



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

August 27, 2008

Pastors' Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

How is it that the summer is almost gone already? It seems like we were just welcoming warmer temperatures and green leaves - now the leaves are already starting to turn, and an autumnal breeze has sprung up. Summer break officially ends for students next week, with most local schools, including the University, starting classes on Tuesday. It's an exciting time - for students and for our church!

As the school year begins, our congregation again has fresh opportunities for ministering to the University community. College students new to the area have already begun visiting our church, and we hope that will increase in the coming weeks. Our campus ministry gets back into full-swing next Wednesday night, with our first gathering of the school year - a time for dinner, fellowship, study, and prayer. We have the chance to be a church home away from home for students, and for some students we may even be their first experience of a church.

How can our church most effectively reach out to and care for these young adults? We could start by praying. Pray for the students who are on their way here. Pray for them as they leave home, say goodbye to family and friends, pack up their things and get on the road. Pray for students coming from other countries, and for the culture shock and loneliness they may face. Pray for students as they travel, as they unload and get settled in here in Ann Arbor. Keep praying for them throughout the year. They face so much pressure academically and so many challenges spiritually, morally, and emotionally. They need our prayers.

They need our friendship, too. When you see an unfamiliar face in worship, go out of your way to make that person feel welcome. If you find out that person is a student, how about introducing him or her to other students, or to one of the pastors? Maybe give them a campus ministry brochure, or even show them to the Campus Center, so they know where they can come for a free home-cooked dinner and friendship on Wednesday nights. Considering inviting them out to lunch, or even having them over for dinner. Sunday worship may be the only time during their week that they interact with anyone other than peers or professors. Where else are they going to get to play with young children, or talk with elders, or feel like a part of an intergenerational family? Let's do our best to be good and loving family to these young adults.

If you are looking for a particularly concrete way to reach out to students, do consider signing up to cook one of our Wednesday night meals. The students so appreciate every meal we offer - it is such a change from their usual fare! (I have to admit - I appreciate these meals, too. Nothing tastes as good as a meal I didn't have to cook myself!) Table fellowship is really the cornerstone of our campus ministry; friendships are made around that table, prayers are offered, and lives are touched. Your gift of hospitality helps make that happen. If you are not a cook, consider offering the campus ministry a gift card for a restaurant or grocery store. Some of you have done this in the past, and it is a great gift! The students love pizza, or Mexican, or sandwiches. A grocery store gift card is easy too - I am always able to find something to whip together for a nice meal for the students.

For more than 100 years now, our church has been reaching out to the University community. In that span of time, student life has changed a lot. Many of the difficulties students face are radically different from those faced by their great-grandparents; however, certain needs stay the same through time. The need for Christ, for Christian friendship, for a community with which to offer Christian service - these needs persist. May we be faithful in helping meet that need, and in loving well.

NURSERY care is available on the 3rd floor from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 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, children in preschool - 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship. No church school classes on September 7 due to the Ice Cream Social. The new church school year begins September 14 with the following schedule:

Preschool

10:00 - 10:30 Worship
10:45 - 11:00 Children's Worship
11:00 - 12:00 Church School
12:00 - 12:30 Childcare in nursery

K - 2nd grade

10:30 - 11:00 Children's Worship (Room 202A)
11:00 - 12:00 Church School (Room 202B)

3rd - 6th grades

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
11:00 - 11:50/12:00 Church School (Room 304)

Youth (7th - High School)

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

Children's Music and Arts Ministry

The Children's Music Ministry will resume on September 14 and 21 (Jr. Choir) and meet for rehearsal each Sunday.

Jr. Handbells (Room 306).....9:15 - 9:45
Grace Notes Choir (room 306)..12:00 - 12:30

Tiny Grace Notes (Room 306)...10:30 - 10:45
Jr. Choir (Room 102).....11:50 - 12:30



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

Beginning September 14:

CELTIC CHRISTIANITY — What does it mean for us today? — In the days of early Christianity, in 644, at the Northumbrian Abby of Whitby, northern Christianity came to a crossroad. The Celtic tradition of Iona lost out to the see of Rome. Celtic Christianity was pushed into the background, into the Northern and Western provinces of Scotland, Wales, Ireland, but the Celtic mission, inspired by the Gospel of John, survived and remains an integral and important part of our heritage. Its focus is in seeing the image of God in all of creation, including the human who represents the image of God on earth. This spirituality lends itself to listening for God at the heart of life, experiencing communion with God in nature at the deepest levels. We express this emphasis in our worship service, in our hymns, in our prayers, without being keenly aware of it. William Sloane Coffin expressed it, when he said, "When you're grateful for the undeserved beauty of a cloudless sky, you're praying." We sing it in our hymn: And God will raise you up on Eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand. Or: How beautiful are the feet of him who brings...peace...good tidings...salvation. (Isa 52:7, Rom 10:15). In this sequence, we will study how our Celtic heritage has inspired us in our awareness of God through prayer and by studying related OT and NT biblical passages.

— Astrid Beck, discussion leader

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

Wednesday Bible Study will resume on September 17 with Ron Tipton as the leader during the Fall term. The group meets on Wednesdays from 1:30 - 2:30 PM. As usual, the first session (on the 17th) will be a potluck meal at the church 12:00 noon. We hope that all the "old" group members will return, and we also hope to see some new faces this year. If you are available on Wednesday afternoons please come and join in the fellowship and discussions.

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.



FBCA2 News & Happenings

UNDIE SUNDAY — Mark your calendars! September 14 will be **Undie Sunday** and we will invite you to join the fun. Our clothes closet for Vespers guests and others has been almost completely emptied! And while we will usually find outerwear and clothing at the rummage sale to purchase and donate, new underwear is never available — and is, of course, a necessity! So we are holding an underwear drive. On September 14, please bring in packages of NEW men's and women's t-shirts and underpants/boxers and leave them in the basket by the Information Counter. We thank you for your generosity on our first annual UNDIE SUNDAY!



The Fall Rummage Sale is here! (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.

Archives Request — Our church archives are kept at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. It is time that we add to the materials held there. If you have materials that you think should be preserved in the archives, please bring them to the church office and mark them for Archives. These materials may include church reports and records, correspondence on church business, files on special committees or task forces. They might also include scrapbooks or pictures of formal or informal events including church groups. Please label pictures with the name and date of the event and the names of the people. If you have any questions, contact Marlene Francis, church historian, at 734-761-8069.



Back-to-School Supplies Collection The collection of school backpacks was a success thanks to the efforts of the Alaniz family, Lindsay Ambridge, Mary Davis and Scott Diels, Betty Doman, Esther Floyd, Sue Ellen Glover, Bev Inbody, Helen Johnson, Iris Martin, Craig and Cynthia Redinger and Nancy Rushton. It is so important that the children know others are interested in their success at school and want them to succeed. Thank you for your generosity.

MacGregor-Stitt Circle will meet Thursday, Sept 25, at 12:30 at the home of Roberta Hause. Subway luncheon will be followed by program: "What's New?" (with us over the summer). Note the special hour.

Cooks Needed for The Gathering — 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 and take an instruction sheet with you.

There is a new Senior Adult Newsletter for American Baptists in Michigan! To access the Senior Adult Newsletter, M.O.S.A.I.C. (Motivating Our Senior Adults In Christ), go to www.abc-mi.org and click on "Senior Adults" in the left-hand column.



Welcome back returning sextons, Becky and Adam!

This will be **Adam Dolson's** second year as a sexton here at FBC. He is looking forward to starting classes this semester as this will be his Senior year. He is studying American Culture at the U of M.

Over the summer, Adam worked at a church plant near Seattle, WA with some friends; he enjoyed the Northwest but prefers the Midwest. Outside of the classroom, Adam's activities include: music, working with Campus Crusade, reading, and seeing friends and family.

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**Becky Miller** is happy to be back in Ann Arbor after spending a summer in North Dakota, where she studied linguistics through the Summer Institute of Linguistics, an organization of Christian linguists. This training takes her closer to her hope of working in the field of Bible translation, helping to bring the scriptures into the language of more than 2,000 language groups that still need them.

She works as a substitute teacher in Ann Arbor and is a dedicated knitter. Her most recent fiber accomplishment is learning to spin her own yarn.

**2008 Christmas Celebration** — You may begin to bring in your finished craft projects anytime to the church office or to the information counter on Sunday mornings. Please be sure to have your name on the item and a suggested price, and give us an idea of the variety of items and any display needs. Presentation is important to help catch the eye of the buyers.

Another part of the bazaar is the ever popular Gently Used Holiday Decorations. If you have holiday decorations which are no longer of use and would like to donate them, we will be very happy to take them off your hands. Again, you can bring them in anytime to either the information counter or to the church office. This is not to be confused with the Rummage Sale in September. Remember that the money raised will stay with the ABW Ministries to support our many projects. — Beverly Inbody (904-5750)



**You are cordially invited to attend the Third Annual Hopey Awards**



Friday, September 12 at 6:30 pm at Bethesda Bible Church, 1800 S. Huron, Ypsilanti. This is Hope Clinic's yearly celebration of its wonderful volunteers. Please come join us as we celebrate the numerous volunteers that serve our community. **Hope Clinic would like to thank your church for its continued support of our work.**

**A Thank You**

Sharon, a recent occupant of the pavilion, came by the church office to express her gratitude. She shared the news that she has now found housing, and wanted the church to know that our hospitality had been a blessing to her and to others.

## **Balance Present and Future**

The Common Ground for Peace is Israel/Palestine Working Group is very excited to announce: "SCRIPTURAL REASONING II - "This World and the World to Come: How Our Faiths Balance the Present and the Future."

Tomorrow, Thursday, August 28, 2008, St. Clare's Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth (2309 Packard St., Ann Arbor) Light potluck dinner at 6:30pm;

At 7:00pm, our three speakers will present texts and brief interpretations. Small group discussion will follow until 8:30pm.

We are honored to present the following speakers for this event:

**Rabbi Robert Dobrusin**, Beth Israel Congregation of Ann Arbor

**The Rev. Paul Simpson Duke**, Co-Pastor of First Baptist Church in Ann Arbor and adjunct professor of New Testament at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit

**Heather Laird**, B.A. from Indiana University in Political Science and Arabic and Islamic Studies; Fellow for the Institute of Social Policy and Understanding; President of Muslim Social Services of Washtenaw County

## **Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Walk 34 is scheduled for October 12, 2008**

First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor; registration from 1:15 pm

CROP is "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty." I spoke with a staff member today, and I hope you will be able to join the 2008 CROP Hunger Walk. This is organized by Church World Service and the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, with volunteers from local congregations.



CROP walkers will join over 40 local congregations in walking 2km or 10km. Many small gifts from sponsors in your church will make a big difference. Last year we raised \$72,200, and we hope to do even better in 2008. 75% of the funds will help worldwide relief and development efforts by Church World Service - or by other agencies that your sponsors may choose. The other 25% will go to the following local groups:

|                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4.0% Community Action Network     | 2.5% Hope Clinic               |
| 4.0% Aid in Milan                 | 2.5% Peace Neighborhood Center |
| 4.0% SOS Emergency Food Program   | 2.5% Motor Meals of Ann Arbor  |
| 3.0% The Breakfast at St Andrew's | 2.5% Emmanuel House            |

Northfield Human Services Food Pantry will receive canned goods donated at the Walk. All the local agencies report a dire need for emergency food assistance, and they rely on the CROP Walk for help.

Please come to the Recruiters' Open House on Wednesday September 3, 2008, from 5 to 7 pm, at Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan, Ann Arbor.

## **Plan Now to Attend ABC-MI Annual Equipping Event in October**

This year's Annual Equipping Event/Business Meeting will be held at First Baptist Church of South Haven, October 17 and 18. The key note speaker is the Rev. Dr. Ron Sider, Presidents of Evangelicals for Social Action and Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry and Public Policy at Palmer Theological Seminary. On Friday (Oct. 17), Dr. Sider will present Overcoming Lopsided Christianity: Combining Social Action and Evangelism and Thinking Biblically about Politics. On Saturday morning (18th), before the annual meeting at 1:30, Dr. Sider presents A New Vision for Overcoming Poverty in America: An Historic Opportunity. Our church may send six voting delegates to the annual business meeting but all congregational members are invited. Please see Sue Ellen or May Davis for registration information.

## From the Youth Specialties PARENT NEWSLETTER #30

August 20, 2008

Subscribe here (free!):

[http://www.youthspecialties.com/freeresources/newsletters\\_subscribe](http://www.youthspecialties.com/freeresources/newsletters_subscribe)

### TOOLS FOR PARENTING TEENS

This week we have an excerpt from a free eBook by Jim Hancock, called "Ten Things We Should Never Say to Kids." With the new school year approaching, we felt this first thing would be a good one for you. Check out the link at the end of the excerpt to find the rest of this eBook.

THING ONE:

"DO YOU HAVE YOUR JACKET-HOMEWORK-GYM-BAG-BACK-PACK-TICKET-KEYS?"

I'm not kidding when I say your children will despise you if you don't stop treating them like babies. They've probably already warned you.

"Do you have your jacket-homework-gym-bag-back-pack-ticket-keys?" is one of the cruelest things one human being can say to another. Yet it is the parting shot delivered by millions of parents as their children walk out the door each morning. Just when things were going so well... You couldn't let well enough alone could you; you had to go for the cheap shot.

"Bye, Mom!"

"Bye, honey -- do you have your jacket-homework-gym-bag-back-pack-ticket-keys?"

You hate to see that kind of thing happen in a nice family. Cryin' shame.

The kid feels like crying because he thinks his mother is an insufferable nag--just the effect Mom was going for.

And Mom feels like crying because her boy lacks a certain, shall we say, initiative, that makes her wonder how he'll ever, in a million years, make anything of himself when he can't take responsibility for something as simple as getting out the door dressed and ready for the day.

I have good news and bad news. The bad news is, if that kid doesn't know how to identify and collect what he needs for the day, it's because his parents taught him, diligently and day-by-day, that they are in charge of such things. They taught him that needs assessment is beyond him and better left to experts (like them, for instance). They taught him and he learned, OK?

That's the bad news. The good news...is... Actually, there is no good news. Not yet.

Why this compulsion in otherwise sane adults to hijack kids' opportunity to learn what we all know they have to learn if they're not going to be eaten by wolves the minute they leave the asylum? I get it but I don't get it.

Heck, maybe you're one of those parents (it happens). If so, this is fair warning. Some day you won't be there to ask your son if he has his jacket-homework-gym-bag-backpack-ticket-keys. You'll have the flu or you'll take a trip or go out to breakfast or something--and only the fact that you live in South Florida, where temperatures are moderate and citrus trees abundant, will prevent him from freezing before he starves.

If you're lucky, he'll get some pants on before he heads off to school where he will make you look so bad, you'll put your home on the market and move to a neighborhood where no one knows your name.

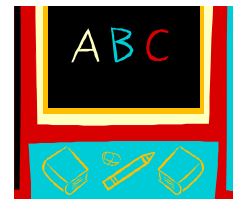
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*Jim Hancock* invested two decades as a church-based youth worker. Now he spends his days in Leucadia, California, writing and creating digital movies and learning designs for youth workers, parents, and adolescents. He's the author of "The Justice Mission," as well as many other resources, and co-author of "The Parent's Guide to Helping Teens in Crisis." Get the rest of Thing One, along with the other "Ten Things We Should Never Say to Kids" here:

<http://www.thetinycompanycalledme.com/1573/25301.html>



# September



| Sun                                                                                             | Mon                                                      | Tue                                                                              | Wed                                                                         | Thu                                              | Fri                                   | Sat                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                 | 1<br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br>Church Building & Office Closed | 2<br>5:30 Vespers                                                                | 3<br>5:30 The Gathering                                                     | 4<br>6:30 Handbells                              | 5                                     | 6                                     |
| 7<br>Communion<br>Christian Education Sunday<br>11:00 Ice Cream Social<br>(newsletter deadline) | 8                                                        | 9<br>5:30 Board of Christian Ed<br>5:30 Vespers<br>7:00 Board of Worship         | 10<br>5:30 The Gathering<br>7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare                     | 11<br>6:30 Handbells                             | 12                                    | 13                                    |
| 14<br>11:30 Youth Family Brunch                                                                 | 15                                                       | 16<br>1:00 Beecher-Brewer Cir.<br>5:30 Vespers<br>7:00 Board of Trustees         | 17<br>12:00 Bible Study<br>5:30 The Gathering                               | 18<br>9:00 Rummage Sale Setup.<br>6:30 Handbells | 19<br>9:00am-5:00pm ABWM Rummage Sale | 20<br>9:00am-1:00pm ABWM Rummage Sale |
| 21<br>ABW Ministries Sunday<br>(newsletter deadline)                                            | 22                                                       | 23<br>9:30 ABWM Board Mtg<br>5:30 Vespers<br>7:00 ICPJ<br>7:30 Executive Council | 24<br>1:30 Bible Study<br>5:30 The Gathering<br>7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare | 25<br>12:30 MacGregor/Stitt<br>6:30 Handbells    | 26                                    | 27                                    |
| 28                                                                                              | 29                                                       | 30<br>5:30 Vespers                                                               |                                                                             |                                                  |                                       |                                       |



**Happy Birthday!!!**

|                 |   |                   |    |                  |    |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Doris George    | 1 | Maryann Bowen     | 10 | Les George       | 23 |
| Bonnie Bates    | 2 | Michael Haithcock | 11 | Marjorie Shannon | 24 |
| Mali Kerschbaum | 3 | Anne Barron       | 12 | Candee Lee       | 26 |
| Toni Burton     | 3 | Elizabeth Lee     | 16 | Adam Dolson      | 26 |
| Jerry Suits     | 4 | Daniel McCullough | 20 | Dorothy Reed     | 30 |
| Zain Rahim      | 9 | Elke Kramer       | 20 |                  |    |

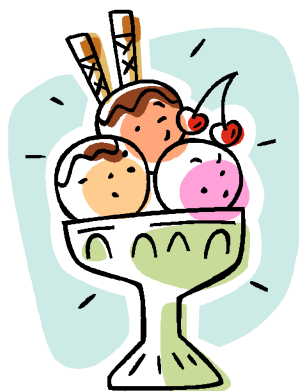


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*The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors*



Next  
newsletter  
deadline:  
*Sunday, September 7,  
2008*



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

September 7, after worship

Sponsored by the Board of Christian Education

to celebrate the new program year

*(Donations of food and baked good are appreciated.*

*Please sign up at the Information Counter.)*