



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

October 25, 2006

## Pastors' Reflections

*by Paul Simpson Duke*

I enjoy listening to public radio. Not all the programming entralls me, but most of it suits me just fine. And there's a nice bonus - no commercials. I'm never bombarded by the endless artillery of noisy, goofy ads. That's because public radio gets government support, corporate support, and support from its listeners.

Which brings me to a confession. Twice every year public radio spends a week of airtime pleading for financial support. I haven't clocked them, but it seems to me they air ten minutes of programming, then interrupt it with ten minutes of sales-pitching, all day long. The pleas for money are repetitious and laced with small incentives - coffee mugs, T-shirts, etc. I can't stand it. They give many good reasons that I should call in a pledge, but I don't want to hear it. Instead, I switch to another station and listen to music for the duration of the pledge drive. I know that Stacey will send them something. I approve of the work they do and I benefit greatly from it, free of charge. But I personally turn off their requests to open my wallet to them. This is one of the many reasons you should not consider me a very nice person.

I wonder if your feelings aren't a bit like this when the church asks you annually to make a significant financial pledge for the coming year. For several Sundays in worship there is a little "interruption" for someone to speak about the church's work. A couple of letters are sent, and a pledge card. A sermon is preached that locates financial giving squarely within the essential calling of every believer. These things happen like clockwork every year. Does part of you wish you could just switch it off?

Sorry. We truly need to go through it, and each of us truly needs to make a thoughtful and prayerful response, as generous as we can possibly make it. Consider it three ways.

1. If you attend here, do you really intend to receive what the church gives you without supporting it financially? This would make you too much like me with my radio station. From the music, preaching, learning, and care that you receive here, to the fact that you receive most of it in a building that is warm and doesn't leak rain on your head, it all costs money - as does what we offer to our children, young people, and everyone here. Should others struggle to pay for it all while you hold back?

2. The church also has a mission to people outside our walls. We pursue this locally, nationally, and internationally. We reach out to university students, to the poor, the sick, the addicted, the lost, the aged, to missionaries, and to a sister church in Nicaragua that does wonderful ministry. Why would you not want to help fund this crucial work in the world? You can't possibly be involved in person with all these expressions of love, so why not support them all by your giving here?

3. Finally, giving is actually a significant spiritual matter for us all. It is a necessarily concrete way to express gratitude, commitment, and, yes, obedience. Concerns about money have too tight a grip on us. Uncurling our anxious fingers and giving freely has a way of growing us up, deepening our freedom, faith, and joy. The more freely we give, the more likely we are to grow spiritually.

So I'm urging you to make a financial pledge through the church. If you're already doing so, please strongly consider increasing your gift. Give all that is rightly yours to give. We won't send you a mug or a T-shirt; you'll just know you did the right thing.

## 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.

On October 29, the Youth (grades 4 - high school) will meet in the Youth room for Youth Worship, from 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.

### Preschool - 2nd grade

10:00 - 10:30 Worship	10:30 - 11:00 Children's Worship (202A)
11:00 - 12:00 Church School (room 202B)	12:00 - 12:30 Grace Notes (room 305)

### 3rd - 5th grades (3rd graders may attend Children's Worship from 10:30 - 11:00)

11:00 Church School (room 304)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: leave at 12:00 for Grace Notes (room 305)  
 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>: leave at 11:50 for Jr. Choir (room 102)

### Youth (6<sup>th</sup> - high school)

10:00 - 11:00 Worship; 11:15 - 11:50 Church School (rm. 107); 11:50 - 12:30 Jr. Choir (rm. 102)

### Children's Music and Arts Ministry:

Jr. Handbells, 9:15-9:45, rm. 305	Tiny Grace Notes (preschool), 11:00-11:15, rm. 305
Grace Notes (k-3rd grade), 12:00-12:30, rm. 305	Jr. Choir (4th grade+), 11:50-12:30, rm. 102

## Christian Education for Adults

Current Second Hour Sunday Classes (following worship and fellowship time from 11:30-12:30):

***Addressing Contemporary Issues in the Study of Women in the Bible (Lounge)*** led by Astrid Beck  
 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 fall, we will study some of the early biblical women, and their men. They comprise the foundation of the early society in the Bible, the time of Abraham, Moses, and the prophets, a reference point for Jesus in His ministry in the New Testament as the foundation of faith. At the end of the series, we think you will agree that there are surprising discoveries in our study.

### ***Share and Prayer Group (room 108)***

**facilitated by Stacey Simpson Duke**

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).

### ***Second Sunday Series: Living the Questions***

**November 12, 5:30 - 7:30**

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. Topics will include such things as biblical authority, the divinity of Christ, and the relevance of Christianity in a contemporary world. Childcare is provided. Plan to join us on November 12 for dinner, dialogue, and discovery! (A sign-up sheet for dinner reservations and copies of lesson 1-3 are available at the Information Counter.)

# FBC NEWS



## **Pancake Breakfast**

On Saturday, November 11 at 9:00 a.m., the Youth Group will be cooking a pancake breakfast. They are asking for a \$2 donation and kids eat free! There will also be a pie sale. All of the proceeds will be donated. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at the Information Counter or call Brandy at 734-753-9880.

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

Remember that you're welcome to bring in finished craft items to either the Information Counter on Sunday morning or the office during the week. Please be sure your name is on the item as well as the suggested sale price. We will have the gently used Christmas decoration sales table again this year. This year's date for the celebration is Sunday, December 17th at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall following our morning church service. Please contact Helen Johnson (662-1461) or Beverly Inbody (904-5750) if you have any questions. The Beecher-Brewer Circle and the MacGregor-Stitt Circle appreciate your support in helping to make the Christmas Celebration a success.

## **Passing on the Faith: Family Style**

There is still space for FBC families, parents, grandparents and anyone who works with children and Youth to attend this event at FBC Charlotte, featuring Dick Hardel, Executive Director of the Youth and Family Institute (Bloomington, Minnesota). This event is unique because all ages families are encouraged to attend and will participate in activities together, learning and having fun. The goal of this event is to equip families with tools that encourage and facilitate "passing on faith" and sharing between generations. If the children/youth in your life are busy, you are still welcome to attend solo! Please see Sue Ellen for more information and to register.

## **CROP Walk Pledges**

The CROP Walk participants were able to complete their walk during a beautiful Fall day. Now that the walk has taken place we need to collect the pledges so generously made. Please get your pledge to your volunteer, then they can submit it to the church office, so we'll be able to turn in our collection by November 8th. *Thank you* to everyone for supporting the 2006 CROP Walk.

~ Mission Action Board



Betty Erhlingers' new address in California is as follows:

1968 Springdale  
Encinitas, CA 92024

Congratulations to **David and Jen Bucholtz** (pictured at left) who were married here at FBC on Saturday, September 9th!!

## ***"Becoming the Body of Christ"***

The theme for this year's financial campaign is "Becoming the Body of Christ." At a glance, the phrase sounds appealing. After all, isn't this a worthy aspiration? And while campaign themes may provide a nice header for an article and may sound nice, it is worth reflecting for a moment on what the theme actually means.

The Apostle Paul uses the phrase "body of Christ" many times in his letters. Sometimes he is referring to Jesus' actual body, but most of the time he is referring to the church. As all members of the church comprise the "body of Christ," we are all integral to a fully functioning body. It is easy to acknowledge the church as the "body of Christ" but a full appreciation of Jesus as the standard brings into sharp focus the daunting goal before us. Yet, we can be confident in achieving our goal. As Paul notes in Ephesians, each of us is "given grace according to the measures of Christ's gift" and that the gifts we receive are "for building up the body of Christ." Thus, in our fellowship, we can grow together in spirit and truth to realize according to Paul, "the measure of the full stature of Christ."

We can all identify past and present difficulties that have and continue to impede attaining our objectives. But the community of spirit that binds us together can help us move toward the full realization of "Becoming the Body of Christ."

*Cesar Alaniz & John Floyd, III*  
For the Financial Campaign

## ***Faith Talk for Families***

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



### ***Developing Compassion in Children***

Compassion, or empathy, means identifying with and being concerned about other people's feelings and needs. As children grow, compassion can guide their actions and behaviors in positive ways. We can promote compassion by helping our children to think about how others feel. For example, if your child says or does something hurtful to another child, help them to consider how the other child may feel by saying, for example, "How do you think Jack feels? Would you like to feel like that?"

Children also develop compassion by practicing acts of caring and kindness towards others. As adults, we need to emphasize the importance of helping others, giving others the benefit of the doubt, and being open to differences.

### **What You Can Do:**

- Begin within your family - acknowledge and praise behaviors that show compassion for brother, sister, parents - and, of course, model these behaviors!
- Talk about the point of view of others as you watch TV, read books or discuss other people with your child.
- Show care toward others, such as doing errands for sick neighbors or sending cards.
- Show awareness of the needs of others, such as holding doors open for people who have their hands full or who might struggle with a door.
- Point out stories from newspapers and magazines that illustrate compassion such as the stories about the folks who re-furnished the home of James Doyle in Burns Park.
- Point out people who are helping others, such as the members of our congregation who help with Vespers and Habitat for Humanity.
- Give others the benefit of the doubt. If your child complains that a classmate deliberately pushed her down on the way to lunch, explain that sometimes when people are in a hurry, they don't watch where they're going, they don't mean to push or hurt anyone - AND display it in your OWN actions when dealing with apparent rudeness when driving, shopping, etc.

**John Claiborne Floyd, Jr., M.D.**, U of M Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine, age 79, passed away October 10, 2006 at his home in Ann Arbor, from complications of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP). Diagnosis of PSP, in 1999, followed a preliminary diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease in 1998. Dr. Floyd was born July 3, 1927 in Olla, Louisiana, the youngest of four children born to John Claiborne Floyd, agricultural instructor and principal of the Olla Standard High School, and Linnie Leora Gibson Floyd. In 1931 the family moved to Baton Rouge, LA where John Floyd, Sr. joined the faculty of the Louisiana State University (LSU) Agricultural School. Growing up in Baton Rouge, Dr. Floyd attended the Highland School and the LSU University High School; he was a Boy Scout, and a member of his high school track, basketball, and debate teams. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his father. Dr. Floyd graduated from LSU in the spring of 1949 with a B.S. in chemistry, and began graduate studies in chemistry at the California Institute of Technology that autumn. In the fall of 1950 he enrolled at the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans. He married Esther Louise Martin of Pineville, LA on February 23, 1952. In 1954 Dr. Floyd received an M.D. degree from the LSU School of Medicine. His medical internship, residency, and further postdoctoral training were completed at the U of M Medical Center between 1954 and 1959. He spent the 1959-1960 academic year as an Instructor in Internal Medicine at the LSU School of Medicine, and in 1960 returned to Ann Arbor as a Fellow in the Endocrinology and Metabolism division of the Department of Internal Medicine at the U of M. It was at this time that he began to focus his attention on diabetes-related research and the treatment and care of diabetic patients; these interests were to become his life-long work. Dr. Floyd joined the U of M medical faculty as an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, in the Endocrinology and Metabolism division, in 1961 and received full Professor status in 1970. Upon his retirement in 1992, Dr. Floyd was appointed Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine; he continued to maintain an active professional life, serving as a reviewer for grant applications and professional journals and as an interviewer for prospective medical students, as well as participating in both local and international seminars and conferences. Dr. Floyd's professional life combined research, teaching, and patient care. In the laboratory, he maintained an active research program centered on diabetes; he was an early investigator into the physiological role of human pancreatic polypeptide. As an educator, he lectured in graduate and postgraduate courses, oversaw student research, provided clinical training and supervision of medical Residents and Fellows, and spoke at national and international conferences on diabetes-related topics. As a practicing physician, Dr. Floyd was known for the personal care and attention he gave to each of his patients. His ability to formulate an incisive diagnostic question - and to listen carefully to the response - led him to excel in clinical work, while his soft-spoken manner and ready smile endeared him to his patients. As Director of the U of M Diabetes Center Unit and Diabetes Center Unit Clinic (1977 -1986), and Associate Director of the Michigan Diabetes Research and Training Center (1977-1986), his executive and interpersonal skills allowed him to help lead these centers into the forefront of diabetes-related research, education, and patient care. Service to others was an important part of Dr. Floyd's ethic. As a young man he served his country through active duty in the U.S. Navy. He was an organizing member of the "Conference on Teaching of Ethics and Values" at U of Mi (1987-1993). He was an active and loyal member of the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor for more than fifty years. He taught both youth and adult Christian education classes, served as church Moderator and both as chairman and as a member of the Board of Trustees. Sunday mornings found him in the choir loft. Music, both popular and classical, was an enthusiasm of Dr. Floyd's which he enjoyed with his wife, shared with those around him, and passed on to his children. He was an adept pianist and had a lovely baritone voice. He appreciated beauty in all its varied forms; one of his greatest pleasures was the opportunity that his career afforded him to travel, and to take in not only new scientific ideas, but new cultural experiences as well. Dr. Floyd was a student of the English language; to him, a carefully crafted sentence was not only an important tool of communication, but a thing of beauty in itself, and this aesthetic informed all of his written work. He enjoyed both the telling and the hearing of a good story, and was an articulate public speaker. Following in the footsteps of his father, he enjoyed gardening and brought the same meticulousness to the pruning of shrubs as he did to the practice of medicine. With the encouragement of his son, John III, Dr. Floyd rediscovered his love of fly-fishing in mid-life, and the father-and-son team took regular trout-fishing trips to the Au Sable and Pere Marquette rivers of northern Michigan; with the arrival of grandsons David, John IV ("Jack"), and Calvin, Dr. Floyd took immense pleasure in introducing each of them to the sport. Dr. Floyd is survived by his wife of 54 years, Esther Martin Floyd, his children Elizabeth Floyd (James Gold) of Columbia, MD, Jennifer Aulie of Vienna, Austria, John C. Floyd III of Ann Arbor, and Melissa (Frederick) Whittington of Pineville, LA, sisters Dorothy "Dot" (John) Reed of Ann Arbor and Ruth Lamont of Baton Rouge, LA, cousin Mary (William) Purcell of Wallingford, PA, grandchildren Rachel, David, Seraphina, John IV, Calvin, Sara and Emily, nieces and nephews, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, by his eldest sister, Johnnie Robertson of Baton Rouge, LA, and by his daughter-in-law Sara Parker Floyd of Ann Arbor. A memorial service for Dr. Floyd was held on Sunday, October 15, 2006 at the First Baptist Church, with the Reverends Paul and Stacey Simpson Duke officiating. Interment took place October 22 at Greenwood Cemetery in Pineville, LA. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Society for PSP (11350 McCormick Road, suite 906, Hunt Valley, MD 21031), the Endocrinology and Metabolism division of the Department of Internal Medicine at the U of M Medical Center, the pipe -organ fund of the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, or the charity of the donor's choice. Funeral arrangements provided by the Robison -Bahnmler Funeral Home of Saline.

## FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN LUNCHEON!

Yes, there will be a financial campaign luncheon! Please reserve Sunday, November 5, at 12:30 p.m., for having lunch and joining fellow congregants as we approach the finish of the campaign. The main dish will be lasagna; please bring a dish to share. Pledge cards will be going out next week and we will have the litany of dedication of pledges on Sunday, November 12.

*Cesar Alaniz & John Floyd, III*

For the Financial Campaign



*First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor—*

*Thanks to all for their cards, prayers, and support during our time of loss. Thanks to all who came and celebrated Justin's life with us.*

*God Bless,  
Bruce and Vicki Williams*

## ***Be surprised by God. Pray. Give. Be amazed!***

*Why be amazed?*

Everywhere Jesus went, throughout his entire life, death, and resurrection, Jesus amazed those around him. He astounded them by doing things that they didn't expect—that they didn't even think were remotely possible! God is constantly doing the amazing all around us. But we can miss it if we are not open to it. God is inviting us to be open to the impossible, the wondrous, and the amazing. God is always doing work beyond our guess, our imaginations, our desires, and our wildest dreams!

*~ The 2006 World Mission Offering will be received  
throughout the month of October ~*





# November 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	(Stacey will be in Italy at her final <i>Women Touched by Grace</i> conference 11/2–11/19)		1 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Executive Council	2 6:30 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	3	4
5 Communion 12:30 Financial Campaign Luncheon Newsletter Deadline	6	7 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Bd. of Evangelism	8 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare	9 6:30 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	10 7:30 p.m. Youth Lock-in	11 9:00 Pancake Breakfast
12 5:30 Second Sunday Newsletter Deadline	13	14 7:00 Bd. of Worship	15 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 5:30 Bd. of Christian Ed.	16 6:30 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	17	18
19 12:30 Advent Workshop	20	21 5:30 Vespers	22	23 	24 Office Closed	25
26 12:30 Bd. of Music & Arts	27	28	29 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering	30 6:30 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice		



## Happy Birthday!



Mary Davis 1  
Betty Gerstler 2  
Mildred MacGregor 2  
Dave Kerschbaum 3  
Joyce Laakso 4  
Frances Hinderer 7

David Lee 9  
David Robbins 12  
Sid Zell 13  
Gad Lim 14  
Sarah Heidt 15  
Nancy Paul 17

Malcolm Fleming 19  
George Lambrides 19  
Marcia Blunt 20  
Betty Doman 24  
Suzanne Knight 27  
Betty Ehrlinger 30

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

**Dated Material:**

*Wednesday, October 25, 2006*

**Next Deadline:**

*Sunday, November 5, 2006*



## Operation Christmas Child

Our University students in our campus ministry group, The Gathering, would like to invite the congregation to participate with us in a simple, hands-on Christmas mission project. We will be participating in Operation Christmas Child, a mission to bring joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world by sending them gift-filled shoeboxes. We invite you to take an ordinary shoebox, fill it with little toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and a personal note, along with a check for \$7 to Samaritan's Purse to cover shipping costs, and drop it off at the church by Sunday, November 19th. On Monday, November 20th, the students will take all the shoeboxes collected and deliver them to the Drop-Off Center in Saline. You get to decide whether your gift is for a boy or a girl, and what age child your gift will go to. If you include your home address in your personal note, you may even get a note back from the recipient. Watch the bulletins in coming Sundays to receive more information.

## Words of Witness

*by Toni Stearns*

*Sunday, October 15*

What a perfect day this is to deliver my words of witness as I stand here with Pastor Manuel Ruiz, the pastor of our sister church in Nandasmo, Nicaragua.

Most of you know that I go to Nandasmo twice a year to teach English in the school that is part of our sister church. It all started three years ago when I was at the 175th anniversary dinner of FBC and some folks were talking about our sister church. I went home that night and thought, "I have the whole summer off and several vacations throughout the year. I could easily go down and try to help in the school there." And so I went, the first time with a small group from our church.

Every Monday evening in Nandasmo there is an outdoor service, my first was held at the home of Salvador. Salvador lives with his wife, his children, his parents, his in-laws, several younger sisters and brothers, nieces, and nephews. Their home is off the main cobblestone road that runs through the center of Nandasmo. It is a dirt road, hilly and bumpy and flanked by tall trees bursting with mango, plantain, avocado and other tropical fruits. When you get to the top of the biggest hill you've reached Salvador's house and everyone is there in the road to greet you.

When it is time to begin worship we sit in a circle outside the house under a sky so packed with stars you're sure some will fall due to lack of space. The faces around the circle, ranging in age from six months to seventy-something, are litany by the light of a few kerosene lanterns that Salvador's father-in-law has made from aluminum cans. The service begins with a song played on the guitar and sung by all who wish to sing. It continues with prayers, readings from the bible, more songs and more prayers. There are periods during the service when people softly speak their prayers aloud, often times many people are speaking simultaneously and you find yourself being wrapped inside this blanket of prayer. One of the songs that is often sung at these outdoor services repeats the line "The Spirit of God is here in this place." For the first time in my life I truly felt that presence. I looked around at those faces and I knew that they clearly did. It was a moment. A moment I will never forget.

I was at a meeting recently here at church where we were talking about how it can feel a bit uncomfortable sometimes to talk about our faith out loud, especially in a town like Ann Arbor. When I think back ten years, I know that, before I came to FBC, I never would have spoken about God, Jesus, prayer, or my personal faith journey in public or even with close friends. But lately, I find myself speaking more openly about these things. My level of comfort with the subject took me by surprise. Kind of like waking up one morning and finding out you can play the trumpet like Louis Armstrong.

I guess I'm more comfortable talking about God and my relationship with him because FBC has given me an opportunity to experience his presence firsthand. There are so many things that I am grateful for in this church but this, this has been the greatest gift. I thank you all.



# International Jam Session with G.I.G. and Pastor Manuel!

