

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

## Forest Hill Church

### The Tower

February 2009

Dear Friends,

Is it February already? I am still trying to recover from Christmas and the busy schedule of January. Well, as they say, "times flies when you are having fun!" And it IS fun and joyful to share ministry with you. We are blessed. Thanks be to God.

However, February is the month when we are called as a Christian community to "celebrate" the season of Lent, to ponder our interior lives and to re-align our spirits with God's spirit. Lent is a season of sobriety and doing without, preparing for the darkness of Christ's crucifixion and not leaping too quickly to the certain triumph of Easter. Lent is a time of spiritual discipline and worship.

Here is the schedule of our Lenten Season at Forest Hill Church. Mark it on your calendar and journey with us as we move through the wilderness of reflection towards the light of the Resurrection.

#### **Tuesday, February 16 – Shrove Tuesday, 6:30 p.m**

Traditionally, the day before Ash Wednesday is a time for communities to have their last party. We will be holding our second annual Fat Tuesday / Mardi Gras feast. Pancakes and sausages will be served. Our Fellowship Hall will be decorated for Mardi Gras. An operetta of the delightful Dr. Seuss classic **Green Eggs and Ham** will be performed.

#### **Wednesday, February 17 – Ash Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.**

Come to the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. for our annual Ash Wednesday service. This is a beautiful liturgy as we impose ashes on our foreheads and remember that "we are dust and to dust we shall return." We will also begin the Lenten journey with the sacrament of Holy Communion. Note that there is no dinner before the service.

#### **Wednesday evenings, March 3 and 17, 6:30 p.m.**

All are welcome to gather in Fellowship Hall for a simple soup and bread fellowship meal before moving into the Sanctuary for vespers. These will be contemplative and beautiful services.

#### **Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday, 6:30 dinner, 7:30 worship**

We will commemorate Maundy Thursday, Jesus' last supper with his disciples, remembering Christ's new mandate that we are to "love one another." A meal will be served in Fellowship Hall. Those who come will be expected to offer a side dish, salad or dessert to the gathering. After dinner the very dramatic liturgy of Tenebrae will be observed and Communion will be served.

#### **Friday, April 2 – Good Friday, 12 p.m.**

Clover and I will lead our annual remembrance service in the chapel from 12 noon - 1 p.m.

#### **Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunday, 9 and 11 a.m.**

We will arise to celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection and our liberation. Services will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

God bless you this Lent.

John

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## *The Clover Patch*

Dear friends,

I read this excerpt from comedian Steven Cobert's address to a college graduating class last spring. It was inspiring to me, and I hope you will find it inspiring as well.

So, say "yes." In fact, say "yes" as often as you can. When I was starting out in Chicago, doing improvisational theatre with Second City and other places, there was really only one rule I was taught about improv. That was, "yes-and." In this case, "yes-and" is a verb. To "yes-and." I yes-and, you yes-and, he, she or it yes-and. And yes-anding means that when you go onstage to improvise a scene with no script, you have no idea what's going to happen, maybe with someone you've never met before. To build a scene, you have to accept. To build anything onstage, you have to accept what the other improviser initiates on stage. They say you're doctors – you're doctors. And then, you add to that: We're doctors and we're trapped in an ice cave. That's the "and." And then hopefully they "yes-and" you back. You have to keep your eyes open when you do this. You have to be aware of what the other performer is offering you, so that you can agree and add to it. And through these agreements, you can improvise a scene or a one-act play. And because, by following each other's lead, neither of you is really in control. It's more of a mutual discovery than a solo adventure. What happens in a scene is often as much a surprise to you as it is to the audience.

Well, you are about to start the greatest improvisation of all. With no script. No idea what's going to happen, often with people and places you have never seen before. And you are not in control. So say "yes." And if you're lucky, you'll find people who will say "yes" back.

Now will saying "yes" get you in trouble at times? Will saying "yes" lead you to doing some foolish things? Yes it will. But don't be afraid to be a fool. Remember, you cannot be both young and wise. Young people who pretend to be wise to the ways of the world are mostly just cynics. Cynicism masquerades as wisdom, but it is the farthest thing from it. Because cynics don't learn anything. Because cynicism is a self-imposed blindness, a rejection of the world because we are afraid it will hurt us or disappoint us. Cynics always say no. But saying "yes" begins

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things. Saying "yes" is how things grow. Saying "yes" leads to knowledge. "Yes" is for young people. So for as long as you have the strength to, say "yes. And that's The Word.

May you say "YES-and" to all God's surprises for your life in 2010.

Blessings,

Clover



### **Adult Education in February Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

- Feb. 7** "What happened to the Seventh Commandment?"  
The Spiritual Practice of Sabbath-Keeping  
Clover Beal
- Feb. 14** Writing Prayers through the Use of the Psalms  
Clover Beal

### **Lenten Series – Reconciliation, Healing and Salvation**

- Feb. 21** Truth and Reconciliation – the South African Experience  
Rev. Ken Jones, PCUSA missionary to South Africa
- Feb. 28** The Spiritual Journey through Grief and Comfort  
Patricia DeJohn, Hospice Grief Counselor
- Mar. 7** Spirituality and Mental Health
- Mar. 14** Spirituality through Addiction and Recovery  
Tom Zych
- Mar. 21** The Spiritual Journey and Art of Forgiveness
- Mar. 28** Salvation – What Is It?  
John Lentz
- April 4** EASTER – No Class

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## Children and Youth Ministries

January continued to be busy as our children and youth explored Jesus' early life and ministry. They discovered how people were transformed by their encounter with Jesus and his message. Thank you to all who led, shepherded, and guided our youth in knowing about God's love for us.

- In our Nursery/Crib Room, thank you to Ron Register, Sandy Schultz, Becky West, Katie & Matt Russo, Heather House, Diana Johannessen, Christina Hidek, Lara Troyer & Jeff Dyck, Mary Hill and Linda Rainey.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Julie Ann & Robert Yoe.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Pat & Jim Seeders.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Kathryn Eloff, Traci Ext, Vikki Nowak, Todd Webster, Molly Bergman, Robin Mervine, Cathy Ghiandoni, Lora Smith and Laurie Muller-Girard.
- In our Trailblazers' class, thank you to Laurie & Keith Logan
- In our Senior High Church School, thank you to Barry Hartz.

### Children's Christian Education

**Little Explorers** – 3 and 4 year olds

**Children in Worship** – older 4 year olds and Kindergarten

During the month of February the children in these classes will focus their exploration on Jesus' early ministry, his baptism, calling his disciples and his early teachings. Each story has a response to help the children better understand the story. Be sure to ask your child about what they did in church school. Diana Johannessen and Becky West will be leading the *Little Explorers* class and Christina & Jason Hidek will be leading the *Children in Worship* class.

**Pathways to the Promise Land** – grades 1-5

In February the children in this program will be focusing on *The Lord's Prayer*. Prayer is the vehicle through which humans experience the presence of God. Expressing the relationship we have with our Creator, we call on God's presence to hear our prayer as we praise, confess, thank and petition. The children will explore this theme through activities with puppets, art, movement, and recognizing holy places.

## Youth Ministries

**Trailblazers** – grades 6-8

Peacemaking is at the heart of God's work in our world. Through Jesus, God invites us to live a life of peace with God, each other, and our world. For three weeks our mid-high youth will be exploring Peacemaking through Jesus' ministry, and God's family. Then following that focus the youth will have opportunity to do some service project that will support the Bright Stars of Bethlehem scholarship fund.

**Senior High Church School** – grades 9-12

During February and March the Senior High youth will be participating in activities that will focus on who Jesus is and what does his ministry reveal about God. Through biblically based discussion and role play situations the youth will explore this theme that will be relevant in our youths' lives.

### Confirmation

Usually we are ready to kick off for our Confirmation Class in early February. However, because this year's eighth grade is small we decided not to offer a Confirmation class this year. Confirmation will be offered January 2011 for any youth in eighth or ninth grade.

### Dates to Know

**February 7 Gathering Time**

Pathways children will begin in the Chapel at 11:00

**February 21 Communion**

Pathways children begin in their workshops at 11:00 then join their families for Communion.

**February 21, 7:30 p.m.**

**Parenting Children of All Ages: Empowered Parenting**

Please come to the first seminar class with parent coach Amy Speidel as she discusses *Calm and Encouraging Parenting*. See related article in this month's Tower.

**February 28 Cherub Choir**

Pre-school children meet in the sanctuary at 10:15 for rehearsal.

**February 28 Parenting Children of All Ages: Spirituality of Parenting**

The discussion will focus on how parents can spiritual practices of children.

Faithfully,  
Liz Wollaeger

Director of Christian Education



Please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. It's the third of our **A. W. E.** services (**A**lternative **W**orship **E**xperiences). 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 will lead us in praising God through global music. The service will be followed by a scrumptious Morag Keefe-prepared reception with traditional world foods. Please invite your friends to this special evening.

Amanda Powell and I will be travelling to First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Michigan the weekend of February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> in order to present a two-day workshop on global music. Several local choirs are meeting on Saturday for a 4-hour rehearsal and lunch to learn the music; then there will be a public concert on Sunday. Carmen Massaro, guest organist, will rev up the organ at FHC that weekend. He always loves playing for us and feels that worship at FHC is very special (of course!).

Here's something different: an opera for children! On Shrove Tuesday evening, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., we'll have a pancake supper in Fellowship Hall and the entertainment will be a 17-minute opera called ***Green Eggs and Ham***. Singing the lead role will be Lara Troyer, a soprano from our congregation. This music is great fun to listen to—children and adults love it! It's based on the Dr. Seuss book which is a children's favorite.

Looking ahead: Mark your calendars for our fourth **A.W.E.** service: ***Swing to the Lord a New Song*** on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Also, you may wish to start practicing your juggling and hoola-hooping for the ***May Cabaret*** which will be held on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson  
216-321-2660  
[annew@fhcpresb.org](mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org)

## Parenting Children of All Ages Five Week Series: February 21 – March 21, 2010

***Empowered Parenting* with Amy Speidel (2/21, 3/7, 3/21)**  
***The Spirituality of Parenting* with Liz Wollaegeer and Rev. Clover Beal (2/28, 3/14)**

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

**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.

### Empowered Parenting SEMINAR SERIES

**Feb. 21 Calm and Encouraging Parenting**

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

**Mar. 7 Supportive and Assertive Parenting**

Understanding your child's behavior. Setting helpful guidelines.

**Mar. 21 Creative Consequences And Choices**

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

**Amy Speidel** comes to you as a presenter 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. 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.

**\$40 per person for the series**

**\$60 per couple for the series**

Open to the public

***Spirituality of Parenting: Liz Wollaegeer and Clover Beal***

Feb. 28 The Spirituality of Children

Mar. 14 Spiritual Practices for Families

## Exploring God's Wisdom: A Lenten Week of Accompanied Prayer

### Have you ever wanted some *help* with your prayer-life?

This year, Forest Hill Church will be offering a Guided Prayer Retreat modeled upon the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* during the first week of March.

It will provide you with an opportunity to...

**Spend time in prayer as well as meet daily with a prayer guide/spiritual director ...to discuss, unpack, and learn from your daily prayer experience.**

For those who choose to participate, the Lenten week of prayer is organized as follows:

- We will meet as a group for introductions and orientation on Sunday afternoon, February 28, 2010, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.
- **Participants must be willing to commit to a half an hour of prayerful meditation each day (for five days); and, a daily 30-minute meeting with your prayer guide at Forest Hill Church (at a time arranged according to your mutual convenience.)**
- We will gather again on Saturday morning, March 6, 2010, from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, for a bit of group reflection on the whole experience.
- Everyone participating *does* need to be present for both the introductory and concluding group events.

This retreat is being organized by Eric Muller-Girard and Robin Craig, FHC Elders and graduates of John Carroll's spiritual direction program, The Ignatian Spirituality Institute.

**Your prayer guides will be ISI graduates and interns. There is no cost to participate.**

Consider this as a fitting Lenten faith-practice; it's an experience that others have found richly meaningful.

**The registration deadline is February 17, 2010.**

Call or email with your questions, your intention to participate, etc.:

**Eric Muller-Girard: 216-752-7006 or [multimg@wowway.com](mailto:multimg@wowway.com)  
Robin Craig: 216-233-2307 or [maryrcraig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryrcraig@sbcglobal.net)**

## *Social Groups and Circles*

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

The Group will meet to watch the Super Bowl on February 7, 2010 at the home of Anne and David Hunter (853 Hardwood, Gates Mills). Please contact Cathy Ghiandoni ([cgghiandoni@aol.com](mailto:cgghiandoni@aol.com) or 216-691-1905) for reservations and food assignment.

The fun begins half an hour before kick-off! This translates to around 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

### **Young Adults (20's and 30's) Potluck Gathering**

**Saturday, Feb 20 starting at 4:30**

at Jason & Christina Hidek's home (5284 Golfway Lane, Lyndhurst)

A new FHC fellowship group geared toward singles and couples, age 25 to 40ish, with children or without, is in the making!

If you are interested in meeting regularly with other FHC folks for food, fellowship, and faith building, please join us for an organizational potluck. At the potluck we'll get to know one another and talk about the needs and desires you have for further group gatherings. Come with ideas! Children are welcome and childcare will be provided.

RSVP to Lisa Koops, [nyima.daabo@gmail.com](mailto:nyima.daabo@gmail.com) or 216-691-3316

### **Iris Circle** (all women of the church)

Come join Iris Circle on Thursday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. Robin Craig will take us on a journey that can bring us to the very center of our being and back out again as we walk the labyrinth in Bodwell Hall. Please note that this meeting is on a Thursday instead of our usual Tuesday.

## **Deacons Report**

The Deacons are excited to welcome five new Deacons: Deborah Adrine, Mary Ball, Daryl Musick, Robin Mervine, and the Youth Deacon, Caty Himmelman.

On January 24th they will be ordained and installed before the congregation. We would like to thank the outgoing Deacons for their faithful service to our church community and for leading the Deacons the past three years: Doris Allen, Ed Briskey, Nancy Burcham, and Marilyn Wilk.



*Please see separate pdf***Sundays in February**

**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) (11:00 on Feb. 7)  
**12:15** Coffee Hour  
 Sine Nomine Choir (Feb. 7, 21)  
**5:00** FaithLeader  
 MOB: Sr High  
 Evangelism Group  
**7:30** Parenting Class (Feb. 21, 28)

<b>February 7</b> 11:00 Worship 12:00 Capital Campaign luncheon 1:00 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby 5:00 IHN Hosting begins 5:30 The Group: Super Bowl party	<b>Isaiah 6: 1-8</b> <b>Psalm 138</b> <b>1 Corinthians 15: 1-11</b> <b>Luke 5: 1-11</b>
<b>February 14</b> <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> 12:00 Capital Campaign luncheon	<b>Exodus 34: 29-35</b> <b>Psalm 99</b> <b>2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2</b> <b>Luke 9: 28-36</b>
<b>February 21</b> <b>First Sunday in Lent</b> 11:00 Worship: Communion 12:15 Blood pressure check	<b>Deuteronomy 26: 1-11</b> <b>Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16</b> <b>Romans 10: 8b-13</b> <b>Luke 4: 1-13</b>
<b>February 28</b> <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> 12:15 Teacher training 1:00 Pre-retreat meeting	<b>Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18</b> <b>Psalm 27</b> <b>Philippians 3:17 – 4:1</b> <b>Luke 13: 31-35</b>

## Ministry of Justice & Mission Report on 2009 Benevolences

The Ministry of Justice & Mission is responsible for allocating the benevolence funds and other outreach gifts to specific worthy projects on behalf of the congregation of Forest Hill Church.

In 2009, we provided \$43,175 in grants to projects in the Heights area, Greater Cleveland, the U.S. and internationally, including \$13,175 raised through "The Big Give" last Spring. Projects are listed below. Several projects also received funding from FHC's endowment. In many cases, projects supported by our benevolence dollars were reinforced by gifts of our members' volunteer hours and skills, leadership by our staff, and the use of our facilities. Another \$35,000 in undifferentiated support was provided to mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) through Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Whether pursued through denomination, interfaith or other auspices, these commitments reflect our desire to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ to a community and world in need of it.

### Heights Area

Big Give Gardens (\$2,400)\*

*equipping new urban backyard and community gardeners*

FAITHS Alive (\$975)\*

*fund for special needs of children at Boulevard School*

Heights Community Congress (\$1,500)

*promoting interracial dialogue in Cleve.Hts.-Univ.Hts.*

Heights Parent Center (\$500)

*parenting skills for families*

Heights Youth Club (\$2,000)

*after-school education and recreation programs*

Home Repair Resource Center (\$2,000)+

*housing rehabilitation and foreclosure counseling*

Reaching Heights (\$500)

*teachers' discretionary projects in Cleve.Hts.-Univ.Hts. Schools*

**Total - \$9,875**

### Cleveland Area

E-CITY (\$2,500)\*

*entrepreneurial and life skills tutoring in Cleveland Schools*

Interfaith Hospitality Network (\$5,000)

*operation of citywide program for homeless families*

Interfaith Hospitality Network (\$2,500)\*

*consolidation of family support services at one site*  
 Interfaith Hospitality Network at FHC (\$1,150)+  
*costs of hosting homeless families at Forest Hill Church*  
 InterAct Cleveland (\$3,000)  
*Homeless Stand Down and other interfaith activities*  
 New Life Community (\$2,000)  
*transitional housing and job readiness for the homeless*  
 NOAH (Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope) (\$6,000)  
*faith-based advocacy for East Cleveland and health care reform*  
 United Protestant Campus Ministries (\$1,000)  
*ministry to college students at CWRU, CSU, and Tri-C Metro*  
**Total - \$23,150**

### **U.S. National**

Covenant Network (\$1,350)  
*support of inclusive Presbyterian Church (USA)*  
 Montreat Conference Center (\$1,800)\*  
*Presbyterian Church (USA) center in Asheville, NC*  
 Theological Education Fund (\$500)  
*support of Presbyterian theological seminaries*  
 Presbyterian Youth Triennium (\$1,000)  
*participation of FHC youth at 2010 event at Purdue Univ.*  
**Total - \$4,650**

### **International**

Aduhima, Ghana, Presbyterian Church (\$3,000)\*  
*complete raising the roof at new church in rural Africa*  
 Bright Stars of Bethlehem (Peacemaking) +  
*church-based educational and family programs in Palestine*  
 International Partners in Mission (\$1,500)  
*organizes mission trips to developing countries*  
 South African Mission Partners (\$1,000)  
*Presbytery partnership in solidarity with landless farmers*  
**Total - \$5,500**

\* Funded from "The Big Give"

+ Additional funding provided from Endowment

Figures above do not include additional congregational giving through offerings for hunger, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Pentecost and Peacemaking, or the purchase of grocery cards.

The Ministry will soon begin the review process for allocation of 2010 Benevolences. We invite comment from members of the FHC congregation on recent gifts or suggestions for other possible recipients. If you have suggestions or comments, please speak to any Ministry member and provide the Ministry a brief description and contact information about the organization or project for our consideration. We would request that any suggestions be submitted by our February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Elders Scott Lafferty and Dick Obermanns  
 Ministry of Justice and Mission

### **E City Means Opportunity**

E CITY (Entrepreneurship: Connecting, Inspiring, and Teaching Youth) is a nonprofit organization offering entrepreneurial education to inner-city and at-risk youth, mainly through the Cleveland City Schools. It makes business education relevant to the real world, teaching Cleveland students to use their street smarts and creativity to start and operate their own small businesses. Along the way, it shows youth a new way of looking at money, life, and their own futures.

E CITY was founded by successful entrepreneur and Presbyterian elder John Zitzner in 2002. It offers students a 70-hour program developed by the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurs (NFTE) of New York City, with programs in 21 states. Several hundred Northeast Ohio businesspersons help put on its programs.

Forest Hill Church made a "Big Give" grant of \$2,500 to E City and hosted an Adult Education program on their work at the end of 2009. But since the essence of the program is quality time spent with aspiring young entrepreneurs, we wish to highlight the following volunteer opportunities for Forest Hill Church members and friends:

*Speak to a Class:* Classroom instruction is brought to life when an entrepreneur or business professional comes in to speak to students about their jobs, inspirations, successes – and failures too.

*Host a Field Trip:* Real-life experience stimulates classroom learning when students tour a business and meet a person working there.



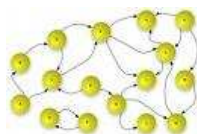
*Coach a Student:* Business plan coaches work one-on-one with youth to help them format presentations and prepare for class competitions.

*Judge a Competition:* Business plan judges provide feedback and support to students during in-class and E CITYwide competitions. Some students have also won national honors for their projects.

Are you intrigued enough to explore becoming a volunteer? Please contact Jim Roosa 216-789-5357 or Dick Obermanns 216-752-9776 (both Forest Hill Church elders), or Jessica Koppen at E CITY, 216-456-2098 / [jessica.koppen@ecitycleveland.com](mailto:jessica.koppen@ecitycleveland.com).

More on E CITY can be found at their website:  
[www.ecitycleveland.com](http://www.ecitycleveland.com).

Elder Dick Obermanns  
Ministry of Justice & Mission



## From the Web

Did you know that....

- beginning next month, the latest Church Directory should be up and running on our webpage? Watch for upcoming information about how to access and protect your member information!
- upcoming [Adult Education presentations](#) are listed on our webpage?
- the [100-year history of Forest Hill Church](#) appears on our webpage?

Peg Weissbrod  
Webmaster



## New Life Community: To Inspire, Teach, and Empower

*The Ministry of Justice and Mission encourages you to get to know New Life Community by reading the article below by Grace Uhle and by checking out the materials posted on the kiosk in the fellowship hall. NLC is one of the organizations supported through FHC benevolence funds.*

New Life Community, with which Forest Hill Church has had a strong supporting connection through the years, is approaching its 20th anniversary. Located in Cleveland's Mount Pleasant neighborhood, NLC continues its mission to inspire, teach and empower homeless, jobless families to transition to self-sufficiency and celebrates the fact that it has served over 700 families, including 1300 children, since opening in 1990. Unfortunately there is a never-ending population of Clevelanders who need such services. Those now applying for this intensive, comprehensive four month residential program bring with them additional hard-to-hurdle factors, and it takes more weeks for them to find jobs and turn the dream of a better life for their children and themselves into reality. Over and over graduates of this faith-motivated program declare their gratitude for being believed in and firmly supported in their efforts to find permanent housing and work and stabilize their family situation.

A number of the families who have progressed as far as they could in Interfaith Hospitality Network have then proceeded to New Life for increased time to become self-sustaining. The two agencies cooperate in smoothing the way.

Forest Hill Church members have been instrumental in the growth and success of NLC. Tom Uhle, founder, teamed with a dedicated mission group who prayed and tended NLC's early development. Betty Stauffer was executive director for a few years and other members have rolled up their sleeves and pitched in with important volunteer jobs there. The Ministry of Justice and Mission has designated significant FHC benevolence dollars in support over these years because FHC sees it as a vital expression of care for families in our city in need of the most basic essentials for living.

## News of Our Church Family

There are a variety of creative volunteer opportunities, both for individuals and groups, open at NLC. Our members might find meaningful ways to put their faith in action in such positions as job search assistants, apartment cleaning and set-up workers, activities instructors, Hands-On-Art participants and community recreation events workers. Laura Steiner, Tori Weisberg and Grace Uhle volunteer currently. Ask one of them more about it. Or phone Jackie Ladue, Volunteer Coordinator, at 216-751-7301 ext. 211 for ideas about how you might be involved.

Grace Uhle

### Good News from The Group

The Group sponsored a family from Boulevard School for Christmas 2009. The family consisted of a mother and 5 children: a 9 month Downs Syndrome boy, a 3 year old girl, a 6 year old boy, a 9 year old girl and a 13 year old girl.

The Group was able to give the family 2 dressers, a Christmas tree and gifts of clothing and toys for all the children. They also gave gift certificates: \$50 Dave's Supermarket, \$50 WalMart, and \$100 Payless. The total estimated value of contributions was \$675. This was \$30 more than in 2008. Twenty-eight members of the Forest Hill church family made these contributions.

The family was overjoyed to receive the gifts which were delivered by the Boulevard School social worker, Karen Allen, and Cathy Ghiandoni, Joe and Betsy Andrews and Darryl Musick.

A thank you note from Karen Allen reads as follows:

*Thanks so much for your generosity this Christmas to the Boulevard School family. The mother was going to use some of the gift card money to buy other items that would help her organize the shoes and clothes that are now in bags and boxes. Thanks again!*

Karen Allen, Boulevard School Social Worker

### Births

**Aniya Gambibi**, daughter of Kwasi and Kakra Gambibi and granddaughter of Franklin and Naana Soadwa, was born December 2, 2009.

### Baptisms

Caiden James Ball, son of Brittani and Kevin Ball, was baptized January 3, 2010. His grandmother Mary Ball was the attending Elder. Kate Sivakoff and Marc Sherriff are Caiden's godparents. His grandfather Allan Ball and uncle Brian Ball are also FHC members.

### In Memoriam We Remember

**Louise Barnhart Fuller (Barney)**, who died January 6, 2010

### Care Group

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

Members of the Bethlehem CARE Group are:

Jon Adams and Pam Conover and family	Bethany and Joe Pinzone and family
Katie & Chris Batcheller	Ron Register and family
Dick Bloomquist	Jean Reinhold
Clarence and Eloise Boyd	Baldwin Sawyer
Kay and Bill Currie	Rosaneil Schenk
Carolyn Doggett	Mollie and Dick Secor
Peter and Kathryn Eloff	Millie Skeivis
Sharon Hansen	Kevin and Laura Steiner
Jenny Himmelman and family	Elizabeth Stiles
Joan Kandare	Carolyn Vrtunski
Morag and Tom Keefe	Mark and Julie Waring and family
Elizabeth Kosnik	Blanche Winston
Karen and Clyde Loughridge	Beth and Tom Zych and family

### Ushers for February

Roger Heineman, Lead Usher; Robyn Hales, Paula Harvey, Tom Harvey, Jason Hidek, Diane McFigggen, Tom McFigggen, Dick Peterjohn (assistant lead), Chuck Smith. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

## 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: February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10.

Emails and extensions for the staff are as follows:

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

Our website is [www.fhcpresb.org](http://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!**

Check out the website! It's chock-full of information!

**We are trying to track down the names of the donors of the two baptismal fonts at FHC. There is one in the library and one in the sanctuary. If you know when these fonts were donated, and by whom, would you please let the office know?**



## Fabulous Food Fridays

FRIDAY EVENINGS, Feb. 12, 19, 26, Mar. 5

"It's 5 o'clock. What's for dinner?" If you've ever searched for healthy and tasty answers to this question, you'll want to plan to be in our church kitchen on FRIDAY nights in February. Four "celebrity chefs" from our own congregation will lead a series of Friday night classes to demonstrate new ideas for creating great dinners without needing exotic ingredients or a professional kitchen staff. More and more people are discovering that how we feed our families is central to both our physical and spiritual well-being. Our own church family includes cooks who have studied in top culinary schools and cooked in Cleveland's finest restaurants. These classes promise to provide the chance for participants to enjoy a great meal and to take home practical ideas you can use in your own kitchen. Many of our chefs have presented classes at The Viking Store and similar locations where the cost is \$80 or more. You can have them cook for you for the low, low price of just **\$15 per person per evening/\$60 for the series** with all proceeds going to support our church food cupboard. There is a maximum of 20 people per class.

So save the dates **FRIDAYS FEB 12, 19, 26, and MARCH 5; 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Contact Lynda, [office@fhcpresb.org](mailto:office@fhcpresb.org) or 216-321-2660, to reserve your spot, and look for more details soon!

# 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 NRSV

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Epistle for January 31, 2010  
Revised Common Lectionary