

When I was about eight years old, an American Baptist pastor from somewhere in Africa stayed with my family for a few days. He probably preached at our church, though I don't remember that. What I do remember was his beautiful black skin, fascinating accent, and delight in children like me. That was my first happy experience with the wider American Baptist family.

Since then, I have had many opportunities to know and love our far-flung American Baptist Churches USA. Every two years, the ABCUSA gathers for a big family reunion somewhere in the U.S. or Puerto Rico so last week, I attended, as your representative, our denomination's biennial summit in Virginia Beach. Another First Baptist/Ann Arbor member, Sandy Bouma, came too, although she might have been at least as interested in a day of birding along the beach as denominational meetings.

Opening night, Dr. Howard Stevenson, a nationally recognized clinical psychologist, educator, and researcher on negotiating racial conflicts who also happens to be the brother of Brian Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*, moved us toward deeper understanding of racism and our capacity to overcome it. No one breathed as he played a recording of his conversation, following news of Trayvon Martin, with his own eight-year-old son, known in black families as the "stalking talk."

Sandy noticed that, apart from a few of the musicians, no one on stage that night had white skin. We are a wonderfully diverse and egalitarian denomination.

I took copious notes at an inspiring and practical session on how to be church "Beyond the Walls" by Rev. Dr. Chris Beckert, director of Fresh Expressions US (<https://freshexpressionsus.org>). Sandy was moved by Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, Sr., senior pastor of historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, addressing the subject, "Jesus Was An Inmate: A Movement to End Mass Incarceration." We both selected a hilarious workshop on improving discussion and decision-making in meetings. And we loved seeing Marissa at the AMOS booth in the Exhibit Hall.

I understand that some denominational gatherings are exclusive, dry, and dull. Not ours.

And let's not forget Stacey and Paul connecting us with wonders of art and faith all over Europe on their sabbatical and Xan drawing our attention to children suffering on our southern border. The more we connect with one another, the more we can show the love of God in our world.

Note: The next ABCUSA biennial will be in Puerto Rico - 2021!



*Sandy Bouma, Marissa Alaniz, and Heather Entrekin meet at the ABCUSA biennial in Virginia Beach*

## Children's Christian Education

Children and Youth are an important part of our life together at First Baptist Church. All children are welcome in worship. If you are visiting and would like more information about our ministry with kids and youth, please connect with our Director of Children's Ministry, Xan Morgan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)).

### **Vacation Bible School was a blast!**

We partnered with other local churches to put on a fantastic and formative VBS for kids. They "travel" back to Jesus' time as they do activities in the marketplace, go to the synagogue and participate in family rituals and chores with their small group. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the week a huge success. Thank you to Graham Miles, Lee Foley, Jill Damon, Betty Doman, David Robbins, Mary Margaret Hatt, Nancy Rushton, Vicky Rushton, Robb Rushton, Ricky Rushton, Helena Kremer, Syd Weissinger, Elena Rosario, Heather Entrekim, Pete Stover, Joan Desouza, Emmanuel Morgan and Josh Emenheiser!

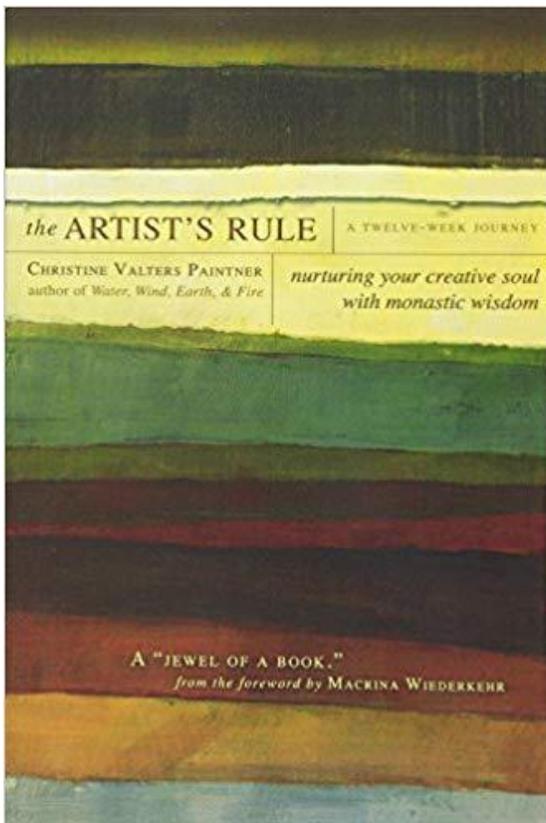






**Greeting:** Please arrive by 9:40 to greet folks and pass out bulletins at the top of the ramp by the Sanctuary door. Your information has been added to SignUp Genius; you will receive an email indicating your assigned Sunday. If you have questions, please contact Sam Laidlaw ([laidlawsam7@gmail.com](mailto:laidlawsam7@gmail.com)).

**Hosting Fellowship Time:** Please arrive at 9:15 to begin setting up for Fellowship Time. There is a binder with directions in the kitchen. Someone from the Board of Care and Community will be with you if it is your first time. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Ellen Glover ([gloverse@hotmail.com](mailto:gloverse@hotmail.com)).



**Informal Summer Sunday Group: Art and Life**

You are welcome to join a small group Sunday mornings to talk about a book on our pastors' sabbatical reading list: *Artist's Rule: Nurturing Your Creative Soul with Monastic Wisdom*. After Fellowship Time, we are gathering in the lounge across the hall. Bring your coffee, the book, and interest in exploring how creativity and spirituality lead toward abundant life! (And because this group is relaxed and informal, books are optional.) There will also be space for talk about the morning's sermon and other subjects of deep interest.

# FBC News & Happenings

**The AB Women's Ministries Garden Party** will be held in the Lounge on Thursday, June 27, at 1pm. The officers for 2019-2020 will be installed and a collection for the Women and Girl's Fund will be taken up.

**Maria Pierantozzi** wishes to thank everyone for their visits, cards, prayers and calls while she has been in rehab at Saline Evangelical for her broken pelvis. She has felt and been uplifted by the love!

## **Bethel UCC Ice Cream Social**

One of our Vespers partners, Bethel United Church of Christ, invites everyone to their Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 11, starting at 4:30pm. They are located at the corner of Bethel Church and Schneider Roads, between Manchester and Saline.

Our next YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT is July 26! Please mark your calendars for Friday, July 26th from 7:00-10:30 pm. Join us for this fun night of pizza, a movie and hanging out. Please let Xan Morgan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)) know if your teen is able to attend.

## **ABWM Honor for Carolyn Grapentine**

Carolyn Grapentine was awarded the "Woman of the Year" by the AB Women's Ministries of Michigan. They received the highest number of testimonials ever received for one individual, highlighting all of the work and energy that Carolyn puts in to demonstrate God's love in this world. Congratulations!

## **Habitat for Humanity - Good News Houses 2019**

Dates have been set for our Saturday workday with Habitat for Humanity. The congregational work date is set for Saturday August 3, starting at 8:30 AM and ending at 3:00PM. Those members with flexible weekday schedules check with Good News House website or the Huron Valley H4H website to schedule a time to volunteer. The Good News House for 2019 is to be a renovation of a 1950's ranch house in Ypsilanti. The house is at 2716 Woodruff Lane. We will also need lunches on this date.

First Baptist supports H4H through Mission Action contributions and you can personally support with financial contributions made to FBC with Good News House on the memo line. Please contact Scott Diels at 734-649-2787(Cell) or [hscottdiels@att.net](mailto:hscottdiels@att.net) if you are able to participate.

Good News House [www.goodnewshouse.org](http://www.goodnewshouse.org)  
Huron Valley Habitat for Humanity [www.huronvalley@h4h.org](http://www.huronvalley@h4h.org)

## **Last Chance to sign up for the July 13, 14 Shared Suppers**

The Board of Care and Community is sponsoring an opportunity for our FBC Family to gather and get to know one another better. What better way to do that than around a family table? We gather in smallish groups (6-8ish) in homes for Shared Suppers. They are pot luck style and happen on the 2nd Saturday and Sunday, every other month, i.e. January, March etc. (The groups will be different every time so folks can interact with those they may not know so well. If you haven't already signed up and are interested in being on the list of participants, sign up at the Information Counter or contact Mary Davis ([madrad@umich.edu](mailto:madrad@umich.edu)). Being on the list only indicates interest, not a commitment to come. You will be contacted for availability about two weeks before each supper. Of course everyone won't be able to come every time. Children/youth are welcome to participate. Shared transportation can also be arranged.

**We are deeply saddened to report the passing of Bill McKeachie**

Dexter Professor Doctor Wilbert (Bill) James McKeachie passed away peacefully in the company of loved ones on June 12th, 2019. He was 97 years old. Dr. McKeachie was an exceptional human being who led a long, rich, and joyful life. He married his college sweetheart, Virginia (Ginny) Mack, with whom he enjoyed 74 loving years of marriage. They raised two daughters and were blessed with a granddaughter as well as a great-granddaughter. He was a devoted family man, a skilled pianist who was passionate about music, a lover of card games, and a legendary fast-pitch softball pitcher. The game of softball was more than a hobby for Dr. McKeachie. He played on intramural, church, and city leagues, and softball was an essential activity at family gatherings. McKeachie said his most memorable year was 1976, when he pitched three no-hitters and served as president of the American Psychological Association.



Religious faith was an essential component of Dr McKeachie's life. He and Ginny were active members of the first Baptist Church of Ann Arbor for over 70 years. They enjoyed singing together in the choir, playing handbells, and he served on many boards.

Born in Clarkston, Michigan in 1921, Bill graduated first from Holly High School, then Michigan Normal College (now EMU) in 1942. In 1945, following service in World War II as a radar and communications officer on a destroyer in the Pacific, he enrolled in graduate school at the University of Michigan to study psychology. After completion of his doctorate in 1949, McKeachie continued with the University of Michigan as a professor and researcher in the fields of psychology and education. Dr. McKeachie remained with the University of Michigan until his retirement in 1992. During his tenure, he served 10 years as Chair of the Department of Psychology, authored numerous books, monographs, chapters, and articles. Dr. McKeachie is best known professionally for his influential and beloved book, *McKeachie's Teaching Tips: Strategies, Research, and Theory for College and University Teachers*, now in its 14th edition, which has helped college educators world-wide to become better teachers. In monumental service to his profession, he held numerous leadership roles including the presidency of the American Psychological Association, the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, and the American Association of Higher Education. His illustrious career was recognized by numerous prestigious awards, and 8 honorary degrees.

Dr. McKeachie was a truly great man who left nothing in this life undone. He will always be treasured for his thoughtfulness, generosity, and for the many lives he touched with kindness the world over. He was predeceased by his wife Virginia (Mack) McKeachie, daughter Karen McKeachie and sister Joyce (McKeachie) Doerner. Dr. McKeachie is survived by daughter Linda Dicks (Larry) of Dexter, granddaughter Erica Wallace of Dexter, great-granddaughter Addy Carter of Flat Rock, brothers Mel McKeachie of Wooster, Ohio and Duane McKeachie of Flint, sister-in-law Mildred (Millie) Danielson of Ann Arbor, son-in-law Lew Kidder of Ann Arbor, and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, July 13, 2019 at First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor at 1pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Border to Border Trail or First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor.

**The Board of Care and Community** and your congregation want to be available to help in life's difficulties and transitions, but we can only do that if we know you are experiencing them. We can offer visits, help with food, transportation and possibly other needs. If you or your family lets the church office know, we will contact you by your preferred method to see how we can help.

## Hope Clinic Summer Food Drive

### FIRST BREAKFAST, NOW LUNCH!

We have had an overwhelming response to our first month of a three-month food drive for Hope Clinic (<https://thehopeclinic.org/serviceslink>). In June, we collected 220 breakfast foods, more than twice what we anticipated! THANK YOU!

Now we begin JULY - LUNCH MONTH! All July we will be collecting lunch foods for families who struggle to put food on the table, especially those with children. Let's meet or surpass our June record. The food pantry needs:

- ◇ Canned meat - tuna and chicken
- ◇ Peanut butter and other nut and seed butters
- ◇ Jelly and jam
- ◇ Spices and spice blends (low sodium)
- ◇ Mustard, ketchup, mayo
- ◇ Salad dressings
- ◇ Dried fruits - prunes, raisins, apricots

For Amazon shoppers, here is a link to the Hope Clinic Wish List.

[https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/IJNWC729PCQC/f=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_ep\\_ws\\_qwIBbPHX5TGR](https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/IJNWC729PCQC/f=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_qwIBbPHX5TGR)

Note: Hope Clinic does not need the "commercial" size cans or containers of food, but can use all other sizes.

As usual, you may leave donations at the table near the Washington Street entrance on Sunday or during the week at Kat's desk in the office.

If you are wondering why a *summer* food drive, it's because donations typically decrease between June and September when food pressures increase for families with children who are out of school. At Hope Clinic, summer donations are especially helpful.

Thank you, generous First Baptist Church.



Hope Clinic Anchor Team (Heather Entrekim, Nancy Paul, Linda Turner, and Kathleen Ford, *not pictured*) and cereal ready to be delivered.

June-JULY-August

A New Kind of  
FOOD DRIVE  
for Hope Clinic

Join with Hope Clinic and area  
churches as we feed the hungry in  
our community



# July 2019

| Sun   | Mon | Tue                | Wed                            | Thu   | Fri                    | Sat                           |
|---|-----|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | 1   | 2<br>5:30 Vespers  | 3                              | 4<br><i>Independence Day</i><br><i>Church Office &amp; Buildings Closed</i> | 5                      | 6                             |
| 7<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 Art & Life<br>11:30 Hope<br>Clinic Team                                   | 8   | 9<br>5:30 Vespers  | 10                             | 11  | 12                     | 13<br>1:00 McKeachie Memorial |
| 14<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Lemonade<br>on the Lawn<br>11:30 Art & Life<br>11:30 Care &<br>Community | 15  | 16<br>5:30 Vespers | 17                             | 18<br><b>Ann Arbor Art Fairs</b>  | 19                     | 20                            |
| 21<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 Art & Life<br><b>Art Fairs</b>   | 22  | 23<br>5:30 Vespers | 24<br>5:30 Christian Education | 25  | 26<br>7:00 Youth Movie | 27                            |
| 28<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Lemonade<br>on the Lawn<br>11:30 Art & Life                              | 29  | 30<br>5:30 Vespers | 31                             |   |                        |                               |

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next  
Newsletter  
Deadline:  
*Sunday, July 14*

### **Art Fair Parking Lot Supervision**

The Art Fairs are almost here (July 18-21)! Once again we are renting out the church parking lot to raise funds (over \$2000!!) for Youth mission trips and our Vespers meals. The artists have already made their reservations so now we need MANY volunteers to supervise the lot. It is not difficult work and you are able to spend it sitting down (in the shade). In addition to our gratitude, volunteers "earn" a free half-day parking spot to be used any time during the Fairs! The two-hour shifts begin at 9 AM and extend until 9PM. Please sign up at the Information Counter.

### **Using the Church Lot During Art Fair Week:**

The artists with their motorhomes, vans, trucks and trailers begin arriving Tuesday, July 16, and starting on that date the whole church parking lot will be needed for their vehicles and our staff until Sunday night (July 21). Please do not use the lot unless you are on church business (free) or coming to the Art Fairs (for a donation). If you come to church that week, please ask the volunteer on duty where you should park. We will always find a parking space for people in our congregation. We may need to double-park your car and will keep your keys so we can move it if necessary but we will always have space for folks in our church family. Please remember that the lot closes at 9PM (4:00 on Sunday) and you will need to move your car at that time.