



# FIRST BAPTIST

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## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

September 7, 2011

### Pastor's Reflections by Paul Simpson Duke

Summer flew by, September has settled in. What's new? Plenty.

Jammed sidewalks and crosswalks, pokey traffic, school buses, filled classrooms, football madness, marching bands, lowering skies, cooler winds, altered light. And one of our sons, walking out the door this week, turned in amazement to say, "It smells like fall!" (It didn't to me, but he's got the better nose.)

And in church what's new? Again, plenty. You can start with the new look at the front of the sanctuary. The big (odd!) "grill" is gone. The cross will no longer be obscured - it will be larger and more prominent, as the cross ought to be. The chancel will appear more spacious and open, and have better light. The work will be completed by Sunday, September 25, when we will celebrate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the sanctuary and rededicate it to the glory of God.

Also new - Shin-Ae Chun, our delightful and gifted new organist (see p. 4 inside), who began her ministry with us on the first of this month. Her talents and her dedication to the church's worship are a fresh blessing.

There is also important news about new staffing for our Youth Ministry. Look for an announcement in the next newsletter.

In Christian Education, a resumption of classes for all ages:

- as always there will be fabulous programs for children and youth;
- young adults will be learning from the Prophets;
- other adults will start the year discussing challenges to the church in our current culture;
- the Wednesday Midday Bible Study - for *anyone* who can be free from 1:30 until 2:30 on Wednesdays - will start its new season, learning from the stories of David.

On the Outreach and Mission fronts:

- a Block Party on the 25<sup>th</sup> (see p. 3 inside), in which we'll host and enjoy a happy event (along with First Methodist) in our parking lot to celebrate our presence in the city and extend good hospitality to our neighbors and passersby;
- a more comprehensive approach to the Rotating Shelter for the homeless (members of our church are helping lead the way)
- an experiment in establishing and hosting a new site for theological education in Ann Arbor (look for upcoming announcement);
- the Campus Ministry program in full swing again, with a very promising crop of new as well as returning students;
- swelling attendance in worship with the arrival of new and returning students and faculty - and, this month, seven new members, with three baptisms.

And you? Anything new going on for you? With so much happening here, with so many fresh beginnings and new initiatives here, it seems to me that there could be no better time to renew your own personal venture of faith, to take up new or deeper levels of involvement in this church, to seek new insight, new friendships, new experiences of the Spirit.

What's new? A good answer might be: We are.

# Children and Youth Christian Education

NURSERY care is available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor from 9:30 - 11:30.

**September 11:** *No Church School Classes for children, youth or adults due to the Ice Cream Social.*

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. Children K-3rd are invited to Children's Worship in 201B until 11:15.

**New Church School Classes begin September 18:**

## Preschool - 1st Grade:

10:30 - 11:30 Church School (Rm. 202A&B)  
11:20 - 12:30 Second Hour Church School  
And Childcare (Rm. 202A&B)

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

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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade:

10:00 - 11:00 Worship (2nd and 3rd graders  
may come to Children's Worship)  
11:15 - 12:30 Church School (Rm. 202B)

# Adult Christian Education 11:30 - 12:30

**September 11 - no classes due to the Ice Cream Social.**

September 18 - new classes begin

**Changing the Conversation - a third way for congregations**

Lounge

A discussion inviting our congregation into ten crucial conversations to help us respond with greater vitality, effectiveness, and faithfulness to our culture and its challenges.

**Young Adult Class (Rev . Paul Simpson Duke, leader)**

Room 108

This class consists of conversational Bible study, discussing texts from the prophets. "Young Adult" is defined as mid-twenties to 40(ish!).

## Other Adult Education Opportunities:

**Wednesday Bible Study** Bible Study will resume next Wednesday, September 14, with a potluck lunch starting at 12 Noon. Regular class will begin at 1:30pm, starting on September 21st. The subject will be the Stories of David. Please join us for study, 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.

**College/University Students:** **The Gathering** is for undergraduates and graduate students. Beginning again on Wednesday, September 7, we gather every Wednesday night (starting Sept 7th) at 5:30pm in the Campus Center for a free home-cooked meal, friendship, and study. This year our topic is "Images for the Struggles and the Joy: Help from the Psalms," led by Paul Simpson Duke. In addition to Wednesday night gatherings, we also get together for films, service projects, and social events. If you would like to be added to our email list for announcements, please see Stacey Simpson Duke.



# FBC News & Happenings

## **Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Sing Ye, Sing Ye!!!!**

The First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor Sanctuary Choir is looking for new voices to fill the choir loft. The choir rehearses each Thursday evening from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Reading music is not a requirement for joining the choir, but rather the love of singing and the desire to worship God through music. Please come to choir rehearsal starting Thursday, September 8th, meet new friends, have a lot of fun, and become part of a loving and caring group of people that praise God with their singing voices! If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Kidd.

**The MacGregor-Stitt Circle** will meet at 12:30pm\* on Thursday, September 15th, at the home of Roberta Hause. The program is a Subway lunch followed by "Summer Memories" -- bring a picture. (\*please note special time).

## **Friends in Faith**

The Board of Christian Education is introducing a new way to draw our church family closer. We would like to have adults be "Friends in Faith" with our children and youth. If you sign up for this program, you would be matched with a child or youth. You are encouraged to develop a deeper relationship with the child/youth through conversations, notes, cards and other ways - becoming church buddies, or "Friends in Faith". An enrollment form is being sent to each family with children and/or youth. If you are an adult who wishes to join, please sign up at the Information Counter. (We need 40 adults to match with all of our children and youth!)

## **Backpack Blessing**

Students of all ages, preschool to adult, please bring your backpack or book bag to church on September 11. During the service we will have a special "Blessing of the Backpacks," lifting up these symbols of student life, to celebrate and bless the new school year and pray for students as they begin their classes. We will also pray for teachers, administrators, and other school staff as a part of this service.

## **Family and Personal Profiles**

It's been many years since we updated the church family and individual data base, and collected interest surveys, so for the next few Sundays, members of the Recruitment Committee and others will be stationed at a table near the Fellowship Hall to gather this data.

## **Block Party!!**

Sunday, September 25, will be a special day at First Baptist! In the morning, we will celebrate 130 years of being in this location with a rededication of our building (initially dedicated on September 29, 1881). We want this to be a festive and meaningful event, with as many members present as possible - so please plan on being there! That afternoon, we will extend our celebration of being in this place by hosting, with our Methodist neighbors, a Block Party for our neighborhood. We will invite the many residents of our block (from 411 Lofts, North Quad, and Sloan Plaza), along with merchants and shoppers from the State Street area near us, to join us for an afternoon of free food, live music, and other entertainment in our parking lot (which we will cordon off for the event). Please plan on coming! (12:30-2:30 p.m.) It's important that we have many friendly First Baptist folks to welcome folks to the party. If you would like to help out in any additional way (set-up, clean-up, or other logistical details), please sign up at the Information Counter. Regardless, please save **Sunday, September 25**, as a day to celebrate our purpose in this place!



**37th Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Walk Crop Walk 2011** will be on Sunday, October 2. Time: Registration 1pm; Walk 2pm. Location: Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Ann Arbor (423 South 4th Ave.) A post-walk meal will be served back at Bethlehem. Please plan to join us to celebrate your success!

**September Benefit Concert -- The Interfaith Round Table** Saturday, September 24, 2011

"Body and Soul: An Interfaith Experience of Music and Sacred Texts in Action" will be reflections of word, image and sound that explore the theme of body and soul. The concert will feature the Canterbury House Jazz band *Quartex*, and is presented by Stephen Rush and Reid Hamilton, authors of *Better Get It In Your Soul: What Liturgists Can Learn from Jazz*.

Time: 7 pm pre-concert Indian hors d'oeuvres; 7:30 concert followed by dessert

Place: Chinmaya Mission, 4760 Packard Rd, Ann Arbor

Tickets: \$25 and \$50 (a \$25 charitable donation receipt with \$50 tickets)

The evening will feature a diversity of musical forms, including improvised music, sacred music of multiple traditions, folk rock, jazz, blues, African, South American and other World music, bringing to life themes of body and soul found in sacred texts, meditations, reflections, newspaper articles, journals, icons and literature from across a world spectrum of faith. Expect the unexpected! For more information or for tickets, call 734-424-1535 (George Lambrides) OR e-mail [sbking@umich.edu](mailto:sbking@umich.edu) (Susan King), Co-Directors, or go to [www.irtwc.org](http://www.irtwc.org).

**September Eleven Day of Service and Community Commemoration:** To help heal the brokenness from the attacks on 9/11 and their aftermath, you are invited to a day of service on Sunday, September 11, 2011. Projects include service for veterans, ecological restoration, and support for Iraqi refugees. 2-5pm (sign-in beginning at 1:45). Details and online registration available at [www.icpj.net/september11](http://www.icpj.net/september11). Concluding the day of service, there will be a family-friendly community commemoration ceremony beginning at 5:30pm at Gallup Park (south of the river near the east end of Gallup Park Road, follow the signs). Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner for a community picnic following the ceremony. Sponsored by the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County and the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Question? Call 734-663-1870 or 734-424-1535, email [info@icpj.net](mailto:info@icpj.net) or [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu), or visit [www.icpj.net/september11](http://www.icpj.net/september11) for details.

**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](https://www.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.

# S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 1

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 10:00 Worship	5 * Labor Day *  Church Office & Buildings Closed	6  5:30 Vespers - FBC team	7 * newsletter*  5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Executive Council	8  7:30 Choir	9	10
11 CE Sunday  10:00 Worship 11:00 Ice Cream Social	12  7:30 Mission Action	13  5:30 Vespers	14  12:00 Bible Study  5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	15  12:30 MacGregor- Stitt Circle  7:30 Choir	16	17
18 <i>AB Women's Ministries Sunday</i>  10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour	19  6:00 Board of Christian Ed.	20  12:00 Beecher- Brewer Circle  5:30 Vespers 7:00 Trustees	21 *newsletter*  1:30 Bible Study  5:30 The Gathering	22  7:30 Choir	23	24
25  10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour  12:30 Community Block Party	26	27  9:30 ABWM Board  5:30 Vespers -	28  1:30 Bible Study  5:30 The Gathering 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	29  7:30 Choir	30	

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



Next  
newsletter  
deadline:  
*Sunday,  
September 18*



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

September 11 11:30 – 12:30

Sponsored by the Board of Christian Education

