



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

Pastor's Reflections by Paul Simpson Duke

January 25, 2017

Last year when Sue Ellen Glover, our incomparable Director of Christian Education, announced her upcoming retirement, we knew that, in more than one way, she was irreplaceable. The Board of Christian Education decided, for more than one reason, not to look for someone to do all that Sue Ellen does (which is mountainous), but to establish a specifically focused staff position for ministry with children and their families. The search began in September, and has now reached a very happy conclusion.

It is my great pleasure to present to you now our new Director of Children's Ministries, Alexandra (Xan) Morgan. Our search committee had no idea that we could find someone so experienced, so gifted, and so exceptionally effective in this work, but word of her came to us, and as we talked with her and learned about her, we saw that a remarkable blessing was being given to us. We are very grateful that she has accepted our invitation to bring her gifts and commitments to First Baptist Church.



For more than nine years Xan was Director of Children and Family Ministries at St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor. People who experienced or knew of her work there have praised her in the highest terms. She is visionary, knowledgeable, creative, and collaborative. She is passionately committed to making the church a happy place for children, to nurturing a healthy faith journey in them, and to equipping, encouraging, and supporting their parents. Her ministry generated significant vitality and growth.

Xan has a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Michigan (2004), and taught middle-school math at Ann Arbor Christian School for four years before becoming a director of children and family ministries. Her husband, Kevin, manages a team in the Office of Campus Sustainability at University of Michigan. They have three children: Emmanuel (9), Asher (7), and Piper (4). Asked about her personal interests, Xan said, "I like to knit, play indoor soccer, do NYT crosswords, and watch Netflix with Kevin," and "I love to do all things in community—exercise, study the Bible, drink tea, and stand up for what is right." She begins her employment with us next week. We are thrilled to have her on staff, and to have her whole family as part of our church family.

Meanwhile, and thankfully, Sue Ellen's employment is not finished. For ten hours per week through March, she will help with transition and other important matters. We will have *much* to say and to celebrate about her when she concludes her wonderful ministry with us and becomes a "regular" (!) church member. Stay tuned!

## **Children and Youth Christian Education**

NURSERY care for infants and toddlers is available on the 3rd floor from 9:30 - 12:30

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

#### Preschool - 1<sup>st</sup> grade

10:00 - 10:30 Worship with families  
10:30 - 11:30 Church School (Rm. 202A & B)  
11:30 - 11:45 Grace Notes music  
11:30 - 12:30 Activities

#### Youth (6<sup>th</sup> - High School)

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

#### 2nd - 5th grade:

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

### **CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY**

Grace Notes (Preschool - 1st Grade) 11:30 - 11:45 Rm. 202, directed by Marissa Alaniz  
Children's Choir (2nd - 5th Grade) 11:30 - 12:00 Rm. 306, directed by Shin-Ae Chun

## **Adult Christian Education**

**(11:30-12:30)**

### **Simply Jesus**

Joe Mortensen, Leader

Memorial Lounge

An examination of Gospel texts and the historical setting of Judaism in Jesus time in order to gain better understanding of his proclamation, ministry, and identity. This study will draw from the insights of N. T. Wright's book, *Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters*. This class meets through February 26.

### **Young Adult Class**

Room 108

An in-depth, discussion-based Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark that will run through February 26.

### **How to Pray: A (Re-)Introduction to the Ongoing Practice of Prayer**

Room 102

Paul Simpson Duke, leader

Pragmatic discussions of the basics of daily prayer, with guidance and rationale on the foundational elements of prayer and on different approaches and models for a practice of daily prayer. This is a course for beginners and for those who wish to renew and strengthen their practice of prayer. It meets through February 26.

## Other Adult Education Opportunities:

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Pastor Paul is leading *Studies in the Prophets*. We will discuss the work of the prophets in their historical context and will examine selected texts for closer understanding. Please join us!

**Adult Small Groups:** We have continuing small groups centered on study, sharing, prayer, worship and mission meeting at various times. See Stacey, Paul, or Sue Ellen 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 every Wednesday during the school year, 5:30-7:30p in the Campus Center, for a free, home-cooked meal and study. If you would like to be added to the email list for regular updates, please email Stacey at [staceyduke@gmail.com](mailto:staceyduke@gmail.com).

# *FBC News & Happenings*

## Warming Shelter Ministry at FBC Volunteer Sign up & Warming Center Collection

Dear congregation,

We have the opportunity to work with First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor in hosting a Warming Shelter for the month of February. **The Warming Shelter will be open at First Baptist Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of February, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.** FCCAA will be the host on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The group MISSION is overseeing the Warming Shelter Ministry. They will be providing many of the volunteers to work this important ministry to the homeless. Each church hosting the Warming Shelter is invited to participate in any number of ways, such as: 1) Volunteer your time to mix and mingle with those using the Warming Shelter; 2) Bring some snacks (**nothing with peanuts**), or food to share with the guests; etc.; 3) Sign up at the information desk, or church office to prepare and bring a luncheon dish to serve 35 people (NO Peanuts in food). We will need at least 2 dishes (serving 35 each dish). The Warming Shelter has been averaging about 70 people.

It's been very cold in recent days and staying warming is essential. **FBCAA is responsible for February on Tuesdays (Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28) and Thursdays (Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23).** Your prayers presence and support are welcomed. You don't have to sign up to volunteer. Just come and let God share His love through you." - Mission Action Board FBCAA

We are collecting warm clothing including Long Underwear (LX, XLX), gloves, hats, mittens, and socks (look for sales!), plus personal products like toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoos, pocket tissue packs, combs, soap, etc. There will be a basket near the Information Counter each Sunday.

Contact Kent Jennings ([kentjen31@gmail.com](mailto:kentjen31@gmail.com); 734-732-6802) or Ron Gregg ([rgregg@patientfocussystems.com](mailto:rgregg@patientfocussystems.com)) for more information.

## The 2017 Flower Calendar

The sign up calendar is now posted on the downstairs bulletin board near the Lounge door. The flowers are placed on the chancel for the service, and your dedication goes in the bulletin. The flowers are yours to take after the Sunday morning service. Please sign up early to secure your date(s).



### **FBC Youth Movie Event**

On Sunday, January 15, members of the youth group and their parents went to see the movie *Hidden Figures* together. Everyone enjoyed this incredible true story of three African-American women who worked at NASA during the early space program and whose behind-the-scenes contributions made John Glenn's orbit around the earth possible. It's an inspiring movie that also pushes us to consider our own biases - who are the hidden figures in our own time, whose work we benefit from and depend on? Our youth group wrestles with these kinds of questions, and we talk about how our faith and our faith community can help our perspective and our actions. We highly recommend this movie!

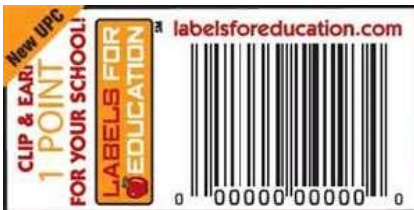
### **FBC e-Connection and Newsletter Email Distribution**

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](mailto: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.



**The American Baptist Women's Ministries** continue to collect labels for the "Labels for Education" program. The labels look like the one shown right and the bar code needs to be included. There is a collection box at the Information Counter and the labels help benefit one of the school charities supported by the ABWM. Thank you for your help!

### **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.

**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://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.



First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor  
**Coffee Break Concert Series, 2016-2017** ③  
Free Concert and Open to the Public

# PIANO CONCERT

**February 9, 2017**  
**Thursday at 12:15 pm**  
**Rajung Yang**



Associate Professor of Piano at University of Idaho

**Program:**

Partita No. 2 in C Minor, BWV 826 by Johann Sebastian Bach  
A Little Suite for Christmas, A. D. 1979 by George Crumb  
Embraceable You by George Gershwin-Earl Wild  
Variations, Op. 41 by Nikolai Kapustin



# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  1:30 Bible Study  5:30 Gathering 7:30 Executive Council	2  7:30 Choir	3	4
5 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	6  6:00 Mission Action	7  5:30 Vespers	8  1:30 Bible Study  5:30 Gathering 7:30 ChristCare	9  12:15 Coffee Break Concert  7:30 Choir	10	11
12 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	13	14  1:30 ChristCare  5:30 Vespers	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 2nd Hour	20	21  1:00 Beecher-Brewer Cir.  5:30 Vespers	22  1:30 Bible Study  5:30 Gathering	23  5:30 Christian Education 7:30 Choir	24	25
26 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	27	28  5:30 Vespers	March 1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>  1:30 Bible Study  7:00 Ash Wed. Service			

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next  
Newsletter  
Deadline:  
*Sunday, Feb 5*



### **Congregational Meeting This Sunday, January 29**

Our annual financial meeting will be held after fellowship time (11:30) on January 29. After the business meeting we will enjoy a potluck lunch. Please plan to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the church office. The Board of Care and Community will provide chicken, rolls, and beverages. If your last names begins with A-D, please bring a potato, rice, or pasta dish; last names beginning with E-J, please bring fruit or a dessert; last names starting with K-Z, please bring a salad or some kind of vegetable.