

John C. Lentz, Pastor

Clover Reuter Beal, Associate Pastor

Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

January 2010

Dear Friends,

The old year passes and the new year is before us. I am always reminded at the turning of the year of the words of Dag Hammarskjöld, who wrote in his diary on a New Year's Eve long ago: *For all that was - Thanks! For all that is to be - Yes!*

That is a powerful way to live: between "Thanks" and "Yes." It seems to open unlimited possibilities for creativity and hope. It challenges me to think about how I live. Sometimes we leave the old year harboring regrets and resentments. Sometimes we enter the new year concerned about the future. In truth, for many of you, last year was not easy; there was death, there was sickness, there was job loss. Perhaps the best we can say is "thanks that the year is over!" In truth, for many of you, looking ahead into 2010, the word "No" seems to better describe your feelings.

I don't want to belittle any of it or simply dismiss the negative. However, as beloved children of God, we are called to see our world and to interpret our lives through a larger, more graceful perspective. It isn't just about us. To be grounded in "Thanks" and "Yes" means that we are placing our ultimate trust in a power that is larger than our personal experiences. We are placing our hope in a God who creates and restores and redeems and forgives and calls us to be in community. We are placing our lives at the feet of a God who loves us. We are placing our faith in a God who has shown us in Jesus Christ that even suffering and death does not separate us from the divine passion.

It is a discipline to see the world through the lenses of "Thanks" and "Yes." To imagine that whatever you went through is part of a larger narrative and that whatever will happen is part of a redemptive story. So in the new year, don't isolate yourself. Keep to your prayers. Read your bibles. Practice hospitality and generosity.

And, by the way, you all make it very easy for me to say "Thanks" and "Yes." For you witness to Christian hospitality and grace in so many ways. We have done so much together. You are always affirming even when critical. You love even when you disagree. You support even when you wonder. You laugh a lot and cry some too. You are creative, imaginative, dedicated and joyful. God is so good. So, thank you for a marvelous 2009 and I definitely will say "YES" to 2010. For I can imagine that the Spirit of God has much in store for us.

Happy New Year!

John

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Children and Youth Ministries

Dear Friends,

January is an exciting month because Liz Wollaeger, our Christian educator, and I are traveling to Turkey from January 27 – February 5! Two years ago we participated in a Church Leadership Seminar that took us to Israel and Palestine. That was the trip that set the wheels in motion for our church pilgrimage to Israel in 2009. If you remember, 32 people went on that pilgrimage!

So, here we go to Turkey to journey in the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul and Early Christians. We will be in Izmir, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Miletus, Sardis, Thyratira, the Acropolis of Pergamon, and Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. We will see amazing sites and drink in the places that have shaped Christianity through the ages. We will also learn about the shifting sands of religious and cultural changes over the centuries. I trust that this profound educational opportunity will shape Liz's and my ministries in enlightening ways. I am also trusting that this "scouting trip" will set the wheels in motion again for a pilgrimage to Turkey for our church in 2011. Watch for more details in the months ahead!

Pray for us as we journey to the land where Christianity took hold. We look forward to sharing with you all that we see and hear and learn. We are both deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate in this seminar. What a gift this is.

Blessings be,



Clover

The busy month of December led the children and youth to explore Advent and Christmas season. The children explored the Incarnation, created crafts in our annual Advent Workshop, focused on Peacemaking and hope, and discovered the similarities and differences in the Christmas Gospel stories. Thank you all who were a part of these classes.

- In our Nursery, thank you to Matt & Katie Russo, Becky West and Ron Register.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Kate & David Burleigh.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Eric Muller-Girard and Cameron Peters.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land program, thank you to Karen Loughridge, Susanne Peterjohn, Chantal Miller, Vikki Nowak and Jane Kowall.
- In our Trailblazers program, thank you to Liz Wollaeger
- In our Senior High Church School, thank you to Mark Chupp.

Children's Christian Education

Little Explorers (three/four year olds) and **Children in Worship** (older 4s and kindergarten)

In January the children in these programs will be exploring and participating in stories about Jesus' early life and his baptism. Be sure to ask your children what the story was about and share the response craft with them. Julie Ann & Robert Yoe will be leading the *Little Explorers* class and Pat & Jim Seeders will be leading *Children in Worship*.

Pathways to the Promise Land (grades 1-5)

Our rotation style church school begins the New Year with the story of *Jesus Feeding the 5000*. The boy who shared his lunch witnessed the presence of God. We too can witness this presence if we keep our hearts and lives open to the possibilities. The children will explore this theme in drama, art, movement and computer activities.

Youth Christian Education

Trailblazers (grades 6-8)

The youth in this program will be looking at the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are Jesus' initial instructions for how to live in right relationship with God and each other. Through miracles, parables and encounters, Jesus showed us how to walk the talk. The youth will explore this theme in games, drama and art.

Senior High Church School (grades 9-12)

The youth will explore worship practices in the church. While we probably give little thought to why or how our church has come to worship the way it has, it is interesting to know how worship evolved. The youth will also share worship experiences and how God's grace is made known through the act of worship.

Dates to Know

January 3 No church school programs.

Child care available in the nursery infants through kindergarten

January 10 Gathering Time

Children in Pathways to the Promise Land will meet in the Chapel at 11:00.

January 24 Cherub Choir

Pre-school children will meet in Room 205 at 10:30 for music, movement and singing.

Faithfully,
Liz Wollaeger

Adult Education in January

- Dec. 20 My Favorite Things: The Music of Christmas
Mr. Barry Hartz
- Jan. 3 No class
- Jan. 10 Christians in the Middle East
Dr. Peter Makari, Executive Dir. Global Ministries, Middle East and Europe, UCC and Disciples Churches
- Jan. 17 How then Shall We Live?
Spiritual Disciplines as a way to grow in your faith
Rev. Clover Beal
- Jan. 24 How Do I Pray? Tom Zych and Clover Beal
- Jan. 31 Praying for Your Life



Dear Forest Hill Friends,

I wish you all a blessed New Year – full of happiness, love and a renewed generosity of spirit as we recover from the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

On January 3rd, Epiphany Sunday, we look forward to singing *We Three Kings*, keeping one eye on the hymnal and one on our three kings. Decked out in their beautiful, flowing robes and bright headgear (given in memory of Bill Tapié), the kings will journey down the aisle, offering their glittering treasures to the Christ Child. We will also celebrate communion that Sunday.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 31st at 7:30 PM. It's the third of our **A. W. E.** services (Alternative Worship Experiences). Titled *It Takes a Village: A Global SongFest* with guest song leader, Amanda Powell, this service will introduce many global songs that Amanda has learned in her travels around the world as a global song specialist and consultant for the General Board of Global Ministries (United Methodist Church). The Chancel and Sine Nomine Choirs and instrumentalists playing exotic instruments will lead us in praising God through global music. The service will be followed by a reception with traditional world foods. Please invite your friends to this special evening.

The Chancel Choir welcomes Arvid and Bev Whitmore to its ranks. Both tenors, the Whitmores live in Painesville and happily drive 45 minutes twice per week in order to worship at Forest Hill Church. Let's hope for no icy roads this winter!

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson
216-321-2660
annew@fhcpresb.org

Did you know? Greg Mortenson's book about his schools in Afghanistan/Pakistan, ***Three Cups of Tea***, is in our church library, and is well worth reading. We also have a delightful children's version of the true story, ***Listen to the Wind***.

Slate of Officers and Elected Leaders for 2010

Vocation & Lay Leadership

Joanne Shaner – elder, class of 2012

Justice & Mission

Laura Steiner – elder, class of 2012

Barb Cloud – elected leader

Anne Smith – elected leader

Carol Leslie – elected leader

Stewardship

Rosanna Sprague – elder, class of 2012

Brett Himes – elder, class of 2011 (2-year term)

Jon House – elected leader

Education & Spiritual Formation

Laurie Logan – elder, class of 2012

Susanne Peterjohn – elected leader

Barry Hartz – elected leader

Worship

Melody Obery – elder, class of 2012

Eric Muller-Girard – elected leader

Trustees

Chuck Smith – elder, class of 2012

Chris Henry – elected trustee, class of 2011 (filling Chuck's vacancy)

Deacons: all are class of 2012 (3-year terms)

Mary Ball

Daryl Musick

Robin Mervine

Deb Adrine

2010 Nominating Committee

Joanne Shaner, chair

Amy Davis

Christina Hidek

Kermit Lind

Youth Elder – Demo Solaru

Parenting Class Coming to Forest Hill Church!

Sundays, 7:30 p.m., February 21, 28, March 7.

Empowered Parenting—We upgrade cell phones and computers. Now it's time to upgrade the tools we use when helping children work through conflict and personal frustration. Learn the Conscious Discipline® principles that are based on current brain research and transform your home into a place of connection and cooperation.

Seminar Series

Wk 1 **Calm and Encouraging Parenting**

Learn how to stay steady in the midst of your child's storms.

Wk 2 **Supportive and Assertive Parenting**

Understanding your child's behavior. Setting helpful guidelines.

Wk 3 **Creative Consequences and Choices**

Giving positive choices. Using consequences to teach life's lessons.

Amy Speidel, presenter, comes with 20+ years of Early Childhood experience as a teacher, director and parent educator. She earned the distinction of Teacher of the Year from the Cleveland Association for the Education of Young Children in May, 2000 and is a Loving Guidance Associate as well as a certified Parent Coach and presenter for Senders Parenting Center, the educational wing of Senders Pediatrics. Amy's experience with Conscious Discipline® began when she started implementing it in her early childhood classroom. As she witnessed a transformation in her teaching and her students, she became a strong advocate for Conscious Discipline®. She aspires to support all adults who come in contact with children by sharing Conscious Discipline® with them through practical, user friendly seminars and workshops. She works extensively with teachers, parents, pediatricians, nurses and others in the medical field.

Amy brings a humorous and insightful perspective to her presentations by sharing many personal insights about the challenges and delights of children. Having been a foster parent, a birth parent and an adoptive parent, Amy knows the beauty and the mess of the journey with children. As a presenter, she offers you a meaningful perspective of how the skills and strategies of Conscious Discipline® can support you every step of the way.

\$60 per person for the series

\$100 per couple for the series

Open to the public.

Ministry of Justice and Mission

Sustaining Community through "The Big Give"

Forest Hill Church's "THE BIG GIVE" faith-in-action initiative stimulated an amazing array of creative efforts by members of our congregation. It seemed appropriate, therefore, that for the final allocations of "BIG GIVE" funds, the Ministry of Justice & Mission seek suggestions from church members of small projects that would be *faith-based, local, and have a sustainability component*. The following activities will be supported in the coming year:

The Big Give Gardens – This project ties together the success of "Abundance Acres" and the ongoing needs of the FHC food pantry with the notion that locally grown food is best for our health, reduces energy use, and builds community. Our \$2,400 will help support first time gardeners in the Heights area with the purchase of basics such as tools, fertilizer and seeds. The project will offer advice on gardening techniques from experienced "Abundance Acres" volunteers, and may possibly secure a site for a larger community garden, extending such opportunities to renters and others who do not have appropriate back yards. Equipped with tools and knowledge to get closer to the earth, "BIG GIVE" gardeners will provide healthy sustainable food for their families, and will be encouraged to give back 10% of their yield to others. Steve Sedam will be creating a committee with interested persons to implement this project.

FAITHS Alive – Our ongoing connection with Boulevard School in Cleveland Heights, whereby FHC provides school supplies, books, Christmas Angel gifts, as well as hats and mittens to needy students, was the inspiration for this project. Several other churches and synagogues have adopted additional Heights schools using our original model. The goal is to match a congregation with every building. Our \$975 will be used to start a fund that school social workers can call on to assist families with special needs during these difficult financial times. Other Faith-based institutions Actively volunteering In The Heights Schools will be invited to contribute to the fund to sustain this resource in coming years. Joan Bacon has recruited a group of volunteers to coordinate the project.

Forest Hill Church's "THE BIG GIVE" initiative netted over \$13,300. Commitments to other mission projects in Greater Cleveland, the U.S. and Africa are summarized on the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE www.fhcpresb.org SEE WHAT'S NEW! 9

Cleveland Homeless Stand Down

The ***INTERACT CLEVELAND 2010 HOMELESS STAND DOWN*** expresses the concern of people of diverse religious backgrounds for our neighbors who spend Cleveland's winter without a home of their own. Participants, mainly single adult men and women who live in shelters or on the street, will be assisted with clothing, hot lunches, health services, and compassion from over 600 volunteers at the Cleveland Convention Center at three events – Sunday, February 7, Sunday February 28, and Friday, March 5, 2010.

There are several ways you can help with the Homeless Stand Down:

Volunteer to greet and register guests, guide them around the events, assist with meals or distribution of clothing and personal care items. Help is also needed with sorting donations, making name badges, and preparation and dismantling of the events. No special skills are required (although doctors, nurses, and hair stylists are welcome). Required training sessions for volunteers will be held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 W. 14th Street in Tremont on Mon. Jan. 25 (6-8PM) or Sat. Jan. 30 (10AM-Noon), or at Calvary Presbyterian Church, E. 79th & Euclid Avenue, on Tues. Feb. 16 (6-8PM) or Sat. Feb. 20 (10AM-Noon). Go to:

www.interactcleveland.org to sign up online for a specific shift and task, or call (216) 241-0230. All volunteers must sign up by January 20th. If you would like to work together with others from Forest Hill, contact Scott Lafferty (440-449-2361 or swlaff@sbcglobal.net) or Dick Obermanns (216-752-9776 or obermanns@aol.com) before you fill out an application.

Contribute personal hygiene products vital to help men and women renew and maintain good overall health. Pack a large ziploc plastic bag with small sizes of: liquid soap, shampoo, lotion, a toothbrush & toothpaste, lip balm, deodorant, and a wash cloth. Care kits for men – who are three-fourths of the Homeless Stand Down guests – should contain a razor & shaving cream. Care kits for women should contain maxi pads and/or tampons. (Info on optional items to include will be posted at the Church.) Mark bags "M" or "F" and bring to the stage in Fellowship Hall any Sunday in January.

For other opportunities to help with the Homeless Stand Down, please go to: www.interactcleveland.org.

10 CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE www.fhcpresb.org SEE WHAT'S NEW!

Forest Hill Church supports Interact Cleveland with a generous grant of Benevolence funds, but it is when we offer ourselves in service that we especially "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." Please consider how you might help Cleveland's homeless this winter

Calendar 12-13; see separate pdf

A Note on the Monthly Hunger Offering

The first Sunday of each month is "Hunger Sunday" at Forest Hill Church. We collect a free-will offering of cash or checks in envelopes marked "Hunger" to be used 100% for support of local hunger programs. In recent months, programs we have assisted at First Presbyterian Church of East Cleveland, and Garden Valley Neighborhood House in Cleveland, have been discontinued due to the decline of their host institutions. This in turn sadly reflects the distress of Cleveland's inner city neighborhoods. While the need continues to be great, our avenues for addressing it are diminishing.

The demand for distribution of food for hungry families is also on the increase in the Heights area. For now, we will continue to support the Heights Emergency Food Center (founded by the Heights Interfaith Council and situated at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Road) with the proceeds from the monthly "Hunger Sunday" collections, while considering other options by which to obey Christ's instruction to his disciples to "give them something to eat."

Elder Dick Obermanns
Ministry of Justice and Mission

Sundays in January	
9:30 Adult Ed Youth Ed Descant Choir (gr. 1-5) Child care begins 10:15 Descant Choir activity 10:30 Continental Breakfast Chancel Choir 11:00 Worship Little Explorers (3s, 4s) Children in Worship (older 4s, K) 11:15 Pathways (gr. 1-5) 12:15 Coffee Hour Sine Nomine Choir (Jan 10, 24) 5:00 FaithLeader MOB: Sr High (no meeting on Jan. 3)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> No classes or choirs on January 3 </div>

January 3: 2nd Sunday of Christmas Celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord and Three Kings Day 11:00 Worship: Communion	Jeremiah 31: 7-14 Psalm 147: 12-20 Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: 10-18
January 10: Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
January 17 12:15 Blood pressure check Lunch 1:00 Annual Meeting of the Congregation	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36: 5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11
January 24 11:00 Worship: Ordination and Installation of Officers	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4: 14-21
January 31 7:30 AWE: A Global Song Fest – It Takes a Village	Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Psalm 71: 1-6 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 Luke 4: 21-30

MOB Report

MOB is alive and well!

Mid Highs meet with Tori Weisberg on the 1st and 3rd Fridays, from 6 – 8 p.m.

Senior Highs meet with Kate Burleigh on Sundays from 5 – 7 p.m.

Contact them for more information:

Tori Weisberg: 216-397-7630; torilynne@peoplepc.com

Kate Burleigh: 216-561-8889; kate_beyer@yahoo.com

FLASH! We may be in bleak midwinter, but it's time to begin planning for the coming summer's senior high youth trip! Our destination is the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a gathering of Presbyterian young people from across the country held at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. Triennium begins on Tuesday, July 20, and ends on Saturday, July 24; our youth will travel by chartered bus with other groups from our Presbytery. Two pre-conference events will give FHC youth occasions to get to know these traveling companions and prepare for the Triennium experience.

Through presentations, study, worship, and recreation, in groups both small and large, Triennium gives young people opportunities to grow in faith and discern God's purpose for them. Recognizing themselves as part of the larger community of believers will be a powerful experience.

Senior highs and parents, mark your calendars now! **Reservations and deposits (\$75) are due by January 10.** FHC members in general, please support our youth as they begin fund-raising for this event. Most important, pray for them, the future of the Church, as they go about their lives among us and as they prepare to participate in Triennium.

Elder Elspeth Peterjohn
216-991-0424
elspethpj@earthlink.net

News of Our Church Family

Births

Caiden James Ball, son of Brittani and Kevin Ball, brother of Keara, grandson of Mary Ball and Allan Ball, and nephew of Brian Ball, was born December 2, 2009.

In Memoriam We Remember

Verna Shirk Bidelman, who died December 7, 2009

New Contact Information

Ralph and Molly Dise

200 Laurel Lake Dr. #G207
Hudson, OH 44236

Care Group

The Mt. Sinai CARE Group will be responsible for meeting members' needs during January. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Mt. Sinai CARE Group are:

Janet Kickel, Deacon and leader

Allen Ball

Scott & Amy Bell and family

Bob & Joanne Bielek

Guy Cameron and family

Betty & Don Clark

Sue Conant

Ralph & Molly Dise

Jane Frederick & family

Donna Frey

Sue Gifford & family

Don & Nancy Grube

Barb Hansen

Jason & Christine Hidek and family

Chuck & Jane Ishler

Callie Janor

Nina Klein

Mary Lewis

Julie & Gary Lustic

Brooke Marcy and family

The McCumber family

Dave & Jane Olson and family

Joyce Peters

Graham & Roz Peters

Jim Picht & Rebecca Martin and family

Matt & Katie Russo and family

Sara & Randy Shaner

Anona Stack

Lorian, Ralph & Fran Thomas

Ann & Peter Williams

Betty Woodruff

Warren & Lois Young

Ushers for January

Kevin Stauffer, Lead Usher; Joe Andrews, Nick Baumgartner, Charles Ishler, Jane Ishler, Kate Monaghan, Daryl Musick, Victoria Sampson. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

Social Groups and Circles

The Group (singles and couples 60s – 70s)

On Saturday, January 9, 2010, The Group will meet in the lobby of the Cleveland Museum of Art, at 3:15 p.m. We'll take a wonderful tour of the new East Wing with our favorite docent, Anne Wilson. The tour will last 1 ½ hours. The Museum is free, but there is a fee for parking in the garage. We will then make our way to NightTown, on Cedar Road, for cocktails and dinner. RSVP to Bob & Pat Jeffreys, 216-381-2120 or bobpatj@aol.com, by December 28.

Hilltoppers (retired singles and couples)

Hilltoppers will meet on Friday, January 15 at 1:30 p.m. in South Hall for the long-awaited illustrated presentation of the trip taken to Israel and Palestine by 32 FHC members last February. All church members and guests are invited. Dave Bell will present the program, and Middle Eastern snacks will be served. There is no charge for the program; contributions to the food pantry are appreciated. Call Doris Allen (216-321-5491) or Muriel Dean (216-371-1018) by January 10 for reservations. Call early! Seating is limited.

Iris Circle (all women of the church)

Iris Circle invites all women of Forest Hill Church to attend a presentation by FHC member Dave Olson about financial planning. We will meet at the church in South Hall on Tuesday, January 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Save the Dates!

February 7 – 14: IHN Host Week
February 16: Shrove Tuesday Dinner
February 17: Ash Wednesday
February 21: Parenting Class begins (3 Sundays)
April 4: Easter

Purchase Grocery Cards and Support Forest Hill Youth!

Next time you plan to buy groceries at Heinen's, Zagara's, Giant Eagle, or Dave's supermarkets, consider how you might help the Youth at Forest Hill as well as feed your hungry family!

Between January 1 and June 30th 2010 all profits from the Forest Hill Grocery Card program will help support our youth as they embark on their summer mission trips.

This July about 15 senior high youth and three adult chaperones will travel to Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana to join other students from around the country for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010: a four day event of prayer, study, interactive workshops and fun! The mid-high youth will be journeying to Pittsburgh to engage in mission work in the city.

If you haven't participated in the Grocery Card program before, it's easy! Just look for the table in Fellowship Hall most Sundays after worship and buy a card in one of several amounts to a preferred local grocer. Participating grocers donate a portion of the grocery card sales back to the church. The Ministry of Justice and Mission and our youth thank you!

Thank You Volunteers!

The Ministry of Justice and Mission offers heartfelt thanks to all of the many volunteers who so generously donated their time and talents to our guests from the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

From November 29th to December 6th, Forest Hill hosted 4 families in our education wing. Volunteers made wonderful meals, played games and led special activities, set up and cleaned rooms and laundered linens and drove the truck! One of the high points of the week was the birth of a baby girl to one of our families ~ our first IHN birth at Forest Hill Church! (*well, while FHC was hosting – but the birth wasn't actually at the church*).

One of our young guests said that "at other churches the week seems to just drag, but the week at Forest Hill went by way too fast! I had so much fun!" Special thanks also to our wonderful church staff whose support and hard work is so greatly appreciated.

Our thanks go out to:

Julie Ann and Bob Yoe	Julie Waring
Ron Register	Mary McMillan
Robin Mervine	Elspeth and Dick Peterjohn
Steve Sedam	Elizabeth Shaw
Mark Chupp	Linda Rainey
Jennifer Blakeney	Elspeth Peterjohn
Pat Musick	Jenny Himmelman
Kathy Hanna-Stauffer	Pat Musick
Chelsea Richards	Kay Currie
Jim Roosa	Barb Cloud
Chris, Peter and Ben Davis	Lucy Conde
Tricia Dykers-Koenig	Jeanette Nemcek
Clyde Loughridge	Betty Clark
Deanne Lentz	Diana Woodbridge
Mark and Valerie Greenlee	Matt and Katie Russo
Becky, Charlie and Jude West	Laurie Muller-Girard
Jeannine Gury and Cameron,	John Schellenberg and the Boy
Caleb and Aiden Peters	Scouts of Troop 403 at Forest
Tori Weisberg and family	Hill Church:
the Mid-Hi Youth	Ben Bailey
Anne Wilson	David Schellenberg
the Heights High Singers (Brian	Adam Jessberger
Barron, Seth Ungemach, Joel	Nick Baumgartner
Furr, and Jaired Birks)	James Ryan
Barry Hartz	
David, Susanne, Laura, Allison,	From Troop 179 at St Albans:
and Maggie Peterjohn	Ian Higgs
	Collin Higgs

Forest Hill will be hosting IHN guests again in early February. More volunteers are needed and welcome!

For more information, see the kiosk in Fellowship Hall or just ask one of the Ministry of Justice and Mission members.

Julie Lustic	Dick Obermanns
Carol Leslie	Anne Smith
Scott and Sue Lafferty	

Office News and Reminders

The deadline for the weekly bulletin is every Wednesday morning.

The deadline for the Tower is usually the second Monday of every month. The **TOWER** schedule is as follows: January 11, 2010; February 8, March 8, April 13.

Emails and extensions for the staff are as follows:

- ❖ John Lentz, pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org, ext. 200
- ❖ Clover Beal, pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org, ext 201
- ❖ Anne Wilson (music), annew@fhcpresb.org, ext 208
- ❖ CE Office: Liz Wollaeger, lizw@fhcpresb.org, ext. 206
- ❖ Becky Austin (financial office): beckya@fhcpresb.org, ext. 203
- ❖ Lynda Bernays (office administrator), and all other email: office@fhcpresb.org, ext. 202

Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

CDs of the worship service are available each week. Often they are available soon after worship. If you miss that, call or email the church office, or leave a note, and the CD will be in the volunteer office the following Sunday. The cost is \$1 per CD.

Would you like a large-print edition of the **TOWER**? Or a bulletin sent to you if you are ill or away? Please contact the church office with your request.

Both the bulletin and the **TOWER** may be found on our website. Please contact the office if you would like to discontinue your printed copy of the **TOWER** and ONLY read it on line.

Sunday flower donations are coordinated by the church office. Please call or email Lynda for information about donating an arrangement. The cost is \$20 per arrangement.

Did you know that your monthly or weekly donation to FHC can be paid on-line with your other regular payments? It's free, easy, and convenient!

Living a Life that Matters

The Men's Group will be reading Harold Kushner's book ***Living a Life That Matters*** at its meetings from January through March. The Men's Group meets the first and third Saturday mornings of each month. We gather at 8:00 a.m. and are done by 9:30 a.m. Come, join us. Start Saturdays off right! Please let the office know if you are interested so we can get you a copy of the book. You are welcome to get your own copy from Amazon or any book store. The price is \$11.95. First meeting in 2010 will be January 16, the third Saturday.

John Lentz

Christmas Worship Schedule

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Family Worship

10:45 p.m. Seasonal Music

11 p.m. Candlelight Worship

Dec. 27, Sunday after Christmas

11 a.m. Worship in Fellowship Hall



This letter was mailed to the FHC family in early December:

Dear Friends,

For the last year and a half the Session and the Ministry of Trustees of Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian have been investigating the conditions and maintenance needs of our building and grounds. Areas that have been thoroughly investigated include those relating to drainage, roofs, masonry, windows, doors, lighting and painting.

The Session and the Ministry of Trustees have identified issues that need immediate attention and those that will be addressed in the future. Perhaps you have seen the signs of work around the foundations of the building. The significant work necessary to solve the issues of draining water away from the building has begun. The flaking paint and leaking gutters are also problems that may have become noticeable to you. In the spring work will start on the exterior of the building to remedy these issues.

The Session and the Ministry of Trustees have also developed a financial plan to support the needed repairs and maintenance. Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian is taking out a bank loan to pay for the initial work. The premiums on the loan will be paid from the dividends of our Endowment Funds. In the New Year (2010), the Session will ask that you, the members, participate in a capital campaign to pay back the loan as well as proceed with other important building matters.

As more details come forth we will make sure to keep you informed. As with your house and so too with the "House of God," basic maintenance and repair are essential so that the vitality within the walls is expressed by the care of the walls so that mission beyond the walls can thrive.

Many thanks,

John

Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, Deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shown the moon that night, Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, Gathering winter fuel.

Hither, page, and stand by me. If thou know it telling:
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?
Sire, he lives a good league hence, Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence By Saint Agnes fountain.

Bring me flesh, and bring me wine. Bring me pine logs hither.
Thou and I will see him dine When we bear the thither.
Page and monarch, forth they went, Forth they went together
Through the rude wind's wild lament And the bitter weather.

Sire, the night is darker now, And the wind blows stronger.
Fails my heart, I know not how. I can go no longer.
Ark my footsteps my good page, Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage Freeze thy blood less coldly.

In his master's step he trod, Where the snow lay dented.
Heat was in the very sod Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor Shall yourselves find blessing.

Words by John Mason Neale
for the Feast of St. Stephen (December 26)

