



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

May 30, 2007

Pastors' Reflections

by Paul Simpson Duke

Last year on Pentecost Sunday, as I was greeting people after the service, a woman told me she loved the red paraments and stoles. She said it was the most beautiful color we use in worship. She added: "It really is a shame that we use red only once a year."

I actually feel the same, though I think I know why we have it only once. After Pentecost comes "Ordinary Time" (color: green). It lasts for half a year (some have called it the "church-half" of the year, which follows the "Christ-half"). It reminds us that all the gifts of God - and our necessary response - are in play during those long stretches when nothing "special" is on the calendar and life just keeps going. There is one official Pentecost day because the Spirit is given once and for all, and is a constant force through all our "ordinary" days.

Still, I think that more red would be nice. It stands, you see, for fire. In the story of the first Pentecost, 120 believers see something appearing like "divided tongues as of fire" (Acts 2:3) - not literal fire, but "as of" fire. In this vision, a room filled with praying people takes on a reddish glow, and something comes to each of them that functions, in a way, like fire. So we color the day red (and it's the only big day or season in the church year with a color that actually comes from its story).

The picture of the Church having this kind of start - this kind of core - is full of appeal. Fire is pure crackling, burning energy - it leaps and it spreads. When people are receptive to the infusion of God's Spirit, something gets on them, in them, and between them that blazes and moves like fire. A living church will be a community "as of fire" - its members so full of the Spirit's presence and purpose as to be *energized* in how they think, believe, love - and take decisive action together.

William Sloane Coffin wrote: "Pentecost makes it clear that nothing is so fatal to Christianity as indifference. The only infidels are the truly indifferent, the cool and laid back, the spiritually dead and buried. You may remember what Ernest Hemingway wrote of Francis Macomber: 'He always had a great tolerance which seemed the nicest thing about him, if it were not the most sinister.'"

We tend to associate spiritual enthusiasm - the passionate expression of religious feeling and conviction - with fundamentalists, Pentecostals, Charismatics, African-American congregations, low-income or impoverished believers - or, more narrowly, people we dismiss as "fanatics." If this is really how we think, we are ignorant of what it means to be the church. Maybe we have confused enthusiasms with shouting. Or - if we truly lack energized passion for the active expression of our faith - maybe it's because we just don't care all that much, would prefer to keep this stuff safely in our heads, would just as soon not be confused with Christians.

In case you're wondering, I'm not talking about "worship style." Worship that is "ordered," as ours is, is the kind I personally prefer. I am speaking of something much more basic: a disposition of our joined hearts, a glad surrendering to faith, a deep practice of prayer, a warm welcome and care for everyone, an intensity of commitment to love God, to follow Christ, and to work energetically together to make real differences in the world for the gospel's sake.

I think that's pretty much what a living church looks like. I don't see it dressed too much in cool colors - more in shades of Pentecost red.

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:

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

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

Christian Education for Adults

(Sundays, 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.)

Addressing Contemporary Issues in the Study of Women in the Bible (Lounge) Astrid Beck, leader
Women are some of the most distinctive, unforgettable, and diverse characters in the Bible. Women, led by their faith in God, used their wits to defeat their circumstances. They were spunky, smart, and assertive. It is important for our understanding of the Bible, and for our faith, to study the women who speak so eloquently, to note their implications for the masculine and feminine paradigms, to hear their voices. This class will conclude this Sunday, June 3 with Queen Jezebel and King Ahab:

1 Kgs 16:29-34; 18; 19:1-3; 21; 22:37-38; 2 Kgs 9:30-37

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).

Other Adult Learning Opportunities

Second Sunday Series - Living the Questions:

Join us June 10 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*. We hope that you will join us.

Small Groups (ChristCare): Centered on Bible study, fellowship, mission, prayer and worship, we currently have two groups: one meets monthly and the other meets every other week. Please see Stacey, Paul or Sue Ellen for more information about joining a group.

Wednesday Bible Study will continue in the fall.



FBC News & Happenings



New Prayer Group

Beginning Sunday, May 20, a prayer group will meet each Sunday morning in room 108 (Bride's room) from 9:30–9:50 a.m. We will pray for the morning worship and the week's church activities as well as any other concerns brought forth. The door will be open—please come for any of that time you can. We will pray together in silence or as any wish to speak.

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 a 2007-2008 Planning Meeting.

No More Campbell Soup Labels

Starting in the fall, American Baptist Women's Ministries will be saving the UPC or bar code (the rectangular section with lines on the bottom or side of product) instead of the Campbell soup labels. You can obtain these from Campbell or Swanson and other eligible products and place them in the proper receptacle at the Information Counter. Thank you for your continued support.

~ Roberta Hause, Mission Chairperson

Annual ABWM Garden Party

The women will meet in the Memorial Lounge at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5. Treats and punch will be provided by the Board. A business meeting and review of the annual report will be followed by installation of officers and Love Gift.

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.



U of M Summer Course on Egyptian Archaeology

Lindsay Ambridge, who recently gave a presentation to many of the FBC ladies at the Women's Luncheon, will be teaching a University of Michigan summer term course from June 27th - August 14th. The title of the course is "Sieving Sand and Scouring Texts: The Many Facets of Ancient Egyptian Archaeology" (course number = ACABS 291). If any of our congregants are interested in this course, or have children/grandchildren who are U of M students, Lindsay would appreciate it if they would inform them of this exciting new course! Additionally, students who attend a university other than U of M, as well as high school graduates who will begin college this fall, can enroll in U of M summer courses as "guest students." If you are interested in finding out more about this course, or how to enroll as a guest student, please contact Lindsay at lambridg@umich.edu or at (734) 994-5827.

~ Care & Concern Corner ~

Congratulations to **Crystal Rose Rushton** upon her graduation from Whitmore Lake High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society and received several awards, including the Scholar Athlete Award for volleyball and track. She also received a Scholar Recognition Award from the University of Michigan where she will begin her undergraduate studies this fall.



Conrad Juchartz recently had a successful hip replacement surgery (to fix his previously replaced hip). He is currently recuperating at Glacier Hills where he receives daily therapy. He and **Mervyn** would like to thank everyone for all the cards, calls and prayers they've received and would like everyone to know that Conrad welcomes visitors.



I want to thank the congregation for the many birthday cards, especially from those who attended the Wednesday Bible class luncheon at Weber's on May 23.

- Thomas Scott

Congregational Meeting to Discuss Ann Arbor Co-op Nursery School Proposal June 17, Second Hour

As you've probably heard, 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. If the contractual talks have not been satisfactorily completed by then, the meeting would have to be postponed, of course.

I know that June 17 is Father's Day, so I ask that you who are celebrating delay just a while so that we can all participate in this important decision.

Mary Davis, Moderator

CHILDREN & YOUTH WORSHIP





VBS 2007



All God's Kids

We have moved the date of our VBS to the end of the summer: August 20-24. Most of the day camps and recreational programs are finished by that week and families are looking for things to do. We are also trying an experiment of holding our VBS in the late afternoon and evening, 5:00 - 8:00. We are hoping these times will be easier for the children of Hikone and make it easier for you to volunteer your time.

Beginning this Sunday, there will be a volunteer sign up at the Information Counter. There are many, many ways that you can help with preparations as well as during the week of VBS! Here's a list of ways you can help right now :



As you might have guessed, there is a underwater/coral reef theme for the decorations. (I'll explain the program another time.) We can use shells, starfish, coral and any other sea-type objects you might have. We especially need large fish nets.



We also need:

- baby food jars with lids
- 1/2 gallon plastic milk containers
- large and small sponges (the large ones should be soft and squishy)



Each of the children will make a fleece pillow to take home, so we need 60 squares of fleece cut out and fringed! Several people could work on this.



There are lots and lots of decorations to color and cut. This is something kids could do!



Thank you for all of your help!





June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion Graduation Sunday	4 7:00 Board of Evangelism	5 1:00 ABWM Garden Party 5:30 Vespers	6 7:30 Executive Council	7 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	8	9
10 5:30 Second Sunday (Newsletter Deadline)	11 7:00 Board of Mission Action	12 7:00 Board of Worship	13 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	14 7:30 Choir Practice	15	16
17	18	19 1:00 Beecher- Brewer 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Board of Trustees	20	21 1:00 MacGregor- Stitt	22	23
24 (Newsletter Deadline)	25	26 9:30 ABWM Board	27 5:30 Board of Christian Ed 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	28	29	30



Happy Birthday!

Phyllis White	1	Joyce Arnn	12	Gaius Lim	24
Graham Heidt	2	Anna Moyer	14	Bonnie Kidd	26
June Ludwig	4	Crystal Rose Rushton	14	Lucy Thompson	26
Stacey Simpson Duke	4	Cindy Lambrides	15	Martha Dettling	27
John Kerr	6	Kathryn F. Gallagher	16	Burne White	27
Vivian Faber	6	Adam Brown	20	Helen Foley	28
Gerald Rees	7	Jack Floyd	21	Tessie Heidt	28
		Roberta Hause	24		

First Baptist Church
512 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-663-9376
www.fbca2.org
office@fbca2.org

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next Deadline:
Sunday, June 10, 2007



“The One Great Hour of Sharing enables emergency relief, refugee work, disaster rehabilitation, and development assistance in the name of Jesus Christ, on behalf of the American Baptist Churches, USA, around the world and here in the United States.”

World Relief Committee, General Board, ABC/USA

~ The 2007 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received throughout the month of June. Please give generously. ~