

BELIEFS & Values

Believing is seeing



FOCUS ON THEOLOGY
REV. ALLAN ECKELMANN

We talk about optical illusion as if it were the exception to the rule. The fact of the matter is that everything we see is an optical illusion.

What we call an optical illusion is, in truth, nothing more than a departure from the common illusion which shapes our collective perception of reality. Siegfried and Roy have made millions of dollars proving this point.

To begin with, that which we call solid matter is nothing of the sort. If we could perceive matter with the eyes of physics, we would see a swirl of energy fields that are held in relationship to one another by the mathematical dance of opposing forces.

The basic building block of this dance, the atom, is something that can never be seen, because the very act of perception changes its nature.

This is to say that the light, which is required for such perception, alters the energy field in such a way that the clear picture of an atom is totally elusive. For, as the University of Chicago Nobel laureate in physics, Dr. Robert Mulliken

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First Baptist plants peace pole

By BARR PERT TEMPLTON
 SPECIAL WRITER

The six-foot hexagon-shaped Peace Pole that will be planted near Willis and Bates Streets in downtown Birmingham next week may seem interesting, but the symbolism lies in its message to passersby.

"I hope that it will remind people walking by our busy corner downtown that peace should prevail on Earth," Dr. Stephen Jones, pastor at First Baptist Church in Birmingham, said.

First Baptist will host a formal dedication of the Peace Pole at noon on Sunday, May 31.

Peace poles are handcrafted monuments erected the world over as international symbols of peace. Their purpose is to spread the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," and act as a constant reminder to area residents to work and pray for peace.

More than 100,000 Peace Poles are located around the world in 160 countries. This will be the second peace pole in downtown Birmingham; the first is located at the Municipal Building. The hexagon-shaped pole at the church will communicate the peace message in six languages: Japanese, English, Polish, Arabic, Hebrew and Swahili.

Jones, who has been the pastor at First Baptist since 1994, is anxious to see the peace pole

planted at his church. It will be dedicated in memory of Robert M. Boltwood, a former moderator at First Baptist Church.

Boltwood and his wife, Hazel, joined the First Baptist Church for 46 years ago. They were also active throughout the city of Detroit and the suburbs for many years assisting in the resettlement of the Japanese after World War II internment, building bridges of racial understanding and modeling a lifelong commitment to peacemaking. Robert Boltwood died in 1996.

"We had been trying to think of an appropriate memorial to his life. He was such a peaceful man that we decided, oh, about six months ago, that this would be good," Jones said.

"I was in on the planning with the church and I picked this as a memorial because I felt it was appropriate," added Mrs. Boltwood, who resides in Southfield.

"The funding for this comes from the money that was given at my husband's funeral in his memory," Jones describes Boltwood as a quiet man, but dedicated to the work he and his wife completed across the metro-area. In addition to church matters, the Boltwoods worked tirelessly on behalf of the International Services Program at Wayne State University. Hazel Boltwood was head of the program which had them welcoming

hundreds of foreign students over the years.

"They were a dynamic couple and if one did it they both did it," Jones said. "And Bob was a very nurturing and supporting husband to Hazel. He was just a very special man."

The upcoming ceremony will prompt a large gathering of the Boltwood family. Hazel Boltwood will be accompanied to the service by her three children and six

grandchildren. She feels certain that her late husband would be very pleased with the memorial peace pole that will bear his name.

"I know that he would really like this," said the 77-year-old, who remains actively employed and is currently the interim service area minister for American First Baptist Churches across,

Please see PEACE, B5

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