



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

October 22, 2008

Pastor's Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

In less than three weeks, First Baptist will be hosting an exciting and provocative interfaith event that should draw in numbers of attendees from around our region. The 2008 Morikawa Conference on Religion and Peacemaking in the Middle East promises to be a signature event, and I am very proud of our church for taking the initiative to plan, sponsor, and host this conference.

As you know, in 1982, on the occasion of Jitsuo Morikawa's 70th birthday, First Baptist Church established the Jitsuo Morikawa Lecture Endowment Fund to be used to explore spiritual and theological topics of national or international importance. Our church has hosted such lecturers as Hans Küng, Gustavo Gutierrez, Harvey Cox, and John Cobb, among others. This year, mindful of Jitsuo's theological orientation and interests, and of the horrific human suffering, fear, and distrust that has been engendered by the actions of governments, institutions, and individuals who participate in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, our current Morikawa Lecture-ship Committee determined to pursue the question of how the fundamental spiritual traditions of the three Abrahamic religions can foster transformation and reconciliation. We think Jitsuo would approve.

Our committee, consisting of Lindsay Ambridge, Mary Davis, Arthur Francis, Ron Gregg, Henry Griffin, Sarah Heidt, and myself, along with a number of local Jews, Muslims, and Palestinian Christians, has worked for more than a year-and-a-half to put together this event. We are convinced that the fundamental spirituality found in Islam, Judaism, and Christianity is necessary to transform the context of the Palestinian/Israeli struggle so that: (1) each side sees the other as worthy of just and compassionate treatment; (2) each side takes responsibility for stopping its own unjust and uncompassionate actions that perpetuate oppression and distrust from the other side, and (3) each side stops making past sins determinative of the future, but commits to participate in the creation of new transformational possibilities for the future that are based in mutual justice and compassion. We believe that, with these as our guiding convictions, our Morikawa Conference will make a unique and significant contribution to public discourse on these matters.

We are bringing in three speakers, each of whom is widely noted in national and international media as experts on the difficult issues around religion and peacemaking in the Middle East. Monsignor Elias Chacour is the Archbishop of Galilee for the Melkite Church and a Christian Palestinian who has lived his whole life in Israel. Rabbi Marc Gopin is Professor of World Religions and Director of the Center on Religion, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Dr. Ingrid Mattson is Professor of Islamic Studies at Hartford Seminary and President of the Islamic Society of North America. The conference will consist of interchanges among the speakers, small group discussions among the participants, meals, music, and poetry. We are joined in our efforts by more than 35 co-sponsors, including Muslims, Jews, Catholics, and Protestants. Saturday night and Monday night (November 8th and 10th) will be held in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist. Sunday afternoon and evening will take place at the Rackham Graduate Building, just down the street.

Because First Baptist is sponsoring this event, we have 10 spaces available for First Baptist members or friends to attend for free. (Additional spaces can be reserved for \$30 for the entire event, or at a discounted rate for students or for those only attending a portion of the program.) In the spring, we had such lively discussion about these issues; many of you made thoughtful contributions to the conversation. Please consider continuing the conversation by attending this event. There will be chances to share table fellowship and engage in real dialogue with both same-faith and interfaith groups, as well as to listen to and respond to local religious leaders and our esteemed speakers. For more information about the speakers, the schedule, and registration, please see our Morikawa Conference website at www.morikawaconference.org. What an opportunity we have - to participate in an extremely important conversation, to open our doors to many people of faith and conscience, and to carry on Jitsuo's vision and legacy. Join us!

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 or to Tiny Grace Notes. Children in Kindergarten - 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship. Church School begins after worship (about 11:00).

Preschool or childcare in nursery

10:00 - 10:30 Worship
10:30 - 10:45 Tiny Grace Notes
10:50 - 11:00 Children's Worship
11:00 - 12:00 Church School (in K-2nd grade class)
12:00 - 12:30 Childcare in Room 202A & B

3rd - 6th grades

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
11:00 - 11:50/12:00 Church School (Room 304)
11:50 - 12:30 Jr. Choir (Room 102) or
12:00 - 12:30 Grace Notes (Room 306)

K - 2nd grade

10:30 - 11:00 Children's Worship (Room 202A)
11:00 - 12:00 Church School (Room 202B)
12:00 - 12:30 Grace Notes (Room 306)

Youth (7th - High School)

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
11:15 - 12:30 Church School (Room 107)

Children's Music and Arts Ministry (Sunday Mornings)

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)

October 26 — Please join us for a discussion of the morning's scriptures and sermon with Pastor Paul Duke.

Last class: November 2

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 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.

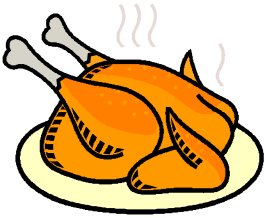
— Astrid Beck, discussion leader

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

Wednesday Bible Study (Memorial Lounge) Ron Tipton, leader

What does it mean to "meditate" on the Scriptures? The first six weeks of the Wednesday Bible Study will be a group meditation on six passages from the Gospel of Luke. We will read the passages not only for information, but also to hear what the words of Scripture are saying to us in particular. With thoughtful reflection, imagination, faith, and open hearts, we will seek personal meaning in the words of Scripture. Join us each Wednesday for fellowship and study. (Coffee and snacks are served)

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

Thank you from Kalamazoo College

Dear First Baptist Church Family, Many thanks for your warm and generous hospitality, opening your church home to the Kalamazoo College alumni. Our living treasure appears to be your treasure too. Our guests had a great trip down memory lane thanks to Marlene. Included is a special thanks to the women who prepared, and cleaned up, the refreshments. — Sass Havior, Office for Advancement

November 7th is World Community Day Women will gather across the country in small communities to celebrate World Community Day based on the theme "God's Wisdom Sets Us Free." This event will be held on the 7th of November at 9:30 a.m. at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 1415 Miller Avenue

Thank you! from Habitat for Humanity Dear FBC, We are building houses and you helped! Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift of \$2,095 for the 2008 Good News House Build project. We are honored and truly grateful for your kindness and generosity. Karen Toosen and her two children are getting ready to move into their first home, and it is because of the generosity of congregations like First Baptist that we are able to come together as a community to make it happen! — Theresa Finney Dumais,

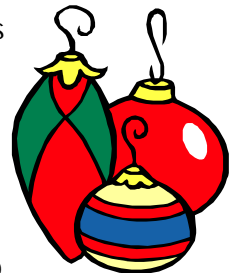
It's not too late to join Sanctuary Choir! If you've ever wanted to sing with the choir or even just see what it's all about, please feel free to attend a rehearsal 7:30-9:00pm on Thursday evenings. We are blessed with talented section leaders and usually begin work on anthems several weeks in advance, so if you don't already read music, fear not! You would be welcome to sing with us on Sunday when you are ready. Please contact our director Brandon Straub at bstraub@umich.edu or talk to any current choir member if you have questions.



Kitchen items needed! If you have old ice cube trays (plastic or metal), gently used dish towels, hot pad holders or oven mitts — these items could be used in our church kitchen. Please bring them to the church office during the week or to the Information Counter on Sunday mornings.

THE INTERFAITH ROUND TABLE OF WASHTENAW COUNTY will hold its fourteenth Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday evening, November 23th, at 7 p.m., at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence, in Ann Arbor. Join us as we give thanks with readings, music, meditations and other unique presentations from a wide variety of faith traditions. Donations accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in our community. For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides (424-1535) or Laurie Gailunas at 662-3654.

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)



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.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CARE & COMMUNITY - THANKS TO YOU

Beginning with rousing march music provided by the fabulous four hands of Joel and Charise Hasting at the piano, the Annual Celebration of Care was another smashing success. A delicious meal was provided by many contributors. Three different chilies' entered the cook-off and the Stearns boys' (Owen, Jack & dad Jim) narrowly won the bean-count vote beating out the White Chili by Rob and dad Bob Snyder's and Ron Gregg's Texas spicy version. All were terrific! Phyl White's famous corn chowder and Maryann Bowen's garden-fresh minestrone soup satisfied other taste buds along with corn bread baked by Roberta Hause, Bev Inbody and Cynthia Redinger and desserts made by Bonnie Bates, Joan Blunt, Betty Doman, Doris George, Bev Inbody, Janet Tarry and Bud White. What great cooks we have among us!



After lunch the Board of Care and Community shared what has happened with the new initiatives they started last year. Wonderful stories were shared by David Lee and a letter from Shelley Alton about how their parents felt cared for by this church. Clay Scott shared how meaningful it was to him to be one of five communion servers. Barb Griffin shared about the enjoyment of sponsorship. Kathryn Fortune Gallagher and Toni Burton shared about their meaningful experience with visitation. All involved in these new initiatives felt that they have gotten as much if not more than they have given. Others involved in our various groups shared and it became clear that we do a good job of taking care of each other.

If you are not already involved in any of the groups, or one of the many ministries and are willing to share anywhere from one 1/2 to 2 hours a month, please pick up a form at the information counter on Sunday morning, fill it out, and turn it into our board.

The subcommittee of the board which planned the event (Mary Gregg, Barb Griffin & Cynthia Redinger) sincerely thank the many people who participated in the program. In order of their appearance, speakers were David Lee, Clay Scott, Barb Griffin, Kathryn Gallagher, Toni Burton, Carey Mack, Bev Inbody, Madeline Drake, Henry Griffin, Bob Kidd, Brandon Straub, Audrey Lampen, Scott Diels, Mary Davis, Sue Ellen Glover, Sarah Heidt, and Paul Simpson-Duke. Mary Gregg acted as coordinator and MC. We also thank Joyce Arnn for the colorful, cheerful decorations, posters & programs, and Barb, Mary, Bev, Janice Stumpf, Linda Ames and her daughter Theresa, Joan and Marcia Blunt, Phyl and Bud White for helping with set-up and clean-up. Kathryn Gregg did her usual great job of caring for the little ones during the program.

We are doing a wonderful job as a church to encourage programs that bring us together as a community of care. This was an opportunity to celebrate the meaningful impacts of these programs while enjoying a great meal and good fun together. Thanks to all who participated and attended. Keep up the good work!

— Mary Gregg/Barb Griffin, Board of Care and Community



Jack & Owen Stearns — Winners of the 2008 Chili Cook-off (Dad, Jim not pictured)



Ron Gregg — Texas Spicy Chili cook

Rob Snyder — White Chili cook

IN THE
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN
CONFLICT, HOW CAN
JEWS, CHRISTIANS, AND
MUSLIMS MAKE RELIGION
PART OF THE SOLUTION,
INSTEAD OF PART OF
THE PROBLEM?



RELIGION & PEACEMAKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST
NOVEMBER 08, 2008 - NOVEMBER 10, 2008

WWW.MORIKAWACONFERENCE.ORG

GUEST SPEAKERS

THE THREE MAIN SPEAKERS ARE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN WORKERS FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.



Msgr. Elias Chacour, a Christian Palestinian who lives in Israel is Archbishop of Galilee for the Melkite Church. Father Chacour is an internationally renowned ambassador for non-violence.

He is the author of two best-selling books, *Blood Brothers* and *We Belong to the Land*.



Dr. Ingrid Mattson, is the first woman elected President of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). She is also Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-

Muslim Relations, as well as Director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program, at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut.



Rabbi Marc Gopin has engaged in back channel diplomacy with religious, political and military figures on both sides of the Arab/Israeli conflict.

He is Professor of World Religions and Director of the Center on Religion, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

LOCAL PRESENTERS

Sayed Hassan Al-Qaswini, (Imam, Islamic Center of America); **Douglas Brouwer**, (Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor); **Lori Carey**, (Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church); **Rob Dobrusin**, (Rabbi, Beth Israel Congregation); **Bob Levy**, (Rabbi, Temple Beth Emeth); **Nathan Martin**, (Rabbi, Hillel Foundation); **Achmat Salie**, (Imam, Oakland University); **Joe Summers**, (Pastor, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation); **Dawud Walid**, (Chairman of Council on American-Islamic Relations, Michigan Chapter)

Brochures and registration forms can be picked up on Sunday at the information counter or at the Huron St entrance. They can also be picked up in the office during the week. The registration fee for up to ten participants is covered by the church.



November 2008



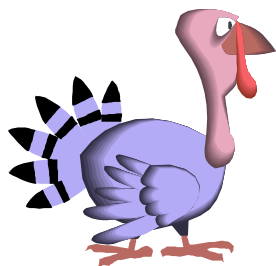
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----|--|
| | | | | | | 1 <i>All Saints Day</i> |
| 2 <i>Communion</i> | 3 | 4 5:30 Vespers | 5 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering | 6 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir | 7 | 8 7:30-9:30 pm Morikawa Conference |
| 9 1:30-9:00 pm Morikawa Conference | 10 5:30-9:30 pm Morikawa Conference | 11 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Board of Worship | 12 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare | 13 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 1:00 Beecher/Brewer 5:30 Board of Christian Ed 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Board of Trustees | 19 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering | 20 1:00 ABWM Joint Meeting 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir | 21 | 22 |
| 23 <i>Christ the King</i> | 24 | 25 5:30 Vespers 7:30 Executive Council | 26 | 27 <i>Thanksgiving</i> Church Building & Office Closed | 28 | 29 |
| 30 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> | | | | | | |



| | | | |
|-------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Mary Davis | 1 | Nancy Paul | 17 |
| Betty Gerstler | 2 | Malcolm Fleming | 19 |
| Mildred MacGregor | 2 | George Lambrides | 19 |
| Dave Kerschbaum | 3 | Marcia Blunt | 20 |
| David Lee | 9 | Betty Doman | 24 |
| David Robbins | 12 | Suzanne Knight | 27 |
| Gad Lim | 14 | Betty Ehrlinger | 30 |
| Sarah Heidt | 15 | Geoff Halliday | 30 |

First Baptist Church
517 E Washington St
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,
November 2, 2008*

Dear Friends at First Baptist,

I thank you for your warm and generous welcome as I began my work with and for the Youth of First Baptist. Your words and actions lead me to feel more and more comfortable in your midst. Our work is a joyful and meaningful privilege.

Most sincerely, your sister in Christ,

Carey Gardiner Mack
Youth Minister

