



Pastor's Reflections by Paul Simpson Duke

September 18, 2019

Your pastors are back from sabbatical, refreshed, renewed and most of all, very thankful. Our gratitude extends in many directions. We are certainly thankful to the Lilly Endowment for Clergy Renewal Programs, whose commitment is to foster the strengthening of congregations by providing pastors with opportunities for extra reflection and renewal. Their generosity not only funded our sabbatical, but provided funds for the church to be wonderfully cared for and led in our absence.

We are exceedingly grateful to Heather Entrekin, who served the church so graciously and effectively this summer. Her devotion and skill in leading worship, preaching, pastoral care, outreach, administration, and congregational leadership were a tremendous gift to us all—and she went way beyond the call of duty, putting in way more time than could have been expected. We are hearing rave reviews about her pastoral work among you, and we are so thankful. And Xan Morgan took on an extra load of work as well, and did it beautifully—which is totally consistent with her generous, joyous, creative, and outreaching spirit. Thank you, Xan!

Your welcome-home to us has been wonderful. Since our return two weeks ago, you have shown us the warmest affirmation, affection, and interest. We are so glad to be back with you—and to find that there are new people among us too. It is very clear that in our absence, the church didn't just maintain itself, but grew and progressed. Our return to work has not been about jump-starting anything, but about trying to catch up and keep up with our vigorous, lively congregation and colleagues.

Sabbatical time is not the same as vacation time, though there are plenty of vacation pleasures in it. We got a big, beautiful break from our usual jobs, and we rested more and laughed more and saw new sights and had fine adventures and enjoyed great, happy stretches of family time together. But interwoven through it all was some very intentional learning time and inspirational time, times that led us into reflection and good discussion with each other. The theme of this element of our sabbatical was "Seeing the Word: The Gospel through the Visual Arts." We went to art museums (lots!) and cathedrals (lots!), and other sites where inspiring works of art were available to us—beginning with Stonehenge at sunrise of the summer solstice (Start with the pagans, then move on to the Christians and Jews!) We studied paintings, sculptures, and architecture—both by witnessing them and by reading about them. Given the places we went to and our particular interests, most of what we gave our time to was work from the Renaissance, but we also considered works from other periods—including ancient and modern. We learned so much, and we often found ourselves deeply moved. And we had a blast! If you haven't done so already, check out Stacey's sabbatical blog to learn more about our adventures (seeingthesacred.com). She will be adding more entries to it.

This Sunday during Second Hour (11:30-12:30) we will give a report of our sabbatical. Many of you have expressed interest in being there, and we are thrilled for the opportunity to share (and it will be all four of us). Beyond this, the future of our pastoral ministry will likely be enriched by ongoing expressions of what we have experienced and learned on our sabbatical. We will be making more use of the visual arts in worship, preaching, teaching, devotional resources, and spiritual formation events. Before we left for sabbatical, a team of church members met (some of them artists) to talk about such initiatives and more.

Thank you again for your support in this once-in-a-lifetime experience for us. It has made a great deal of difference for us, and we hope that as time goes by it will make a great deal of difference to you, and to the spiritual vitality and ministry of our lively, loving, fantastic church.

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).

Acolyte Training: On Sunday, October 13th we will have an acolyte training for new acolytes. The training for youth (6th-12th grade) will be at 11:15 am and at 12:00 pm for children (3rd-5th grade). 3rd graders will be trained to serve as collectors of prayer concern cards and 4th-12th graders will be trained as acolytes. We are grateful for our robust group of kids and teens who participate in this ministry. Questions? Connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).



Children's Choir begins this Sunday!

Coley Roberts will be leading a combined children's choir this year for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The choir will meet each Sunday from 11:30-12:00 in the music room on the 3rd floor. We are looking forward to a year of fun faith formation through song! Questions? Connect with Coley (kokacoley@yahoo.com).

FBC News & Happenings

CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 6th

Everyone is invited to participate in the 45th CROP Walk by walking (2 km) with our FBC group and/or sponsoring a walker. We walk to help the hungry locally in Washtenaw County, and to support Church World Service, who is distributing food and clothing to shelters for immigrants at the Southern Border. Connect with Xan if you plan to walk and would like a donation collection envelope. You can also join our FBC team online (<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/annarbormi/FBCA2>) to raise money. The short send-off service begins at 2:00 pm at St. Clare's (2309 Packard). If you're there by 1:40 you'll have time to register beforehand. Let Xan (xan@fbca2.org) or Pastor Stacey (staceyduke@gmail.com) know if you plan to attend; they'll keep an eye out for you. If you would like to sponsor a walker, you may make your donation downstairs after worship, at the CROP Walk table outside the Fellowship Hall.

Calling all PIANO PLAYERS!

We are looking for pianists to rehearse with the children's choir for a season (1-2 months) and when the choir sings in worship. If you are interested in this ministry opportunity, please connect with Coley Roberts (kokacoley@yahoo.com) or Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

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.



You are an important part of the ministry team! During our CONNECT Fest this past Sunday, we invited people to sign up to greet and host fellowship time by giving this spinner a whirl! We only have a few more spots left to claim. Ready to spin?!? We have 3 FBCA2 water bottles to give away to the first three to respond! You can sign up for greeting by clicking [here](#) and for Fellowship Time by contacting Sue Ellen Glover (gloverse@hotmail.com).

Below you'll find a description of each ministry task.

Greeting: Please arrive by 9:40 to greet folks and pass out bulletins at the top of the ramp by the Sanctuary door. We use an online SignUp Genius; you will receive an email indicating your assigned Sunday as well as a reminder as your date nears. If you have questions, please contact Sam Laidlaw (laidlawsam7@gmail.com).

Hosting Fellowship Time: Please arrive at 9:15 to begin setting up for Fellowship Time and plan to stay to clean up afterwards. There is a binder with directions in the kitchen. Cheese and cookies are provided by the church. You are welcome to bring something too if you'd like. 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).

Hope Clinic Food Drive Exceeds Expectations

Over three months this summer, First Baptist members brought more than 835 non-perishable foods for the pantry at Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti, one of our church's partners in ministry. With an estimated, conservative value of \$3 per item, our total contribution adds up to at least \$2,500! The total went well beyond expectation. Thank you!!

Hope Clinic's service to neighbors in need extends well beyond food, including medical and dental care as well as social services. There will be opportunities to tour Hope's beautiful facilities this fall as well as to volunteer in different ways. Watch Sunday and newsletter announcements for details.



Nancy Paul, Chief Food-Counter-and-Carrier of the Hope Clinic Anchor Team, disappears behind a wall of donations.

COFFEE BREAK CONCERT SERIES

Celebrating its 9th year, 2019-2020

Free Concerts and Open to the Public
Thursdays at 12:15 pm

2019 2020

OCTOBER 10

Organ Concert
In Memory of Dr. Marilyn Mason
Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, organ
Music by J.S.Bach, Beck, Liszt

MARCH 19

Bach Celebration
Happy Birthday to J.S. Bach
Alice Van Wambeke, organ, Ling-Ju
Lai, piano, Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, Vn,
and more

NOVEMBER 7

Harpsichord Concert
"The Poetry of the Harpsichord"
Edward Parmentier, harpsichord
Professor Emeritus of Harpsichord
at the University of Michigan
Music by J.S.Bach, Froberger, Scarlatti

APRIL 23

Classical Guitar Concert
"Pluck and Strum"
Jeremy Collins, guitar
Award winning classical guitarist
and composer
Music by Tarrega, Sor, Lobos, Collins

DECEMBER 12

Piano Concert
"Debussy: Making Sound Visible"
Dr. Hyewon Jung, piano
Music by Debussy

MAY (TBA)

Early Music Inspiration
Vocal and Instrumental Early Music

If you are interested in singing and playing early music, please contact
Dr. Shin-Ae Chun for an audition: shinaechun@gmail.com.

Our Coffee Break Concert Series begins its 9th season on October 10 at 12:15 pm here at First Baptist Church. Six concerts will feature music in various styles from different periods performed by gifted musicians from near and far. The first concert is Organ Concert: In Memory of Dr. Marilyn Mason, "Madame," performed by Shin-Ae Chun. Works by J.S. Bach, John Ness Beck and Franz Liszt, which Shin-Ae studied with Dr. Mason during her doctoral study at the University of Michigan many years ago, will be performed. Remembering Dr. Mason, two hymn tunes for Psalm 23 will also be introduced. As always, all concerts are free and open to the public. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. All are welcome. Our ABWM members will provide refreshments before and after the concert. It is a nice way for you to get refreshed and inspired through music and also to meet people from the community who share love of music with you. Our Coffee Break Concert Series also looks for **volunteers** who can help with refreshments and welcoming people. For eight years, our ABWM members have faithfully provided refreshments for our guests who came to hear our Coffee Break Concert Series. There have been over 60 concerts. They are continuing to do it this upcoming season. However since there are fewer ABWM members who can continue to do it, I would like to invite others to volunteer for this opportunity of serving people in our community. It has been happening that people would come to hear a concert and chat with old and new friends over refreshments before and after the concert. The refreshment table has been a happy and positive place for people to gather around to know one another. I'm proud that we can offer all of these to the community at First Baptist. If you are interested to volunteer, please let Shin-Ae Chun know (shinaechun@gmail.com).

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
Coffee Break Concert Series, 2019-2020 ①

Celebrating Its 9th Year
Free Concerts and Open to the Public

Organ Concert

In Memory of
Dr. Marilyn Mason, “Madame”
Who influenced many organists and listeners
and taught organ for 67 years
at the University of Michigan

Music by J.S. Bach
John Ness Beck
Franz Liszt

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, organ

October 10, 2019
Thursday at 12:15 PM



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
517 E. Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-663-9376 / www.fbca2.org

Art Fair Volunteers

Much appreciation to the following volunteers! Thanks to their efforts in horrible heat and drenching rainfall, over \$2600 was raised during Art Fairs week by renting our parking lot. This amount was split between the Vespers program and Youth Ministries. Cesar Alaniz and Janice Stumpf, Sandy Bouma, David Bowen, Lori-Jene Brazier and Rachel Brownson, Jill Damon, Mary Davis, Pamela Emenheiser, Kathleen Ford, Linda Frye, The Halliday Family (TWO shifts), Mary Margaret Hatt, Roberta Hause, Bonnie and Bob Kidd, Xan Morgan, Karen Rayner, Cynthia Redinger, Robert and Nancy Rhodes (TWO shifts), Elena Rosario, Vicky Rushton, Julie Smith, Pete Stover, Ethan Wright.

A HUGE special thanks to Tom Gebhardt, Karen Rayner, and Nancy Rhodes who formed an Art Fair Team with Sue Ellen and spent many hours learning the processes involved, including the paperwork before and during the week, parking the artists and plugging some of them into the church's complicated electrical system, and supervising volunteers.

Backpack and School Supplies - Thank You!!

What a wonderful response from our Congregation!! Twenty-five individuals and families, plus the MacGregor-Stitt ABWM, donated **\$1109** financially with twelve families donating full backpacks (three families provided TWO backpacks)!! The backpacks were delivered on August 12, and during that week three boxes of school supplies and \$200 in Meijer gift cards were delivered to Hikone for "extra needs" and their after-school program. Four boxes of health and school supplies plus 4 backpacks were also delivered to The Education Project at Washtenaw Intermediate SD for homeless students and youth. Thank you for helping these students have a great start to the school year!! (BTW - Your participation in this ministry was so fantastic that I committed FBCA2 to 25 backpacks in 2020!)

The items (shown right) have been in the church kitchen for a long time. Please claim your piece ASAP. (The pie plate has found its way home.)



It's time to celebrate!

Religious Action for Affordable Housing celebrates its 20th birthday this year! First Baptist Church and many individuals of the church have been financial partners with RAAH in the work of supporting local non-profits providing affordable housing. Thank you for your support; join us to celebrate!

With gratitude,
Xan Morgan and Edie Hurst
RAAH board members

October 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Executive Council	2 1:30 Bible Study 6:30 Gathering	3 7:30 Choir	4	5
6 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour 1:40 CROP Walk	7	8 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Trustees	9 1:30 Bible Study 6:30 Gathering	10 12:15 Coffee Break Concert 7:30 Choir	11	12
13 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	14	15 5:30 Christian Education 5:30 Vespers	16 1:30 Bible Study 6:30 Gathering	17 1:00 MacGregor-Stitt Circle 7:30 Choir	18	19
20 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	21 7:00 Monday Book Grp.	22 9:30 ABWM 5:30 Vespers	23 1:30 Bible Study 6:30 Gathering	24 7:30 Choir	25	26
27 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	28	29 5:30 Vespers	30 1:30 Bible Study 6:30 Gathering	31 7:30 Choir		

First Baptist Church
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office@fbca2.org

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next
Newsletter
Deadline:
Sunday, Oct 13



Through meaningful connection with one another, our worship ministries and our missions we commit to doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God together. Pastors Paul and Stacey Simpson Duke are honored to be partners in ministry with you. Check out their short video message on our FBCA2 Facebook page or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/2dfqjUOx8Ys>