



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 14, 2010

## Pastor's Reflections

by Stacey Simpson Duke

On Sunday morning, when I went to wake our sons up to get ready for church, one of them groaned. "Is it Monday?" he asked. I told him it wasn't. "Good. Because I hate Mondays. What day is it?" he asked, still curled up under the covers. "It's Sunday," I responded. He sat right up. "Sunday?! I love Sunday! I get to go to church!"

His enthusiasm made me smile. I think our sons feel that way because when they come to church, they receive so much nurture and positive attention. It starts the moment they walk up to the main door to be greeted by Jon Wallace. They step inside and shake hands with Wayne Lamerson and Arthur Francis. Other adults greet them with smiles and a warm "hello." Marissa and Christina Alaniz are waiting to play with them in the Church School room until time for worship. And of course, they can't wait to be with Sue Ellen, who manages to give each child extra-special attention.

I love the way this church loves its children - and its youth and college students. I wonder in how many places other than church children and young adults receive this sort of attention from adults who are not family members. Church community offers a rare multigenerational opportunity for mutual encouragement, support, and affection. I think we have a lot to offer on this count, and I hope we can find ways to extend this same kind of care to every new person who visits us, whether they are young, old, or in-between.

In her book, *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*, Diana Butler Bass writes of ten markers she has seen in her research of mainline congregations that point to renewal and good health. The first of these "signposts" is hospitality, which she notes has "reemerged as foundational to the spiritual life," and is especially important in our contemporary nomadic culture. She writes:

True Christian hospitality is not a recruitment strategy designed to manipulate strangers into church membership. Rather, it is a central practice of the Christian faith - something Christians are called to do for the sake of that thing itself. Hospitality draws from the ancient taproots of Christian faith .... Christians welcome strangers as we ourselves have been welcomed into God through the love of Jesus Christ. Through hospitality, Christians imitate God's welcome. Therefore, hospitality is not a program, not a single hour or ministry in the life of a congregation. It stands at the heart of a Christian way of life, a living icon of wholeness in God.

Hospitality overcomes fear and isolation. It creates space for people to grow, and for communities to deepen. It makes possible fresh encounters with God. I don't know if our sons realize it yet or not, but behind their positive experience of this church stands the great and loving welcome of God. We adults do know it, and we should practice such hospitality with mindfulness about our mission; we represent Christ, and we welcome others as if welcoming Christ. As we continue to allow hospitality to be at the heart of who we are, it is my hope that 5 year-olds won't be the only ones waking up on Sundays saying, "I get to go to church!" I hope that we will feel that way too, and that, because of us, other people all over this town will feel the same way - enthusiastic for an encounter with God's people, and with God. Wouldn't that be something to wake up to?

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 - 11:30 Jr. Choir (Room 102)  
11:30 - 12:30 Church School (Room 201B)

**Save the Date: Children & Youth Worship!**  
**will be on May 9 (with rehearsal on May 8, 9:00 – 11:00).**

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

**Acts of the Apostles/Acts of the Holy Spirit**  
Sue Ellen Glover, Leader

Lounge

We are beginning a study of the second volume by the author of Luke. In the Gospel of Luke, we heard how Jesus came to restore and fulfill the covenant between God and humans. In Acts, we will explore how the disciples of Christ struggled to live out his teachings and to carry his message of repentance and salvation for all.

**Young Adult Class**  
Stacey 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.

# Light to Live In: The Biblical Call to Peace Rooted in Justice

a Conference for Peacemakers sponsored by  
the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

**July 12-17, 2010**  
**Keuka College, Keuka Park, NY**



This life-sustaining week in the lovely Finger Lakes Region will include:

## **TONY CAMPOLO**

Teacher, Writer, and Social Justice Activist  
• Keynote: "Red Letter Christians: Taking Seriously the Words of Jesus"  
• Bible Study: "Light to Live In: Following Jesus"

## **PEGGY CAMPOLO**

Long-time Advocate with the GLBTQ Community

## **HARRY KNOX**

Director, Religion and Faith Program,  
Human Rights Campaign Foundation

*Tony & Peggy Campolo and Harry Knox will participate in an interactive dialogue "Christians, The Church, and Sexual Orientation: Advancing the Conversation"*

## **MAUNG MAUNG YIN**

Vice-principal and Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Peace Studies Center, Myanmar (Burma) Institute of Theology  
• Morning Prayers: "Sustaining a Heart of Peace in the Midst of Violence"

## **PAT DUTCHER-WALLS**

Professor of Hebrew Bible,  
Vancouver School of Theology  
• Bible Studies: "Amos' Vision of Justice"  
• Workshop Series: "Modern Realities and the Prophetic Vision"

## **KIM AND REGGIE HARRIS**

Singers, Songwriters, Storytellers, Educators  
• Leading music all week, including a family-friendly concert

## **RACHEL MCGUIRE**

Pastor and Urban Community Builder  
• Preacher

## **MICHAEL WARE**

Pastor, Preacher, Teacher and lifelong Peacemaker  
• Worship Coordinator

## **LESLIE LEE & STEVE GRETZ**

Singer/Songwriters  
• In a special evening concert

### **The Welcome Table: Focused Programming for Immigrants and Those Who Work with Them**

This conference will include a special focus on immigrants. Youth and adults who have immigrated to North America are especially invited to attend. Youth who are immigrants or are from immigrant families will take part in the conference youth group - special effort will be made to welcome them and integrate them into the conference community. Focused programming - likely including workshops in Burmese - will be included on select days. A networking seminar and focused workshops will be offered for churches which have significant immigrant membership. Contact us if you'd like to provide or take part this focused programming.

**Jesus once again addressed them, "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in." -John 8:12, from *The Message***

**For more information, visit [www.bpfna.org/conference](http://www.bpfna.org/conference)**



Baptist Peace Fellowship  
of North America

4800 Wedgewood Dr. • Charlotte, NC 28210 704/521-6051 • [www.bpfna.org](http://www.bpfna.org)

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America gathers, equips and mobilizes Baptists to build a culture of peace rooted in justice. We labour with a wonderful array of peacemakers to change the world.

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Hope Clinic Annual Spring Banquet Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, April 29 at Travis Pointe Country Club. The evening festivities will include the presentation of the Daniel D. Heffernan Humanitarian award given in recognition of service to Christ's beloved poor. This year recipient will be pharmacist Allen Flynn. For more information or to attend contact Jean Horak at 734-485-5595 or [jhorak@thehopeclinic.org](mailto:jhorak@thehopeclinic.org).

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County continues its five part winter/spring series on "The Divine Language of Music," with its fourth theme, SACRED DANCE, on Sunday, April 18, from 7 to 8:30 pm, at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor. Sacred dances will be performed and explained by the Chinmaya Mission Hindu dancers, Robin Wilson from the Wings of Bethel Praise Dance Ministry (Bethel AME Church) and Drake Meadow and friends demonstrating and leading participation in Israeli dance. For more information, call 734-424-1535 or email [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu). Suggested donations --\$10.

And next in the series will be "An Interfaith Musical Experience and an Indian Meal," held at the Hindu Chinmaya Mission, 4670 Packard Road, Ann Arbor -- Sunday, May 16, from 6 - 8:30 pm. This will be an evening of sacred music from a variety of religious traditions including vocal solos, chanting, dance and instruments, ending with a delicious Indian meal. Ticket prices: \$15 (basic), \$25, \$50 (charitable contributions categories). For more information, call 734-424-1535 or email [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu).

Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley is holding a live and silent auction on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Washtenaw Community College in the Morris Lawrence Building. The event will take place 6 - 9 pm. This annual auction will raise funds for neighborhood revitalization and safe and affordable homeownership in our community. The proceeds will enable Habitat to build more homes for hard-working and deserving families. Tickets are available at [www.h4h.org](http://www.h4h.org) or call 734-677-1558.



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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



Next  
newsletter  
deadline:  
*Sunday, April 25*



**A big "Thank you!"** to our undergraduate and graduate students who planned and led worship this past Sunday, April 11, when we celebrated Campus Ministry Sunday! They did such a great job. And thank you, too, to this church for your generous support of our student ministry.