



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

June 13, 2007

Pastors' Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

One of the action items that emerged from our recent congregational visioning process was the idea that we could pray for each other by praying through the church directory. Personally, I think this is a fabulous idea, and I hope that many of you will decide to do it. It touches on two of the four hopes we hold for our church: to become more spiritually vital, and to become more connected with each other.

Praying for each other binds us in deep and intimate ways, beyond what we can do ourselves merely by socializing, working on mission projects together, or even worshipping next to each other. To spend time alone with God, and to name before God individuals - some of whom we know well, others of whom we might not know at all - is a powerful way of connecting ourselves to God's own concern for the people around us. If you pray regularly for Joe Smith on page 12, then chances are the next time you see Joe Smith at church, you will feel a little differently toward him - maybe a bit closer, more empathetic. You might even find yourself wanting to know what is going on his life, that you might become better able to offer specific prayers for him.

There are any number of ways to go about praying through the directory, and you are free to choose your own - this is something we are doing in private (though it can certainly be done as family, as a small group, or even at a board meeting), and it is up to each of us to decide whether or not we're going to do it, and how. But if you are looking for a specific way to commit to this practice, I do have some suggestions.

There are 22 pages of names and numbers in the directory (starting with the staff listing on page one). I suggest taking a whole month to pray through the directory. One page a day, for 22 days, and then I would suggest praying for various ministries of the church on the remaining eight or nine days of the month. Starting on page one on the first day of the month, you would pray for the staff. Most of these people you would pray for again, because they are listed later in the directory as well; but on the first day of the month, perhaps you would pray for each staff member in relation to his or her ministry responsibilities in the church. On the second day of the month, you would turn to page two, and pray for all the people listed there. Third day, page three, and so on through page 22. Page 22 only has one family listed, but as you think of new people who are visiting the church, you could pencil them in on that page and include them (on months that only have 30 days, you could also say the prayers from day 31, below). For the last week of the month, you could then say prayers each day for specific ministries of the church. For instance:

- 23rd - American Baptist Women's Ministries
- 24th - Vespers
- 25th - Campus Ministry and the sextons
- 26th - our sister church in Nandasmo, Nicaragua, including their school and farm
- 27th - our children and youth ministries
- 28th - our music and arts ministries
- 29th - the various missions we support financially or through volunteer efforts
- 30th - our outreach to the community around us, and our care for our church community
- 31st - the entire church, including our Boards, our Executive Council, all our lay leaders, and all the many volunteers who do various things around the church (much of which is behind-the-scenes)

Obviously, this list is not exhaustive. There are many, many ways to pray for our church and its members, and many prayers to be offered. But this might be a start. Wouldn't it be nice to know that people are praying for you on the 11th day of each month? Wouldn't it be great to know that the major ministry efforts of our church are being supported in prayer on a regular basis?

This is an easy way to keep our church family in your daily prayers. If you have children at home, this is also a nice way to model for them consistent prayer for others. Perhaps at dinnertime or bedtime, you can pull out the directory together, and have your children read those names as a part of family prayers. How you choose to pray, and what you choose to pray is up to you. You may feel you don't know how to

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pray "well enough" or you don't know what to pray for, especially for other people. I believe that if you are trying to pray at all, you are "doing it right," and that God hears and honors all our attempts at prayer. I am delighted that this idea emerged from our congregational discussions, and I look forward to praying for each of you, and to joining with you in a spirit of prayer for our whole church.

Christian Education for Children and Youth

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, preschool - 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship in room 202A until 11:00 a.m.

Church School classes begin at 11:00 or when worship concludes:

Preschool - 2 ND grade	Room 202B	11:00 - 12:30
3rd - 5th grades	Room 304	11:00 - 12:30
Youth	Room 107	11:00 - 12:30

Children's Music and Arts Ministry will resume in the fall.

Christian Education for Adults

June 17: No Adult Christian Education classes, however there will be a **Congregational Discussion** regarding the **Ann Arbor Co-op Nursery School Proposal**. The Trustees and Executive Council have been in conversation with the Ann Arbor Co-op Nursery School about their potential use of a portion of our building for their program. Both the EC and the Trustees have said that, in their view, such an arrangement could be an important mission for the church and should be further explored. We are now working on contract negotiations to make certain that all bases have been covered, and there are a lot of details to work out. Any final agreement would have to be satisfactory to both the church and the nursery, financially and otherwise. We have scheduled a congregational meeting for June 17 during Second Hour since we have reason to hope that this part of the process will have been finished by that time, and because we do not wish to delay our congregation's part in the process. The proposal would be presented for questions and discussion only, not for a vote on that day. A special called business meeting would occur later if the Executive Council wants to proceed.

Mary Davis, Moderator

June 24:

Sermon Discussion (Lounge)

Paul Simpson Duke, leader

An opportunity to explore the morning's message and scriptures in greater depth.

Share and Prayer Group (Room 108)

Stacey Simpson Duke, facilitator

A time for sharing, singing, silence, centering, and group prayer. Together we will engage in a ministry of prayer for our church, for other members, for specific concerns, and for local and world events, as well as having time to become more connected to one another and more personally grounded and rooted in God. This is not a class about prayer, but a time for actually engaging in prayer together (no one will be obligated to pray aloud, but anyone who wants to will be welcome to).

~ There will be no Second Hour classes for children, youth or adults in July. ~

Other Adult Learning Opportunities

Second Sunday Series ~ Living the Questions:

Join us July 8 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Following a simple potluck and time of fellowship, we gather in the Memorial Lounge for a time of engagement with some of the most challenging issues of the Christian faith. After viewing a 30-minute DVD of clips of leading theologians, biblical scholars, sociologists, and church leaders, we will have time for in-depth discussions of the issues they raise. Please sign up at the Information Counter and pick up your copy of the participant's guide for lesson 10, *Compassion - The Heart of Jesus' Ministry*.



FBC News & Happenings



Ladies' Book Club Celebrates the Birth of Andrew Redinger

The May 29th meeting of the Ladies' Book Club included a baby shower for Cynthia and Craig Redinger in celebration of the birth of their son, Andrew. The group met at the home of Mary Gregg and refreshments were contributed by a few other members. It was a treat to see the useful and fun gifts that Cynthia opened, some of which were sent by ladies who were not able to attend the meeting. The book discussion was about *Reading Lolita in Tehran*.

MacGregor-Stitt Circle

The next meeting of the MacGregor-Stitt Circle will take place Thursday, June 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Isabelle Louis for the 2007-2008 Planning Meeting.

New Address for Bob & Peg Wallace

The Wallace's recently moved into a retirement community for ministers and missionaries called Pilgrim Place. Their new e-mail address is baptistbob@verizon.net and their new mailing address is:

510 W. 6th St.
Claremont, CA 91711

Church Picnic

Save the date! The Church Picnic, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, will take place on Sunday, July 29 from 12:00–2:00 p.m. at Allmendinger Park.

Welcome New Sexton, Adam Dolson!

Adam Dolson is from Jackson, Michigan. He will attend the University of Michigan in September, studying American Culture. Adam completed two years of college in his home town at Jackson Community College. Playing guitar, listening to music and reading occupy Adam's spare time. His favorite authors include Rob Bell, Brian McLaren and Donald Miller. Right now, he enjoys taking jogs and discovering the city of Ann Arbor. Adam is excited about starting school in the fall and attending U of M football games.

FBC Member, Becky Miller and Adam are the two current sextons working this summer. Ryan Madis and Brent Schedeler will return in the fall.



Congratulations to Jillian Glover who graduated Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Kalamazoo College on June 10 with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology. Jillian will enter MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine in August.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Marissa Carolyn Alaniz is a lifelong Ann Arbor resident, and has attended FBC with her mom, dad, and sister Christina regularly since she was a baby. She graduated this week from Slauson Middle School on the Honor Roll and looks forward to attending Pioneer High School in the fall. She has been taking dance and piano lessons for eight years. Marissa especially enjoys singing, and has been involved in vocal Solo and Ensemble, State Honors Choir, and has been accepted into the Bel Canto choir for 9th grade.

Anne Ceinwen Barron has been part of First Baptist since she was born, almost 15 years ago. Her parents are Elli and Mark Barron and her big brother is Tom. Annie will be a sophomore at Pinckney High School, will start Driver's Ed this summer, plays the oboe and has recently stopped playing soccer in favor of cross country running. Annie loves movies and anything athletic.



Samuel Robert Kidd has been attending First Baptist Church with his parents since he was born. He is now 11 years old and was dedicated in this church when he was a baby. Sam has been active in the children's bell program with Mrs. Snyder, and in the Junior Choir program with his mom, Bonnie, and in church school with various teachers including his dad, Bob. Sam spoke in front of the church a while ago and listed his top ten things he loves about First Baptist Church. A few of those are: Miss Joyce and his time with her during Thursday evening choir practice, Miss Sue Ellen for all her love and care for Sam since he was very small, David Robbins and so many of Sam's church family for attending his school concerts and his Ann Arbor Youth Chorale concerts. Sam has completed his 5th grade year at Emerson School and will continue on to Emerson Middle School where he will be in the 6th grade. Sam loves to sing, play chess, and play golf. Sam is grateful for his church family and looks forward to coming to church on Thursday's and Sunday's.



Geoff and Jeanette Halliday were both born in Michigan and raised in the Ann Arbor area. Geoff attended Green Hills and Jeanette, Ann Arbor Huron High. Geoff attended Michigan State University and Jeanette, Purdue (go Boilers) before returning to Ann Arbor where they were married Oct. 31, 1998 at First Baptist. Geoff is a Certified Network Administrator with Washtenaw Community College, where he has been employed for the last 10 years. Jeanette is a part of the Sales Team for NSF International Strategic Registrations, where she has been for the past two years. They have lived in Milan for the last four years with their two boys Max, age 5, who is very excited to be starting kindergarten in the fall, and Sam, who is almost 3 and is happiest to hang out at home with his family, and their very large dog, Winston.



Vespers Discussion

There is interest among the congregation in possibly expanding the Vespers program to a weekly event. A meeting is now set for Wednesday, June 20th at 7:30 p.m. for all interested parties to discuss ideas and make plans. Perhaps you are feeling called to make a commitment as a regular volunteer. Perhaps you are interested in occasionally giving devotionals, or leading group study or prayer. Perhaps you are unable to be physically present, but your heart is with this ministry and you support it with your prayers and donations. Whatever your level of commitment and interest please know that your input and ideas are valuable to us and we would love to have you join in the conversation about the direction this ministry is taking.

Faith Talk for Families

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

A Blessing to Share: *"May God, who has set you apart and called you by his grace, reveal his Son in you, today and always. Amen."* (Galatians 1:15)

Table Grace:

*We thank you Lord, for this our meal,
For grace and love and gifts that heal.
Give us willing hearts to share
With others when they need our care. Amen.*



#1 - Faith Talk: Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sad. What made you feel that way?
- Read Luke 7:11-14. Who was sad? Why? How did Jesus react?
- How does Jesus help us when we are sad?

#2 - Devotional Practices: In your family devotion times this week, pray for those who work with those who are sick. Include in your prayers the doctors, nurses, hospitals and other care institutions in your own community. As a reminder to pray, write the names of people and places on band-aids and affix these to your table.

#3 - Rituals and Traditions: As a young man, the apostle Paul was "extremely zealous" about the "traditions" of Judaism (Galatians 1:14). When Jesus became his Lord he received a new way of life (Galatians 1:11-12). Take some time to talk together about family traditions. What were some family traditions in the parent's homes when they were growing up? What are this family's traditions and what makes them special. What are some new traditions you could begin? What traditions show you to be a family set apart by God and called by his grace? (Galatians 1:15).

Here is a list of some possible family traditions:

- *No one can go to bed until they've told each member of the family "I love you."*
- *Take turns choosing a topic of discussion at the dinner table.*
- *Have a special dinner plate to be used by a family member who has a reason to celebrate.*
- *Have a family story time once a week before bed.*
- *Go for a nighttime walk on a certain evening each week.*
- *Keep a family journal, letting everyone write in it.*

#4 - Service: Whom do you know who is sick or unwell? Plan a family act of kindness that will encourage them e.g. put together a bouquet of flowers, visit with a plate of cookies, send them a handmade card.



VBS 2007



All God's Kids



AUGUST 20-24, 5:00 - 8:00PM



Here we are at the beginning of summer and August seems like a long way off! BUT, you remember how quickly summer flies - and we need to get all of our VBS volunteers in place by the first of August, so please sign up at the Information Counter or return this form. Also at the Information Counter is a list of ways you can help us right now with all the preparations. Thank you for your participation.



_____ I can help with transporting kids from Hikone and back again (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 (8:00 - 8:30pm)

NAME _____





"Since 1949, churches across North America have been giving to the annual OGHS offering, expressing God's love to our neighbors far and wide not just after the major disasters that saturate the media, but also to people affected by chronic disasters that repeat themselves each and every day: Gifts may go to:

- Rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters
- Create sustainable sources of food and water for rural villages
- Provide micro-credit so women can start their own small businesses and support their families
- Provide job skills training
- Provide the medical care necessary for children to have a chance to survive past the age of 5 and attend school
- And so much more."

~ The 2007 One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received throughout the month of June. \$1,360 has been received thus far. A large portion of this offering stays with us and is distributed by the Board of Mission Action. Please give generously. ~



The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is calling for cancer survivors of the Dexter area to join together in kicking-off of the city's first annual 24-Hr Relay for Life with an inspirational victory lap over cancer. A complementary brunch will be served at 10:30 a.m. for all survivors and their guests. Relay for Life will be held June 23rd from 10 a.m. finishing June 24th at 10 a.m. at Cornerstone Elementary.

Please RSVP by June 18th to Jason Keech at 734-971-4300 or email Jason.Keech@cancer.org. Information on joining or starting a team can be found online at www.acsevents.org/relay/mi/dexter.

First Baptist Church
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734-663-9376
www.fbca2.org
office@fbca2.org

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next Deadline:
Sunday, June 24, 2007



Would you like to help send a child to school? The Nandasmó Task Force and the Mission Action Board are excited to announce the new **Nandasmó Student Scholarship Fund**.

It costs approximately \$90 to send a child to school in our sister church in Nandasmó, Nicaragua.

We invite each of you to support a child in their educational journey.

There will be photos and information about the children displayed during Fellowship Hour next week. Pastor Manuel will be visiting next week and will be happy to tell you more about these beautiful children.