



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

Pastor's Reflections by Paul Simpson Duke

May 24 2017

This past Saturday in Atlanta, I lost my phone, a sickening experience. After the commencement service, in which Stacey received her Doctor of Ministry degree, we went to lunch with her dad and brother before heading home. Our dog, Louie, had made the trip with us (that's another story), so we needed a restaurant with some dog-friendly open-air dining space. Stacey knew of such a place, but on arrival we found that this part of the restaurant was full. I volunteered to stay with Louie while the others ate indoors. We would swap positions as the time went on. I sat on the short wall that separated the open-air part of the restaurant from the sidewalk.

After awhile, Rob and Charlie came out to sit with me, smiling. One of them thought a man near us was Jeb Bush. The other borrowed my phone to look up Mr. Bush and prove otherwise. The issue settled, he gave the phone back to me. Then came the news that a table had opened up and we could eat outside after all. As we were finishing, I checked my pockets for my phone, and it wasn't there. Had I left it on the ledge where I'd been sitting earlier? I checked. The phone was gone. Panic.

Stacey has an app on her phone that enables us to locate and track each other's phones. Checking it, she found that my phone was now a few blocks away, and was on the move. Someone had taken it, and was walking further and further from the scene. Stacey called it, but the thief didn't answer. She activated a visual alert on my phone screen indicating that the finder should call her, but of course there was no call. So I had lost who-knows-how-much data, including the graduation pictures I had just taken; and replacing the phone costs a lot of money. All because I am an idiot. This is what I do. I forget things; I set down valuable objects (also wallets, keys, glasses), and walk away like a dope, clueless. And this is how our happy trip had ended.

We decided to follow it. Stacey's phone was still tracking the thief—maybe if we drove there and keep following the movement, we could spot him/her, maybe even somehow get it back. Fat chance, but we were desperate. So we pulled away—and Stacey's phone rang. It was the thief, who was not a thief at all. The voice of a young woman explained that she was taking the phone to the police station. We could meet her there. We went, and there she was, an African-American girl, about 12 years old. With her was a younger boy, her brother perhaps, about 10. She was shy; maybe she was a little bit afraid. We thanked her profusely, and praised them both. As a token of our thanks, we gave her a \$20 bill, and she looked at it with eyes as big as plates. No such thing had been on her mind. We asked their names: she is Anna, he is Michael. Some hugging ensued. We got back into the car and began our journey home, relieved and very thankful.

I tell this story because I simply have to sing the praises of this girl and boy. They found a lost phone and walked many blocks on a hot Georgia afternoon to make sure that no one else could take it and that the owners had a chance of finding it. Thank you and bless you, Anna and Michael! The whole experience is a reminder to me that the world is, in fact, filled with goodness. That's not all it's full of, but the truth remains that countless people are honest, and respond with kindness to the needs around them, often at cost to themselves. It argues against much of our cynicism and inspires gratitude and hope for the world.

We'd had quite a day-and-a-half of emotions: joy, pride, gratefulness, grief, laughter, tears, excitement, and much, much love. Near the end came horror and guilt over the loss of an important possession—soon wiped away by the great kindness of two children. Their goodness got the last word, and for me now is a little glimpse toward God's future, when all goodness will be revealed, and a great deal that was lost will be found.

Children and Youth Christian Education and Music

NURSERY care for infants and toddlers is available on the 3rd floor from 9:30 - 11:30

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Preschool - 1st grade

10:00 - 10:30 Worship with families
10:30 - 11:15 Church School (Rm. 202A & B)
11:15 - 11:30 Grace Notes music

Youth (6th - High School)

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
11:00 - 11:30 Fellowship Time
(Fellowship Hall)

2nd - 5th grade:

10:00 - 10:30 Worship with families
10:30 - 11:30 Church School (Rm. 201B)
11:15 - 12:00 Children's Choir (Rm. 306)

Adult Christian Education

(11:30-12:30)

There are no Second Hour classes this week. Classes will resume on Sunday, June 4.

Heroes of the Bible
Astrid Beck, leader

Library

For this new series, Astrid Beck will lead the discussion on Heroes of the Bible. We will look at great men and women, outstanding leaders in the biblical account, who are foundational to our faith, who not only defined it, but who also taught the values inherent in our faith practices. We will begin with Moses, continue with Elijah (highlighted again in the Gospels of Mark and Luke in the Transfiguration account; why those two?), and work our way through other major men and women in the Old Testament and the New Testament. No background readings required. Bring your favorite Bible or use one of ours.

Conversations about Race

Memorial Lounge

This class provides an opportunity to gain better understanding of racial perceptions and divisions in our culture. Events in recent years make such conversations more urgent. Special attention will be given to the character of systemic racism and white privilege, and to the choices we might make to help bring transformation. Three of the sessions will be led by La'Ron Williams, an expert facilitator on issues of race. The other three sessions will be co-led by Ron Gregg and Paul Simpson Duke.

Young Adult Class

Room 108

The group is continuing their study of the Gospel of Mark.

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

Wednesday Bible Study will resume in September.

Adult Small Groups: We have continuing small groups centered on study, sharing, prayer, worship and mission meeting at various times. See Stacey or Paul for information on how to join an existing group or form a new group.

College/University Students: **The Gathering** is for undergraduates and graduate students. We gather during the school year for a free home-cooked meal, friendship, and study. Our program will resume in September. If you would like to be added to our email list for announcements, please email Stacey Simpson Duke at staceyduke@gmail.com.

FBC News & Happenings

Connecting is what we do here at FBC as part of our community. Since 2008 we have been taking communion to the homebound. This year, with the dedication of the Homebound Communion team, we have arranged to bring Iris Martin to church on communion Sundays and for her 101 Birthday.

In addition to celebrating with a Birthday cake during fellowship time, the children of the church made her a beautiful card. Iris is very happy to be able to come to church and connect with all her friends here. She is also very thankful to this Church and the communion team.

The members of the communion team are: Coordinator - Mary Gregg, Servers - Clay Scott, Mary & Scott Davis-Diels, Bob & Bonnie Kidd, Beth Foster, Arthur Francis, Ron Tipton and Kent and Georgia Jennings. And a thanks to Bev Inbody who makes sure the outgoing communion kits are ready on Sunday morning.

These are some of the past and present people who have received homebound communion: Present - Iris Martin, Nancy Rushton, Pat Hubel, Past: Mable Japinga, Bonnie Jensen, Marge Shannon, Conrad Juchartz, Elizabeth Lee, Helen Johnson, Mildred MacGregor, Helen Foley, Tom Scott, Frances Hinderer, Les George and Annabel Erskine.

Kids praying for Kids!

Our teenagers are headed on their mission trip next month. Each child in our Children's Ministry will be a prayer partner for someone going on the mission trip. We'll be talking about different ways to pray, ideas about what to pray for and we'll make cards for the teens to take with them. It is good to be part of a church family!

Children and Youth Sunday - Pentecost, June 4th

The children have been hard at work getting ready to lead us in worship on Children and Youth Sunday. It has been a treat to watch and listen as they work together to write an Invocation. Quick reminder for parents, our rehearsal is Saturday, June 3rd from 10:00-noon in the Sanctuary for kids in preschool through high school. Everyone is invited to wear **RED** for **Pentecost!**

Celebration of Vespers

We recently celebrated one of the longest running ministries of FBC. A delicious lunch was prepared and served by Carolyn Grapentine, Joyce Robbins, Clay Scott, and their crew (Vern Jensen, Tom Gebhardt, Kathy Mortensen, Christina Alaniz, Julie Smith), followed by hymn singing led by Stacey. Participants then heard from Susan Beckett, publisher of Groundcover newspaper, who emphasized how these meals provide a connection and sense of community for the many guests. Max Halliday, part of our Youth who regularly serve the second Tuesday meal, spoke of the gratitude expressed by the guests and how quickly the time passes when they are serving and cleaning up because it is fun and meaningful. Joe Woods, a 7-year regular guest, identified FBCA2 as the "Tuesday dinner church which welcomes all with unconditional love". Joe said that he hoped that Vespers continues *forever* because of what it means to the whole community.

Deb Hutton of the Board of Mission Action shared the need for financial support from the congregation in order for this valued ministry to continue "forever". Over two thousand meals are served each year and with meticulous management by our cooks, the meals cost only about \$3.70 per person. The Vespers program is only partially funded through the church general budget, and has had to rely on generous gifts by individuals to subsidize the expenses. But the Vespers fund balance has been diminishing in recent years, so we are asking that you would consider a contribution to sustain this ministry. Checks can be made out to First Baptist Church with "Vespers" in the notation.



We are sad to report the death of John Moyer

John Granville Moyer, 71, died Monday, May 15, 2017 at his home in Ann Arbor. Son of Ralph and Margaret Moyer, John (born May 28, 1945) is survived by his siblings, Mary Bennett (Ben, deceased) and Frank; his wife Anna (Guess), children Alice (Marc-Antoine) and George (Lori) and grandchildren: Claire, Emile and Felix.



John was a true Ann Arbor "townie", graduating from Pioneer High School, and then spending 4 years at UM, graduating with a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering. The bulk of his career was spent at General Motors.

John spent many years as an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church serving as board member, treasurer, maintainer of both the sound system and the boiler, but perhaps most enthusiastically, teaching Sunday School. He was an avid bicyclist who joined other active UUs (adults and kids) on long rides around the state, cheerfully taking on the role of chief mechanic. Brakes, tires and wacky spokes all succumbed to John's knowledgeable manipulation.

John will be remembered fondly by all who knew him as whip-smart, with an unswerving attention to detail, and a boundless eagerness to read, carefully, each and every product manual for software, hardware or anything mechanical or electrical.

For the last 20 years of his life, John fought to shrug off the creeping restrictions imposed by multiple sclerosis. The happy marriages of his children and the births of his grandchildren were a real boon and source of energy. He would tell you not to sell yourself short and to be sure you take time to enjoy your family. He loved his family "like crazy" and it's a gift for which they'll always be grateful.

Visitation and the funeral were held at Nie's Funeral Home (3767 W. Liberty Rd. AA) at 5pm on Sunday, May 24, officiated by the Reverends Paul and Stacey Simpson Duke.

John has chosen to donate his body to the Wayne State University School of Medicine. The family would be pleased if any monetary donations were made to either Arbor Hospice or The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Educational Project Gift Card Collection

As the summer approaches, the Educational Project for Homeless Youth out of Washtenaw Intermediate School District is working to make sure that the youth and students are assisted throughout the summer. We are collecting gift cards (\$5, \$10, or \$25) from Meijer, Kroger, Walmart, and fast food restaurants like Subway, Wendy's, etc. Homeless youth and families are often in temporary situations "couch surfing" with family or friends or placed in shelters or hotels with little access to the ability to cook or store food. When school is out students do not have access to the regular meals provided during the school day. And there are 70 seniors currently being served by the EPHY and Ozone House and the goal is to provide each with a \$25 gift card to celebrate their achievement in spite of the challenges of homelessness. If you would like to contribute to this collection, please give your gift cards or financial donation to Sue Ellen Glover by May 30.

Volunteers needed for Vacation Bible School

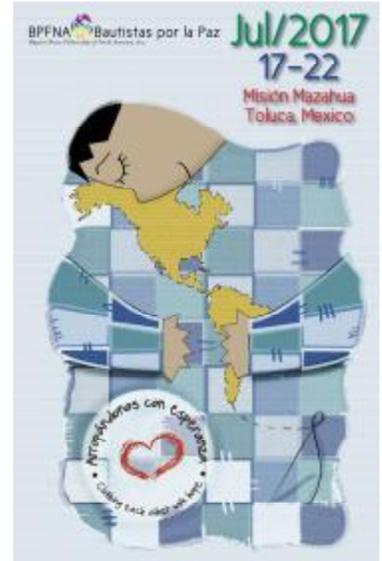
We have a variety of opportunities to serve at VBS. We need teens and adults to help at craft booths, in the kitchen or as a small group leader. VBS is Tuesday, June 20, through Thursday, June 22, from 9:30-12:15 p.m. Please let Xan know if you're able to help in this way. Xan@fbca2.org or 734.663.9376

Can & Bottle Drive Youth Fundraiser

On June 18, our Youth Summer Mission Team will head to Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota to work with the United Methodist mission there on the reservation. Every Sunday between now and the trip, the youth group will be collecting cans and bottles to take in to receive the deposit money on; this money will be used to help offset the costs of travel to North Dakota. You can help by bringing in your cans and bottles any Sunday (or every Sunday!). It's an easy way to make an important contribution to the service and learning of our youth group. We have bins next to the Information Counter. Thank you!

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
(BPFNA - Bautistas por la Paz) Annual Conference

Misión Mazahua, Mexico, July 17-22, 2017. BPFNA gathers, equips, and mobilizes people of faith from across North America and the world for the work of peace rooted in justice. This annual conference is for everyone who longs for the spirituality, inspiration, skills, knowledge, and community to support a life of peace rooted in justice. Because our congregation is a Partner Church of BPFNA, we have been given vouchers for first-time attendees of this conference to entirely cover the registration fee of two first-time Summer Conference attendees. Please contact Stacey (staceyduke@gmail.com) for more details. You can read more about the conference online at <http://www.bpfna.org/gather/summer-conference>.



Volunteers needed!

Please check the Information Counter for assorted volunteer sign-up sheets. We can always use your help and no experience is required. It's a great way to meet people at church and get plugged in! If you have any questions, please contact Beverly Inbody in the church office.

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.



Thank you!

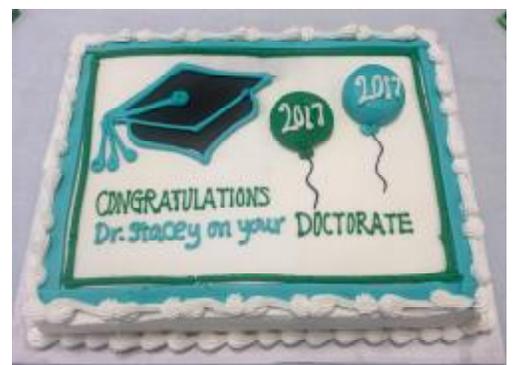
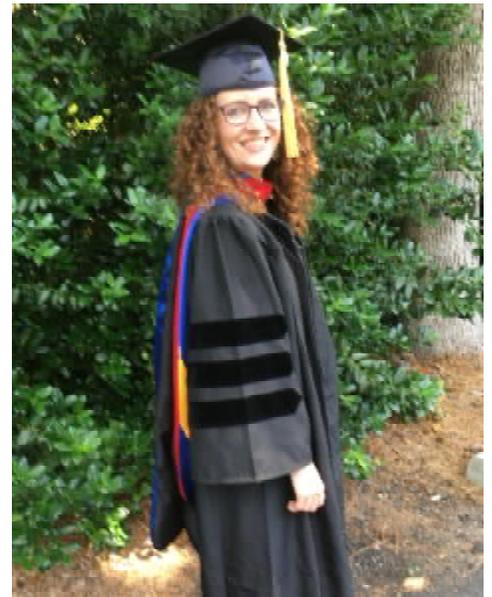
Dear church family,

As you know, on Saturday, May 20, I graduated with my Doctor of Ministry degree in Gospel and Culture from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. I was so touched by your surprise celebration of that accomplishment on Sunday during and after worship. Special thanks to Roberta Hause for her role in coordinating this! (The cake was beautiful and delicious!)

I'm also thrilled to let you know that I received one of the two awards given to graduating D.Min. students, the John Nelsen Award, a cash award for the best Doctor of Ministry or Doctor of Educational Ministry project focusing on the Bible and the missional church. Thank you, again, for your wonderful partnership and support over these last six years of my work on this course of study, and especially now for sharing in my joy (and relief!).

With love,

Stacey



First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
Coffee Break Concert Series, 2016-2017 ⑤
Free Concert and Open to the Public

HARPSICHORD DUO CONCERT

Music by Le Roux, J.S. Bach, Tomkins,
Sweelinck and Solder

May 25, 2017
Thursday at 12:15 pm
Martha Folts & Shin-Ae Chun



517 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734) 663-9376 / www.fbca2.org

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 Choir	2	3 10:00 Children and Youth Rehearsal
4 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	5	6 5:30 Vespers	7	8 7:30 Choir	9	10
11 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour 12:30 Baby Shower 12:30 Youth Mission Trip Team	12	13 1:30 ChristCare 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Mission Action	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 Worship 11:30 Mission Presentation	19	20 9:30 VBS (at First Pres) 1:00 Beecher-Brewer Cir. 5:30 Vespers	21 9:30 VBS (at First Pres)	22 9:30 VBS (at First Pres)	23	24 Habitat for Humanity Build Day
Youth Summer Mission Trip to Spirit Lake, North Dakota						
25 10:00 Worship 11:30 Mission Presentation	26	27 9:30 ABWM Board Mtg. 5:30 Vespers	28	29	30	

First Baptist Church
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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



FBC e-Connection and Newsletter Email Distribution

Over the past couple of months, the office has heard from quite a few people that they didn't get word of various events. Here is a quick summary of how to get your email added to one or both of the distribution lists...

The church office sends out two communications electronically. FBC e-Connections are sent out with important news about happenings at the church and the concerns of church members, such as prayer concerns, birth and death announcements. We also send the FBC Newsletter out by email to anyone who wishes to receive it that way.

If you aren't currently subscribed to either list and wish to be, please email the church office at office@fbca2.org and we will send out an invitation to subscribe to either or both lists. When you get the email invitation, click on the link to finish the subscription process. ***In order to prevent complaints about spam, the distribution program doesn't allow us to simply add an email address to the list.***

We have also heard some gmail users that their service is routing e-connection emails to the "promotions" folder, rather than the "primary" folder. If you are a gmail client and it appears that you have suddenly stopped receiving e-connections, give the church office a call and Kat will work with you to fix the situation.