



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

Pastor's Reflections by Stacey Simpson Duke September 28, 2016

What a weekend we had at First Baptist! After more than a year of planning, we hosted our Waterman Lecture this Sunday, with Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann as our lecturer and guest preacher. We were blown away by the dynamic, relevant, thought-provoking messages he shared. If you missed it, you can listen to both the sermon and the lecture on our website (fbca2.org - audio of the sermon is located in the worship service downloads, audio of the lecture is located in the Events tab). A HUGE thank you to our hard-working Waterman Committee: Astrid Beck (chair, pictured below with Dr. Brueggemann), Mary Davis, Paul Simpson Duke, Arthur and Marlene Francis, Anna Moyer, John Reed, and Clay Scott. We owe them a debt of gratitude for this remarkable event.



The same day as the Waterman Lecture, our youth participated in the local CROP Walk for hunger relief. Our church has participated in this event, sponsored by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, for many years. This year, it was scheduled earlier than usual, and a number of our usual participants were unable to be involved. The ones who *were* able to participate, however, did an outstanding job. These three youth - Charlie Duke, Rob Duke, and Isaac Thompson - collected contributions for the past three Sundays and then participated in the walk on Sunday afternoon. A big thank you to the three of them for their dedication to this important cause, and special thanks to youth parent Lucy Thompson, who walked with them. We are so grateful to this congregation for your extraordinary support. Because of your generosity, our youth were able to raise **\$1550** for this important cause!



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 - 1st 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 (6th - 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)

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: Every year we offer a weekly midday Bible study on Wednesdays, at 1:30, from mid-September through mid-May, and this year's series began Sept 21. 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. The classes each year are informative and inspiring, and the group is engaging and fun. Please join us if you can.

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.

FBC News & Happenings

Organ Concert This Sunday, October 2nd!

Thanks to the support from our congregation, our Coffee Break Concert Series, 2016-2017 celebrates its sixth year. If music does not heal souls, at least it offers one a chance to be healed. Many people came and enjoyed that chance in the past five years. And I am proud of First Baptist to offer that chance again to even more people in our community no matter what situations they were and are in. The door is always open to all, so let your friends know about the series although you might not be able to come to one and invite friends to a concert or more. The first concert of this season's series is Organ Concert by Scott Dettra, one of the finest concert organists in the nation, on October 2, Sunday at 4 pm. Thanks to the generous contributions by our church families, we will enjoy our Robert Noehren Organ again with beautiful music. This concert is also co-sponsored by the Organ Department of the University of Michigan and the Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. There will be many guests to hear the concert, especially organists. I hope many of you can be there to be proud hosts for this event. If you would like to volunteer to welcome people at the doors before the concert, please let me know. Thank you! ~Shin-Ae Chun (see poster on page 6)

The FBC Ladies' Book Club will meet Tuesday, October 11th, at 7 pm at Janice Stumpf's house to discuss *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. All women readers as well as I-almost-read-it-but-ran-out-of-time, well-intentioned women are welcome! Please contact Janice at (734) 663-4871 or jlstumpf@umich.edu for further information.

Thank you!

I would like to express my appreciation to the FBC family for the support I've received over the past few months. It's never easy to lose a parent but your kind words of encouragement through the many cards and notes I received brought more comfort than you can imagine. I've always felt fortunate to be part of the FBC family, but this just confirmed how truly blessed I am! With each passing day, I feel more at peace knowing my Mother is in a better place. - Paula Burton

Stacey's Doctoral Project: Last Call for Input

Thank you so much to everyone who filled out a survey about the pastors' practice of reciting Scripture by memory in Sunday morning worship. If you did not submit a survey but would like to do so, please let me know! Also, if you would like to share any reflections on your own experience (as a child or otherwise) with memorizing Bible verses, I would still be interested in talking with you. I am in the final stages of compiling my data and writing up my project, and any input is still useful. - Stacey Simpson Duke, staceyduke@gmail.com

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.

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 6th 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 by October 15, 2016. Questions may also be directed to Janice by email or to Rev. Stacey Simpson Duke at (734) 663-9376 or staceyduke@gmail.com.

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

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. ***We still need volunteers for Sunday, October 2. Please let us know if you can help.***

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.



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!

Whispering in Church

by Carolyn Brown, *Worshiping With Children*

Whispering in church is OK - even good and necessary! Do not apologize for it! Instead, learn to do it very well.

Whispering is good because it connects children learning to worship with their adults who know how to worship. Parents can no more worship "beside" their children than they can eat "beside" their children. Instead they must worship and eat "with" their children coaching them along the way. During childhood both are team sports and whispering is how the coaches and players communicate in the sanctuary.

The trick is to cultivate the art of whispering in church. At first most whispering needs to be done by the adults because young children have only stage whispers that can be heard for several rows. Adults can lean in with instructions, observations, and questions to think about. As children develop their ability to whisper quietly, they can also ask questions, make observations, and reply to their adult.

What do you whisper about?

- > Call attention to something that is coming, "this is the prayer where we all tell God what we're sorry about."
- > Encouragement to participate, "we're going to pray the Lord's Prayer. You know it. You can pray with us." Or "look at the last line of this song. It's the same every time. Sing it with me."
- > Suggestions about things to listen for, "Jesus is going fishing in this story. What do you think he'll catch?" or "there are A LOT of alleluias in this song!"
- > Connect to something at home, (just before the Doxology) "my favorite blessing this week was our picnic yesterday. What was yours?"
- > Share your love of worship, "this is one of my favorite songs. I like...."
- > Cultivate the art of the no-answer question, "How do you think Jesus felt when that happened?"

The whispering need not be constant. Several whispered comments or questions spread throughout the service are needed by younger children. One comment on something that especially hits home is enough for many worship savvy older children.

Surprising benefit: When parental whispering is mostly about sharing worship rather than correcting worship behavior, it enriches the worship of the adults as well as the children. We have to stay alert and pay attention. Actually, instead of getting in the way of our worship, it tends to make us better worshippers.

Sheets for Bandages

The AB Women's ministries would like donations of old white, light-colored, or soft print cotton sheets to use as bandages for White Cross. They will be rolled in 3"x10' strips and sent to the Congo. This is an annual White Cross project. The sheets can be brought to the Information Counter on Sunday mornings or to the church office during the week. Call Bev Inbody (734-904-5750 or in the office 734-663-9376) if you have any questions.

The MacGregor-Stitt Circle next meets on Thursday, October 20, at 1pm at the home of Maria Pierantozzi. The Program is "Angels Among Us" by Sandra Deline and Kathy Mortensen.

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
Coffee Break Concert Series, 2016-2017 ①

**October 2, 2016
Sunday at 4 pm**

ORGAN CONCERT

Scott Dettra



Photo by William Geiger

**Concert Organist
Director of Music and Organist,
Church of the Incarnation in Dallas**

(This concert is co-sponsored by the Organ Department of The University of Michigan as the opening concert of its annual organ conference and the Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.)

**Music by Sweelinck, D'Angelo, Persichetti,
Whitlock and Duruflé**

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

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 4:00 Organ Concert	3 5:30 Mission Action	4 5:30 Vespers	5 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering	6 7:30 Choir	7	8 10:30 Counsell Memorial Service
9 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 6:00 Race Series	10	11 1:30 ChristCare 5:30 Vespers	12 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering 7:30 ChristCare	13 7:30 Choir	14	15
16 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 6:00 Race Series	17	18 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Trustees	19 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering	20 7:30 Choir	21	22
23 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 6:00 Race Series	24 6:00 Christian Education	25 5:30 Vespers	26 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering	27 7:30 Choir	28	29
30 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour 6:00 Race Series	31					

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www.fbca2.org
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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next
Newsletter
Deadline:
Sunday, October 9



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.