



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

September 13, 2006

Normally this space is occupied by the "Pastor's Reflections," but in this edition of the newsletter we want to make a front-page invitation to consider how you might want to receive the newsletter in the future.

Carey Viviano, our Administrative Assistant, has done a cost-analysis on how the newsletter is being distributed, and on the advantages of offering options for how the newsletter is distributed.

Currently, we use bulk mail to distribute the newsletter to all recipients. The church must pay an annual fee of \$150 for bulk mail. The minimum for bulk mailing is 200 pieces, and since there are slightly fewer than 200 households receiving the newsletter, we have actually been mailing some copies back to the church. The bulk mail arrangement also calls for more paper, ink, and personnel time (paid and volunteer) than may be necessary.

We believe that many of you might want to receive your newsletter by different means. The best, we think, is by email. If you receive your newsletter by email, it would come to you instantly, on Wednesday mornings. You would also be seeing the photos in full color, not in black and white as in the paper copies. Your email version could also contain links to other sites that give related information. And of course you would be helping us to save on the costs that are listed above.

We know that not everyone can do this. If that's the case with you, there are two options: (1) pick up your copy on Sunday mornings, or (2) receive your newsletter through first-class mail. We also realize that some current recipients have changed their relationship with the church and do not need or want the newsletter anymore. The truth is that if enough people switch to email delivery or Sunday pick-up, we could do the first-class mailings and still save money and use fewer materials and office time.

We want to know what your preference is, and you can do that in one of several ways. You can fill out the form below and mail it in or drop it off, you can email us at office@fbca2.org, or you can call us at (734) 663-9376. We look forward to hearing from you in whatever way you choose, optimally by Monday, September 25. We thank you very much for your cooperation.

I prefer to receive my newsletter by:

- E-mail
- Sunday pick-up
- First-class mail
- I no longer wish to receive the newsletter

Name: _____

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.

Children's Music and Arts Ministry:

Jr. Handbells	9:15 - 9:45	room 305, upper level
Tiny Grace Notes (preschool)	11:00 - 11:15	room 305, upper level
Grace Notes (K - 3rd grade)	12:00 - 12:30	room 305, upper level
Jr. Choir (4th grade and older)	11:50 - 12:30	room 102, lower level

Children and Youth Christian Education Schedule:

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 -11:50 Church School (Room 304)
 4th & 5th: 11:50 -12:30 Jr. Choir (Room 102)
 3rd grade: 12:00 -12:30 Grace Notes (Room 305)

Youth (6th - High school)

10:00 -11:00 Worship
 11:15 -11:50 Church School (Room 107)
 11:50 -12:30 Jr. Choir (Room 102)
 11:50 -12:30 Service Projects for those not attending Jr. Choir

Christian Education for Adults

September 17, Second Hour: see page 6 for description

September 24, October 3 & 10, Second Hour:

THE LANGUAGE OF GOD: Science and Faith (Memorial Lounge) Cesar Alaniz, Leader
 Former U of M researcher, Francis Collins, currently Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, has recently published a book, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*. We will explore issues and statements from this book and discuss the ways believers can bridge the gaps between faith and science.

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).

Wednesday Bible Study (Memorial Lounge, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.)

A new season of Bible Study began on September 13. This year Rev. Paul Simpson Duke will lead a study of Philippians. Join us each week for fellowship, learning and great snacks!

Small Groups (ChristCare) - Centered on Bible study, fellowship, mission, prayer and worship, we currently have two groups meeting twice a month. See Stacey, Paul, or Sue Ellen for more information about joining a group.

Christian Education 2006-07

Infants and Toddlers:	Caregiver - Kathryn Gregg; Volunteers - Joan & Marcia Blunt, Toni Stearns, Madeline Drake, Lauren Moehring, Arthur Francis, Mary Davis
Preschool-2nd Grade:	Nancy & Vicky Rushton, Jackie Snyder, Toni Stearns, Aleta Luesse
3rd - 5th Grade:	Bob Kidd, Janice Stumpf, Joyce Arnn
Youth (6th - High School):	Elli Barron, Janice Stumpf, Bill Foster
Adult:	Astrid Beck, Stacey Simpson Duke, Paul Simpson Duke, Cesar Alaniz
Wednesday Bible Study:	Paul Simpson Duke
Second Sundays:	Stacey and Paul Simpson Duke
Children's Worship:	Sue Ellen Glover Assistants: Julien Heidt, Hannah Foster, Christina & Marissa Alaniz, Annie Barron Jack Floyd, Sam Kidd, Nathan Kirchner, Jack & Owen Stearns, Grace Crowe
Children's Music & Arts Ministry:	Bonnie Kidd, Debra Snyder
ChristCare Small Group Leaders:	Mary Davis & Scott Diels, Fred & Mary Munson
Choir Childcare:	Joyce Arnn
Other Childcaregivers:	Jackie Snyder, Katy Beene, Marissa Alaniz, Jose Barrantes
Youth Director:	Brandy Kirchner
Board of Christian Education:	Janice Stumpf and Toni Stearns (Co-Chairs), Maryann Bowen (Secretary), Bill Foster, Emily Preston Rahim
Special Assistance & Consultants:	Mary Gregg, David Robbins, Jerry & Jim Suits, Ruth Kerr, Bev Inbody, Graham Miles, Carey Viviano, Annabel Erskine



Financial Report End of July

Dear Friends:

I've been very lax so far this year in communicating information about our financial situation. You may recall the brief reports I put in the newsletter last year, and the red ink they contained. We ended that year (2005) with a \$13,000 deficit. Fortunately, that was offset by a surplus from previous years' operations, leaving \$14,900 available for any deficit that might occur this year (2006).

After seven months, our financial status looks about the same as last year's, a deficit of \$26,200. That underage, however, is due in large part simply to our particular method of accounting (\$20,900). Two other sources of actual expenditures are, an unanticipated plumbing bill (\$7,500), and the larger than expected cost of natural gas (\$3,100). As the year progresses, the contribution of the accounting method to the deficit decreases, becoming zero at year's end.

Please bear with me and I'll try to be more regular in reporting our situation to you.

Omer Robbins Jr.
Chair, Finance Committee



2006 Ice Cream Social



FAITH TALK FOR FAMILIES

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

Prayers for this week:

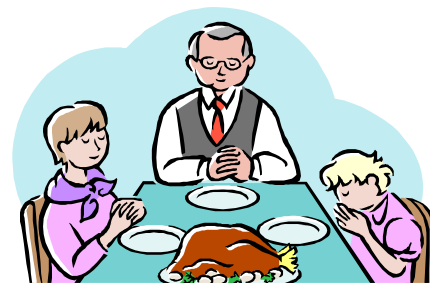
For the Week: "Lord, help me not to be deceived, but to be a hearer and a doer of your Word. Amen." (James 1:21-23)

Throughout the Day: "Lord, cleanse me from within, so that today my words, thoughts and deeds are pure in your sight. Amen." (Mark 7:20-22)

Mealtime Refrain: "Every good and perfect gift is from above: Coming down from our Father in heaven." (James 1:16)

Table Grace:

Lord,
With your good gifts you fill our table
Our thanks and praise we offer you.
Make us here both strong and able,
Your word to hear and your will to do.
Amen.

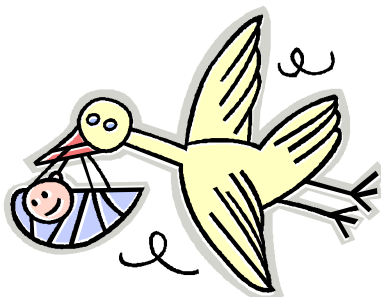


Faith Talk – Discuss in your household or small group:

- Imagine life without words or speech. What would it be like?
- The apostle James says that if we think we are following God but don't keep our tongues from speaking bad things, we are fooling ourselves (James 1:26). Why is it important to control our tongues?
- James 1:19 says we should be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Is this good advice? Why? How can hearing God's Word help us to control our words?

Rituals and Traditions: We read in Mark 7 that Jesus accused the Pharisees of setting aside the commands of God to observe their own traditions (Mark 7:9). Take some time to discuss the traditions that characterize your family? Do they reflect God's place in your family life? What is one tradition into which you introduce a faith element, or what is a new faith tradition you could make part of your family life?

Service: The apostle James tells us that true worship of God includes looking after 'orphans and widows in their distress.' Whom do you know who is in distress? How can you support or assist them? Plan a practical course of action that will show you to be "doers" of God's word.



Welcome Baby Zain!

We are delighted to announce the arrival of **Zain Preston Rahim**, born to **Emily Preston** and **Nehal Rahim** on Saturday, September 9, at 11:27 a.m., weighing 8 lbs. 15 oz. and measuring 20.5". Mama and baby are doing well. Congratulations to Emily and Nehal!

Invitation to Mission

On Sunday September 17th we will have as our guest speakers during Second Hour the Chief Executive and the Program Director of **CEPAD**, a non-governmental agency of the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua. Damaris Albuquerque and Gilberto Aguirre, husband and wife, each have been engaged in ministry with **CEPAD** for many years. They have a challenging and interesting story to tell.

CEPAD, was founded in December 1972 to meet what was initially perceived as a short-term but critical need. The capital city of Nicaragua, with a population of approximately one million, was devastated two days before Christmas that year by an earthquake of unprecedented intensity. Communications and essential services ceased, buildings that were unprepared for earthquakes tumbled to the ground and the cost in human suffering was enormous. Over ten thousand people died and two hundred thousand were suddenly homeless.

Dr. Gustavo Parajon, a Baptist physician and church leader, quickly realized that only a cooperative effort could address the need to provide food and housing to the victims of the disaster so, as an officer of the Baptist Convention, he convened a meeting of other church leaders which quickly resulted in the formation of the "Consejo Evangelico Pro-Ayuda a les Damnificados." The organization immediately began relief efforts, arranging shelter for the homeless and creating community feeding centers that, at a peak, served 35,000 breakfasts each day. So successful was this ecumenical effort that Church World Service, an arm of the National Council of Churches, decided to support **CEPAD**'s initiative instead of establishing it's own office in Nicaragua.

According to Dr. Parajon, the original intention was to disband after the immediate crisis was over, but that the experience of working together had been so successful, and the need in the rural areas as well as in Managua was so great, that in April 1973 a decision was reached to continue and expand **CEPAD**'s activities. Although foreign aid was flowing in to Nicaragua much of it was being diverted by corruption and none of it was reaching the remoter regions where the need was the greatest.

As it has conducted its multi-faceted ministry **CEPAD** has had a sometimes tense, but always civil, relationship with succeeding Nicaraguan governments. Created during the Somoza regime it adjusted successively to life under the Sandinistas and Daniel Ortega, followed by Chamorro, Aleman and now Bolanos. At times they have been called a Communist front and at other times an agency of the CIA. In 1985 Dr. Parajon was appointed by Ortega to the National Reconciliation Commission and later Professor Gilberto Aguirre was invited to assist in negotiations between the Contras and the Sandinistas.

Today **CEPAD** is a thriving organization with five offices throughout Nicaragua. A staff of fifty full-time workers is directed by Damaris and Gilberto. The current annual budget is over \$700,000 which may sound modest to U.S. ears, but is a huge amount in Nicaragua. The budget is supported reasonably well by the twenty participating denominations in Nicaragua, but is also dependent on funding from other countries in Europe, Canada, New Zealand and the U.S. The New Zealand government last year approved a grant of \$300,000 to be paid over three years as part of a national program of assistance to Central America.

Programs being carried on today include:

1. Environmental Management (training farmers to be self-sufficient and to nourish their land)
2. Family Development (teaching women and youth about their rights, and how to better care for their families)
3. Community Advocacy (teaching people how to ensure laws are applied fairly)
4. Education, Secondary and Theological (encouraging study by youth and community leaders)
5. Microcredit (providing loan funds for small-scale family enterprises)
6. Delegation Visits (facilitating involvement of visiting groups to encourage support and participation).
7. Radio CEPAD (increasing awareness of practical, social and economic issues)

Please plan to attend this discussion of a ministry that is part of ABC/USA.

WELCOME FALL 2006 SEXTONS!!

New Sextons:

Michelle Dunn, whose family attended FBC when Michelle was just 4 years old, is a recent graduate of Hartland High School. Michelle is currently enrolled in the Baking and Pastries program at Washtenaw Community College. Next year she plans to transfer to Virginia Tech for Hospitality and Tourism Management. Michelle also holds a part time job at Schokolad down the street from the church.



Brent Schedeler is from Brooklyn, MI and is a junior at the University of Michigan. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace engineering as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Physics/Mathematics. Brent loves all aspects of aviation and spends much of his free time enjoying his pilot's license. He also enjoys playing tennis, golf, and being outdoors. Upon graduating, he would like to obtain a job as an Aerospace Engineer for NASA or an aircraft manufacturer such as Boeing. He is excited and thankful for this opportunity and looks forward to his time here.

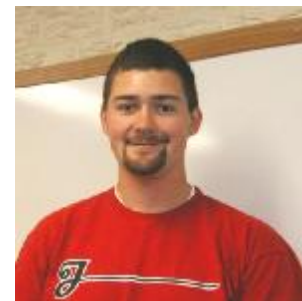


Returning Sextons:

Freda Yawson (left picture below) is a senior in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan. She is originally from Ghana, and has spent about half of her life in both countries. She has been involved in many student societies including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the African Students Association, Solar Car 2003, Campus Crusade for Christ, and IM Soccer. Freda would like to apply her engineering degree to the international scene, specifically in the Third-World, and by possibly pursuing an International Business degree. But in the mean time she enjoys dancing, listening to music, playing soccer (the real football), eating :), most car related things, and doing artsy stuff in her spare time. Freda joined us in September 2004 and plans to graduate this December.

Becky Miller (middle picture below) is a senior studying linguistics at the University of Michigan. Originally from Howell, Michigan, she has been living in Ann Arbor and attending First Baptist since 2003. Becky is a member of the choir and rings handbells. She also enjoys knitting, and she has recently learned to knit socks by hand. After finishing her studies, Becky hopes to use her linguistic training to work with minority language groups to preserve endangered and dying languages.

Ryan Madis (right picture below) is a junior at U of M. He is from Marysville, MI and transferred from St. Clair County Community College. He is a History major. Ryan learned of this position through work at Lake Louise Baptist Camp. He has been on staff there for five years and is currently Head Lifeguard. He looks forward to the coming year here and is glad to have this opportunity. Ryan joined us in September of 2005.



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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Dated Material:

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Next Deadline:

Sunday, September 24, 2006

We are ecstatic to announce that **Joel Hastings**, FBC's phenomenal organist, recently participated in and co-won first place in Web Concert Hall's 8th International Competition. Joel's performance will be played at <http://www.webconcerthall.com/> next Wednesday, September 20th. Congratulations, Joel!!

MacGregor-Stitt Circle meets Thursday, September 21 at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Roberta Hause. Enjoy a Subway lunch and a program of "Caring and Sharing."

Both **Iris Martin** and **Conrad Juchartz** would like to express to their church family how very much they've appreciated all the prayers, cards, letters, calls and visits they've received during their recent hospital stays, illnesses and mishaps. The love and concern they've felt continues to help them feel better. God bless you all!

Love, Iris and Conrad

A most grateful thank you letter was recently received from **Friendship House** thanking our congregation for its over-and-above donation of \$3000 (approved by the Executive Council from the Roger Williams Fund income). This amount was matched by the ABC-MI, for a total gift of \$6000. Linnea Berg, the Interim Executive Director, requested that their gratitude be conveyed to the congregation, and to let you know that the donated money went towards fuel for the child development bus, rent, extermination services, liability insurance, an alarm system, and to the milkman who supplies milk to the child development center.