



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

June 25, 2008

Pastors' Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

I am home now from a week in Minnesota, at the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, located on the campus of Saint John's University. 10 other pastors and I gathered for a week-long event called *Writing and the Pastoral Life*, led by Eugene Peterson, a retired pastor and professor who has authored over 30 books (most notably *The Message*, a "dynamic translation" of Scripture into contemporary English).

Living for a week by a lake in Minnesota, with all my physical needs taken care of, made tending to spiritual matters very easy. I had plenty of time to pray, to read, to reflect, to listen and to learn. I spent hours everyday outdoors. One morning, a dragonfly landed on my shirt. He and I studied each other for a long time, while he opened and closed his mouth (or something like a mouth) - was he praying too? - and then he flew away. I took long walks in the morning and in the evening, alone and with friends; one morning, a fawn bounded across my path, one evening a goose and her goslings waddled by. In the evenings, I listened to the loons laughing in the lake, and to the bullfrogs singing in the woods. Even though the workshop was not intended primarily as a spiritual retreat, the rhythm of the days, the gift of time, the beauty of the natural world, and the freedom from the responsibility of taking care of anything or anyone (myself included) - all of these were ideal conditions for spiritual refreshment and nurture.

Which makes returning particularly hard. In my normal life, I do not have hours at my disposal for all the reading I want to do. In my home, I do not typically have the sustained kind of quiet I tend to think I need for "real" prayer. And I certainly do not have a full cafeteria at my disposal for every meal, where I don't have to worry about food selection or preparation or cleanup. I do get outside on a regular basis, but that usually involves throwing a ball or chasing a child, rather than sitting in quiet contemplation. We all benefit from occasional time away - but how can we tend to our spiritual needs in regular time? How can we live a life that is tuned in to God and to what matters in the midst of the ordinary pressures of ordinary life?

To be honest, I am regularly trying to figure out how to answer that question for myself. Certainly it is important to try to maintain a practice of prayer, no matter how modest, and to structure a little time for quiet reflection into our regular living, no matter how minimal. But I believe there have to be ways to find our connection to God in the midst of our busyness too.

When I look back on last week, and on similar experiences, I am aware that my sense of connection to God developed not only out of the practices I undertook but out of a certain attitude and awareness. Something opened up inside me, my sense of time expanded, and my attentiveness to a sacred presence was sharpened. This sort of disposition is aided greatly by habits of spiritual practice, but I believe we can take on this attitude no matter what we are doing. The regular "stuff" of daily life - doing our work, tending to children, cleaning the house, watching the news - none of these is an obstacle to relating to God. All of them offer opportunities for us to take an internal pause to refocus ourselves in God's direction. Every moment is a new chance to open our hearts to God and to practice our faith.

When that dragonfly lit on my shirt last week, I was completely swept into the presence of God. It was as if that stunning little creature were a doorway to the sacred, and I walked eagerly through. Dragonflies aren't the only doorways there are. Everything - and every person - is a door, if we have the eyes to see, and the heart to walk on through.

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)

Sermon Discussion (Lounge)

Paul will host a discussion of that morning's sermon.

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

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

For the month of July, there will be no Second Hour classes for children, youth or adults.

Reverend George Lambrides, former pastor of FBC, will retire on June 30, after eleven years of service, from his position as staff chaplain at the University of Michigan Health System. During his career he has provided services to a wide range of patient populations, including those in need of palliative care. His passion has always been working with patients and their families.



FBCA2

News & Happenings

Youth Family Picnic: This Sunday, June 29th at noon. County Farm Park (Washtenaw and Platt, with entrance off of Platt, across from Vineyard Church).

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.



Sue Ellen will be on vacation and out of the office from July 3 through July 21

Joel Hastings piano concert at Kerrytown Concert House on Wed, July 2 at 8pm. Call 734-769-2999 or email kch@kerrytown.com to reserve seats. Program includes Scarlatti, Respighi, Grieg, Bach/Saint-Saëns, Bach/Hess, Schubert/Liszt and Wagner/Liszt.

The Art Fairs will soon be here - and once again we are renting out the church parking lot to raise funds for the Youth program and our Sister Church in Nicaragua. The artists (and their motorhomes, vans, trucks and trailers) begin arriving Monday, July 14, and starting on that date the church parking lot will be off limits for the whole week unless you are on church business. (Please ask the volunteer on duty where you should park when coming on church business.) If you want to shop at the art fairs, we always provide parking for our congregation (for a donation, please).



Many volunteers are needed to supervise the lot. Please sign up at the Information Counter. You will be helping to raise over \$2000 for our Youth and our Sister Church in Nandasmö. In addition to our gratitude, volunteers "earn" a free half-day parking spot to be used any time during the Fairs!

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



Our Habitat for Humanity Good News house for 2008 has just broken ground. Again this year FBC is joining with 21 other churches to make a family's home ownership dream

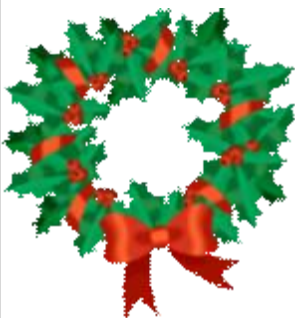
come true. As in the past eight years, our support involves providing funds to buy the construction materials, volunteers and supplying lunches at the work site. You and members of your family are invited to participate in this annual local mission opportunity. July 28 will be our FBC workday. We will be working with volunteers from Manchester United Methodist Church on that day. We will also need volunteers from FBC to provide lunch for workers. If you wish to volunteer, go to the Good News house website <http://www.goodnewshouse.org/housevolunteers>.

The "Deliciously Artistic" Summer Fundraiser runs June 23-30th. Habitat has partnered with local artist Suellen J. Parker and Mainstreet Ventures Restaurants. Each of five restaurants are featuring a different Parker original dessert plate topped with a delectable dessert. The plates are on sale for \$40 and when you are finished with dessert you take the custom plate home to enjoy for years to come! The participating restaurants are Gratzzi, Palio, The Chop House, The Real Seafood Co, and Carson's American Bistro.

Hinderer, Frances E.

Age 93, of Ann Arbor. Passed away June 13, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Edward. Loving mother of Dolores Davis of Santa Maria, CA., Shelley (Gary) Alton of Ann Arbor. Dear grandmother of Denise, Michael, Sherri, Terri, Ronnie, Randy, Nichole, Noelle. Proceeded in death by her infant son Gary and her brothers, Grant and James Wilkinson. Frances was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor and an active member of the "M" Club. The family received friends on Sunday at the Muehlig Funeral Chapel. The funeral service took place on Monday, June 16th at the funeral chapel. Burial followed at Bethlehem Cemetery, Ann Arbor. Memorials to: First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor or Huron Valley Humane Society.

Paul Wing, nephew of Mervyn Juchartz, passed away on June 13th after a long battle with leukemia. His family (wife Rosemary, daughters Sara and Charlotte and aunt Mervyn) wish to thank everyone at FBC for their thoughts and prayers during Paul's illness.



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)

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 Erskine.





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ANN ARBOR LOCATIONS AND BUILDINGS, 1828 - 2003 (PART 2)

Even with renovations, the Catherine Street building was clearly inadequate for the congregation's future needs. On July 5, 1870 Pastor N. S. Burton learned that property on Huron Street was for sale. That very day he met with the owner to negotiate the purchase. Although the owner later wanted to withdraw and the price was higher than the church could afford, the deal went through. Church trustee Philip Bach purchased the lot that ran from Huron Street to Washington Street for \$4000 and then sold a piece 6 x 10 rods on Huron Street to the Baptists. It is this location on the main street between downtown and the University of Michigan campus that became the permanent home of First Baptist Church and that has shaped its visibility and its role in the community and on the campus.

Most members of the church recognized the need for a new building, but some were reluctant to make the sacrifices necessary for the dream to be realized. As a result the actual building was delayed for ten years. Periodically during that time there were proposals to sell the property, but eventually reason and faith prevailed. Finally in July 1879 plans were adopted and fund raising began, with the understanding that construction would proceed only as funds became available. By January 1880 the foundation and walls of the basement were in and by 1881 the church was ready to sell its building on Catherine Street and move. Local boulder stone and black walnut were used in the construction, the wood coming from a church member's farm. Funding came from many sources, including an annuity of \$2000 from Mrs. Silvina Cowles, and \$500 from a man in New York who stipulated that if the property was ever alienated from Baptist use the \$500 plus interest would become due to the American Baptist Home Missionary Society. It is well known that Professor Edward Olney mortgaged his own home so that the church could be dedicated free of debt. On September 29, 1881, church clerk Olney reported "the new house of worship was dedicated this day Free of Debt. . . . all bills for current expenses, pastor's salary, etc., are paid to date." The original cost of this building was \$30,000.

Over the years, necessary changes and additions have been made to the 1881 building. During the 1920's, the basement was altered and redecorated, the roof was repaired, the auditorium redecorated and electric lights installed. Soon after World War II the chancel was renovated with a larger platform and new baptistry. The city fire marshal required changes in the front entrance; the new doors there honor W. W. and Helen Beman. In 1952 the church raised \$150,000 for a two-story educational wing to be added to the rear of the building. This addition included the fellowship hall with its fireplace and stage, the Chapman Room, nursery and crib room, two new classrooms, kitchenette, two rest rooms. This space was soon outgrown and in 1961 a second addition comprising 4400 square feet and costing \$159,429 was built to accommodate the children's program and a new kitchen, library, and foyer. In 1942 the Michigan Baptist Convention acquired the Douglas House next door to the church for the campus ministry program. In 1961 to provide land for the second educational wing, the convention deeded the house and land to First Baptist Church on condition that the church continue to maintain a campus ministry and remain associated with American Baptists. For many years the house has served as parsonage, student housing, church offices, and the home of the

campus ministry program. In 1995 the house was thoroughly renovated and a new kitchen and connection to the church building was added.

A church is not just a building. It is first and foremost a collection of God's people. But the people who make up the congregation need and value a place to gather for fellowship and worship. Many programs of the church have benefited from the quality of the facilities available to First Baptist Church. Many loyal and talented members have devoted hours to the building's needs and idiosyncrasies, to keeping the furnace going, the roof from leaking, the office efficiently equipped, the educational and music programs comfortably accommodated, the grounds and especially the gardens tended and beautiful. Thanks to many generations of supportive members, the present congregation enjoys a beautiful and comfortable house in which to worship and serve each other and the Ann Arbor community.

— **Marlene Francis**

SOURCES:

History of the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan 1828-2003 (2003).

Shackman, Grace, Ann Arbor in the 19th Century (2001)

Trowbridge, Mary E. D., History of Baptists in Michigan (1909)

Speaking of Church Buildings... There's lots of construction going on at FBC!

Ann Arbor Co-op Nursery (AACN) construction has started here at FBC. We'll be bringing you updates about the project, but in the meantime we would like you to meet **Lynn Archer**, the teacher at AACN. "Ask anyone affiliated with the Ann Arbor Co-op what the best thing about the school is and they'll say with unbridled enthusiasm: "Mrs. Archer!"

Our teacher at the co-op since 1995, Lynn is a favorite with children and parents alike. In addition to being a former Ann Arbor Co-op parent herself, Lynn brings a variety of experience and skills to the classroom, including:

- B.A. in education with a concentration in child development and art
- Master's-in-progress in early childhood development
- Four years teaching science for preschoolers at the [Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum](#)

In 2001, 2003, and 2005 Lynn was voted Most Outstanding Coop Teacher by the Huron Valley Council of Cooperative Nurseries ([HVCCN](#)).





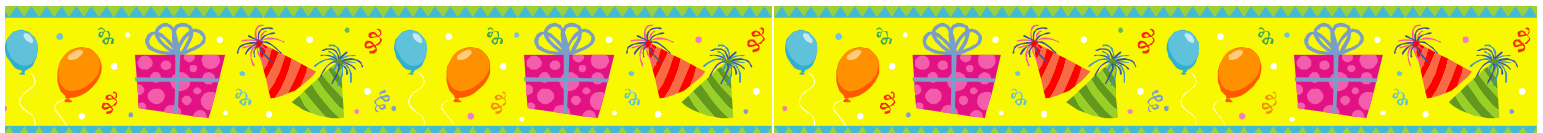
JULY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 Vespers	2	3	4 Church & Office Closed	5
6 9:15 Choir	7	8 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Board of Worship	9	10	11	12
13 9:15 Choir 11:30 Care & Comm.	14	15 5:30 Vespers	16	17	18	19
ART FAIRS WEEK						
20	21	22 5:30 Vespers 7:30 Exec. Council	23	24	25	26
27 12:00 Church Picnic	28 5:30 Bd of Christian Educ.	29 5:30 Vespers	30	31		

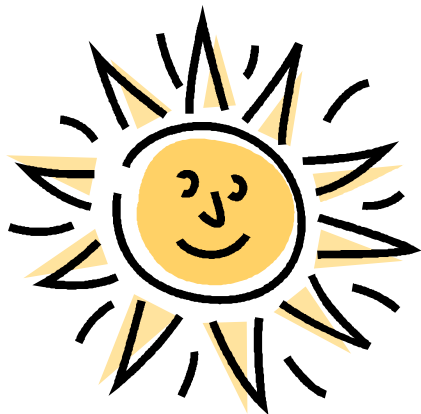
Happy Birthday

Tim Hillebrand	1	Cesar Alaniz	12	Missy Snyder	21
Wayne Lamerson	3	Ricky Rushton	13	Joel Hastings	22
Julia Crowe	4	Marlene Francis	15	Megan Hudson	24
Gail Curtis	5	James Rushton	15	Kathryn Gregg	25
Lynn Blunt	6	Charise Hastings	16	Isabelle Louis	28
Jackie Snyder	10	Clay Scott	16	Alice Moyer	29
Samuel Halliday	10	Paul Simpson Duke	18	Aleta Schwartzenberger	31
Edgar Willis	12				



First Baptist Church
512 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-663-9376
www.fbca2.org
office@fbca2.org

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



Next
newsletter
deadline:
Sunday, July 6, 2008