



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

July 26, 2006

## Pastors' Reflections

*by Paul Simpson Duke*

My grandson was born last week. On July 19, Jackson Paul Ezell made his debut. He arrived one day after my own birthday, making him one day later than I had hoped. On Tuesday I celebrated the completion of fifty-three orbits around the sun. On Wednesday Jack inhaled his first breath and opened his eyes to the light, beginning his own first orbit.

It's been hard not being there yet, but thanks to digital cameras and computers, we've had pretty much instant access to seeing him. He is perfect. But I have to add that as moved I am by the sight of him, I am even more drawn to what I see in my daughter Stephanie. As she holds him and looks at her husband who is taking the picture, it is clear to me that she has never been more beautiful.

I'll hold him in my arms for the first time on July 31. Stacey will be close behind. We're fairly certain that Uncle Rob and Uncle Charlie will be more than fine with it all.

I've been thinking about what influence I might have on his life. What contributions can a grandfather make? There's a genetic one, of course. The boy has DNA with one-quarter input from me - so maybe some features and predispositions like mine, heaven help him. Maybe more important, he'll be raised by a mother with double that amount of my genetic influence, plus whatever ways my life, my parenting, my words, my choices, and my way of being may have influenced her. Just as I reaped from my grandparents' way with my parents, so Jack will reap from my ways with my daughter.

And I'll make more direct contributions to his life. God willing, I, along with Stacey, will give him many gifts through the years - certain books and pieces of music come to mind. Good time, lots of it I hope, will be spent with him - we will play together, laugh together and, I imagine, go fishing along with Rob and Charlie. I'll also have many words for him (starting next week!), light-hearted ones and serious ones, spoken in his presence and written across the miles. I'm perfectly aware that these efforts may not have the result I intend, but it's my privilege to give it my best and happiest shot.

I'm also under no illusion that any good influence I may get to have on him will likely weigh a great deal in the grand scheme of things. In fact, the joined influence of all his kin - his other grandparents and family members, even his marvelous parents - won't finally be sufficient to make every needed contribution to his mind, his character, his soul. He'll need some good teachers and coaches. He'll need some young people older than he is that he can rightly look up to. He will need adults who are not in his family but whose faces light up when he walks in a room, who take an interest in him, and whose lives are models of good character and good faith. He will need, in other words, to grow in the matrix of a loving and life-giving community. The core of that community for him will be, as long as he's at home at least, a church. I pray that the churches that have him for a time will be faithful to him.

In the end he's a free agent and will make his own choices. But gazing at his picture I'm struck not only by his loveliness but by his fragility. For all his life, unfitting influences will push and pull on him. He, like all of us, needs all possible counter-contributions of love, faith, and integrity. I say this in part to remind you, as I am reminding myself, that every life is a legacy with potential to plant the seeds of lasting influences for good, and that every church has its chance to give what no individual, not even a fabulous granddad, can give to a child.

## AUGUST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Children and Youth:

All children are welcome to worship with their families. 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. Our summer church school program involves multi-age groups. Church school classes meet from 11-12:00 and all ages are together for group activities until 12:30 in Room 202A & B. Grades listed refer to the grade level of students during the 2005-06 school year.*

Preschool - 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Room 201 and 202 B	11:00 - 12:00
5 <sup>th</sup> grade - high school	Room 107	11:00 - 12:00

### Adult:

11:30 - 12:30

Memorial Lounge

Join us for a discussion of the morning's scripture and sermon.

*And the winner is ...*

The Scholarship  
Committee is

pleased to award college scholarships from the Chester and Vi Loucks Scholarship Fund to the following students: Jillian Glover (Kalamazoo College), Kathryn Gregg (Washtenaw Community College), Jackie Snyder (Eastern Michigan University), Melissa Snyder (Alma College), and Carrie Townley (University of Michigan). Scholarships from the Robert Johnson Fund for attendance of Green Lake conferences have been awarded to Deb Snyder, Jackie Snyder, and David Robbins.

# FBC News & Happenings

## **DVD copies available - Congregational Meeting**

Bob Kidd graciously taped and made copies of the recent Congregational Meeting with Dr. Michael Williams, Executive Minister of ABC-MI. There are only a few copies available therefore they must be checked out from the office, then returned within the week. Please e-mail Carey at [office@fbca2.org](mailto:office@fbca2.org) or call the office at 663-9376 if you are interested in borrowing a copy. If you do not own a DVD player, you are welcome to watch it here at the church.

## **2006 Church Picnic**

The Church Picnic will take place this Sunday, July 30 from noon - 3:00 p.m. at Allmendinger Park. Meat and drinks will be provided by the Board of Christian Education, however everyone is welcome to bring a dish to share. Don't forget your folding chairs, toys, and blankets. Game Meisters, Emily and Nehal, are once again running the games - be prepared for lots of fun and laughs!!! Maps are available at the information counter.

## **Willis' New Address**

Edgar and Zella Willis will soon be moving to the following address (same phone #):

Brookhaven Manor  
401 Oakbrook Dr., Apt. 349  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-6959

## **Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale Reminder**

Remember that you're welcome to bring in finished craft items to either the office during the week or to the information counter on Sunday morning. Please be sure your name is on the item and suggested sale price. We will also have the gently used Christmas decoration sales table again this year. More news about the Christmas Celebration, Bazaar, and Bake Sale will appear in future newsletters.

## **Rummage Sale Reminder**

As you are cleaning that drawer, closet, chest, basement or garage, don't forget that the stage is ready to take your donations. Remember that they are to go behind the curtains, not in front of the fuse boxes or on the steps, and that we cannot accept computer or furniture. Baby furniture is accepted, however. The rummage sale is scheduled for September 15 and 16.



# BACK-TO-SCHOOL Community Opportunities

## The Family Learning Institute

The Family Learning Institute is a non-profit educational organization that helps low-income Ann Arbor students in grades 4 through 8 improve their reading, writing, thinking, and communication skills. The Institute services are free of charge to students who meet the admission requirements.

They are seeking 40 volunteers for their fall enrollment (Sept. 2006) to work as Reading Couches. They ask for a one year commitment with one student for one hour a week. No experience is necessary as each volunteer will receive training prior to being assigned a student. Additional workshops are held periodically to provide helpful strategies for achieving success with each student.

This is a significant opportunity to support low-income students whose families cannot afford to hire a professional tutor, yet want desperately to succeed in school. It is a chance to share a love of reading with one young person and provide a positive, caring influence.

If you're interested, please contact Doris Sperling or Sandy Williams at the Family Learning Institute. Volunteer applications are available at their website [www.familylearninginstitute.org](http://www.familylearninginstitute.org) or by calling 995-6816.

## Education Project for Homeless Youth

The Education Project for Homeless Youth is a grant-funded project of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District that works to ensure students experiencing homelessness enroll, regularly attend, and succeed in school. They directly serve more than 200 homeless students each year from the 10 school districts and 8 public school academies in Washtenaw County. The students they serve live in homeless shelters, motels, transitional housing, or with friends and family. To help, they provide school supplies, clothes and educational advocacy, transportation coordination, case management, and connecting families to the resources they need to become stable. But in order to make this support happen, they rely on donations from the community.

The following is a list of needed items, which can be brought to the office during the week or to the information counter Sunday mornings through the end of August: backpacks for all ages, scientific calculators, binders, notebooks, folders, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, protractors, compasses, glue, scissors, AATA student bus passes or tokens, gift certificates to stores such as Meijer, Target and Children's Orchard, and gift certificates to Ann Arbor Thrift Shop, St. Vincent DePaul Society, or Value World.

Other creative solutions or donations are accepted. Please call 734-994-8100 x 1518.

## ***FAITH TALK FOR FAMILIES***

(adapted by Sue Ellen from the *Taking Faith Home* newsletter by Pastor Greg Priebsenow)



### ***Discuss with your family:***

- Share about a time when you had a fight with someone. What was the final outcome? What causes people to fight?
- The apostle Paul wrote that "Jesus himself is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). How does following Jesus help people make peace with each other?

### ***Devotional Practices:***

Discuss these bible verses as a family. How they can be applied in your home? Pray for God's peace in your relationships with one another.

- "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18).
- "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6).

### ***Service:***

Jesus was always on call to those who sought his teaching, healing, and guiding. Doctors, firefighters, rescue workers, and people in many other helping professions are often "on call" to all who need them. This can be very demanding for them. Think of way you can show your appreciation to someone in such a profession.

### ***Parent Toolbox: Helping Children Resolve Conflict within the Family***

In teaching children how to resolve conflicts, we need to remember that younger children need more help from parents. They don't know how to solve problems with words. They only know physical methods such as pushing, taking something, or maybe biting. Older children have some experience in resolving conflict with friends, but still need practice. Older children benefit from a balance of parental guidance and independence. With this in mind, there are some guides for teaching conflict resolution.

1. Try to calm emotions (yours and the children's). When emotions are high and strong, we have difficulty thinking of peaceful solutions.
2. Let children give their side of the story without interruption.
3. Help them name the problem and try to see the point of view of others, including your neutral view as the parent.
4. Brainstorm possible solutions. Decide which solutions might work for the family.
5. Try out the solution and adjust as needed.

## OGHS SENDS \$15,000 GRANT TO LEBANESE SEMINARY TO HELP DISPLACED PERSONS

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—The World Relief Office of the American Baptist Churches USA has released a grant of \$15,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to provide immediate relief to displaced persons in Lebanon, due to the current conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

The \$15,000 will be sent to the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Beirut, a partner of International Ministries (IM), and will be used to provide aid and provisions for those sheltered at the Beirut Baptist School and ABTS.

The humanitarian crisis began after fighters from Hezbollah launched a morning assault into Israel, Wednesday, July 12, killing six Israeli soldiers, and kidnapping two others. Since then, the Israeli military has engaged in an offensive to rescue the soldiers, and to dismantle Hezbollah. The violence has resulted in over 300 deaths, the vast majority in Lebanon, as well as an estimated 500,000 persons displaced within that country.

In a statement to IM, ABTS Provost Elie Haddad said, "The needs are humongous. We have only seen the conditions of some of the displaced people outside the targeted areas of destruction and we feel helpless. I cannot imagine how we will feel once the bombing stops and we see the condition of the people in the impacted areas. The major relief will start once the war stops." Haddad also expressed appreciation that IM missionaries Dan and Sarah Chetti have decided to remain in Lebanon during the conflict. "You don't know how much of an encouragement a decision like this is to our staff and community," he said.

The OGHS contribution will join relief aid also being provided by members of the worldwide Baptist community including Baptist World Aid, BMS World Mission, Canadian Baptist Ministries, and the European Baptist Federation. American Baptists wishing to support the relief efforts in Lebanon can do so through their church's monthly report of mission support, designating contributions "OGHS-Lebanon Relief," or give online to OGHS (<https://secure5.iexp.com/secure/abcusamissions/givenow/>) and list "OGHS-Lebanon Relief" in the Instructions field.

## Youth for Understanding Exchange Students

Youth for Understanding (YFU) still needs host families for a few high school students for this fall who have indicated that they'd enjoy attending church with their host families, including a boy from Germany whose hobby is photography... a girl from Korea who plays violin and would like to be a kindergarten teacher... a boy from China who loves basketball and plays trumpet well... a girl from Germany who enjoys canoeing and horseback riding, and who is active in her church youth group... and a Vietnamese boy from Germany who likes to produce his own films and cook.

For more information contact Vickie Gaynor at 734-668-4797 or e-mail [vbgaynor@umich.edu](mailto:vbgaynor@umich.edu). You may also visit [www.yfu-usa.org](http://www.yfu-usa.org).



# August 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Stacey &amp; Paul on vacation July 31–Aug 21</b>		1 5:30 Vespers	2	3	4	5
6 Communion Guest Preacher: Ron Tipton (Newsletter Deadline)	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Guest Preacher: John Reed	14	15 5:30 Vespers	16 5:30 Board of Christian Ed.	17	18	19
20 Guest Preacher: Gad Lim (Newsletter Deadline)	21	22	23 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## August Birthdays



Edie Hurst	1	Barb Griffin	7	Janice Stumpf	19
Katie Kerschbaum	2	Cindy Harrison	9	Ray Counsell	20
Richard Bates	3	Jillian Glover	12	Nancy Rushton	23
Emily Wright	5	Jean Amick	12	Bill McKeachie	24
Esther Floyd	7	Melinda Haithcock	13	Chris Williams	28
Lois Crabtree	7	Lynn Lamkin	16	Linda Dicks	31
		Bill Kerr	19		
		Fred Munson	19		

First Baptist Church  
512 East Huron Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-663-9376  
[www.fbca2.org](http://www.fbca2.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Permit 542

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Dated material:

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Next Deadline:

*Sunday, August 9, 2006*



Thank you to all the Art Fair volunteers! Almost \$3,000(!) was raised thanks to Brandy's coordination and your efforts. These funds will be donated to the Sister Church (farm and school) and used by the Youth for special events.

*The Alaniz Family, Joan and Marcia Blunt, Maryann Bowen, Mary Davis, Annabel Erskine (2 shifts), Sue Ellen Glover, Ron Gregg, Roberta and Jim Hause, Bev Inbody (every day), Mervyn Juchartz, Elke Kramer, Bonnie and Sam Kidd, Bob MacGregor, Mary Munson (2 shifts), Jerry Rees, and Bud White.*