



THE THINGS YOU LEARN by Heather Entrekin

July 17, 2019

I am learning all kinds of fun things in this three-month role as interim sabbatical pastor while Paul, Stacey and the boys soak up fine art, good food, and other inspiring, restorative wonders across the Atlantic. For example, this week I learned about checks that our Board of Mission Action writes every month on our behalf.

If you think a meeting to discuss organization and administration of mission and budget would be dull, you are wrong! Those pledges we made last fall enable our church to support amazing work, near and far, all year long. Here's what your generosity made possible this month:

\$2,000 to Religious Action for Affordable Housing

This group has one of the best acronyms (RAAH) and a stellar board - it includes First Baptist's Xan Morgan and Edie Hurst. Money given to RAAH supports a number of non-profits providing affordable housing and services in Washtenaw County. We join many member congregations and individual donors raising \$75,000 for these critical needs: housing stabilization (Community Action Network), wellness housing (Unified Health HIV and Beyond), a community risk mitigation fund (Washtenaw Housing Alliance), family support teams (Avalon) and The House More Serve More program (Shelter Association of Washtenaw County).

\$2,000 to M.I.S.S.I.O.N— Michigan Itinerant Shelter System Interdependent Out of Necessity.

M.I.S.S.I.O.N. is a collaboration between the homeless, the previously homeless and those who have never experienced homelessness. It provides a comprehensive, ever-expanding suite of services attuned to real and changing needs of homeless communities in Ann Arbor.

M.I.S.S.I.O.N works with faith-based organizations, law enforcers, city administrators, and homeless persons themselves to create solutions that mutually benefit the homeless and society. Its unifying philosophy is that homelessness doesn't end with a house, it ends with community.

\$2,000 to Baptist Peace Fellowship

I know this worthy organization personally. BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz is the largest network of Baptist peacemakers in the world. They celebrate and support the peacemaking work done by Baptists in Canada, the United States, Puerto Rico and Mexico by raising visibility, bringing peacemakers together, and providing resources, speakers and training.

They also actively connect with peacemakers from other traditions, faith-based and secular, to build alliances and work together toward the goal of a more just and peaceful world. Right now, BPFNA persons and others who are passionate about nonviolence, social justice and strengthening the global witness for peace, are meeting in Cali, Columbia on the theme, *Peace in Our Land: Toward a World Without Violence*. A good friend of mine is there filming.

I have attended a BPFNA conference and my former church sent one of our youth. These experiences can change a life. For those who care about ecumenical and interfaith peace building around the world, there is no better organization.

Friends, this is good news. Thanks to your generosity and faithful, discerning church leaders, our dollars reach far beyond our church walls. On September 15, you'll have a chance to celebrate, learn more and get involved at a CONNECTIONS FAIR in Fellowship Hall! I am grateful.

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).

Our Kids4Kids Lemonade Stand raised \$523.00 to support the work of [Immigrant Families Together!](#) IFT works to reunite immigrant families by paying bonds, providing transportation and much more. Thank you for your generosity.





Our next **YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT** is **July 26th!** 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) know if your teen is able to attend.

FBC e-Connection and Newsletter Email Distribution

From time to time, we hear from folks 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 immediate happenings at the church and the concerns of church members, such as prayer requests, birth and death announcements.
- **FBC Newsletter** for distribution of the twice-monthly church newsletter for those who want to receive it electronically (it helps save on paper and postage, besides arriving at your computer on date of publication!)

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.***

FBC News & Happenings

Thank you for Loucks Scholarship!

"Hello, this is Ricky. I want to thank you for the scholarship. I look forward to attending WCC in the Fall and this will help me very much in achieving my goals in the future. Thank you again."

The University of Michigan Faculty Women's Club Painting Section Art Show

Our own Marilyn Marsh has artwork on display as part of this exhibit at the Malletts Creek Library. The exhibit will run until July 27.

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 if you are able to participate.

Good News House www.goodnewshouse.org

Huron Valley Habitat for Humanity www.huronvalley@h4h.org

Backpack and School Supplies

Once again, we have are providing twenty backpacks for the children and youth serviced by Community Action Network and living at Hikone. Please choose a tag at the table near the Information Counter and sign your name next to the tag's number on the master list. Take the tag home, fill the backpack with age appropriate school supplies (lists available), attach the tag and return it to church by **August 11**.

You don't have to fill a whole backpack - donations of **any** school supplies are appreciated. You may also choose to donate financially. We can buy and fill a middle school or high school backpack for \$65 and an elementary one for \$40 (please make check out to Sue Ellen Glover). If we have extra supplies after filling the backpacks, we donate these to the Education Project for Homeless Youth through the Washtenaw Intermediate School District. Thank you for your participation in this ministry!

 **FIRST BAPTIST**
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

PARK HERE

Parking is free for registered guests and visitors.

Registration Instructions

1. Text your license plate to (734) 436-3696
2. Reply with your **FREE validation code** from the office.

Your Code:

FBC Parking & AirGarage

We continue to roll out the new arrangement with AirGarage for managing our parking lot. If you have any questions or need help getting your car registered, please call or email the church office (office@fbca2.org or 734-663-9376)

We are very sad to report the death of Helen Louise Bowser

Helen Louise Sheppard Bowser, born, May 29, 1937, in Roanoke, VA, reached the end of her life peacefully after a long and difficult illness on July 10, 2019, surrounded by her family.

Helen Louise (also known as HL) graduated from Stephens College with an AA, and then from the University of Missouri with a BA. After college she graduated in 1962 with a BD from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Despite some institutional resistance, she went on to become an ordained American Baptist Minister in 1975. In the mid-1970s, she worked for LEADS, a poverty program for Licking County, Ohio, and then as a Minister of Education at the Methodist Church in Kenmore, New York. Later, she was the Associate Executive Minister at American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island from 1981 to 1994. During this time she served as an interim pastor at several churches in Rhode Island. Later, she served as co-interim pastor with her husband Richard at North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago and at Seattle First Baptist in Seattle. Throughout her career she was a mentor to many young women, and her example was an inspiration to many more.

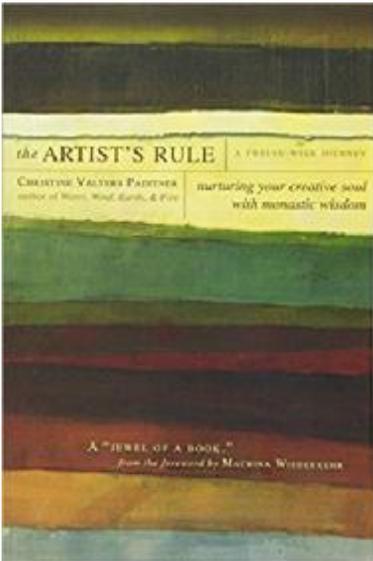


HL loved new experiences. Travel was one of her favorites, especially if she got to ride on back roads and through the countryside and small towns. She appreciated nature and all its variety and could identify a tree with or without leaves from the car window. Her marriage to Richard was the foundation upon which their family was built. Beyond family, she touched the lives of friends, colleagues, and members of congregations she served. She thought deeply about life. Her theology was heavily influenced by the teachings of Roger Williams and his passion for religious freedom.

Helen Louise is survived by her husband of nearly 60 years, Richard A. Bowser; three daughters: Helen "Louise" Bowser Schmaltz (Tad M. Schmaltz), Alice S. Bowser, and Adrian E. Bowser Renning (Paul S. Renning); five grandchildren: Johanna E. Schmaltz, Samuel A. Schmaltz, Michael W. Renning, David A. Renning, and Zachary L. Renning. She is also survived by her siblings, Marjorie Sheppard Edwards, Lee Sheppard, Jr., and Carolyn Sheppard Greenlaw, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor on Saturday, July 27, at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Baptist Church (517 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104), to be used for the Roger Williams Fund, which supports religious freedom.





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.

Poems by some of the participants are the result of contemplating this scripture Larry Bates read to us as we sat in meditation.

Jeremiah 6:16: "Thus says the Lord:
stand at the crossroads and look,
and ask for the ancient paths:
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls."

Know what is inside
Know what is outside
Life, you can do it right.
- Scott Diels

Beholding by Sandy Bouma

Standing, still
Looking to begin again
Today
as every day.
What will you have me see?
Together we walk
Discovering with shared eyes
something new, good and ancient:
Beauty
that saves us.

Nothing More by Sandra Deline

The breath of God fills the aching cavities of my soul.
Refreshing peace with every breath
Rejoice!
I have found the way of centuries
Everything I need.
Nothing more.

"the monk and the artist" by David Hurst

Standing at a crossroad....
.....attentive.....
What am I looking for?
Smoothness of path or pave-ment? Pebbles, sand, least used? Robert Frost reduced it to "two ways". A Psalm writer put in terms of prayer for God's leading him in "the right way".
What am I looking for?

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. 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.



Hope Clinic Summer Food Drive

WE DO LUNCH!

Good News! So far in July we have collected 116 lunch foods for Hope Clinic including 34 cans of tuna and 29 jars of "nut" butters! Let's keep it going to stock pantry shelves for neighbor families needing summer food help. Here are the 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

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 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.

June-JULY-August

Let's Do Lunch
for Hope Clinic!

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

HOPE CLINIC
A Haven of Help + Healing



SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8
12:00-2:00 PM**

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:00 Worship 11:30 Art & Life	5	6 5:30 Vespers	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 Worship 11:00 Lemonade On the Lawn 11:30 Art & Life	12	13 1:00 Mission Action 5:30 Vespers	14 * newsletter *	15	16	17
18 10:00 Worship 11:30 Art & Life 11:30 AMOS Partner Mtg	19 7:00 Racial Justice Grp.	20 5:30 Christian Education 5:30 Vespers	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 Worship 11:00 Lemonade On the Lawn 11:30 Art & Life 12:30 Youth at Zap Zone	26	27 5:30 Vespers	28	29	30 6:00 Youth End- Of-Summer Party	31

First Baptist Church
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734-663-9376
www.fbca2.org
office@fbca2.org

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next
Newsletter
Deadline:
Sunday, Aug 11

Using the Church Lot During Art Fair Week:

The artists with their motorhomes, vans, trucks and trailers began arriving yesterday and the whole church parking lot is 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.

Worship This Coming Sunday:

The weather report has led us to plan for worship in Fellowship Hall this Sunday. You can look forward to wonderful worship accompanied by ice water, popsicles, fans, and a respite from the heat. Free parking is available, but since the artists are renting our church parking lot, you will need to use the Liberty Square parking garage across Washington Street. Although the parking garage will be charging on the Sunday of Art Fair, the parking is free for those attending worship. You will need to present an Art Fairs parking voucher - these are now available in the church office and we will have volunteers at the parking lot entrance next Sunday to pass out these vouchers to those who don't have one. The Republic Parking attendant will collect the vouchers inside the parking structure. After worship, if you would like to visit the Art Fair (which opens at noon on Sunday), you can leave your car in the garage for free. **We will have a few spaces in the church lot for those who need to park close to the church entrance.** Please let Sue Ellen know before the 21st if you need one of those spaces. See you Sunday!