



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

August 23, 2006

Pastors' Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

I don't know how it is in your home, but in our household, we experience the coming of fall as something like the beginning of a new year. Perhaps it is due to all those years when August meant buying new notebooks and school clothes in anticipation of going back to school. Or maybe it is just a fact of life in Ann Arbor, where the rhythm of the school year permeates almost everything. Or it could just be that autumnal slant of light and the slight breeze in the trees that signals a new season is on the way. Whatever it is, I know that by the end of August, I always feel ready to plunge in to new ventures with enthusiasm. Sometimes, I even still go out and buy a new notebook to really be ready for fall!

As the new church program year begins, there is a lot to be enthusiastic about. September marks the start of a lot of our usual programs that break for the summer, like The Gathering (our campus ministry fellowship) and Wednesday Bible Study. Look for new opportunities as well, like a weekly early morning meeting for prayer and meditation, and an occasional lecture series. We will have several special opportunities in the fall, such as a next step in our congregational conversation about the homeless on our grounds, a chance to hear from guests from Nicaragua, and possibly more conversations about denominational issues. All of this will be in addition, of course, to our usual array of educational, musical, mission, and fellowship opportunities for all ages.

On top of all these wonderful occasions for spiritual growth, we will be adding one more very exciting program this fall. Starting Sunday, September 10th, from 5:30 to 7:30, we will begin our Second Sunday Series: Living the Questions, a program for Christian invitation, initiation and spiritual formation. Once a month, we will gather for a simple potluck meal and fellowship, followed by a time of engagement with some of the most challenging questions of Christian faith. Each session will begin with a 30-minute DVD of clips of leading theologians, church leaders, sociologists, and biblical scholars, offering their thoughts on such issues as the role of biblical authority, the relevance of Christianity in a contemporary world, and who Christ was and is. Each session is focused on a broad area of thought that will provide a springboard for our own questions, discussions, and ongoing thinking. The intention of the curriculum is not to provide answers, but to expose us to ideas and concepts that may challenge our worldview and open us to new theological understandings.

In addition to providing a chance to grapple with the big, deep questions of faith in the 21st century, this would also be the perfect opportunity to bring a friend or invite an acquaintance. The series will be designed to be accessible and engaging for anyone - from new "seeker" to seasoned churchgoer. It's a great way for newcomers to get to ask their own burning questions about how faith is supposed to work in real life.

As you begin to make your plans for the fall, please give serious consideration to participating in this new program. It is not just one more thing to clutter your calendar. It is an invitation to engage more deeply with your own faith, as well as with other people on the journey of faith. It is an invitation to allow God to meet you in fresh ways, both in theological and spiritual reflection, and in fellowship and conversation with others. It is an invitation to take another step on the Christian journey. Please join us!



Justin Charles Williams, Chelsea, MI Age 25, died suddenly August 7, 2006. Justin was born October 18, 1980. He is survived by his parents Bruce and Vicki Williams, his brothers Timothy (Mindy) Williams and Gerald Williams, his sisters Amanda (Gary) Watson, Deborah (John) Caddell and Laurel Williams. Justin is also survived by his paternal grandmother Pauline Williams and his nephews Caleb, Jacob, Joshua and Tobias Watson and his fiancé Tara Ballogh-Niedermeier. Justin attended Washtenaw Community College where he was on the Dean's List as a 4.0 student. He was currently employed by Norm's Body Shop in Chelsea. He loved Classic and Exotic cars, especially Ferrari's and he also had a passion for Art. Justin loved to be surrounded by nature and to keep animals from harm's way. He would help anyone in need, be it a friend or a stranger. A memorial service was held Wednesday, August 16, 2006 at 2 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church.



Christian Education

Children and Youth:

Nursery	Room 307	9:30 - 11:30
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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.

There are no church school classes on August 27 (Ice Cream Social) or September 3 (Labor Day weekend).

Adults: There are no church school classes on August 27 (due to the Ice Cream Social) or September 3 (Labor Day weekend).



Calling All Readers and Reader Wanna-Be's

The FBC Ladies Book Club would like to invite all women who consistently read-- and those who wish they did-- to join our group. This club was started in 2001 by a small group of women dedicated to finding the time to read and discuss books. Since then, 50 books have been added to our "We Read That!" list. We've expanded our horizons and vocabularies and, more importantly, established lasting friendships. If you're interested in knowing more, please contact Janice Stumpf at jlstumpf@umich.edu or 663-4871. We hope you'll consider reading with us!

FBC NEWS

Ice Cream Social

The Board of Christian Education invites you to an end-of-the-summer party Sunday, August 27, following worship. Our annual Ice Cream Social will take place during second hour, giving you a chance to catch up with all your friends' summer news.

Willis' Return Home

As of August 31, the Willis' will receive mail at their original address (same phone #):

1112 Clair Circle
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Needed: Volunteer Cooks

Starting Wednesday, September 13th, 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. Instruction sheets are provided.

Melissa Snyder's New School Address

Beginning September 5th, Melissa's new address at school will be:

101 Bonbright
Alma College
Alma, MI 48801

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County and the Life Sciences and Society Program

at the University of Michigan invite you to participate in the first of three community forums that address the issue of: *When Faith Meets Science: An Evolving Dialogue on New Choices and New Technologies*. The first topic is The Human Genome Project and Faith Perspectives and will be held Wednesday evening, September 27th from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., at the Ann Arbor Public Library, 343 S. Fifth Avenue. This, along with the two subsequent forums in October and November, will feature panel discussions and dialogue with members of the scientific and religious communities that touch our lives and reflect and challenge our values. We look forward to vibrant discussions that will help us make better decisions when faced with issues that lie at the intersection of faith and science. For more information, please call Rev. George Lambrides at 424-1535 or email gbrides@umich.edu.



September Birthdays!!



Doris George	1	Maryann Bowen	10	Les George	23
Bonnie Bates	2	Michael Haithcock	11	Marge Shannon	24
Toni Stearns	3	Anne Barron	12	Candee Lee	26
Jerry Suits	4	Elizabeth Lee	16	Dorothy Reed	30
		Daniel McCullough	20		

September 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion	4 Labor Day (Office Closed)	5 5:30 Vespers	6 5:30 The Gathering	7 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir Practice	8	9 10:00 Wells/ Bucholtz Wedding
10 5:30 Second Sunday Newsletter Deadline	11	12 7:00 Bd. of Evangelism	13 12:00 Bible Study Potluck 5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare	14 9:00 Rummage Sale Set-up 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir Practice	15 9:00 Rummage Sale	16 9:00 Rummage Sale
17	18 8:00 Board of Mission Action	19 1:00 Beecher- Brewer 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Board of Trustees	20 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering	21 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir Practice	22	23
24 Newsletter Deadline	25	26 9:30 ABWM Bd.	27 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare	28 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir Practice	29	30

First Baptist Church
512 East Huron Street
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www.fbca2.org

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Dated Material:

Wednesday, August 23, 2006

Next Deadline:

Sunday, September 10, 2006

SECOND SUNDAY SERIES

“Living the Questions”

September 10th

*a program of Christian invitation, initiation,
and spiritual formation*

*Second Sundays, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall followed by
DVD and discussion in the Memorial Lounge*

*Bring a simple dish to share and join us for dinner,
dialogue, and discovery!*