



by Heather Entrekin

August 14, 2019

## Our Pastors Return in September

It seems like yesterday that co-pastors Paul and Stacey Simpson Duke began their three-month sabbatical on the theme: *The Gospel in the Visual Arts*, but in just three weeks they return. Many of us have enjoyed following along on Stacey's blog, "Seeing the Sacred," as they have traveled in Europe and now come back to the States for their final month of reflection, reading, rest, and family. One inspired goal of the sabbatical is to make greater use of the visual arts in the spiritual nurture, growth, and outreach of our church. It will be fun to see how this develops in the months ahead.

On Tuesday, September 3, Stacey and Paul officially resume pastoral responsibilities at First Baptist and on Sunday, September 8, they return to the pulpit. We rejoice!! September 8 also happens to be church picnic day, so you will not want to miss this important Sunday of welcome and celebration.

In the meantime, let's keep worshipping God with the grateful and flexible spirit that has made worship such a good experience, even down in the fellowship hall. Thank you for the many ways you have contributed to making this a vibrant, caring, and creative community all summer long, no matter how hot and humid the weather. Now let's prepare to welcome home Paul and Stacey, Rob and Charlie, with joyful and open hearts.



## **Children & Youth 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)).

### **Youth Group End-of-Summer Celebration**

We hope to see all of the youth (6th-12th grade) and their families at the end-of-the-year summer celebration on Saturday, August 31st from 7-10:30 pm. at the Hallidays' home. **Note the date change.** Grab your lawn chairs and come enjoy snacks, drinks and time with friends. We'd like to know how many people to expect; please RSVP by emailing Xan Morgan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)). We hope you can make it!

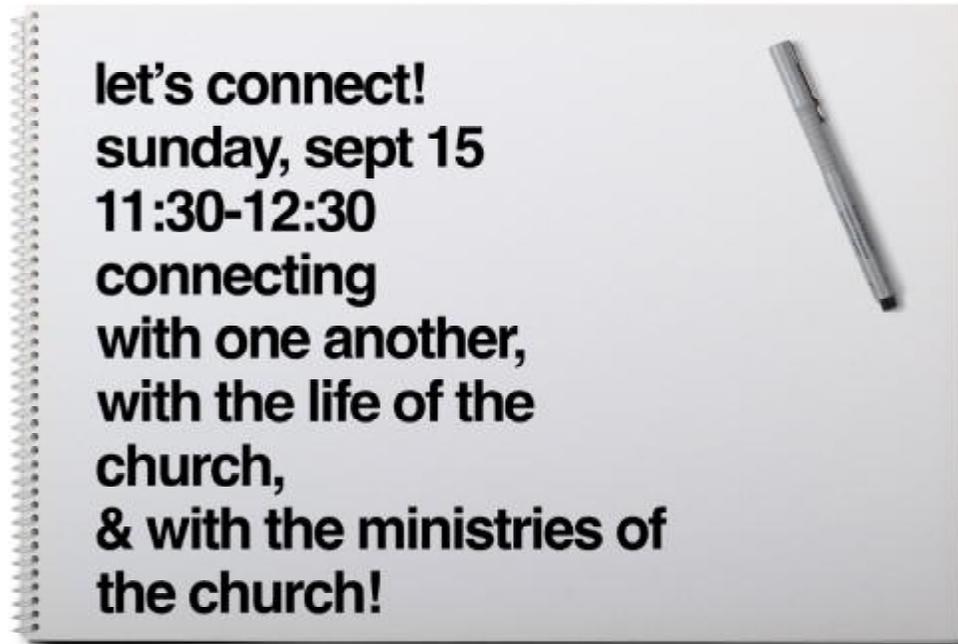


**Fun during Lemonade on the Lawn**

# *FBC News & Happenings*

## Sanctuary window repair

On Sunday morning, you will see that two of the stained glass panels from the east side of the sanctuary are missing. Don't worry! They are out for repairs with Ann Arbor Glassworks. The frames and leading need reinforcing. We are fortunate that with storm windows in place, we don't have to board up the windows. They should be back in place in a couple of weeks.



## Fellowship Fund

Thank you, FBC! \$291 was donated to the Fellowship Fund at worship on August 4. The fund goes to help with emergency needs in the local community. The needs include help to prevent eviction, to prevent utility shutoffs, and to get bus passes for people who have no other means to get to the food pantries.

## School Supplies Collection

All this month we will continue to collect miscellaneous school supplies as well as financial donations. These will be delivered to Washtenaw County's Education Project for Homeless students and to Ozone House to provide for more expensive items such as USB memory sticks and calculators. The Education Project serves more than 2,000 children and youth who are homeless or in temporary housing throughout Washtenaw County, including Ozone House which provides free, confidential, and voluntary shelter and support service to homeless youth including those LGBT youth and high risk youth who have been forced to leave their homes by unsupportive families. Last year we had enough financial support to purchase several Meijer gift cards which were given out as needed for sports or specific teacher-required items throughout the school year.

Thank you for your participation in this ministry!

## To Sing or Not to Sing? There is no question!

The First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor Sanctuary Choir is looking for new voices to fill the choir loft. The choir rehearses each Thursday evening from 7:30-9:00pm. The ability to read and sight-sing music at a high level is not a requirement for joining the choir, but rather the love of singing and the desire to worship God through music. The music the choir offers each week is challenging, which is part of the reason there is weekly rehearsal. Please come to choir rehearsal starting Thursday, September 6th. You will meet new friends, have a lot of fun, and become part of a loving and caring group of people that praise God with their singing voices! If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Kidd.



### **Graham Miles**

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Graham Miles on July 31, after complications from a procedure. A memorial service will be held at 2pm on Saturday, September 21 in the FBC sanctuary. Please keep Bonnie, Carey, and Mara in your thoughts and prayers.

(Carolyn Hillebrand took a picture that so clearly shows all the love and joy Graham had in teaching young people how to build things)

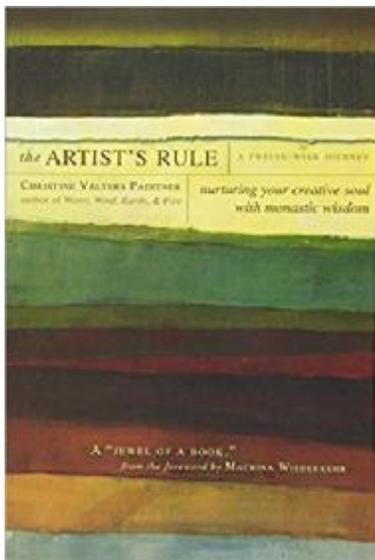
### **FBC Parking & AirGarage**

Thank you to everyone in the church family who have registered their cars on AirGarage. The rollout continues and we're working out the small hiccups that happen with any new process. If you have any questions or concerns about how AirGarage will work at FBC, please don't hesitate to bring them up.

The question that comes up most often is "do I have to text each time I come into the lot?" One you have signed up with the code for one year, you are good to come and go from the lot as you did when you just had the FBC sticker. But, as with the sticker, we ask that you please not use the parking lot during Thursday evening choir rehearsals (they start back up in a few weeks!) and Wednesday afternoon Bible Study (start date TBD).



One glitch that we discovered...If you use your cellphone to register your car and then use the same cellphone to register another car for the family, the system overrides the first entry and the first car is no longer registered. So, if you want more than one car registered, either use a different cell number for the process, or email the plate to the office and we'll register it online.



### **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.

### Hope Clinic Summer Food Drive

July was a spectacular month for our food drive! For a quiet summer month, you outdid yourselves by bringing in over 300 lunch items including 98 cans of tuna and 52 jars of "nut" butters (mostly of the peanut variety but almond and cashew were also well represented). When we delivered our collection to Hope, we filled most of the empty shelving unit in their storeroom (granted it's a smallish storeroom). Before long, tuna, PB&J, ketchup, mustard, and mayo (and more) will be moved to the pantry itself and then into the homes of our neighbors to whom Hope extends a helping hand. Thanks to you!

### **NOW LETS TALK ABOUT DINNER!**

August is the final month of our summer food drive and you have already donated 123 dinner items during the first two weeks. Way to go First Baptist! Included were:

- Hearty soups (lower sodium would be lovely)
- Meals in a can - chili with meat, ravioli, beef stew, corned beef hash
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Canned meat
- Ready rice or lentil packets
- Spices and spice blends (low sodium)

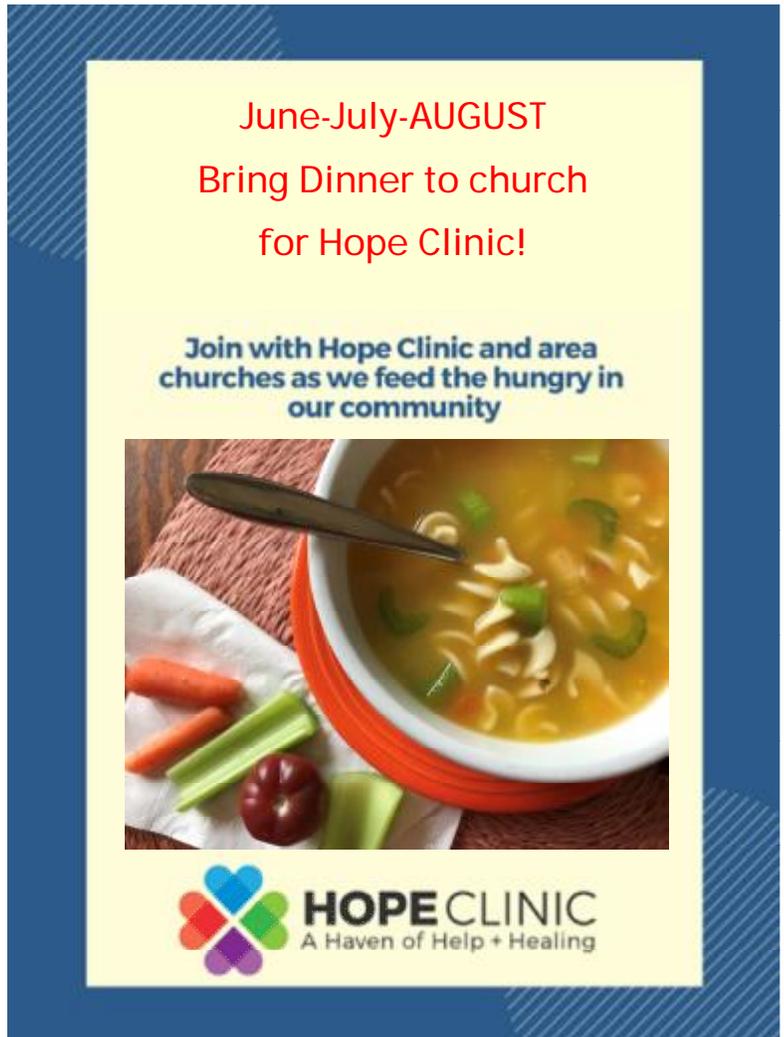
For Amazon shoppers, or those looking for specific suggestions, here is a link to the Hope Clinic Wish List. [https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/IJNWC729PCQC/?f=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_ep\\_ws\\_.qwIBbPHX5TGR](https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/IJNWC729PCQC/?f=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_.qwIBbPHX5TGR)

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 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 once again for your generosity, First Baptist Church!



Hope Anchor Team with some of the 300 lunch foods collected in July

**SEE YOU AT THE  
ANNUAL  
CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC!  
SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 8  
12:00-2:00 PM  
ALLMENDINGER PARK  
655 PAULINE BLVD**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 8th from noon-2:00 pm. We'll head over to Allmendinger Park after worship for fun for all ages. We'll have a potluck lunch, piñata and a game of kickball. Church will provide chicken and paper products. Please take a moment to RSVP and sign up for a potluck item [here](#).

**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.



**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 your 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.

# September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Worship	2 <i>Labor Day</i> Church Buildings & Office Closed	3 5:30 Vespers	4 5:00 Gathering	5 7:30 Choir	6	7
8 10:00 Worship 12:00 Church Picnic	9	10 1:00 Mission Action 5:30 Vespers	11 5:00 Gathering	12 7:30 Choir	13	14
15 <i>ABWM Sunday</i> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Connection Fair	16 7:00 Monday Night Book Group	17 5:30 Christian Education 5:30 Vespers	18 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 Gathering	19 12:30 MacGregor Stitt Circle 7:30 Choir	20	21 2:00 G. Miles Memorial
22 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour	23	24 9:30 ABWM Board Mtg 5:30 Vespers	25 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 Gathering	26 7:30 Choir	27	28
29 10:00 Worship 11:30 Second Hour	30					



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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next  
Newsletter  
Deadline:  
*Sunday, Sept 15*



**Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley Good News House**  
On Saturday, Aug 3, volunteers pitched in to help with the Good News House 2019. On top of the \$1,500 budgeted for H4H by the Board of Mission Action, an addition \$1,845 was collected and sent in to help with refurbishing the house. Thanks to all for your time, efforts, and financial contributions!