



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

September 27, 2006

## Pastors' Reflections

*by Paul Simpson Duke*

One day several weeks ago while working in my office, I got word from Carey that a family had dropped by, wanting to see the pastor. Since I was the on-site pastor at the time, that meant me. I assumed this would be one of the many drop-in visits we get from people asking for financial assistance. I was wrong. This family, a middle-aged man and woman and their young adult daughter, had come not to ask but to give something. What they had come to give was their thanks for First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor.

They were Cuban-American. The man's name was Gabriel Delahoz, his wife's name was Maria, and their daughter was Maritza. Maria told their story. In the early 1960s, her family had fled to Spain from the Castro regime. They wanted, however, to come to the United States. First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor, volunteered to sponsor them. The Fornes family arrived here in 1965.

I am uncertain of the order of events, but I know that for a time the family lived upstairs in the Guild House and that Maria's father, Jose, was employed by the church to serve as custodian for seven or eight years. Before this or afterward, the church found a house on Ashley and fixed it up for them. She told me she had especially clear memories of Helen Johnson, who had met them at the airport, and of Bill and Ginny McKeachie. I got out our most recent pictorial directory and showed her the photos of these three. She was excited to see them, said that she recognized them perfectly, and added that they had not changed.

She met her husband in Ann Arbor and they were married locally. She said that because her family was Catholic they had not attended worship in our church very often. But from here they moved to Virginia, where they became involved in a Baptist church, experienced a conversion, and were baptized. She said that, in large part, this was an outcome of the ministry of our church.

Eventually they moved to Miami. She does social work, with a real passion for helping young people. She and others are trying to form a faith-based agency so that she can share Christ more openly. They are very involved in church. She said that her husband is very modest and would not tell me this himself, but that he had led nearly three hundred people to Christ in the last year alone. And all of this, she said, was because of the seeds of love offered in Christ's name by our congregation forty years ago. The gratitude they expressed to me for this congregation's ministry to their family was immeasurable.

I thought you should know this story. It is a reminder of the unforeseeable and unimaginable transformations that can occur when we make faithful, outreaching choices. Our ministries are like seeds. Not all of them result in a great, lasting crop; but some can yield, over time, the most amazing, enduring, and far-flung results. Lives are changed, often in ways we do not notice; and those lives change other lives, which in turn change others. Stacey's sermon last Sunday was based on a text that includes this line: "a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace" (James 3:18). This church did some good sowing in peace four decades ago with a Cuban family, which has yielded an extraordinary harvest for them and for many others. That harvest now comes back to us, and invites us to renew and celebrate the hopeful work of faithful sowing.

## 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 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 (Room 107)  
 11:50 -12:30 Jr. Choir (Room 102)

## Christian Education for Adults

**THE LANGUAGE OF GOD: Science and Faith (Memorial Lounge) Cesar Alaniz, Leader**  
**(three-week series, September 24, October 3 & 10 during Second Hour)**

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 during Second Hour) 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.)**

Rev. Paul Simpson Duke leads a study of Philipians. 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; one meets monthly and the other meets every other week. See Stacey, Paul, or Sue Ellen for more information about joining a group.

*Please refer to the back page for information on the **Second Sunday Series: Living the Questions.***

# FBC NEWS

## **Welcome New Members, Astrid and Janet!**

**Astrid Beck** grew up in post-World War II Germany. One of her early memories is when she and her siblings were all baptized one spring morning under the blooming apple tree. When she was twelve years old, she and her family emigrated to California, the land of dreams (as her mother said), sponsored by the Lutheran Church. She completed her education at UM, earning her doctorate here. She is well acquainted with FBC through her work as Program Associate in Studies in Religion at UM, where she also organized the former Visiting Professor of Religious Thought series, in which FBC was very involved. She has recently retired from teaching at UM, but continues to teach biblical studies at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, where she served on the Board for many years. She will be teaching a bible study class there this fall. Her publications include her work as Managing Editor of the ANCHOR BIBLE DICTIONARY, the EERDMANS BIBLE DICTIONARY, the LENINGRAD CODEX FACSIMILE EDITION, and the translation of the Anchor Bible Commentary on COLOSSIANS by Markus Barth. She continues in her editorial work with Doubleday and Eerdmans, and is writing a book on Celtic Mythology. Astrid has three children who live in the area, and four grandchildren, ages 19 years to 4 months, who are the delight of her life. She enjoys the musical and cultural offerings of Ann Arbor, and is off on a Mozart trip to Salzburg, Vienna and Prague next week. She is very happy to be joining this warm and outgoing church community.

**Janet Tarry** recently retired and moved to Ann Arbor from Corbin, KY. Most people in Kentucky go south with retirement, but she had a special interest in this area. She is the mother of Elizabeth Tarry-Crowe better known as ET and the grandmother of Cameron, Grace, and Julia. Janet spent 38 years in education—11 years teaching in the public schools, and the last 27 working as an administrator at Union College in Barbourville, KY. The last position held was Vice President for Planning and Research. Her hobbies include reading, knitting, and doing needlepoint. She looks forward to becoming a part of the activities of First Baptist.

## **Two Upcoming Youth Events**

Youth families are invited to dinner and a bonfire at the Kirchners' Saturday, October 7 from 6-9:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Brandy (276-6187).

Youth are also invited to lunch with Pastor Manuel Sunday, October 15 from 12:30—1:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

## **2006 Annual ABC-MI Meeting**

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the ABC of Michigan will take place on November 4, 2006 at Chilson Hills Baptist Church in Brighton from noon-1:30. Based on its membership our congregation is entitled to 5 lay delegates although anyone may go. Registrations need to be submitted by October 27. Please contact Mary Davis (747-8131, [madrad@umich.edu](mailto:madrad@umich.edu)) if you wish to be a delegate. There is also a training event associated with the meeting which you may attend as well.

## **New Address for Former Pastor Wallace**

Former pastor, Robert Wallace, and his wife, Peg, will be moving from Massachusetts to California beginning October 4th. They can be reached at the following address:

10950 Church St., #722  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

## **3rd Quarter Financial Statements**

Please pick up your third quarter financial statements near the Information Counter through October.

At its regular meeting on October 4th the Executive Council will begin a process of study, discernment, and planning leading to concrete actions that will guide our congregation's ministry for the next few years. Of course this is not simply a task for the EC but is a process for the whole congregation as each of us has thoughts, dreams, ideas, and concerns about the future of this church. I believe the real task at hand is clear- to do God's work as best we can, to minister to one another and to others in Ann Arbor and beyond. That is the what we strive for, but the doing is the difficulty. How do we do that as a community? How do we share the Good News more effectively? ... The work of listening, learning, planning and implementing will not be easy and may cause some of us to consider possibilities for change which make us uncomfortable. For now, I am asking for two things: 1) that you pray for this process, that we will have receptive hearts and minds and that we will be bold in seeking to further God's kingdom in this place, and 2) that you share your thoughts and ideas on this subject with me or with another member of the EC (in writing on paper or in email, please, otherwise I, at least, am likely to forget some of them before I can share them with the EC).

- Mary Davis, Moderator



be surprised by God.

pray. give. be amazed!

2006 World Mission Offering.



To bring the Gospel to the unreached.

To bring clean water to families for the first time.

To care for and comfort those suffering and dying from AIDS.

To build classrooms for eager pastoral students.

To bring a baby to the doctors that can save her life.

To create safe homes and rescue those enslaved by human trafficking.

To save just one more life.

To bring just one more to God.

To raise just one more church.

To heal just one more community.

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

**Thelma Marguerite Graves** passed away September 18, 2006. A life-long Ann Arbor resident, she was born December 6, 1915, a daughter of Robert Walter and Augusta Kreklau Kempfert. On November 29, 1941 she married Forrest W. Graves Sr. He preceded her in death June 1, 1990. Thelma was employed by the University of Michigan holding many positions during her 40-year career. For 66 years, she was an active member of First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor. Thelma was a passionate preservationist, a strong advocate for women's rights and a dedicated environmentalist lobbying for water quality standards and wetlands preservation. Thelma was the beloved mother of Pamela Lee Traynor (David) Newport News, VA, Forrest W. Graves Jr. (Dianne) New Haven, MI, Robin R. (Graves) Doidge West Lake Village, CA, and Timothy M. Graves (Carolyn) Ann Arbor, and the beloved grandmother of twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She leaves one sister, Eleanor Teschendorf, numerous nieces and nephews and many friends. A family memorial service will be held at a later date. In honor of Thelma's memory, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.



## Parent Toolbox

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

### Supporting Your Church's Children's Ministry

**Commit to a weekly routine:** Help your children to be there regularly and on time. Like regular attendance at school, your children will develop a sense of comfort and belonging with consistent attendance.

**Visit your children's classes:** Better yet, volunteer to help. You don't have to teach, but you can assist and observe. Your presence communicates to your children that you think what happens there is important.

**Talk with your children about their involvement:** (For younger children) After church, look through your children's take-home papers, crafts, or any other items they've brought home and talk to them about the lesson and class. As you probably already know from conversations about week-day school, specific questions usually work better than general or open-ended ones: "Tell me about your story in Sunday school today" may not get as much of a response as "This guy on your story leaflet looks angry. Who is he and do you remember why he is angry? Let's read the story and find out." Ask what games they played, who was there, what they like and don't like about class. Again, they'll enjoy class more if they sense that it's important to you.

(For middle school and older): There are few take-home papers so visiting the class even for a few minutes becomes an important way to learn a bit about the topic they are discussing. You can also call or email the teacher. Don't forget the sermon and worship service. Again, specific questions can be quicker and usually produce more than "I don't know", but don't be afraid to throw out a question with no right or wrong answer ("What do you think Pastor Stacey meant by that statement?"; "Was there any connection between that last hymn and the sermon/your church school lesson?"). I would also encourage you to answer your questions from your own point of view (after waiting for your young person's response). Hearing a parent talk and wonder about faith issues can offer reassurance to youth and encourage discussions about living one's faith. Whether or not your youth agrees with your beliefs is not as important as knowing that a parents *has* beliefs, and is still questioning, growing and learning.

**Family Devotions:** Free copies of *Davey and Goliath's Devotions (for Families on the Go)* are available on the desk near the children's mailboxes. These booklets have four fun-filled pages of Bible, prayer, worship and service activities for each week, and will usually be based on the scriptures being used in our worship services.



*Luong Van Huong recently passed away in Texas. Some of us old-timers may remember the Huong's, a refugee Vietnamese family of seven, sponsored by our church during the Vietnam war. The family attended our church regularly. Luong, the father, used to cook church dinners and make yummy Vietnamese cookies to treat us. He owned and operated a Vietnamese restaurant in Vietnam before he and his family fled to this country. His wife is devastated by the loss of her husband. Their five boys have all grown up and settled in the US. We are most familiar with the youngest two, Hai and Hung. Our love and deepest sympathy go out to this very dear family.*

~ Elizabeth Lee

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS!

# Hurricane Katrina RECOVERY



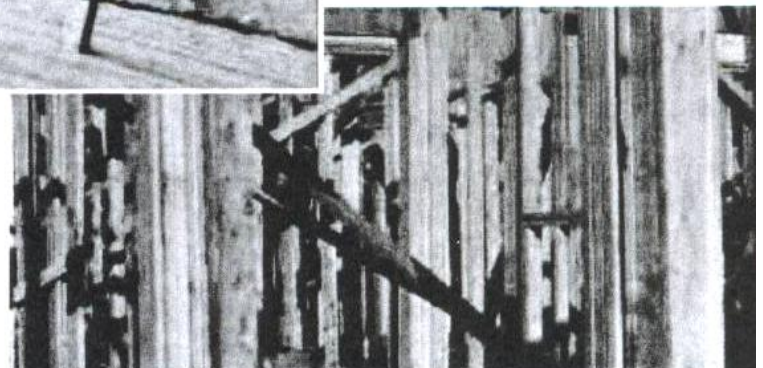
Join with National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA as we build seven homes in Gautier, Mississippi—part of Hurricane Katrina recovery—through Habitat for Humanity's Operation Home Delivery

- Individuals and groups of 4 to 15
- Volunteers must be 18 years or older
- Construction skills are not required
- Skilled laborers such as electricians, plumbers and carpenters are especially needed

Individuals must provide their own transportation to and from Gautier as well as the worksite. Food and lodging are available at the Salvation Army Volunteer Village for a nominal cost of \$20 per night. This ongoing build begins November 2006 and continues through Spring 2007.



Contact Victoria Goff, national coordinator of Volunteer Ministries, [vgoff@abc-usa.org](mailto:vgoff@abc-usa.org) or 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2449, for more information and applications





# October 2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
1 Communion  12:30 Bd. of Music & Arts	2	3 5:30 Vespers  7:00 Bd. of Evangelism	4 1:30 Bible Study  5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Executive Council	5 6:30 Handbells  7:30 Choir Practice	6	7
8 12:30 Budget Committee  5:30 Second Sunday  Newsletter Deadline	9	10 7:00 Bd. of Worship	11 1:30 Bible Study  5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare	12 6:30 Handbells  7:30 Choir Practice	13  7:00 Informal Concert w/ Pastor Manuel (Stearns')	14  7:00 Outdoor Service w/ Pastor Manuel (Stearns')
15 Pastor Manuel Preaching  12:30 Youth lunch w/ Manuel	16	17 1:00 Beecher-Brewer Circle  5:30 Vespers  7:00 Bd. of Trustees	18 1:30 Bible Study  5:30 The Gathering	19 6:30 Handbells  7:30 Choir Practice	20	21
22 12:30 Budget Committee  Newsletter Deadline	23  8:00 Board of Mission Action	24 9:30 ABWM Bd.	25 1:30 Bible Study  5:30 The Gathering Bd of Christian Education 7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare	26 6:30 Handbells  7:30 Choir Practice	27	28
29 Campus Ministry Sunday  Daylight Savings Ends	30	31 <i>Happy Halloween!</i>				

## Happy Birthday!



Rob Snyder	1	Lauren Gariepy	10	Scott Diels	22
Tom Glover	5	Deb Snyder	15	Jackson Williams	23
John Floyd, III	7	Bret Rushton	16	Carol Van Dyke	24
Julien Heidt	7	Virginia Lau	19	Hannah Foster	24
Dan Siler	7	Marion Welch	20	Wanda Finn	26
Graham Miles	8			Carolyn Hillebrand	30

First Baptist Church  
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Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Dated Material:

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Next Deadline:

*Sunday, October 8, 2006*

# SECOND SUNDAY SERIES

## “Living the Questions”

October 8th

*a program of Christian invitation, initiation,  
and spiritual formation*

*Second Sundays, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

*Potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall followed by  
DVD and discussion in the Memorial Lounge*

*Bring a simple dish to share and join us for dinner,  
dialogue, and discovery!*

*~ Please sign up at the Information Counter ~*