



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 22, 2009

Pastor's Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

Last week, Paul and I celebrated the end of the school year with our campus ministry students by having a pizza and bowling party. We realize how fortunate we are that part of our job is to hang out and have fun with really wonderful young adults! First Baptist makes this ministry possible through financial support, but also through the ways you reach out and care for these students. Most of our current students worship with us each Sunday; many of them have been involved in church leadership over the last few years. Paul and I are thrilled at how integrated our students are in the life of this church family.

We have an unusually international group this year - of our current core members, only one was born in the U.S.! Our students come from the Philippines, Malaysia, China, Burma, Mexico, and Canada. These young people are far away from family, home, and their home church, so it is even more important to be able to offer them a spiritual home while they are here.

I am including some pictures in this newsletter so that you may know specifically to whom we are ministering, and so that you may minister to them and pray for them as well. Some of them are going through major life changes right now, and could especially use our prayers. Angel Li is graduating this month, Audrey Lampen is getting married next month (and will return with her husband in the fall to complete her studies in Elementary Education), Gad Lim is finishing up his doctorate and hoping to find a job, Lindsay Ambridge and Zoë McLaren are also finishing up their doctoral work over the next few months. In addition to these who are dealing with big transitions, please also say prayers for the other students in our group who are finishing up exams and papers this week.

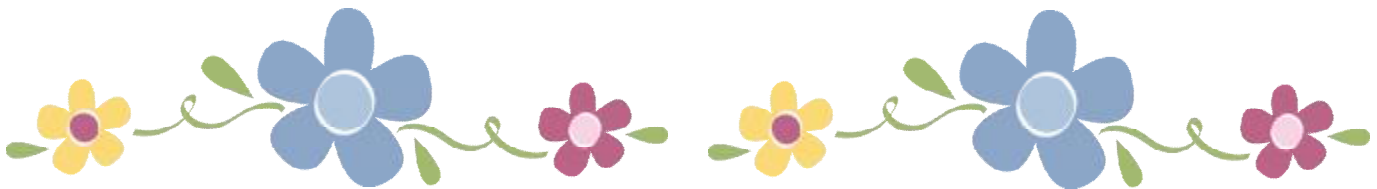
Thank you for the privilege of allowing us to do this work with young adults, and for supporting us in it. Thank you even more for all the ways you minister to these people - for reaching out to them on Sunday mornings, for cooking meals on Wednesday nights, for inviting them into your homes, and for praying for them. God blesses them - and us - through this ministry.



End-
Of-
The-
Year
Pizza
Party



Gad Lim, Jen Niece The, Angel Li, and Jessica Leal in the Memorial Garden



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

Children and Youth Christian Education

All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the Time as Children portion of the worship service, young preschoolers may go to the nursery for childcare. Children age 4 - 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship. Church School begins after worship (about 11:00).

age 4 - 2nd grade:

- 10:30 - 11:00 Children's Worship (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)

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)

Children's Music and Arts Ministry (Sunday Mornings)

No Jr. Handbells or Grace Notes rehearsals on April 26th

- Jr. Handbells (Room 306).....9:15 - 9:45
- Grace Notes Choir (Room 306)..12:00 - 12:30
- Jr. Choir (Room 102).....11:50 - 12:30

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

Baptist Identity and the Southern Baptists, 1979 - 2009 Bill Foster , Leader

Starting in 1979, a carefully designed and well executed plan commenced by a small but influential group of Fundamentalist pastors and leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention to take over its leadership at every level in order to effect a fundamentalist agenda. The takeover, which was essentially complete by 1985 but continued to play out into the early 90's, changed the basic nature of the SBC. It was the "debaptistification" of the SBC. What changes occurred to take the *Baptist* out of Southern Baptist? How and why did these changes take place? And what lessons of faith can Baptists everywhere learn from these events?

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

Wednesday Bible Study (1:30—2:30 pm; Memorial Lounge)

Paul Duke leads a study of selected Psalms. Join us each Wednesday for snacks, fellowship and study.

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

A New Arrival!! We are pleased to announce the arrival of **Kian Gordon Rahim**, born to **Nehal and Emily Preston Rahim**, on Sunday, April 12th, at 10:52am, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches. Mother and baby are both doing well.

Waterman Lectures This Saturday

As part of the ongoing series of lectures held in honor of Dr. Leroy Waterman, longtime member and teacher in this congregation, Dr. Miroslav Volf will present two lectures on April 25. See the flyer included in the newsletter for more information. The committee is very excited about Dr. Volf's visit and hopes for wide participation by our congregation and from throughout the community. Please attend one or both lectures. Bring your friends and acquaintances. As someone who teaches about faith and reconciliation, Dr. Volf might suggest you also bring your enemies. Ron Gregg has copies of the flyer for anyone who wishes to help spread the word. No registration is needed. (see flier on page 6)

Annual Meeting

The church's annual meeting will be held at this Sunday, April 26, at 12:30 beginning with a potluck lunch. Lunch is an official agenda item, so don't miss this part of the meeting! As this is our annual program meeting it will include the election of board members and church officers for the next year. We will also consider a proposal for the structured use of the various Trust funds given for the ministries of the church and review the activities of our boards and ministries. Please sign up in the church office and remember to bring your own place settings.

Scholarships Available

Scholarships are available for post-secondary education from the Chester and Vi Loucks and Fullerton Memorial funds. These can be used for college, technical school or for conferences and workshops.

Scholarships are also available from the Robert L. Johnson fund for those wishing to attend conferences at Green Lake.

Applications will be available at the information desk on April 26 or from Mary Davis (madrad@umich.edu).

The application deadline for the Loucks/Fullerton scholarships is May 17.

Children and Youth Worship will be on May 10 We hope you will join us for this special service which is written and conducted by the children and youth, with special music by soloists and the Children's Music Ministry.

Craft Supplies needed

Despite of years of never throwing away anything, I am finding that we are short a few items and would appreciate your help in collecting. Just wash the plastic items well, bag them up and leave them on the tables in the church school hallway, please. Thank you!

Items needed: paper towel and foil/plastic wrap cardboard tubes, margarine lids (any size), ½ gallon milk containers (washed well - no lids), and laundry detergent caps.

The MacGregor-Stitt Circle will meet Thursday, May 21, at 12 noon, at the home of Phyllis White for their Potluck Salad Luncheon & Treasure Sale. Auctioneer requests items suitable for hostess gifts as well as white elephants.

The FBC Ladies Book Club will meet Tuesday, May 26th at 7 pm at Janice Stumpf's home to discuss *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. Ten copies of this book have been reserved through the Ann Arbor Library's Book-Club-To-Go program. Please contact Janice at 663-4871 or jlstumpf@umich.edu or to borrow a copy of the book or if you have any questions. New readers always welcome!

Site Planning Update

During Second Hour on May 3, 2009 Chad Brintnall from JJR will be presenting the proposed modifications to the First Baptist buildings and grounds. The discussion will include how we can be more visible to the community and what kind of image we want our church buildings and grounds to present to the community.

ABWM supporting Burmese Refugees

The Battle Creek churches are supporting 800 Burmese refugees to Michigan. To help in their resettlement, American Baptist Women's Ministries will be collecting new and slightly-used household goods, such as towels, sheets, pots/pans, etc., at the information desk on Sundays. The ABWM will be taking the collection to our annual gathering in Alma, Michigan in June. (see page 5 for more information on the Burmese resettlement)

ABW Ministries Spring Bake Sale

On May 3rd, The ABWM will hold their Spring Bake Sale in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at 11:00 a.m. after the worship service. We are encouraging all our church women to show off their baking skills with a wide variety of baked goods to tempt our church members. Remember that all our church women are members of ABW Ministries and, even if some are not actively involved, we hope that all will take part in the bake sale. The baked goods can be brought to the church kitchen Sunday morning or to the church office on Friday during the day. Please list any ingredients that might be a problem with allergies and do not have any baked goods which need refrigeration. You will not need to price your baked goods, as this will be a donation sale. It has been decided to discontinue the fall and spring rummage sales and we are trying new and different ways to earn money so that we may continue our many service projects. Please call Bev Inbody (904-5750) if you have any questions.

Camps and Conferences

Information about our ABC Camps and Green Lake Conference Center and the schedule for each is available in the Information racks or from Sue Ellen. There are opportunities for all ages, including several family camps. Scholarships are available.

Habitat For Humanity Live and Silent Auction will be held this Friday, April 24th, at 6:30pm at the Washtenaw Community College. Tickets include dinner, drinks, a jazz band and the auction. Loads of great items up for sale: Catered dinner with wine tasting, U of M jerseys signed by Chad Henne and Mike Hart, Dave Matthews Band tickets, Zingermans baking classes, and many many more. Go to http://www.h4h.org/Habitat_Auction_2009.html for more information.



Burmese Refugee Resettlement Update

Adoniram Judson, the first American missionary, landed as a Baptist in the country of Burma nearly 200 years ago. Subsequent mission work over the decades brought ethnic groups such as the Karen, Chin, Kachin, Falam, Hakka and others to faith in Jesus Christ. Many of these called themselves Baptist Christians.

Unfortunately, a military government took control of Burma, now called Myanmar, in the early 1960s, forcing American Baptist missionaries to leave Burma. Moreover, the military regime began exerting ever-harsher control over many ethnic minorities, causing hundreds of thousands of ethnic Karen, Chin, Kachin, Shan and other ethnic groups to flee to the mountains to hide or to neighboring countries to find a way to survive.

To date, nine refugee camps housing over 150,000 Karen and Karenni stretch up and down Thailand near the border of Burma. Over 100,000 Chin refugees live in Malaysia and various parts of India. After decades of refugee life in camps, and no apparent change coming to Burma, the U.S. State Department, in cooperation with other resettlement agencies, has begun accepting the first of what will likely be tens of thousands of refugees and settling them in cities around the United States and in eight other countries.

The Judson legacy and the mission footprints left upon the Burmese people lead many of the refugees to seek out a church home with the American Baptist family. Currently, there are more than sixty groups of Karen, Chin, Kachin and Burmese involved in ABCUSA congregations. The following ABC-MI-related congregations are working in some way with these refugees:

- First Baptist Church of Battle Creek
- Chin Baptist Church of Battle Creek
- First Baptist Church of Sault St. Marie
- Olivet Baptist Church, Holt

For a number of our ABC-MI churches, the excitement of mission work comes alive afresh and anew as they see these refugees come into their communities and churches. The American Baptist Women's Ministries of Michigan has been working to raise more than \$4,000 for camp scholarships that will bring up to 100 Chin children and youth from across Michigan together at Camp Lael over Memorial Day weekend for a retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to provide encouragement to children and youth as they work to improve English skills and acclimate to life in the U.S. In response to refugee needs and local church requests, the ABCUSA established the Burmese Refugees Task Force in the Spring, 2007. The task force is a joint venture of the Office of the General Secretary; International Ministries; National Ministries; local church pastors; and American Baptist Women. Together in one mission, they are teaming up to inform our ABCUSA family regarding refugee resettlement efforts; to encourage churches reaching out for sponsorship; to seek resources for refugee ministries; and to build support networks among congregations. Recently this task force invited grant request applications and four grants totaling \$6,500.00 came to Michigan. We rejoice in these and other dollars being used to assist in refugee resettlement efforts across Michigan. For more information regarding Burmese refugee resettlement efforts in Michigan, contact the Region Office.

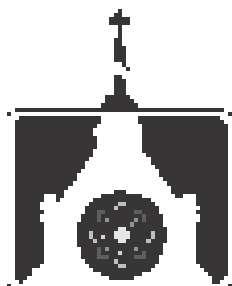
“The God of Jesus & the God of Muhammad”

Lectures Presented by Noted Theologian Miroslav Volf



Dr. Volf has authored award-winning books on theology and reconciliation and given leadership to expanded Christian-Muslim dialogue in America. He is Professor of Systematic Theology at the Yale Divinity School and Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture.

Saturday, April 25, 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM



Located at

**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR**

DO JUSTICE. LOVE KINDNESS. WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.
—ISAIAH 1:17

517 E. Washington Street, Ann Arbor 734.663.9376 office@fbca2.org
Convenient Parking across the street at the Washington St. Structure

MAY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 11 –12:30 ABWM Spring Bake Sale	4	5 5:30 Vespers	6 1:30 Bible Study	7 12:00 ABWM Spring Salad Potluck 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	8	9 10:00–12:00 Children & Youth Dress Rehearsal
10 Children & Youth Worship	11 7:30 Mission Action Bd.	12 5:30 Vespers	13 1:30 Bible Study 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	14 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	15	16
17 11:30–12:30 Children & Youth End of Year Party	18	19 12:00 Beecher- Brewer 5:30 Vespers 7:30 Trustees	20 12:00 Bible Study Lunch	21 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	22	23
24	25	26 5:30 Vespers 7:00 FBC Ladies Book Club	27 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	28 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	29	30
31						



Ron Gregg	1	Noelle Alton	23
Madeline Drake	3	Thomas Scott	23
Ruth Kerr	4	Ashley Kerns	24
Robert Shannon	4	Laura Paul Parmalee	26
Bonnie Miles	11	Carole Ott	26
Diane Fleming	12	John Moyer	28
Astrid Beck	15	Bev Inbody	29
Gregg Magnuson	16	Isaac Thompson	30
Kristen MacGregor	19	Nichole Alton	31
Gary Alton	20	Charlie Duke	31
Matthew Kirchner	22	Rob Duke	31



Next
newsletter
deadline:
*Sunday,
May 10, 2008*

Rotating Shelter Thank You!!

The 2009 Rotating Shelter had about twenty-three men each of the seven nights. Our guests all expressed how much they appreciated staying with us during the week. This could not have been so successful without the help of our volunteers: Ethan Wright, Ron Gregg, Roberta Hause, Megan Hudson, David Bowen, Graham Miles, Greg Cartee, Maryann Bowen, Ellie Barron, Tom Barron (Tom and Ellie both volunteered two nights), Mary Davis, and Scott Diels (who stayed Saturday night and still managed to be in Sunday morning to usher and sing in the choir). Many thanks to these folks for giving up their personal time to help make the 2009 Rotating Shelter a success. — Annabel Erskine and Bev Inbody