



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

Pastor's Reflections by Stacey Simpson Duke

March 23, 2011

What a full and fantastic weekend! On Saturday, 21 of us drove to Hamtramck, in inner city Detroit, to volunteer for the morning at Friendship House, an American Baptist mission. Every Saturday, they distribute food to the desperately poor. Five of our group stayed at Friendship House to assist with the distribution; the rest of us went to the nearby Senior Plaza to distribute food to elderly people who could not make the trip to Friendship House.

Members of our Youth Group and The Gathering (our campus fellowship) made 50 "God's Eyes" - a Mexican craft made with craft sticks and yarn, meant to represent the fact that God's eyes are always on us; God looks at us, and loves us. We distributed these to the residents of the senior center, and they seemed to appreciate them.

I was so proud of our youth, our college students, and our adult church members who participated in this mission trip. Everyone exercised so much flexibility, cooperation, good humor, and willingness to help. We had a great time with each other and enjoyed getting to know the clients at Friendship House and the Senior Plaza.

We also learned a lot about Friendship House's ministry to the poor. One of the many wonderful things they do for their community is to hold two baby showers a year, for 50 women who are pregnant or have given birth in the previous three months. The event includes childcare for other children, free lunch, and a series of mini-workshops on parenting topics. Each woman who participates receives a free layette and can participate in raffles for larger items such as strollers, cribs, and car seats. Friendship House relies on donations for the baby supplies they give to these women.

In talking with Shelly Lewis, the intern coordinating the shower, Bonnie Kidd got inspired about a way our church could help support this ministry: a **Diaper Bag Drive**. Just as our congregation collects backpacks stuffed with school supplies for needy children before school starts, we would collect diaper bags stuffed with common baby supplies for the spring baby shower. That would include items like: diapers (all sizes), pacifiers, bottles, baby blankets (all types), shoes, socks, booties, onesies, sleepers, bibs, shampoo, lotion, baby wipes, washcloths, and so on.

Wouldn't it be fun to shop for baby items, and know that you are helping a needy family? Let's do it! Buy a diaper bag and as many baby supplies as you can fit in the bag. If you buy more than can fit in the bag, that's fine too - they can use everything we donate. Bring your filled diaper bag to church any Sunday between now and May 1; look for the collection basket near the Information Counter on Sundays. Bonnie and I will work together to coordinate the delivery to Friendship House. Let's see how many diaper bags we can provide!

I think it is so meaningful to support this kind of inner city ministry, and especially to occasionally set aside a day to actively work in such a mission. Don't forget, though, that we also have many ongoing opportunities right here in Ann Arbor to minister to the poor and needy. There is still time to sign up to help host the Rotating Shelter, March 27-April 4. There is also our Vespers ministry to the homeless and hungry on Tuesday evenings; we can always find a place to plug you in if you'd like to help with the meal or the worship service. If you would like to make a donation, Vespers can always use the money - and so can our Fellowship Fund, which we use to help people with critical needs such as food, medicine, or shelter. The need these last two years has been overwhelming, and that fund constantly runs low.

Thank you for being the kind of church that cares not just for itself, but for those beyond our walls who need so much. Thank you especially to those who gave up a Saturday to give out food in Hamtramck. And thank you in advance for the diaper bags for needy moms!

Children and Youth Christian Education

NURSERY care is available on the 3rd floor from 9:30 - 12:40

All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the Time as Children portion of the worship service, preschoolers may go to church school or the nursery and children in Kindergarten - 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship until 11:15.

Preschool (2 ½ years - age 4):

10:30 - 11:20 Church School (Rm. 305)

11:20 - 12:30 Childcare in the nursery

K - 2nd grade:

10:30 - 11:10 Children's Worship (Rm. 202A)

11:10 - 11:15 Snack

11:15 - 12:30 Church School and music (Rm. 202B)

11:40 - 11:55 Grace Notes Music Program (Rm. 306)

3rd - 6th Grade:

(10:30 - 11:00 3rd graders may come to Children's Worship)

11:00 - 11:15 Snack

11:15 - 11:40 Grace Notes Music Program (Rm. 306)

11:45 - 12:30 Church School (Room 202B)

Youth (7th - High School)

10:00 - 11:00 Worship

11:15 - 12:00 Church School (Rm. 107)

12:00 - 12:30 Youth Music Program (Rm. 306)

Children's Music and Arts Ministry

11:15 - 11:40 Older Grace Notes Music (3rd - 6th) (Rm. 306)

11:40 - 11:55 Younger Grace Notes Music (K-2nd) (Rm. 306)

12:00 - 12:30 Youth Music Program (Rm. 306)

Adult Christian Education 11:30 - 12:30

God's Journey with Us (Bill Foster, leader)

Lounge

The core affirmation of biblical faith - whether Judaism or Christianity - is that God journeys with us. How we experience that companionship varies widely. For some, the journey with God seems an unbroken line from earliest memories of faith community to the present. For others, the journey with God resembles a landscape of hills and valleys - times of sensing God's closeness and other times of wondering where God might be. There is no one set of universal experiences, but there is this promise: we do not journey alone. The Bible testifies to that promise. It is filled with powerful stories of God's presence in the lives of individuals and communities. We will examine eight core themes and stories. This "primal narrative" tells the basic story of how God has been active in times past. Through these stories, we are more able to recognize God's presence and call in our lives today.

March 27 - Resurrection Life

April 3 - Run the Race

Young Adult Class (Paul Simpson Duke, Leader)

Room 108

This class consists of conversational Bible study, discussing The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). "Young adult" is defined as mid-twenties to 40(ish!).

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

Wednesday Bible Study

Lounge

Bible Study, led by the Rev. Paul Simpson Duke, continues their study of the Gospel of Mark. The group meets each Wednesday from 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Bring a friend and join us for learning, fellowship and snacks.

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.



FBC News & Happenings

**SAVE the DATE: Easter Event
April 17th 12:30 – 2:00**

Follow us on Facebook! If you aren't already a fan of FBCA2 on Facebook, come on over and "Like" our page: facebook.com/fbca2 . We post regular updates there about what's going on around here, along with the occasional devotional thought. You can post on our wall as well. If you are already a fan, did you know that you can easily share certain FBCA2 posts with your own Facebook friends? Events and links that can be shared will have a "Share" button (in addition to the usual "Like" and "Comment" buttons). Click "share" and the event or link will show up on your own Facebook page for all your friends to see. It's a great way to get the word out about special happenings at our church.

Brandon Straub will be performing his M.M. solo harpsichord recital on Sunday, April 10 at 2pm in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church. The program will include a diverse and exciting selection of works by Girolamo Frescobaldi, Domenico Scarlatti, Louis Couperin, Francois Couperin, Jacques Duphy, and George Frederic Handel, all played on the University of Michigan's beautiful Fisk double manual harpsichord.

A Lenten Discipline: FAMIL Y PRA YER

One of the real challenges in our busy lives is finding time to pray together as a family. Mealtime might be one of the only times all the family is together, so a grace is a good place to start. Begin with thanksgiving. Perhaps we each can thank God for some special grace that has occurred today, or for being with each of us during the day. Take time to let each person name one or two things for which he or she is grateful. Offer prayers for others outside the family group that is gathered - it could be an individual such as grandmother, or a situation such as the people in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami. Close with a promise to show God's love in some way to those in need.

Lord, we thank you for being with each of us today as we were at work and school. Thank you for this time together as family. We thank you for this wonderful meal and for _____, _____, _____. Bless us as a family. Help us to grow in love and care for each other. Please bless _____, _____. Help us to show your love by _____. Amen.

*(adapted by Sue Ellen from online Lent resources provided by Goshen College
www.goshen.edu/devotions)*

March 2011

Dear Friends,



This week we have been celebrating the life of our founder , leader , mentor and friend, **Dr . Gustavo Parajón**. He died suddenly and unexpectedly of heart failure early Sunday morning in his home. He turned 75 in November of last year , and in 2009 he celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his dear wife Joan and their family .

Dr . Gustavo Parajón was a physician, pastor , missionary and peacemaker in a multi-faceted career that spanned 42 years. After earning his Doctor of Medicine from Case Western Reserve and his Master of Public Health from Harvard University , Dr . Parajón returned with his young family in 1968 to serve the people of Nicaragua. When the earthquake devastated Managua on December 23, 1972, the Doctor responded with remarkable effectiveness using his extensive contacts with Nicaraguan churches and international missionaries. Just 4 days after the earthquake he gathered 20 leaders from 8 denominations to form CEPAD, the council of protestant churches for aid of the victims. CEPAD grew to become a dynamic institution supporting the poorest communities of Nicaragua. In the 1980s CEPAD's credibility and Dr . Parajón's gifts of servant leadership were vital to the peace process in the most contested areas of the Contra conflict. As a result of this work, Dr . Parajón was asked to serve on the Commission for Reconciliation, part of the Presidents' Peace Plan spearheaded by Oscar Arias.

Some of you received word of Gustavo's death, and we appreciate the many condolences that were sent from our friends abroad. I had the honor to share these with everyone at his memorial service. For others of you, this news is an unwelcome surprise, as it was for us on Sunday morning. First Baptist Church hosted six memorial services over a period of three days. Before his burial on Tuesday , Dr . Parajón was award the *Orden de Independencia Cultural "Ruben Dario"* by President Daniel Ortega and his wife Rosario.

Even 12 hours of gathering was not enough for everyone to celebrate the life of this great and humble man. The abiding message in the many testimonies about the Doctor's life and work was "*Felicidades, congratulations on a life well lived in service to our Lord!*"

Yours in Christ's Service,
Damaris Albuquerque, Executive Director , CEPAD

The CEPAD Report, Issue 2, 2010, features an interview with Dr . Parajón. It can be viewed at: <http://www.cephad.org.ni/descargas/boletines/CEPADReport-JUN2010.pdf>



Remembering Dr. Gustavo Parajón

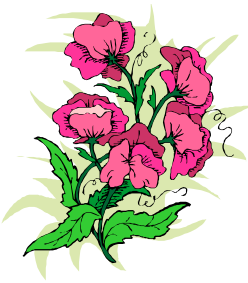
"His work was for the poorest, who since decades ago had been abandoned, and who found in Parajón a brotherly hand."
~Dora Maria Téllez, Nicaraguan historian and former Minister of Health

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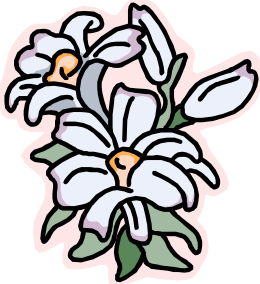
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
ROTATING SHELTER						
3 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 5:00 Youth Group	4	5 5:30 Vespers	6 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	7 7:30 Choir	8	9
10 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 5:00 Youth Group	11 7:30 Mission Action	12 5:30 Vespers	13 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering	14 7:30 Choir	15	16
17 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 12:30 Easter Event 12:30 Music & Arts 5:00 Youth Group	18	19 12:00 Beecher-Brewer Cir. 5:30 Vespers 7:30 Trustees	20 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 The Gathering	21 1:00 MacGregor-Stitt Circle 7:30 Maundy Thursday Service	22 1:00 pm Community Good Friday Service at FUMC 8:00 pm Tenebrae Service	23
24 EASTER 10:00 Worship	25 6:00 Bd of. Christian Education	26 5:30 Vespers	27 1:30 Bible Study 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	28 7:30 Choir	29	30

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



Next
newsletter
deadline:
*Sunday,
April 10*



EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

I / We would like to order an Easter Lily (\$15 each) to be given:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Enclosed is my check made out to "First Baptist Church" for \$_____, for a total of _____ plants, which will be displayed on the chancel Easter Sunday, and may be picked up following the service that day. Paid orders must be received by Sunday, April 18, to be included in the Easter bulletin. If you choose to mail your order to the office please write "ATTN: Kat" on the envelope and be sure to write "Easter Lily" on the memo line of your check.