



# FIRST BAPTIST

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## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

Pastor's Reflections by Stacey Simpson Duke November 9, 2016

"My good heart goes to your good heart." These were the words of a Lakota woman at Standing Rock last week, speaking to hundreds of clergy and people of faith who had come from all over the country to stand in solidarity with the Sioux Nation as they fight to protect their water and their sacred sites against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). I was so honored to be among those who gathered. Lindsay Duke, Lucy Thompson, Zoë McLaren, and I drove out for the event together, and we were encouraged and empowered by the many messages of support and love from members of this congregation as we travelled.

We went at the invitation of the Reverend John Floberg, supervising Episcopal priest in Standing Rock, who, following the increasingly militarized police response to nonviolent protest there, asked clergy to come make a prayerful, peaceful witness of solidarity. His call was echoed by Chief Arvol Looking Horse, one of the Sioux spiritual leaders, asking religious leaders to come and stand side-by-side with the people there, who are themselves standing together in prayer.

When Rev. Floberg issued the invitation, his hope was that 100 people would come for such a gathering; more than 500 people showed up, from more than 20 different faith traditions. After an orientation on Wednesday night, during which we heard testimony from Native American women and men, we gathered on Thursday morning around the sacred fire at Oceti Sakowin, the prayer camp near where the DAPL is being constructed.

Around the sacred fire, individuals representing various Christian traditions stood before the seven tribal elders and renounced the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, the 1493 doctrine that formed the theological justification for colonization, granting Christian explorers the right to take any land that was not already occupied by Christians. Our Baptist forebear, Roger Williams (founder of Rhode Island and of the first Baptist church in America), argued that the native people were the true owners of the land here and that the Puritans ought to repent of receiving it from the English king; he was expelled from Massachusetts for such radical ideas, but he continued his advocacy for and solidarity with Native Americans for the rest of his life. In 1823, the U.S. Supreme Court incorporated the Doctrine of Discovery into U.S. law, laying the foundation for the ongoing subjugation of rights of indigenous peoples and the claiming and exploiting of the lands they occupied. The construction of a pipeline through tribal lands that were guaranteed by treaty is a direct result of this doctrine.

Last Thursday, for the first time in history (as far as we know), a group of Christian leaders stood before a group of indigenous leaders and said, "We denounce the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and of our various religious traditions as a violation of the inherent human rights that all individuals and

peoples have received from God." We then gave copies of the doctrine to each of the tribal leaders, who burned the papers in the sacred fire. It was a powerful and holy moment, reminding all of us again of how essential confession and repentance are in the crucial work of reconciliation. Healing begins.

From the camp, we walked together, singing "Dona Nobis Pacem," to the bridge where police had formed a barricade, to pray alongside the water protectors who go there every day to pray. Police donned their riot gear and a helicopter repeatedly circled low overhead. We continued to pray, to sing, and to make our peaceful witness. "Our plea was heard," an indigenous woman said, "The people who pray have come to pray with us. So to me, today was a victory." While the political and corporate machinations around the DAPL continue, and the outcome is currently unclear, it is very clear that the visible witness of people of faith matters. It makes a difference to those who are vulnerable for others to come alongside them in support, encouragement, prayer, and action.

I have so much more to learn about the issues facing indigenous peoples as well as those facing the many other groups of people in our nation who feel threatened, dismissed, or violated. I have so much more to learn about how to be part of the gospel work of confession, repentance, reconciliation, and solidarity for justice. I am newly hopeful that it is in coming together as people of faith that we learn the most and that we have the most power for change. I am newly aware of how the work of shared prayer and shared relationship is foundational to such forward movement. And I am newly convinced that there has been no more important moment than now for people of faith to do the crucial work of justice, compassion, and solidarity.

Following our presentation on Standing Rock during last Sunday's Second Hour, many of you indicated your interest in knowing more and in *doing* more. There was an urgency in your interest, just as there is an urgency in what is happening at Standing Rock. I have so much more to share than can be put in one newsletter column, and I am working on doing so. (Please see the next page for a little more information).

This year's presidential campaign and election has, for most of us, felt substantially different from any other that we've known. The difference we feel in our country now feels unlike the usual aftermath of an election, where one side is happy to have won and the other side is disappointed. For many in our congregation, our community, and our country, the feeling is more than one of disappointment; it is one of despair and even fear. Many of us know people - immigrants, Muslims, members of the LGBT community, among others - who are feel vulnerable and afraid. The fault line exposed during the campaign seems to have ruptured now, and the pain of that breakage feels very sharp for some of us.

The work we are called to as a community of faith - the work of prayer, repentance, reconciliation, healing, justice, and love - has never been more important. Our community, our country, and our world desperately need this work to be done; we, the church, have the power, the privilege, and the responsibility to do it. Dear ones, I am so grateful to be in community with you, working together in faith towards the world we long for, and which God longs to create among us. My good heart goes to your good heart. May God use all our good hearts for the healing of the world.



I am putting together a packet of information about Standing Rock, including actions that individuals and groups can take. If you would like to receive this information, please email me at [staceyduke@gmail.com](mailto:staceyduke@gmail.com) to let me know you would like to be on the distribution email for this information and any updated information I receive. Additionally, several of you indicated such strong interest that it seems to warrant the creation of a team of people to learn and do more together. If you would have interest in being a part of such a team (including looking at the possibility of traveling as a team to Standing Rock), please let me know that in the email as well.



## Children and Youth Christian Education

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

**November 20** - no second hour classes for children, youth, or adults due to the Intergenerational Advent event. All ages are invited to this event. The nursery will stay open until 12:30 if parents would like to leave toddlers but parents should gather preschoolers and older children from the classrooms after worship to take them to the event in the fellowship hall.

**This schedule is for November 13 & 27 and December 4:**

### 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
11:45 - 12:30	Activities

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

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

#### 2nd - 5th grade:

10:00 - 10:30	Worship with families
10:30 - 11:00	Children's Worship (Rm. 201B)
11:15 - 12:30	Church School (Rm. 202A & B) and Children's Choir (Rm. 306)

### CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Grace Notes (Preschool - 1st Grade)	11:30 - 11:45	Rm. 202
Children's Choir (2nd - 5th Grade)	11:30 - 12:00	Rm. 306

## Adult Christian Education

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

**No adult classes on November 20 due to the Intergenerational Advent event.**  
**This schedule is for November 13 & 27 and December 4:**

### Scripture Reflections

Mary Davis, Paul Duke, Ron Gregg, Kent Jennings, and Joe Mortensen, Leaders

Memorial Lounge

Each Sunday we'll discuss the day's sermon then look at the lectionary scriptures for the *upcoming* Sunday, exploring the background and context for each of the 3 scriptures that will be used in the worship service. We will share what meanings these scriptures might have for each of us so that we may reflect on these scriptures throughout the week, preparing ourselves for a more meaningful worship

### Young Adult Class

Room 108

***Knowing God with Heart and Mind*** - Discussions based on selections from the writings of ancient and modern Christians.

### 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! **Note: the class will not meet on Wednesday, Nov 23.**

**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

## FBC Stewardship Campaign 2017: Generations of Generosity

Over the last few weeks, we have explored the theme **Generations of Generosity** for FBC's 2017 financial stewardship campaign. The in-service component of the campaign has ended, but we will still gratefully receive your pledge. Please visit the bulletin board beside the information counter to register your pledge and to track the progress of the campaign through our Growing Tree. Add your own pledge leaf to the tree, if you wish. We hope that you will continue to, pray, and consider what *Generations of Generosity* and FBC mean in your life.

- Marissa Alaniz and Bob Kidd, Co-Chairs,  
2017 FBC Stewardship Campaign



## 2017 Calendars

The "children's calendars" are here. Each year the children sell *God's Creation* calendars for \$10. The profits are used to purchase books for the children of Hikone housing. We know you get many free calendars in the mail but these are heavy-weight, beautifully photographed calendars which have a great surface for writing down your appointments and activities. Plus there are scriptures for inspiration each time you glance at the calendar during your busy schedule! At \$10 they are a real deal compared to other heavy-weight calendars found in stores *and* these calendars make great gifts. The calendars will be available for sale near the Information Counter before and after worship, or you may contact Sue Ellen and she will mail you one (or two or three).



## Food Collection for Hikone

The Boards of Christian Education and Mission Action are again sponsoring a food drive for our friends at Hikone housing. The Christmas holiday break is very tough on low income children - they are not in school so they do not receive their free lunches and breakfasts, the Community Center is not open, Food Gatherers does not deliver, and the food stamps are running out because it's the end of the month. Please help us gather a truck-load of food by December 18. We are especially looking for kid-friendly non-perishable food such as macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, cereal, soup, oatmeal packets, juice/milk boxes, plastic containers of juice, tuna, canned pasta, breakfast granola bars, fruit cups and cans, etc. We also love monetary donations which will be used to purchase milk, bread, fresh produce, laundry detergent and items that cannot be purchased with food stamps.



## A Collection for Vespers Guests

It's gotten cold and the children are once again collecting warm clothing like hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, long underwear, socks, jackets, and sweatshirts (gently used or new) for our Vespers guests. We would also appreciate donations of grooming & personal items, such as shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, small Kleenex packs, Band-Aids, etc. A basket will be near the Information Counter each Sunday for your gifts.

## AB Women's Ministries Joint Meeting of Circles

The MacGregor-Stitt Circle and Beecher-Brewer Circles next meet on Thursday, November 17th, at 1:00pm in the Lounge. The MacGregor-Stitt ladies are hostesses and the Beecher-Brewer ladies coordinate the program, *Rolling Bandages for the White Cross*.

### **Volunteers Needed! No Experience Needed!**

- **Sunday Morning Greeters:** This is a great time to see friends and meet new people.
- **Communion Servers:** Six volunteers are needed on the first Sunday of each month. This is a special way to become a part of the Sunday communion service.
- **Information Counter:** Volunteers are needed for the second, third, and fifth (when it appears) Sundays, before and after the church service. Check with Bev Inbody at the Information Counter or call her at the church office during the week.
- **Sound System:** Help with recording the Sunday worship service and other services. See Clay Scott for more information.

All of the above positions are a great opportunity to meet people, help your church and become more involved. Sign up sheets can be found at the Information Counter.

### **Director of Children's Ministries**

The First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor seeks an enthusiastic and creative individual for a part-time Director of Children's Ministries position. This 15- to 20-hour position will oversee many facets of Christian education and focus on children from infancy through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- leading and nurturing children toward Christian faith and discipleship by providing opportunities to study, worship, serve, build community, and grow spiritually;
- developing and implementing sound and innovative educational programs that foster spiritual development and promote Bible fluency;
- teaching children on Sunday mornings and at other times as scheduled;
- training and scheduling teachers and nursery caregivers;
- coordinating children's events and selected outreach programs;
- developing a strong relationship and communicating with families with children both within the congregation and in the wider community.
- working with the Board of Christian Education and Church staff.

#### **Qualifications:**

A Bachelor's degree in a related field and teaching experience are required. The successful candidate will possess strong oral and written communication skills and be a self-motivated leader able to work well with a variety of groups, including children and their families, volunteers, and church staff. A healthy personal spiritual life and a theology consistent with the pastoral ministries of First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor and supportive of American Baptist Churches USA tradition are essential.

Anticipated hours are 15-20 hours weekly, including Sunday mornings. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Candidates should submit a letter that describes their interest in this position in Children's Ministries as well as a resume of relevant experience to Janice Stumpf at [jlstumpf@umich.edu](mailto:jlstumpf@umich.edu). Questions may also be directed to Janice by email or to Rev. Stacey Simpson Duke at (734) 663-9376 or [staceyduke@gmail.com](mailto:staceyduke@gmail.com).

Approved by Board of Christian Education, August 2016  
Approved by Executive Council, August 2016

**The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County** presents "TASTES OF FAITH - Food That Celebrates Gratitude and Joy" at 5pm on Sunday, November 20. The meal will consist of food used in religious celebrations of six separate faith traditions (Baha'i, Jewish, Muslim, Lutheran and Roman Catholic). This year's fundraising dinner will precede our 22nd Annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration which starts at 7pm (all invited to attend both events). The Chinmaya Mission (4760 Packard, Ann Arbor) Dinner Tickets: \$25 (meal only) (\$10 - children 10 and under), \$50, \$75, \$100 (dinner plus a donation to the IRT). For more information, call 734-424-1535 or email [gbrides@umich.edu](mailto:gbrides@umich.edu). Come support the work of the IRT that focuses exclusively on creating a culture of understanding and inclusion.



# HOLIDAY DRIVE

If you would like to give a gift to these organizations serving homeless children and youth in the Washtenaw County, please contact Sue Ellen. I have volunteered our congregation to provide 6 gift bags for individual children (one 1<sup>st</sup> grade boy, two fifth grade boys, two 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys, and one High School girl). Each bag is supposed to include a new winter hat and gloves/mittens; a book; and a non-electronic toy or game for elementary children and for the 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders: a new winter hat and gloves/mittens, and \$10 - \$25 gift cards for a store or restaurant like Target, Meijer, Taco Bell, etc.). If you would like someone else to take care of the shopping, financial donations are very appreciated. The DEADLINE for these gifts is December 4.

**One of our gardeners caught in action!**

Thanks to Phyl White (pictured right) and Carolyn Hillebrand for keeping the Washington St. flower beds looking so lovely! And thanks also to Astrid for her care of the Cana lilies, and Alan Burton for his efforts at the entrance to the sanctuary!



## Poinsettia Order Form

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) for the Christmas services at \$20 each, and list as such in the bulletin:

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

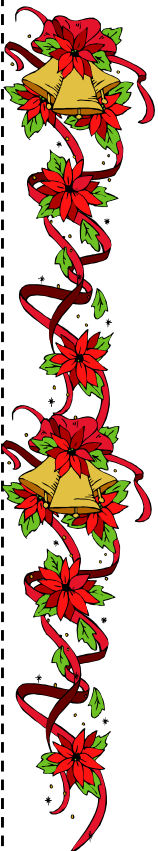
In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ as payment for the poinsettia(s).

Please have paid orders to the office by **Friday, December 9** .

Thank you!



### Coffee Break Concert

On November 3, our Coffee Break Concert Series presented an exciting organ concert performed by Dr. So-Yi Ahn from South Korea. The audience of sixty five people enjoyed the beautiful program including Bach's Passacaglia in C Minor and Franck's Choral in E Major. Our Robert Noehren Organ roared again for these large pieces and also sang quietly and warmly for small pieces in the program: Bach's Wacht auf, ruft uns die Stimme and Brahms' Herzlich tut mich erfreuen. The concert series will have a break in December and January and resume on February 9 with Piano Concert by Dr. Rajung Yang, Associate Professor and Head of Keyboard Area at the University of Idaho.



**AN ORGANIST'S CHRISTMAS** (Christmas Organ Concert and Carol Sing) will be presented by the Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organist on December 2, Friday at 7 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. Organ recitalists Joshua Boyd, Dr. Shin-Ae Chun and Dr. Timothy Huth will perform festive Christmas organ music on First Pres' three-manual Schoenstein Organ. The organists and the Boychoir of Ann Arbor will also lead a carol sing. Sam Kidd will be featured in the portion of the concert where Shin-Ae Chun performs. This will be an exciting concert to make your Advent season more festive. This concert is open to all. A free-will offering to benefit the Ann Arbor AGO and First Presbyterian's missions programs will be collected. A reception will follow the performance.

### AB Women's Ministries' Annual Christmas Celebration

Our annual Christmas Celebration will be Sunday, December 11 in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. The AB Women's ministries will once again offer a bake sale, holiday craft/boutique sale, as well as tables of gently-used holiday decorations. The ladies are asking for any holiday decorations you are no longer using and if you have a special baked item you might like to donate to the bake sale. This is the last fundraiser for the year and will help to support the women's various church projects. More information to come in regards to details, however, holiday items can be brought to the church office during the week or the Information Counter on Sunday mornings. If there are questions, please call Bev Inbody at 734-904-5750 or in the church office at 734-663-9376.

**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.



**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!



First Baptist Church  
517 E Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2015  
734-663-9376  
[www.fbca2.org](http://www.fbca2.org)  
[office@fbca2.org](mailto:office@fbca2.org)

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next  
Newsletter  
Deadline:  
*Sunday, November 27*



## INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT EVENT

November 20, 11:30 – 1:00

The Board of Christian Education invites you to a special Advent event for all ages. (There will be no individual second hour classes.) All ages will participate in a special group Advent poster that will be used to decorate our building and there will be other take-home activities. We will end the fun with lunch together at 12:30. If you are planning to come and/or willing to assist, please sign up at the Information Counter.