



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

June 11, 2008

Pastors' Reflections

by Paul Simpson Duke

The worship service this past Sunday was extra full. In addition to the usual elements of the service, there was the baptism of George Wang, a presentation of him and his wife, Carolyn, an appeal for the funding of the new youth minister position, a recognition of some particularly special guests, and a warm greeting given by a representative of the Ann Arbor Cooperative Nursery School, which we begin housing this fall. Several families involved in the school were present and told us later that it was a very good experience for them. It was an unusually rich and celebrative service.

The "Time as Children" portion of the service was also particularly rich. Two of our young people, Christina Alaniz and Hannah Foster, read their statements of personal faith. They had completed an intensive five-month study of Christian discipleship with Sue Ellen, and concluded by giving expression, in their own words, to the content and meaning of their own faith. Both girls are middle-school aged. Both spoke with integrity, conviction, and eloquence. Both are to be commended and celebrated. So is Sue Ellen for her dedicated work with them. So are their parents, who have nurture and guided them toward faith - and the church as a whole, which has done the same.

I want us to invest even more time and nurture on such promising young people and to give such gifts to more and more kids like them. I am far from alone in this desire - the church has said: Yes, let's do it! On March 30 our congregation voted to create a new staff position dedicated to ministry with youth. Great work has been done with our young people for years, but such ministry is so crucial and potentially so fruitful that we agreed to find someone specially trained and equipped for the job and employ them for at least twenty hours per week. A search committee was formed consisting of Annie Barron, Toni Burton, Bill Foster, Janice Stumpf, Sue Ellen, and the pastors. Cesar Alaniz and John Floyd, III, were added to oversee the financial campaign. The committee finalized the job description and advertised widely. Applications have begun arriving. Assuming we can find the right person for the job, he or she will begin in the fall.

This week you will receive a letter asking for your financial pledge in support of this new ministry position over the next three years. The pledges are necessary since the church budget will not at first be able to accommodate the required increase. You may already have heard the very good news that before this campaign began, one third of the needed funding was pledged by a very generous donor. What remains to be raised is \$50,000.

Sometimes I hear frustration expressed that so many special appeals for money are made by the church. It is a frustration that I share (and I dearly wish that our denomination's funding-needs for its various ministries were integrated instead of split into scattered, competing appeals). But I believe that this special funding effort for a Minister of Youth bears a remarkable one-of-a-kind importance. Adolescents and pre-adolescents are in a formative phase of life. They face tremendous pressures and challenges, and are forming attitudes and making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives. There is no stage of life more crucial for the church's love, guidance, and support; and there is no more important or promising "demographic" in our city for the church's outreach than young people and their families.

Your financial support can be made in more than one way. You can give your gift in a lump sum, you can spread your gift over the entire three years, or you can pick any portion of the three-year period for the making of your contribution. Please give the matter your serious thought and prayer, and please give your generous support. It will be a great investment in the lives of many young people; and in more ways than one it will be a great investment in the future of the church.

NURSERY care is available on the 3rd floor from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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 and children in kindergarten - 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship.

3 and 4 year olds

10:00 - 11:30 Worship with Family or
Childcare in nursery
11:30 - 12:30 Church School (202A&B)

K - 5th grade

10:00 - 10:30 Worship
10:30 - 11:00 Children's Worship for K-3rd (room 202A)
11:00 - 12:30 Church School (room 202A&B)

6th grade - High School

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
11:00 - 12:00 Church School (room 107)
12:00 - 12:30 Group Activities (Rooms 202A&B)

Adult Christian Education (11:30—12:30)

June 15: Religion and Peacemaking in the Middle East (Lounge)

Ron Gregg and Sarah Heidt, facilitators

This series concludes today with a DVD entitled *Searching for Peace in the Middle East* by Landrum Bolling.

June 22 and 29: Sermon discussion

Change in VBS Plans

The Board of Christian Education and I have come to the very difficult decision that we will not be able to do a VBS program this year. Over the next three months my time needs to be spent on the re-arrangement of classrooms and CE storage spaces in preparation for the AACN, as well as involvement with the Youth Minister search. I will also need to take some extended time off to empty my mother's house and prepare it for sale. The BCE was unable to identify another person who could administer the VBS program so we have agreed that we will need to drop it for 2008. With no VBS, our main concern is finding other ways to continue to build our relationships with the children and youth at Hikone. Jackie Snyder, Becky Miller and Toni Stearns are working on plans for a Fun Night in late August in which we would invite the Hikone families. You will hear more about this plan! Next summer will be more settled (right?) and I look forward to VBS 2009! — Sue Ellen Glover

As another Christian Education program year comes to a close, our deepest gratitude to these dedicated and committed volunteers and leaders:

Christian Education Leaders 2007-08

Infants and Toddlers: Caregivers: Kathryn Gregg, with Melissa Snyder, Jackie Snyder
Volunteers - Mary Davis, Madeline Drake, Jeanette Halliday, Cynthia Redinger,
Emily Rahim,
3's and 4's: Melissa Snyder, Brandy Kirchner, Joyce Arnn
Kindergarten - 2nd Grade: Nancy and Vicky Rushton, Jackie Snyder
3rd - 6th Grade: Bob Kidd, Janice Stumpf
Youth (7th - High School): Stacey Duke, with assistance from Bill Foster, Cesar Alaniz and Ethan Wright
Adult: Arthur and Marlene Francis, Ron Gregg, Sue Ellen Glover, Sarah Heidt,
Ron Tipton

Wednesday Bible Study: Paul Simpson Duke
Second Sunday: Marlene and Arthur Francis
Children's Worship: Sue Ellen Glover
Children's Music and Arts Ministry: Bonnie Kidd, Debra Snyder, Carole Ott,
Jackie Snyder, Melissa Snyder,
Randy and Nancy Faber

ChristCare Small Group Leaders: Mary Davis and Scott Diels, Fred and Mary Munson
Choir Childcare: Joyce Arnn
Special Assistance, Consultants: David Robbins, Jerry and Jim Suits, Ruth Kerr,
Iris Martin, Bev Inbody, Graham Miles, Carey
Viviano, Annabel Erskine

Youth Director: Brandy Kirchner
Director of Christian Education: Sue Ellen Glover
Board of Christian Education: Bill Foster and Toni Stearns (Co-Chairs),
Maryann Bowen (Secretary), Emily Preston Rahim,
Becky Miller, Jackie Snyder

FBCA2 News & Happenings

A Great Big Thank you! Many, many thanks to the following volunteers who moved the handbell classroom to its new location on May 30 & 31 so that the day care construction could begin: Laurel Williams, Deborah (Williams) Cadell, Jackie Snyder, Missy Snyder, Rob Snyder, Anna Moyer, Arthur Francis, and Clay Scott. And many thanks to the indispensable David Robbins for installing a lock on the door as well as providing the appropriate tools & equipment to get the job done right. It took a total of 14 "man (or woman)" hours to accomplish this task. Luckily, classes won't commence in the new room until September, so there is still time to get everything in its place and a place for everything. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated!!! - Deb Snyder



Youth Picnic: Save the date! Sunday, June 29th – Mark it on your calendars. Details to follow!

Church Picnic: Save the date! The Church Picnic, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, will take place on Sunday, July 27 from 12:00–2:00 p.m. at Allmendinger Park. Sign up at the information counter.

2008 Christmas Celebration – I'm sure the last thing you're thinking about is the 2008 Christmas Celebration. If there was an item in the bazaar or something in the baked goods which you did not see or missed, please let us know. We are always open to suggestions and new ideas. If you are a craft person, baker, creative individual and would like to donate to the Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale – please think of us as you finish your next project. The money stays with the ABW Ministries to support our many projects. — Beverly Inbody (904-5750)

Paul Dossabhoy has drawn our attention to a special project started by two U of M student runners in coordination with Running Fit stores and Soles4Souls, a non-profit organization that sends shoes to developing countries. Beginning June 1, customers who drop off used shoes at any of Running Fit's seven locations will receive a discount on their next purchase. The used shoes will be donated to Soles4Souls. Check the Running Fit website for more details <http://www.runningfit.net/>

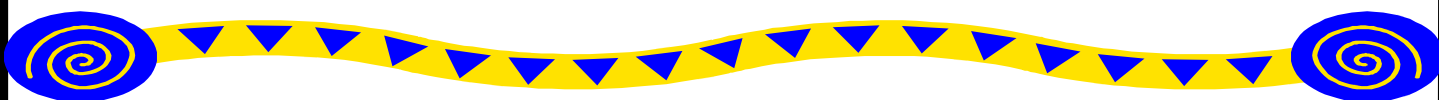


Fall Rummage Sale (Sept 18-20th) — Reminder to all basement, garage and closet cleaners...The stage is available to take clean clothing, working small appliances (please no computers), books, household goods and other treasures for this fall's sale. If you have any questions, please ask Annabel

Sunday Greeter Sign-up: We are sorely in need of greeters for Sunday worship. Please sign up at the information counter.

MacGregor-Stitt Circle Planning Meeting

Meets at Thursday, June 12 — tomorrow! — at 1:00 p.m. at Joan Blunt's home. This is the planning meeting for 2008-09



Faith-Nurturing Family Activities

Keith Johnson (edited by Sue Ellen Glover)

Family devotions are notorious for giving migraines to parents and causing children to groan. Formal family devotions at home can range from breakfast Scripture readings, bedtime prayers, or even "sermonettes for Christianettes from the dinette." But even these can come across as irreverently artificial, canned, and hokey, further creating a gap between church and home. Christian parents realize the value of time at home spent with God -- but how do we do it? Family faith-building need not always be structured to be effective. Whether the setting is formal or impromptu, the purpose is a conscious effort to strengthen communication, to experience communion, and to build community.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 suggests the best way to meet these goals. Moses says that "these commandments...are to be upon your hearts." We are told to "impress them on [our] children." How? By talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." WOW! Here's movement; crafts (gee, we should even write on our doorframes -- get out those stencils!); conversation; and creative, hands-on teaching at its best -- all to be done with our children.

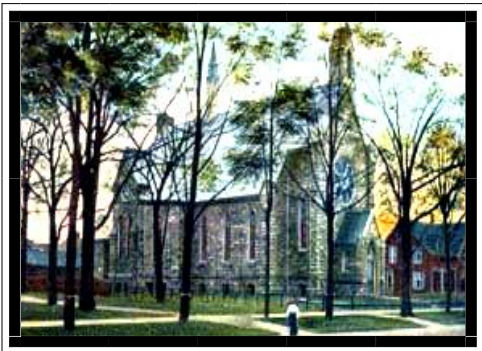
Activities that are natural yet directed, routine yet imaginative, personal yet spiritual, nurture faith at home. Here are specific activities to help parents build their children's faith at home

1. **Prayer** -- Have you ever passed by someone broken down on the side of the road but you just couldn't stop? Why not pray aloud for that person? Or when you spot an ambulance or squad car speeding to the scene of a problem, pray for the people involved.
2. **Bible Reading/Study** -- Read a key verse at breakfast. Read or tell a Bible story in your words before bedtime. Bible reading should be a social, bonding opportunity, not a dry discipline devoid of purpose. Remember: Short passages for "short people," long passages for "long people."
3. **Celebrations** -- Birthdays in our home are all-day events. One child is special, and we emphasize that. On holidays we try to focus on giving to others. We encourage each child to learn the value of giving by picking out a gift for siblings.
4. **Vacations** -- The best part of a vacation is the memories it gives family members. Planning, packing, sitting in a car for hours on end, sleeping in a strange bed, and having unexpected breakdowns produce stress and conflict. But no sooner have we returned from a vacation than we're planning the next one. Why? Because of the intense togetherness of these excursions. What do you do on Sunday away from your home? Try sitting together in a different church for the first time -- maybe even a church from a different denomination.
5. **Sacrificial Giving** -- Allowance time is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate sacrifice and giving. Set up three cups: one for God, one for saving, and one with your child's picture on it. Allow children to determine who gets what, and help them stick to it. Let their savings be for a specific project. Turn in their "God" cup once a month at church (once a week for younger kids).

Family Mission Statement -- Stephen Covey introduces an important concept in the life of a family by encouraging families to come up with mission statements. Covey writes that there's a "supreme value in the process of long-term thinking and planning in building strong families. Your mission statement will embody principles everyone has participated in choosing and that everyone has committed to live, both publicly and privately." In the process of writing your statement, everyone gives input into the "big picture" of your family. God is placed at the center of your home not by chance, but because you've purposed it to be that way.

Keith Johnson is a children's pastor in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ANN ARBOR

LOCATIONS AND BUILDINGS, 1828 - 2003 (PART 1)

First Baptist Church has moved several times in its 175 years of existence. In each case, the move brought the congregation closer to what was becoming the primary focus of its community. From a pioneer farmhouse on the Huron River between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti to the Ann Arbor settlement called Lower Town north of the river to a small church on Catherine Street and finally to its present location on Huron Street, the church has moved to position itself where it could best serve the needs of Ann Arbor and its university.

In 1825 Rev. Moses Clark took up a farm on the north bank of the Huron River, three miles downstream from the newly platted (1824) village of Ann Arbor. Clark was the second Baptist preacher to settle in the territory of Michigan and (in 1825) the first to conduct a religious service in Ann Arbor. Rev. Clark sold his farm in 1832, which may have been what prompted the little pioneer congregation to reorganize itself and move to the promising community of Lower Town on the north side of the river. The church met in a room over Anson Brown's store on Broadway, probably the building known as the Huron Block and across the street from Brown's other building which still stands at 1001-1007 Broadway.

In 1834 disaster struck when Anson Brown died of cholera and his surviving partners evicted the little congregation. The church found accommodation in a nearby mechanic's shop that they could occupy evenings and Sundays but where they needed to bring in and set up chairs and furnishings for worship. Under these circumstances the congregation decided to build their own church. Before his death, Anson Brown had promised the church \$200 and land for a building, but his partners refused to honor his pledge until forced to do so by Anson's brother Daniel. In 1835 the church's first building was completed. Located at 933 Wall Street, it cost \$500 and seated less than 100 people. In 1841 the church was enlarged to double its capacity.

After the death of Anson Brown, the Lower Town area began to decline, with most business and residential growth moving to the south side of the river. Most important for the future of the community, the fledgling state university had been located there and in 1841 began offering classes in a handsome four-story building on State Street. The Baptists soon realized that if they were to serve the growing population of Ann Arbor and the university, they needed to move across the river. The Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Episcopalians were already established in the Upper Town. The Baptists determined to join them.

Although not strong in numbers or wealth, by 1849 the Baptists were able to occupy a new building on the north side of Catherine Street between 5th and Division. Long since razed, the church was built of pink brick and contained a vestibule and audience room and cost \$4000. Professor Andrew Ten Brook, whose leadership and financial support helped make the building possible, described it as "a house not quite so large as the Presbyterian, somewhat larger than the Methodist." By the 1860's the Catherine Street church needed both renovation and enlargement. In 1866 the auditorium was refurbished and an addition put on the back to accommodate the Sunday School and prayer meetings. The women's society of the church contributed almost half of the \$2500 needed for the project. The last meeting in this church was held on June 4, 1881 after which the property was sold to the Langley Electric Light Company for \$1500. — To be continued

— *Marlene Francis*

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INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES SENDS RELIEF GRANT AFTER CHINA EARTHQUAKE

American Baptist International Ministries has sent a \$5,000 grant to their partner, The Amity Foundation, for immediate relief efforts, after one of the strongest earthquakes to strike China in decades happened Monday, May 12, leaving thousands dead and more missing.

According to news media reports, more than 15,000 people are estimated to have died when the earthquake, which measured 7.9 in magnitude, struck in Sichuan province, an area in Southwestern China. The province is very near a border with Myanmar, which has been devastated recently by a cyclone.

The grant was provided through the American Baptist World Relief Office with One Great Hour of Sharing funds. Ben Chan, area director for East Asia for International Ministries, said much more will be needed.

“We are very grateful for this initial response, which will support the Amity Foundation, who is providing more than \$140,000 in immediate aid, such as clean water, food, medicine and shelter on the ground for those affected,” said Chan. “Amity is a trusted partner, with good relationships with the churches and the government. They are playing a crucial role in helping victims and will need our continued financial support to be most effective.”

American Baptists wishing to support ongoing China efforts can do so through their church’s monthly report of mission support, designating contributions “OGHS-China Earthquake.” For online contributions, go to the give now option available at www.abc-oghs.org/give.

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LAUNCHES GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS FUND

American Baptist International Ministries has launched a Global Food Crisis Fund, which will provide desperately needed money to help their partners in poor areas deal with the rising costs of basic foods. The fund will begin with \$100,000, with \$50,000 coming from International Ministries. The other \$50,000 comes from the One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering conducted by the World Relief Office of American Baptist Churches USA.

“Places around the world where hunger has been a big problem, have now seen it become a bigger problem as food prices have increased dramatically,” said Reid Trulson, International Ministries executive director. “Our fund is a response to our partners and other Christian organizations who are on the frontlines of helping to feed the hungry and homeless every day. We want to help them so they don’t have to cut back on basic staples their people need for survival,” Trulson said.

Half of the money will go to an immediate \$50,000 grant to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium, to help them with the rising cost of rice, which is the primary staple food given to hundreds of thousands of displaced people living in the refugee camps. Duane Binkley, a missionary who works with refugees both in Thailand and in the U.S. said, “The most recent report I saw shows that the Thailand Burma Border Consortium supplies all the food in nine camps. [They] still need about \$7 million to avoid having to severely cut the food ration,” Binkley said, adding that some cuts have been made already.

The remaining \$50,000 is being made available as partners apply for grants to the fund. Partners in the U.S. will be able to apply through National Ministries.

A \$5,000 grant has already been approved for Jean Rabel, a region on the northwestern tip of Haiti, where “The situation there is critical.” He said families are reportedly selling their children in hopes that where they are taken they will be able to eat and survive.

Partners in the Philippines and North Korea have also applied for support during this critical period.

The food crisis is blamed on many factors including: the rising cost of oil, which makes food more expensive to transport; government subsidies that in some countries have made staple food more expensive; and ongoing poverty, where people simply cannot afford to pay the cost of the food that is available.

American Baptists wishing to support ongoing efforts confront the global food crisis can do so through their church’s monthly report of mission support, designating contributions “OGHS-Global Food Crisis.” For online contributions, go to the give now option available at www.abc-oghs.org/give.

One hundred percent of gifts will go to help feed hungry people worldwide and to develop sustainable food supplies.

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



Next
newsletter
deadline:
Sunday, June 22, 2008



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offers an opportunity for each of us to share with people in need around the world - giving them much more than a handout. When we share our resources, we help to ensure that children suffering from disease not only receive treatment, but enjoy the benefits of a community made safer with proper sanitation and clean sources of water. We partner with a family living in hunger, offering them not just food, but the tools and training to build a sustainable source of income for ourselves - improving their world and ours.

Many American Baptists understand the OGHS offering to be the "disaster relief offering." That's true, but OGHS provides for much more. Funding for development projects and refugee ministries to national, international and ecumenical partners totaling over \$1,000,000 is made possible each year because of your generosity. Commitments to our partners for the funding of these projects and ministries are made in faith that your undesignated gifts to the offering will provide the resources necessary to support them.

† Across the United States - Resettlement of Refugees
† Burundi - Construction of a Health Center
† Salvador - Food Security for 100 Families
† Dormitory and Training Center for Freed Slaves

† Palestine - Support for the People of the Gaza Strip
† Trenton, NJ - Legal Services for Immigrants
† Thailand - Integrated Tribal Development Program