



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

January 27, 2010

## Pastor's Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

This winter, I am teaching the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Church School class, which is a lot of fun. This past Sunday, we were working together to make some cards to send to the shut-ins in our church. I realized that these children were too young to remember most of the people who are no longer able to come to church, so I brought one of our new pictorial directories with me. We sat together and looked at each page, and when we came to the picture of someone we were going to make a card for, I would stop to tell the children stories about that person.

This class is usually a wiggly bunch. They have a lot of energy, and they do not like to sit down for very long, unless they are eating a snack. But as we looked at the pictures in the directory, they were very still and very focused. They asked questions about the people on those pages. They expressed sadness and concern when they heard about the illnesses and injuries that made it impossible for these people to come to church. They worried about these people being lonely. They expressed such tenderness and love.

After they had listened to all the stories, we went back to the beginning of the directory and began saying our prayers. We prayed with our eyes open, so we could look at the pictures again as we prayed for each person by name. As I prayed aloud, some of the children said prayers aloud too. It was a holy moment.

I have written before about using our telephone directory as a resource for prayer (in fact, if you look at the front of your telephone directory, you will see some specific suggestions for using it this way). As I discovered this past Sunday, using the pictorial directory similarly can be a rich and powerful experience. Pictures can help focus our minds and connect our hearts. If you have children of any age at home, consider getting out the pictorial directory and telling them some stories about people they might not remember. This is our family picture album, after all, and it's good to tell, retell, and hear each other's stories. To hold these stories in a context of prayer can strengthen our personal spiritual life, the spiritual life of our families, and our life together as a church.

As you pray through the directory, either as a family, or on your own, pray especially for those who are isolated, shut-in, ill, or otherwise unable to be involved. Allow your prayers to move from your heart to your actions - find ways to reach out to people who can no longer be physically with us. They are a part of our family, and they need to feel like it. Cards, calls, and visits are all ways to put prayer into action, and to act like the family we are. Pray also for the invisible needs of the people on those pages; there are people who are hurting in ways most of us will never know, but God does. As you pray through the directory, you will also notice the absence of some faces, of people who have moved or who have died, but who remain an important part of our family history; say your prayers of gratitude, and honor your grief, for it is sacred. Perhaps you will also, more happily, notice that there are new people in our congregation who are not pictured in this book; say prayers of gratitude for them, too, and look for ways to get to know them better. While you are at it, pray for our church to reach out more and to reach out better to draw more people into our family; pray for the faces we haven't yet seen, and pray that we will be the face of Jesus to people who need to see him.

If you use the directory as a kind of prayer book, you may find not only that your prayer life is strengthened, but that your love - for this church, for its individual members and families, and for the community we seek to serve - is broadened and deepened. May God make us faithful in praying for each other and in allowing those prayers to move us towards greater love and action.

All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the Time as Children portion of the worship service, preschoolers may go to the nursery for childcare and children in Kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to Children's Worship.

## **Children and Youth Christian Education**

NURSERY care is available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor from 9:30am - 12:30pm.

### K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade:

10:30-11:30 Children's Worship and snack (Rm. 202A)  
11:30-12:30 Church School (Rm. 202B)

### Youth (7<sup>th</sup> - High School)

10:00-11:00 Worship  
11:30-12:30 Church School (Room 107)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades

10:00-11:00 Worship  
11:00-11:10 snack (Room 202B)  
11:10-11:40 Jr. Choir (Room 102)  
11:40 - 12:30 Church School (Room 201B)

## **Adult Christian Education 11:30 - 12:30**

**The Gospel of Luke: Good News for All**  
Sue Ellen Glover, Leader

Lounge

Luke's Gospel was written in a time of persecution for the followers of Jesus, addressing a community in turmoil and constantly at risk. In the midst of all these difficulties, the author professes that the Good News Jesus brought was open to all and is filled with hope. **On January 31 and February 7 we will be discussing Jesus' ministry through proclaiming and healing.**

**Young Adult Class**  
Paul Simpson Duke, Leader

Room 108

This class consists of conversational Bible study, discussing the letter to the Philippians and its application to our living. "Young adult" is defined as mid-twenties to 40(ish!).

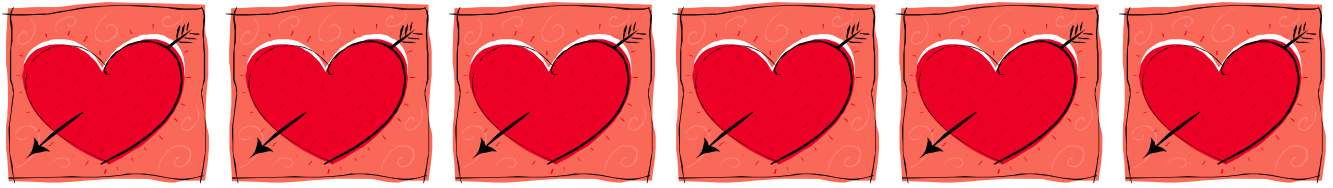
### **Other Adult Education Opportunities:**

**Wednesday Bible Study** (Wednesdays, 1:30—2:30 pm; Memorial Lounge)

Pastor Stacey Simpson Duke leads a study of the Gospel of Mark. Join us for fellowship and study.

### **Adult Small Groups (ChristCare):**

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

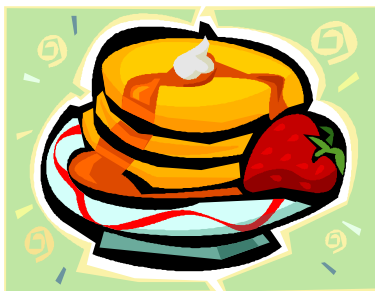


# Valentine Pancake Breakfast

February 14  
8:30 - 9:45 A.M.  
sponsored by the Youth

**\$10 per person or \$25 per family**  
\$5 for children 5-10 years old; children under 5 are free!

all proceeds will go to the Youth fund to be used for future special activities such as the NEXT Team Nandasmó trip to our Sister Church in Nandasmó Nicaragua



Give your Valentine  
the gift of breakfast!

## International Ministries Haiti Earthquake Response – A Call to Action



INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES  
COME. GROW. CHANGE.  
[www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)

American Baptist International Ministries (IM) missionaries, Christian partners and U.S. and Puerto Rico congregations are continuing to mobilize and respond at historic levels to the 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti and devastated its capital Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area on January 12. To date IM has provided a total of \$65,000 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds for Haiti.

IM missionary Dr. Steve James and IM's Christian partners, including the Haitian Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, are collaborating to provide medical care and relief supplies at Christianville, the quake epicenter approximately 20 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince. Nancy James, a registered nurse, is in Haut Limbe in the north of Haiti, maintaining the critical communication link with her husband Steve and the outside world.

Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga, IM missionaries who also serve in Haiti, were visiting congregations in the U.S. at the time of the quake. Because of difficulties with visas, they have not been able to return to "where our hearts are," but have been coordinating different efforts directed at supporting Haiti in this traumatic time.

Kristy Engel, a pediatric nurse practitioner serving with IM in the Dominican Republic (a country that shares a border with Haiti), has taken a 75-person team, including 30 medical personnel, into Haiti. The group, which includes Ketly and Vital Pierre, IM missionaries to Nicaragua, traveled into Haiti on January 16 to provide emergency care at three clinics and to distribute six truckloads of food and medical supplies.

In the meantime, IM missionary Madeline Flores-López and Dominican Republic partners are providing medical care, shelter and relief supplies to quake victims arriving at the Contreras Hospital in Santo Domingo. Madeline is also coordinating relief effort teams entering Haiti from the Dominican Republic. One such team from First Baptist Church, Greensburg, Indiana has just arrived.

Jose Norat-Rodriguez, IM area director of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, states: "We are witnessing a monumental effort that is marked by a historic collaboration between IM global partners and missionaries from a variety of countries."

Thousands of American Baptist congregations from the U.S. and Puerto Rico are responding through prayer and giving. Offerings are being received through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), which is a vital way for Christians to respond to people, regardless of faith tradition, in the grip of disaster. Lisa Rothenberger, ABC Relief Officer who oversees the use of OGHS funds, recalls the Asian tsunami in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005: "American Baptists gave \$6 million to those two relief efforts within the scope of just 12 months. That's incredible! It's my prayer that even in these economically challenging times for us here in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, the response to this earthquake will be equally generous."

IM partners such as IMA World Health and Church World Service provide additional opportunities to get involved. For example, those wishing to donate medicines for Haiti relief may do so through IMA World Health. If your church is interested in donating hygiene and/or baby kits or blankets, you can visit Church World Service's website, [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) for instructions and guidelines.

Reid Trulson, IM Executive Director, states: "International Ministries will be working with our Haitian brothers and sisters both now and far into the future. American Baptists have been engaged in ministry in Haiti since 1823. In knowing and loving the people of Haiti, we are uniquely positioned to be used by God in helping them rebuild their lives."

Volunteers who wish to be a part of the ministry efforts of Steve and Nancy James, Kristy Engel and Madeline Flores-López may contact the IM Volunteer office to complete applications and be included on an availability list that is continually updated and sent to the missionaries. Send email to: [BIMvolunteers@abc-usa.org](mailto:BIMvolunteers@abc-usa.org)

A three-year plan for recovery and rebuilding phases will be developed in early February. The planning team will be named soon.

Emergency donations are desperately needed and can be made on the IM website. Go to [www.internationalministries.org/items/80](http://www.internationalministries.org/items/80) or write a check made payable to "One Great Hour of Sharing - Haiti Earthquake Relief" and mail to: International Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482, or make a check payable to your church and write "Haiti Earthquake Relief" in the memo section.



# FEBRUARY 2010

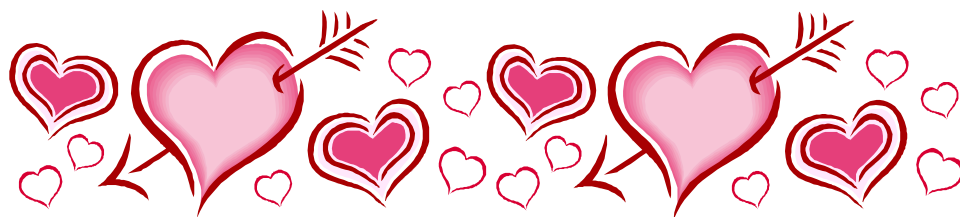
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 5:30 Vespers -- <i>First Baptist Hosting</i> 7:00 Youth Minister Search Comm.	3 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering	4 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 12:45 Campus Foundation Board	8 7:30 Board of Mission Action	9 5:30 Vespers	10 *newsletter* 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare	11 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	12 6:00 Valentine Party	13
14 8:30 Pancake Breakfast 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour	15	16 5:30 Vespers	17 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	18 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour	22	23 9:30 ABWM Planning Mtg. 1:00 Beecher- Brewer Circle 5:30 Vespers	24 *newsletter* 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis/Diels ChristCare	25 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour						

First Baptist Church  
517 E Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2015  
734-663-9376  
[www.fbca2.org](http://www.fbca2.org)  
[office@fbca2.org](mailto:office@fbca2.org)

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



Next  
newsletter  
deadline:  
*Sunday,  
February 7*



## Valentine Party

Friday, February 12  
6:00 - 8:00

The Board of Christian Education is hosting a Valentine Party for all FBC kids along with the children from Hikone housing. Since we could have as many as 40 children, we need lots and lots of help! There is a sign up at the Information Counter (or contact Sue Ellen) for food donations and to help in the kitchen, with clean up, supervision or crafts. If you are planning to come, there is a second sign-up to let us know how many to plan on.

