be received by Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> to be included in the Easter bulletin. If you choose to mail your order to the office please write "ATTN: Carey" on the envelope and be sure to write "Easter Lily" on the subject line of your check. Thank you!

First Baptist Church  
512 East Huron Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-663-9376  
[www.fbca2.org](http://www.fbca2.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Permit 542

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Dated material:

*Wednesday, April 5, 2006*

Next Deadline:

*Sunday, April 16, 2006*



*We Shall Sing it and Chant it!!*

This Sunday, April 9th, yes Palm Sunday, at 4:00 p.m. right in the Sanctuary of First Baptist Church, the Huron High School Bel Canto Choir and A Cappella Choir will be performing a "FAREWELL" concert for our April 17th tour to Verona, Italy. The Bel Canto Choir is under the director of Bonnie Kidd and the A Cappella Choir is under the direction of Dr. Richard Ingram. These choirs will participate in an International Choral Competition in Verona on the 20th of April. We would like to invite you to hear us before we leave. The program is entirely A Cappella and the two choirs will combine to sing the beautiful Franz Biebl "Ave Maria," which will be sung antiphonally with the Bel Canto Choir in the balcony above. The Huron Choirs have, for the 6th year in a row, been named a Grammy Signature School by the Grammy Foundation and have won \$1,000 for being in the top 50 music departments in the entire nation. We would love it if you would come to listen and support us. Thank you!

~ Bonnie Kidd