

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

March 2010

Dear Friends,

Due to many factors the pilgrimage to El Salvador has been cancelled. However, for the last month or so I have been diving into the literature of this Central American nation. I have been re-introduced to Liberation Theology and become immersed in the life of Oscar Romero.

Oscar Romero was born on the Honduran border of El Salvador on August 15, 1917. Born into poverty (no electricity or running water), apprenticed as a carpenter, he received an invitation to enter seminary and begin his studies towards ordination to the priesthood. Bright and inquisitive, he traveled to Rome to finish his degree.

He returned to El Salvador and became a priest. Recognized for his organizational skills, he began the procession of promotions into the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. Romero was always a man of compassion. He was also noted for being a social and theological conservative. He did not make waves. Hence, when the position of archbishop became open, Romero was selected as a compromise candidate, pleasing both to the Vatican AND the oppressive political regime in El Salvador.

It is important to remember that El Salvador, in the 1970's and 80's, was the hot bed of urban and peasant revolution and repressive governmental responses. There were death squads. Many who opposed the government were killed, and thousands were kidnapped, never to be seen again. The United States, fearful of any potential advance of perceived communism, supported the El Salvador government by training army officers and sending millions of dollars of military aid and weaponry. It was during this time that Forest Hill Church debated becoming a "Sanctuary Church."

In the midst of such turmoil, Oscar Romero had a "Road to Damascus" conversion. His priest friend Rutilio Grande was assassinated by the government's death squad on March 12, 1977.

Romero began to visit the small towns and villages across the country and began to speak out against the oppression and about the poverty he saw. He used his weekly radio addresses to comfort and inspire citizens across the country. In response to his sermons and speeches, Romero became an enemy of the regime. He was targeted and finally killed while he celebrating the Mass on March 24, 1980.

Just the day or two before he died he said "if I am killed, I shall rise again in the Salvadoran people." Truly this has come to pass. In his death Romero has joined Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi as 20th century martyrs for peace and justice.

I have been reading Romero's daily meditations and will continue to do so during the season of Lent. Some of my favorites so far are these:

We really live outside of ourselves. There are very few humans who truly live inside themselves and this is why there are so many problems... In each person's heart, there is something like a small, intimate space, where God comes down to speak alone with that person. And this is where a person determines his or her own destiny, his or her own role in the world. If each of the people with so many problems were to enter at this moment this small space, and, once there, were to listen to the voice of the Lord which speak in our own conscience, how much could each one of us do to improve the environment, society, the family with whom we live?

We shall be firm, yes, in defending our rights, but with great love in our hearts. Because by defending them in this way, with love, we are also seeking the conversion of sinners. This is the Christian revenge.

Seek after your inner space and listen for God there. Pursue peace, do justice, love kindness and walk with humility before God. Always remember compassion and love.

Peace,

John



Dear friends,

Let's talk Turkey! Turkish Delights!

Liz and I returned from our Turkey trip on Friday, February 5th and life is still a blur. That seven hour time change is still a challenge! Our educational seminar was very exciting, stretching, and full of surprising experiences. Some of the things I was not prepared for: I was not prepared for just how many ancient ruins we would see. I was not prepared for the sheer numbers of layers of history that we would cover with each individual ancient city. (I must beef up on my Greco-Roman history.) I was not prepared for how beautiful the Turkish countryside is – it has spectacular mountain passes and waterways that wind down toward the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas. I was not prepared for how cosmopolitan the cities would be, especially Istanbul. I was not prepared to visit a “Muslim” country and hear that 70% of the Muslims consider themselves secular and do not practice Islam. I was not prepared for just how gracious and hospitable were Turkish people. All of the surprises added to our sense of wonder and awe. They also have inspired us to learn more about this fascinating country, and to learn more about the life and journeys of the Apostle Paul.

Forest Hill will definitely embark on a pilgrimage to Turkey in the spring of 2011. We use the term pilgrimage because a pilgrimage is far more than a tourist's trip. We will prepare our hearts and minds in the months before we go. We will build community among the group in order to enhance our experience while there. We will prepare our hearts and souls to be shaped and transformed by our experiences so that our understanding of our Christian faith will be enhanced and deepened.

We are securing dates and we will release details as they get solidified. I know so many of you have indicated your desire to go which is exciting. So, please stay tuned regarding the next pilgrimage to the ancient world of the Apostle Paul and St. John.

Liz and I thank you for all your support and eagerness to hear about our experience! We will get together a slide show presentation as soon as the dust settles.

Blessings,

Clover

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Adult Education in March

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

Children and Youth Ministries

February was a busy month as the children and youth explored Jesus' ministry. Our youngest children participated in activities about Jesus' parables and early teachings. The Pathways to the Promise Land children and the Mid High youth explored the Lord's Prayer and practicing how to pray. The Senior High youth focused their discussions on retelling of Bible stories with a contemporary view.

- In our nursery, thank you to Ron Register, Katie & Matt Russo, Sandy Schultz, Lara Troyer & Jeff Dyck, and Chuck & Lora Smith.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Becky West and Diana Johannessen.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Christina Hidek and the Mid High youth.
- In Pathways to the Promise Land, thank you to Jennifer Blakeney, Susanne & David Peterjohn, Don Clark, Wendy Brock, Chantal Miller, Consuelo Heineman, Alisha Trammell.
- In the Trailblazers class, thank you to Keith Logan.
- In the Senior High Church School, thank you to Elaine Turley and Ron Schmidt.

Children's Christian Education

Little Explorers – three/ four year olds

Children in Worship – older 4 year olds and kindergarten

During the month of March the children in these classes will be exploring and participating in Bible stories about the parables and Jesus' teachings. Each lesson has an activity response to the story they heard to help them better to understand the meaning. Kate & David Burleigh will be leading the *Little Explorers* class and Pat & Jim Seeders will be leading the *Children in Worship* class.

Pathways to the Promise Land – grades 1-5

The next theme for this group is a four-week focus of the *Last Supper*. The act of Holy Communion has been a way to continue the witness to the presence of God in the lives of people of faith. Today we continue this witness as we grow in our understanding of the sacrament of Communion. The children will participate in movement, art and video workshops as they explore this theme.

Youth Ministries

Trailblazers – grades 6-8

The youth in this class will learn of the different Gospel accounts of Holy Week. The Gospel writers selected particular stories about Jesus' death and resurrection to explain these events to their different audiences. The youth will explore these stories through art, movement and storytelling.

Senior High Church School – grades 9-12

Our Senior High youth will focus on the contemporary issues during Lent. They will participate in discussions and activities that are relevant in their lives such as bullying, consumerism, cheating and using technology wisely.

Dates to Know

March 7 Gathering Time

Pathways to the Promise Land children, grades 1-5 will meet in the Chapel at 11:00 then be excused to their workshops with their shepherds.

March 28 Cherub Choir

Pre-schoolers meet for fun, movement and songs. Meet in Room 207 at 10:30.

Faithfully,
Liz Wollaeger

Director of Christian Education

Music



Four of the six Lenten Sundays fall in March this year, and the music will reflect the more contemplative mood of this liturgical season. Music at the mid-week Lenten services on March 3rd and 17th will be drawn from the Taizé and Iona communities, as well as from cultures around the world.

Looking ahead: The fourth in our season of **AWEs** (Alternative Worship Experience) has changed its date. Originally planned for March 28th, the new date is now **Sunday, April 11** at 7:30 p.m. That's "Low Sunday"—the Sunday after Easter, but there will be nothing "low" about this service. ***Swing to the Lord a New Song*** will feature the Chancel and Sine Nomine Choirs, accompanied by a jazz combo led by trombonist Paul Ferguson (my brother) and trumpeter Jack Schantz (he was amazing last year, remember?). Also appearing will be the Heights Barbershop Group, a Cleveland Hts. High School award-winning ensemble which several of our FHC youth sing in (Jack Lentz, Seth Ungemach, and Jaired Birks). This service will showcase sacred works written in jazz or gospel styles. Please invite your music-loving friends to this event!

On Sunday, March 21, I will be away accompanying the Heights choirs on their tour to Charleston, South Carolina (that will be one LONG bus ride!). As sad as I am to not be worshiping at FHC that Sunday, I know worshiping in the southern style will open my eyes to new music and liturgical ideas that I can bring back home.

Choirs (and everyone else), please note that Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14th, so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour and go to bed early the night before!

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson
Director of Music
annew@fhcpresb.org

For Those in Career Transition

Are you recently unemployed and wondering where you can find some information on conducting a job search? I work for Hudson Job Search, a non-profit organization in Hudson that assists local residents in their career search. We have two monthly meetings that are free and open to the public, with speakers discussing essential job search and career topics, and offer an opportunity to network. There are many such groups meeting throughout northeast Ohio that may be of interest to you.

If you would like more information about the local job search groups, career centers or networking groups or would like to be added to a distribution list to receive job postings and articles of interest to your job search; contact me at newtonoh@aol.com

Cindy Newton

Care for the Caregiver

One of the functions of the Deacons is a targeted ministry of care to caregivers—individuals caring for full or part-time homebound family members with physical needs. This ministry includes regular visits to the caregivers to provide prayer and emotional support. A special basket of self-care products and devotional materials geared for care-givers and a list of home repair contractors and caregiver websites is distributed.

If you are aware of a church family that could use this ministry, please contact the Deacons through the church office.

Cindy Newton, Deacon

The Deacons would like to thank our 09 Youth Deacon, Monika Juodisius, for all her time and effort this past year as the Liaison to Youth and as the secretary for our group. We appreciate her leadership and the gifts that she brought to the Deacons.

Sundays in March	
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 Mar. 7)
12:15	Coffee Hour Sine Nomine Choir (Mar. 14, 28)
5:00	FaithLeader (no class on Mar. 28) MOB: Sr High Evangelism Group

Calendar 10 - 11

March 7 11:00 Worship: Communion 1:00 Boy Scouts: Health and Safety training	Isaiah 55: 1-9 Psalm 63: 1-8 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9
March 14 <i>Daylight Saving Time begins</i> 9:30 Exploring Membership 5:00 Boy Scout Troop #403 Annual Dinner	Joshua 5:9 – 12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
March 21 11:00 Worship: Receive New Members Baptism of Carrie Reese 12:15 Blood pressure check	Isaiah 43: 16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3: 4b-14 John 12: 1-8
March 28 Palm Sunday 12:15 Teacher Training	Luke 19: 28-40 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 31: 9-16 Philippians 2: 5-11 Luke 22:14 – 23:56

Conference Opportunities That May Be of Interest

A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples

March 19-22, 2010 at the DoubleTree Hotel, Crystal City, VA / Washington, DC

Worship, study and dialogue with people of faith at the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days.

Then rally on the National Mall and go to Capitol Hill to advocate with members of Congress for immigration, international debt relief, and refugee reform. Sponsors of the event include: Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington office, Church World Service, and the National Council of Churches in Christ. For registration and further information go to: <http://advocacydays.org/>

2010 World Mission Initiative Conference – God says GO!

March 19-20, 2010 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA

Workshops to help congregations discover, equip themselves, and connect with opportunities for mission overseas and close to home. Presentations by missiologist Michael Frost and Iranian missionary Rev. Dr. Sasan Tavasoli. Registration deadline is March 12. For further information go to: www.worldmissioninitiative.org.

Re-membering Peace: Still the Believers' Calling

August 25-28(29), 2010 at Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico

Weave together Presbyterian stories of peacemaking, recognize current strands of activity throughout the church, and bear witness to being knit together in Christ. Come to the mesas of northern New Mexico to celebrate thirty years of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Registration is limited. For further information go to: www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2010.htm .

Elder Dick Obermanns

From the Ministry of Justice and Mission

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"Feed My Sheep" – One Great Hour of Sharing

Presbyterians' gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing allows our church to respond to Jesus' call to care for the bereft, the persecuted and the powerless in far off places and close to home:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance assists people who have been driven from their towns and villages by wars or natural catastrophes in Pakistan, Darfur, and Haiti. But it has also drawn volunteers from our own community to reconstruction efforts down on the U.S. Gulf Coast, and helped cleanup efforts from floods in Findlay, Ohio.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program and our Presbytery support justice for landless farmers in South Africa as well as promoting availability of fair trade agricultural products through local congregations.

The Self-Development of People Program works mainly in the U.S., providing small grants for economic empowerment to groups of poor people in rural and urban communities. Here in Greater Cleveland, projects ranging from a seamstresses' cooperative to an urban market garden to a collaborative of young apparel designers were funded in 2009 with the local share of the One Great Hour offering. A portion of the funds you give will return to work in our own community.

Worship bulletin inserts will highlight Presbyterian Church (USA) projects that serve poor and suffering people around the world and in Northeast Ohio. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Palm Sunday, March 28th. Please give generously!

Elder Dick Obermanns

News of Our Church Family

New Contact Information

Nancy Crawford (west104@yahoo.com)

150 Waugh Ave.

New Wilmington PA 16142

724-946-2645

Dick Bloomquist

27030 Cedar Rd. #620 (*the apartment number is new*)

Beachwood, OH 44122

216-464-1152

Laura and Kevin Steiner (*phone*)

216-870-0119

Jane Melbourne (*email*)

melbournejane@gmail.com

Care Group

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

Members of the Jericho CARE Group are:

Jennifer Blakeney, Deacon and Leader

Janet Banis

the Baumgartner family

Jennifer Blakeney and Marius Juodisius

and family

the Brock family

the Burleigh family

Jim and Carol Conway

Joseph and Janet Dauer

Marj Drollinger

Elizabeth Farnfield

Beverly Gairing

Al Gilbert

Tom and Paula Harvey

Candice Hoke and George Taylor

and family

Carol Hopkins-Lutz

the Jamieson family

the Lindquist family

Eunice Manu

Carol Phillips

the Sampson family

Jean Seeley

Chuck and Lora Smith and family

Ann Tutton

the Wollaeger family

Ushers for March

Scott Peters, Lead Usher; Tish Van Beers-Klein, assistant lead; Amy Davis, Chris Davis, Scott Duncan, Jean Duncan, Brian Klein, Jim Roosa, Ayodele Solaru. Roger Heineman, Head Usher

SOFTBALL SEASON IS HERE

We are just 2 months away from Spring Training as the Forest Hill softball teams look to win our fifth championship and win our fourth in a row! We are looking for five or six more players to add to our teams for the upcoming season. Any member, visitor, family or friend wishing to join the Forest Hill softball teams (actual softball skills not needed!), please contact Jason Hidek @ 330-284-5007 or jason.hidek@att.net.



From Jack Quinn: Thank you for your prayers, cards and calls during my illness earlier this year.

Lenten Programs, 2010

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.

Pastors Lentz and Beal will lead the 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.

Social Groups and Circles

Hilltoppers (retired singles and couples) A pre-Easter trip to Malley's Chocolates is planned for March 19. Watch for details!

Pacesetters (singles and couples 40s – 50s)

The Pacesetters are the people to party with if you're between the ages of 40 and 60, with most regulars around 50. Pacesetters includes a mix of long-time and brand-new members. All interested are welcome to attend! All you chefs or those who like to eatplease join the **Pacesetters for a Chili Cookoff!**

Date: March 20, 2010

Time: 6:30 pm

Hosts: Debbie and Don Ungemach, 3050 Coleridge Rd.,
Cleveland Hts

RSVP to the Ungemachs at 216-371-8334

Please bring a contribution for the FHC food cupboard.

Bring your favorite chili or something to accompany it and a beverage to share. There will be prizes for the Best Chili, Most Original, Most like Hormel and more. Come and enjoy fellowship and fine fare with the Pacesetters.



Heather Circle (retired women) We will meet for lunch at the church on Tuesday, March 20 at 12:30 p.m.

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: March 8, April 12, May 10, June 7 (for the July-August edition).

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!**

Interested in membership at FHC? Or just wondering what all the fuss is about? Come join the next **Exploring Membership** class: Saturday, March 13, from 9 – 12 noon (part 1) and Sunday, March 14, from 9:30 – 10:30 (part 2). Please contact the church office (216-321-2660 or office@fhcpresb.org) to reserve a place or for more information. Child care is available if requested ahead of time.



Ever wonder about....

Lent

Lent is the period of 40 days prior to Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. The word "lent" comes from the Latin word for "lengthen," because the days of Lent occur during the springtime of the year, when the daylight hours increase. The period consists of 40 days because the number 40 has special biblical significance: Moses and the people of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years; Jesus was tempted in the desert for 40 days.

Since the days of the early church, in the decades and centuries after the death and Resurrection of Christ, Christians have regarded the period of Lent as a time for repentance and reflection. It is invariably marked by fasting (going without food and/or water for a period of time), by giving up something during Lent (sweets; the sports page), and by taking on such habits that will increase one's devotion to Christ.

Source: www.presbyterianchurchusa.com/definitions