



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

Pastor's Reflections by Stacey Simpson Duke January 25, 2012

In his well-known essay *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, Unitarian Universalist minister Robert Fulghum writes about how the world would be a better place if we all lived by the basic rules we were taught in kindergarten. The more time I spend with our youth, the more I realize I am learning about what it means to be a church. If this little column had a title, I suppose it would need to be *All I Really Need to Know About Being a Church I Learned from the First Baptist Youth*.

Everybody fits. I love watching how the youth accept each other so completely, quirks and all. The group as a whole makes a place for each person; it is remarkable to behold. It's what we're called to do as the wider church, too - be radically hospitable to everyone who comes our way.

Let people know they are missed. If the youth show up for Church School or Youth Group, and one of their crew is missing, they don't hesitate to get on the phone *right then* to let that person know we are hoping to see them.

Cultivate a beginner mind. When it comes to Scripture, prayer, theology, and church history, the youth are pretty honest about the limits of their knowledge. They don't presume to know more than they actually do, and they come to our Bible studies and devotional times with an astonishing openness and curiosity. All of us should be cultivating the "beginner mind," so that God can keep teaching us in fresh ways.

Support each other's gifts; share each other's burdens. Each week, the youth listen to each other share the joys and concerns of their previous week. I am so moved to see how they keep up with what is going on in each other's lives, following up to see how they are doing with particular problems. They also love to celebrate each other's gifts; the group makes sure to go see members in plays and performances. It's one of the ways that church extends beyond the walls of this building for them. It should for the rest of us, too. We need to be involved in and concerned about each other's real lives.

Play. Laughter is holy. Friendship can flourish when we have fun together.

Pray. Preferably holding hands. When I first started working with the youth, they taught me their prayer ritual. Before we leave, we cross right arm over left and hold hands, in a circle. Then when we've finished the prayer, we all turn - still holding hands - to face the world. It's a great physical and visual reminder that the church is called to move from prayer to action, and to do so *together*.

Serve. Preferably with enthusiasm.

Love each other fiercely. These kids love each other deeply and well, and I am honored by how they have extended that love to me. Their love extends to their church family, too. Not all of us can muster the passion of youth, but we can learn from their passion and from their ferocious commitment to friends.

Some say we need to invest in youth because they are the future of the church. From where I sit, that is not true. They are not the *future* of the church, they are the church *now*, and the rest of us would do well to learn from them, to nurture them, and to cherish them. Thanks be to God for the gift of our youth.

Children and Youth Christian Education

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

All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the Time as Children portion of the worship service, preschoolers - 1st grade leave for church school. Children in 2nd and 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship in 201B.

Preschool - 1st Grade:

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

Youth (6th - High School)

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
11:15 - 11:45 Youth Choir (Rm. 306)
11:45 - 12:30 Church School (Room 107)

2nd - 5th grade:

10:00 - 11:00 Worship (2nd and 3rd graders are invited to Children's Worship)
11:15 - 12:00 Church School (Rm. 202B)
12:00 - 12:30 Children's Choir (Rm. 306)

Children and Youth Music & Arts Ministry

11:15 - 11:45 Youth Choir (rm. 306) 12:00 - 12:30 Children's Choir (Rm. 306)

Adult Christian Education 11:30 - 12:30

The Story of Ruth (Astrid Beck, leader)

Lounge

Only four chapters long, the book of Ruth is a little jewel in the Old Testament. Ruth, an outsider from Moab, becomes central to the lineage of David and foreshadows the promised Messiah, Jesus. What was it that made her such a cornerstone to the faith of ancient Israel, and why was Ruth chosen for such an important role? We'll study this important little book to find out why.

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

Room 108

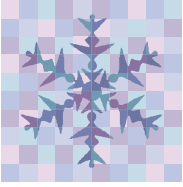
This class consists of conversational Bible study, discussing texts from the Prophets. "Young Adult" is defined as mid-twenties to 40(ish!).

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

Wednesday Bible Study Bible Study meets at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge, with Paul Simpson Duke leading a study of 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. We gather every Wednesday night 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

The Education Project, which provides support and advocacy for students in Washtenaw County who are homeless or in transition, is its annual conducting, **Sock Wars**. Participants are asked to collect new packages of socks and underwear to donate to students in homeless situations, now through March 30th. More than 800 children and youth are living without stable housing in homeless shelters, motels, cars, and temporarily with friends and family. Sometimes, they have lost everything in a fire or had to leave everything behind because they were abruptly fleeing a dangerous situation. Others simply don't have the money for housing or food, much less clothing items.

- Boys, girls, men and women sizes are needed.
- Packages with at least 6 pairs of socks are preferred.
- Packages with at least 3 pairs of underwear are preferred.
- Boxers are preferred for male students.
- Only new, unopened packages are accepted.

A basket will be near the Information Counter for the next few weeks. If you prefer, Sue Ellen will take cash donations to purchase items.

From Reggie, the Director of the Community Center at Hikone:

I have to say a huge thank you to all of your congregation and everyone that came and helped out. The families were absolutely excited and very thankful for everything that you brought. Everything was perfect. The families really loved the books, one even took close to a whole box of books for her kids. They also loved the laundry detergent and toilet paper. Everything that you guys got was perfect.

Coffee Break Concert Series on February 2 (Thursday) at 1:30PM in the fellowship hall: Josh Ross, singer-songwriter, will treat us with his musical talents. This will make your break of the day and of the week very special. Come and enjoy!

Ad Libitum Despite the snowy and cold weather, the first concert on *Ad Libitum, O dulcis Jesu* by Sfogati, went well on January 20. With the very appreciative audience of about 70 people, the ensemble took us all to the Renaissance and Baroque periods with the beautifully crafted program. Many people said that it was a great chance to hear the combination of the three musicians (soprano, cornetto and harpsichord) and especially to hear the two types of cornetto, an early wind instrument, make very interesting, intimate sounds. Thank you for the sponsors and volunteers! Next concert is March 25 (Sunday) at 4PM. See you there!

First Methodist using Blessed Are the Peacemakers by Dan Buttry

The FUMC next door let us know that they are offering two classes using the book, *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*, by ABC Pastor, Dan Buttry. This is a joint adult education class offered by the Wesley Foundation and FUMC. David Crumm returns to lead this 4-week course based on Daniel Buttry's book — an amazing collection of 62 mini-bios of peacemakers organized by areas of peacemaking work. As Dan Buttry says, "I [get inspired by] these ordinary folks who did extraordinary things in their time and place." Two sessions will be offered: 11am Sundays, Jan.22-Feb.12, Calkins Hall, led by David Crumm; and 8:10pm Wednesdays, Jan.25-Feb.15, Wesley Lounge, led by Rev. Bob Roth. Call the FUMC office to sign up.

Love, Serve, Give, 2012!

Each year the church budget is no less than a miracle. No dues. No guarantees. We live by faith every year, and every year our budget is a miracle. Today, I want to thank you for being part of that miracle. We are glad and grateful for every gift of every size. Generosity is not measured by the size of the gift but by the size of the heart.

This year we will begin discussions of *how our current pledges must support our current budget*. Today, and in recent years, we count on our endowment funds to complete nearly one quarter, or 25%, of the total budget. We will ask ourselves does my gift match my faith? Am I doing all that I can for God?

We are the beneficiaries of the bigheartedness of some of our longest (most senior) members. Those pledges make up nearly half, or 50%, of all the pledges. Those senior members are passing the baton to the next generation of members who through their great generosity and leadership give us hope for the future of our mission and ministry here at First Baptist Church. We will ask ourselves, am I part of that financial leadership?

I want to thank you all for your careful and prayerful consideration of your pledge, and our ministry. And a special thanks to those who were able to be part of the dedication of pledges on Nov 13th. The Budget Committee was able to use those early pledges to help frame the preliminary budget for 2012.

I would be remiss if I did not take a minute to name a few of you who supported me with so much, across so many weeks. First I want to thank Scott Diels for the opportunity and the honor of leading our Giving this year. The blessings and joys are many, and cannot be put on a spreadsheet.

Also thanks to Astrid Beck, Maryann Bowen, Toni Burton, Sue Ellen Glover, Janice Stumpf, Kat Becker, Bev Inbody, Arthur and Marlene Francis, Bob Kidd, David Cave, Barb Griffin, Frank Willis, the entire Budget committee, and lastly Stacey and Paul Simpson Duke.

And Thanks be to God!

- Renée Keogh

Flower Calendar 2012

The flower calendar for 2012 is hanging in the hallway downstairs and is filling up nicely. There are still many open Sundays for you to choose from, but don't wait too long! Flowers are from Tom Thompson and cost \$30.



Year-End Personal Contribution Statements are available and can be picked up at the Information Counter on Sundays in January or in the office during the week.



Children's Choir (2nd-5th) and Youth Choir (6th-12th)

Come and join us on Sunday in room 306 to praise God with music! The Youth Choir sings anthems in various styles and rings chimes from time to time, and the Children's Choir sings fun Bible songs and plays instruments.

Youth Choir: 11:15-11:45AM

Children's Choir : Noon -12:30PM

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 2

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering	2 7:30 Choir	3	4
5 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 5:00 Youth Group	6 6:00 Outreach	7 5:30 Vespers - FBC team	8 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering 7:30 Davis-Diels ChristCare	9	10	11
12 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 3:00 Youth Event	13 7:30 Mission Action	14 5:30 Vespers - Young Adults	15 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering	16 1:00 MacGregor-Stitt Circle 7:30 Choir	17	18
19 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 5:00 Youth Group	20	21 1:00 Beecher-Brewer Cir. 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Trustees	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	23 7:30 Choir	24	25
26 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 5:00 Youth Group	27	28 9:30 ABWM Board Mtg. 5:30 Vespers	29 1:30 Bible Study			

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next
newsletter
deadline:
Sunday, February 5



Coffee Break Concert Series

Thursdays at 1:30PM



Please look for the information about more concerts as the schedule is updated frequently at www.fbca2.org

January 26

Amy I-Lin Cheng, Piano

Music by Mozart, Liszt, Debussy, Schumann

A native of Taiwan, pianist Amy I-Lin Cheng holds degrees in Piano Performance from the Curtis Institute (BM), Yale School of Music (MM and Artist Diploma), and the New England Conservatory (DMA). Amy is the pianist for Duo Clarion with clarinetist Chad E. Burrow, assistant professor of clarinet from the University of Michigan. The duo also forms Trio Solari with violinist Sean Y. Wang. Currently Amy is on faculty at the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, and is a collaborative pianist for the University of Michigan School of Music.

February 2

Josh Ross, Singer-Songwriter

March 8

Paul Friesen-Carper,
Guitarist / Singer-Songwriter

All concerts are free. Bring your friends!