



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

July 25, 2007

VBS 2007 · All God's Kids · August 20–24 · 5-8:00 p.m.

by Sue Ellen Glover
Director of Christian Education

I am taking advantage of Stacey and Paul's vacation to provide you with more information about this year's VBS. This is only the third year that we have had a Vacation Bible School program and we are still tweaking our format!

I purchased a published curriculum this year instead of writing one. In our two previous years, I really enjoyed creating a curriculum that was custom-fit to our group, but writing everything and then pulling together decorations, crafts, and activities to match the stories and themes was quite time consuming. I wasn't sure that it was the best use of my time - especially since there are many reasonably priced "store-bought" programs out there which have all the pieces already pulled together. I chose "Great Bible Reef: Dive Deeper into God's Word" because I liked the Bible stories and verses and its theme of discipleship through caring, helping, trusting, believing and listening. The ocean reef and the animals that live there are used to reinforce the interconnectedness of all God's people. But (of course) in studying the curriculum, I'm not totally thrilled with it and have needed to make several changes - one of the most obvious is that I decided to use "All God's Kids" as the title rather than "Great Bible Reef" (do I need to explain why?!) But I really like the ocean reef theme and we will have fun decorating!

Another big change was the decision to try the end of the summer and an evening schedule. Our program is designed for our own FBCA2 children and friends AND the children at Hikone housing which serves low-income families (located off of Packard, near Buhr Park). Last year it was difficult to gather the children at Hikone for our 9:00 a.m. start - no one likes to get up on a summer morning! The late afternoon time should be easier. And a week in late summer seemed a good choice since most of the Parks and Rec. programs, sports camps and the Hikone Community Center activities are no longer running. With schools no longer able to start until after Labor Day, the last couple of weeks of August seemed like a really good time to place our VBS!

Terrific leaders are already in place: Paul will present our Bible stories and themes each day. Stacey will lead the music. Brandy Kirchner will plan our dinners with additional cooking help from Mary Davis, Jose Barrantes and others. Vicky Rushton will plan and coordinate the snacks. Jackie Snyder will lead the games. Kathryn Gregg, Melissa Snyder and Astrid Beck are providing childcare for the babies and preschoolers of our volunteers. Toni Stearns is the transportation coordinator with Emily Rahim as our Hikone liaison.

I am pleased with all the volunteer responses so far, but we still need more of you! About 15 people will be needed each day - with at least four cars/vans (12-18 seats) needed to bring the kids from Hikone and home again. And then there's set-up and clean-up each day plus dinner (prep, serving and clean-up) - and lots of extra hands needed for crafts activities. We also need you simply to *be with* the children: to smile, to talk or listen to them - to show every child, "We're glad you are here!"

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How Can You Help Our VBS?

We would like to have ALL of the volunteers registered by August 1. Please return this form - or fill out a form on the VBS table by the Information Counter. Half-gallon milk jugs, baby food jars (with lids) and shells/coral are still needed.

_____ I can help with transporting kids from Hikone and back again (about 4:45 - 5:30 and/or 7:50 - 8:30)

_____ I can help with supper (4:45 - 6:15)

_____ I can assist one evening (or more?)

_____ I will provide food

_____ I can do craft preparations

_____ I can provide childcare for the children of volunteers

_____ I can help with set-up (mornings)

_____ I can help with clean up (8-8:30 pm)

NAME: _____

Christian Education for Children and Youth for July and August

Nursery: 9:30 -11:30 a.m., room 307

All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the Time as Children portion of the service, preschoolers are invited to join the childcare provided on the third floor next to the nursery through 11:30 a.m. Parents are asked to pick up their children after worship.

There are no church school classes in July.

Starting August 5, after the Time as Children portion of the service, preschool—3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship. Church School classes begin at 11:00 or when worship concludes. Preschool—5th grade will meet in a multi-age group in room 202B, until 12:30 p.m.

Christian Education for Adults

Beginning Sunday, August 5, 11:30-12:30:

The Witness of Bonhoeffer

(Memorial Lounge)

led by Sarah Heidt, with a special final session taught by Leland Austin

This class will survey the life, thought, and spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose exemplary life ended at the hands of the Nazi regime, but whose legacy of faith and moral leadership still deeply challenges us today. We will begin with a discussion of the historical context as it shaped his initial resistance to the scandal of the state church and his later active role in the conspiracy of the German resistance movement. Centrally, the class will explore his theological convictions on the nature of discipleship, the person of Christ, and his views of the distinctively Christian ethic which made him the most insightful force shaping the church's witness against Hitler. This series will begin on Sunday, August 5 with the 1999 award-winning movie, "Bonhoeffer - Agent of Grace." For the final session on Sunday, August 26, we will welcome Ann Arborite, Leland Austin, who has interviewed the Bonhoeffer family.

Second Sunday Series - Living the Questions:

We will meet for the *last session* of this series on August 12 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Starting with a simple potluck and time of fellowship, we'll gather in the Memorial Lounge for a time of discussion. The topic of the last unit is *Out into the World: Challenges facing Progressive Christianity*. The participant's guide for this discussion can be found at the Information Counter or you may email Sue Ellen (sueellen@fbca2.org) to receive an electronic copy.



We are pleased to award scholarships from the Chester and Vi Loucks Scholarship Fund to seven members of our FBC family. We wish them well in their studies.

- * Jose Barrantes, Washtenaw Community College
- * Nick Dodson, Kalamazoo College
- * Katharine Drake, University of Michigan
- * Jillian Glover, Michigan State University School of Veterinary Medicine
- * Kathryn Gregg, Washtenaw Community College
- * Alice Moyer Serou, Wayne State University Medical School
- * Jackie Snyder, Eastern Michigan University

~ The Scholarship Committee

Chancel Flowers

The flower calendar for the chancel flowers (on bulletin board near Memorial Lounge) has a few open days – October 14 & 28, November 18 & 25 and December 16, 23 and 30. The chancel arrangement is \$30 and yours to take home after the worship service. You will be able to choose your colors, type of flowers and the dedication message, which appears in the bulletin.

Communion Servers are needed for September.

If you can help with this special service please sign up at the Information Counter.

~ The Board of Worship

If you missed the interview with the Duke family on the CBS morning news you can link to the video and written story at:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/07/23/earlyshow/contributors/susankoeppen/main3089871.shtml>



to everyone who helped with the Art Fair parking!!

The youth made \$2,900 and will donate a portion to Nandasmu.

And a special thanks to Beverly Inbody for ALL her help!!

~ FBC Youth Group

Laura May (Jones) Barbour died at Arbor Hospice on Monday, July 16, 2007. Just five months ago, Laura celebrated her 90th birthday surrounded by family and friends. She was born on the Jones family farm in Killarney, Manitoba. Laura was the youngest of seven siblings born to Herbert and Harriet (Williams) Jones. She met and married John Anderson Barbour in Winnipeg on November 21, 1941. John's occupation as an American Baptist minister led to a number of moves for Laura and John over the years, including Ninga, MB; Winnipeg, MB; St. Paul, MN; Fargo, ND; King of Prussia, PA; Minneapolis, MN; Midland, Grosse Pointe Park and St. Clair Shores, MI; Philadelphia, PA; and Ann Arbor, MI. Laura pursued her passion for creating art through watercolors, fiber arts, and doll making throughout her life, including taking courses at the Philadelphia College of Art in the mid-80's. In addition to her artwork, Laura is also remembered for her gentle, warm, loving manner. Laura was preceded in death by her husband, John in 1993. Survivors include her children, John (Kay) of Minneapolis, MN; Paul (Cheryl) of Eaton Rapids, MI; Judith (Frederick) Osborne of Ivoryton, CT; and David (Janet) of Ann Arbor, and by her grandchildren Maura, Ben, Thad, Tara, Darragh, Brianne, Sheila, Ashley, and Michael. She is also survived by a number of loving nieces and nephews and great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, 512 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.



The following poem was written and read by Laura's granddaughter, Ashley, at Laura's memorial service last Thursday, July 19 at Nie Funeral Home:

hands

*grandma and me bellies full of spaghetti o's and earl grey tea
we'd walk to the park hand in hand, our palms fitting like puzzle pieces
and we'd talk 'bout the heliotrope sky and green grasses stealin' colors
for our late afternoon quilt project.*

hands

*she had nimble fingers that worked sewing needles, clay, and paints with experience
i'd plop down at her sewing machine and martha would murmur from the television set
my eyes would fixate on bones of grandma's hands
the movement of her fingertips she worked diligently as art swam happily beneath her skin.*

hands

*couldn't see no more and so she packed boxes full of crochet hooks, water colors, and yarn,
she needed guidance, grabbed my elbow with fragile hands and squeezed my arm for direction
but still smiled the whole way praisin' god for all she did have.*

hands

*for almost a month she lay in bed and i held her hand, rubbing lotion in
and watchin' manicured nail polish chip (we got 'em done together)
she slept and sipped tea from pink sponges all the while our palms still fit together
like puzzle pieces after all these years.*

hands

*her fingers were still warm i squeezed her hand but she couldn't squeeze back
the heliotrope sky opened and rain started to fall
i slid her hand from mine and the heavens cried joyful tears with outstretched hands
for they knew they were receiving the most beautiful person on earth.*

Faith Talk for Families

(adapted by Sue Ellen from *Taking Home Faith* newsletter by Pastor Greg Priebbenow; www.formingfaith.com)

Faith Talk: Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is your most treasured possession? Why?
- Do you think that money or things can make people happy? Why?
- Jesus warned people about wanting to have more and more things. He said that life is not made up of how much a person has (Luke 12:15). What do you think he meant?
- What does following God give that money can't buy?

Rituals and Traditions: Talk together as a family about how you determine your financial giving to the church and why it is important to give in this way. If family members (including children of all ages) do not give regularly, decide on a practice that will help them do so e.g. set aside money each Saturday night ready for Sunday morning. [Children who attend Children's Worship have an opportunity each week to give to our Sister Church offering.]



Service: Being "rich towards God" (Luke 12:21) means growing in generosity towards those who are in need. Decide together on a food item or recreational activity (e.g. rental of DVDs or movie outing) to forgo this week. Set aside the money saved to donate to one of the church's missions.

Parent Toolbox: *Developing Stewardship in Children*

Kids love to get money for birthdays and holidays, but they need to be taught the basics of using their money wisely and in a God-pleasing way. Christian parenting involves teaching our children that all we have comes from God and that we are called to be good "stewards" of our possessions. A good time-frame to start doing so is the ages 6-9. Growing children in stewardship involves teaching them about giving, saving and spending (in this order):

1. **Giving:** The first thing a child should do when receiving money either as a gift, an allowance, or for any other reason, is prepare to give a portion of it for God's work in the church and to care for God's world.
2. **Saving:** The next step in teaching stewardship is to encourage saving. Saving money is a good way for a child to reach for a goal, instead of experiencing instant satisfaction.
3. **Spending:** The remainder of money given or earned should be available for the child to spend as they like. Children grow in making decisions as they are given the opportunity to do so, advised and guided by their parents.



Arbor Hospice is in need of volunteers who can visit with patients who reside in their homes, nursing homes or assisted living. If you would like to "touch a life forever" and you are available, please consider becoming an Arbor Hospice Volunteer. Call and ask for Stephanie (734.794.5396) or Sherry (734.794.5128). No experience is necessary, and they provide the training.

The Rev. Dr. Coleman Receives Dahlberg Peace Award at ABC-USA Biennial by Pat Hernandez



At the recent Biennial gathering of the American Baptist Churches, USA, held in Washington, D.C., the Rev. Dr. DeeDee Coleman was awarded the Dahlberg Peace Award.

The Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace Award was established in 1964 to give national recognition to an individual who has worked constructively and with great commitment for peace. The Rev. Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, for whom the award is named, is recognized as one of the great Christian leaders of his time and was an outstanding advocate "of the things that make for peace."

The Rev. Dr. Coleman serves as pastor of the Russell Street Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit and is founder and Executive Director of "Wings of Faith, Inc.," a multi-cultural, ecumenical ministry which ministers especially to ex-offenders, substance abusers, and high risk youth.

In addition, Dr. Coleman serves as Executive Director of the "Mentors of Faith" initiative within the "Going Home" project, a re-entry program for serious and/or violent offenders, which provides mentoring services and innovative practices that work toward increasing stability and consistency in the lives of adjudicated youth.

Dr. Coleman also implements the "Walk with Me" program for paroled adult offenders. This program provides violent offenders with pre-release, community re-entry plan services, thereby reducing recidivism, increasing public safety, and strengthening the community.

Comments Dr. Coleman, "Unless we face how a community is affected by those who are incarcerated and released in the community with no housing, identification, family unification or job, we can continue to kiss peace goodbye. We, the community of faith, must restore peace in our communities, and peace in our state, and we can start with how the least of these are treated."

As apostle and advocate, Dr. Coleman is indeed making a difference in the lives of 'the least of these.' Dr. Coleman's motto is "If I can help somebody along the way, then my living won't be in vain." And surely, it is not. Thanks, Dr. Coleman, and congratulations!

*A big thank you to Phyl and Bud White for the planting
of summer color at the parking lot entrance! We can
now enjoy their beauty and bright cheer.*



August 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Executive Council	2	3	4
5 Communion (Newsletter Deadline)	6	7 5:30 Vespers	8	9	10	11
12 5:30 Second Sunday	13	14 5:30 Board of Christian Ed	15	16	17	18
19 (Newsletter Deadline)	20	21 5:30 Vespers	22	23	24	25
Vacation Bible School – Monday 8/20 thru Friday 8/24, 5–8:00 p.m.						
26	27	28	29	30 7:30 Choir Practice	31	

August Birthdays

Edie Hurst	1	Barb Griffin	7	Fred Munson	19
Katie Kerschbaum	2	Cindy Harrison	9	Janice Stumpf	19
Richard Bates	3	Jillian Glover	12	Ray Counsell	20
Emily Wright	5	Jean Amick	12	Nancy Rushton	23
Esther Floyd	7	Melinda Haithcock	13	Bill McKeachie	24
Lois Crabtree	7	Lynn Suits Lamkin	16	Linda Dicks	31
		Greg Thompson	16		
		Bill Kerr	19		

First Baptist Church
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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



Next Deadline:
Sunday, August 5, 2007

CHURCH

PICNIC

The word "PICNIC" is rendered in large, bold, orange letters. Inside the letters, there are black silhouettes of various picnic activities: a person sitting on a bench, a person walking a dog, a person sitting at a table, a person standing, a person playing a guitar, a person playing a tennis racket, and a person playing a golf club.

(sponsored by the Board of Christian Education)

Sunday, July 29, Noon - 2:00 at Allmendinger Park

Please sign-up at the Information Counter

