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

# Forest Hill Church

# The Tower

June 2010

Dear Friends.

"Summertime and the livin' is easy." I try to take daily walks in Forest Hill Park. It is my 15 minutes of prayer time. As you follow the walking path by the softball fields, the path curves around until, if vou look north (left), it all opens up. The meadows with old trees, the grass uncut (but I like it that way), green in May, brown in August, the sky above that goes on forever - it is beautiful. Most days I see sparrows, robins, cardinals, woodpeckers, red-wing blackbirds and last May a splendid Baltimore Oriole. I keep looking to see the covote family but it remains aloof. If I time my walk at just after 9 a.m., I hear the bells from Forest Hill Church strike, and soon after that the hymn is played.

This time spent in the park always has a calming effect on me. I don't know how many times I have received an insight, a sermon idea, or an answer to a vexing problem. Walking connects me to the earth and I get lost in the expanse of the heavens. I feel close to God's spirit. My time in the park opens me up.

This verse from Emily Dickinson is one of my favorites. It reminds me of my prayer walk and Forest Hill Park on a beautiful summer's morning.

> I dwell in Possibility. A fairer house than Prose, More numerous of windows. Superior of doors. Of chambers, as the cedars -Impregnable of eye: And for an everlasting roof The gables of the sky. Of visitors - the fairest -For occupation – this – The spreading wide my narrow hands To gather Paradise.

Take walks. Pray a lot. Dwell in possibility. Spread wide your hands to "gather Paradise."

God bless you,

#### John

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### Confessions of an IHN Worker

Some weeks are better than others. Some evenings are better than others. Some groups are better than others. Some workers are better than others.

There's a level of anger that we have to get past before we can connect with the families who stay with us. Anger - their anger at the injustice of it all, at their loss of housing and family support, at their struggle to work with the system. Anger - our anger at the injustice of it all, at the time it takes to host 4 families - 13 people - for a week, at the meals uneaten and beds unmade. Anger - their anger at these white folks who think they know better, who think they are better, who have in fact been handed a better lot without ever wondering why or how, who in many case have more that they can ever dream of. Anger - our anger at being asked to give up time, offer energy, wash dishes, clean up spills, take out trash.

Continued on p. 8



Dear friends,

On May 15, I celebrated my sixth year anniversary serving as associate pastor of FHC. The six years have been so deeply rich that I cannot even express my gratitude. Nearly every day, as I drive up Monticello and Lee and see our church building, I am aware of how thankful I am to be part of this wonderful community. You all have taught me so much about myself—as a pastor, as an educator, and as a friend. You are an honest and healthy congregation—sometimes speaking truthful words that are not easy to hear, but always spoken with love and care. Thank you.

I celebrate this congregation for your permission-giving attitude toward new programs, your energy toward getting more involved, your forgiving nature when mistakes are made, and your earnestness to imagine new ways to serve God in the future. You make my work so joyful!

As you know, this past year in adult education we programmed our classes and small groups around the theme *How, Then, Shall We Live*? The year has been tremendously successful in attendance and mind/heart expansion. I want to thank our key teachers over the year: Elder Tom Zych, John Lentz, and Tim Beal for their commitment to the success of adult education. Also, thank you to Barry Hartz and Elder Peg Weissbrod, who taught in this year's program. (I hope I haven't forgotten others. We have a wealth of talented, committed and capable folks who are available to teach!) Also, a huge thank you to Laura Steiner who has been the bulletin board artist and keeper for adult ed all year. A program is only as good as its bulletin board!

The Adult Education and Spiritual Formation team is enthusiastic about the possibilities for courses next year. We will return to engaging in *scripture study* with an innovative approach! Please listen for details!

We are also going to prepare for our pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece in the spring. (The dates are a hair's breadth from being set.) Classes will be offered to prepare pilgrims and others who would like to study early Christianity, Paul's world and theology, and the sociopolitical situations in Turkey/Greece today. I can't wait!

May the warmth of the summer months bring refreshment for you.

Blessings be,

Clover

## Restoring the Building – Reclaiming the Mission

### Thank You to All Contributors

A heartfelt thanks is given to all who contributed to the **Restoring the Building – Reclaiming the Mission** campaign. With 204 pledges totaling \$676,173, this was the most successful fund raising campaign in the history of Forest Hill Church. Your generosity is overwhelming!

The total pledged has now exceeded the goal by \$26,173. As we communicated during the educational sessions on the project, there are a few areas where we created multiple plans of varying scope depending on the success of the campaign. Due to the success thus far, we're trending towards the more comprehensive plans with an even higher long-term benefit. The church can now afford the first item on our wish list, which is to install ten large, energy-efficient, easy-to-operate windows in the sanctuary. We also hope to be able to re-pave the section of the parking lot we were unable to pave five years ago.

It is written in Luke 12:34: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. You have shown that your heart is with Forest Hill Church. One way to thank God is with the way we live our lives, spend our money, and share our money. We thank you for sharing your treasure with us so that Forest Hill Church can continue doing God's work at home, in the community, and in the world at large.

God Bless You!

Elder Barb Hansen, on behalf of the Oversight Committee

### The Building Restoration

The restoration work on our building began last November. The goal of the fall work was to secure the building from further water damage and to do investigative work to help determine the proper course of action for restoring the various elements of the exterior.

Storm Sewer - the church has been plagued by continual sewer problems since the building was built. The sanctuary problems were solved many years ago. Progress had been made in solving the Fellowship Hall wing issues but the Christian Education wing continued to experience problems. The goal of the November work was to correct a few known problems and to determine exactly how the C. E. wing sewers work. From this process we learned that the sewers were improperly installed originally in 1955 and that attempts to correct the problem either didn't work or made the condition worse. By the end of November with the assistance of Dan Shaner, our resident civil engineer, it had been determined that the only course of action that would solve the problem was to replace the entire C. E. wing storm sewer system. It was also determined that it was less costly to do the work then in spite of the winter weather as opposed to covering up what had been done and starting over in the spring.



As of last week all sewer work has been completed. The church now has a totally new storm sewer system for one-third of the building that works entirely by gravity and will be very inexpensive to maintain. In addition the Lee Blvd. sump pump well has been repaired and a new catch basin has been added to the courtyard area adjacent to the Fellowship Hall corridor.

**Playground** – the playground had to be dismantled as a part of the sewer work. The playground has now been rebuilt with a dramatically improved drainage system and 13 tons of rubber mulch. In keeping with the church's sustainability program the old bark mulch was recycled by mulching the trees throughout the grounds. The rubber mulch is made from 2,000 ground-up tires which equals a set of four tires for every member of the church.

**Masonry work** – it turns out that the brick work of the church was in relatively good condition. Old age aided by some leaky gutters resulted in some of the mortar being washed out. The process to replace the mortar is called tuckpointing and will be completed by May 14.

**Paint** – the most visible area that needs attention is the paint. Every part of the building that is white with the exception of the steeple will be prepared, primed and painted with two coats of paint. Work began on May 3.

Elder Dave Hunter

# Christian Education Children and Youth Ministries

Our Church School year has drawn to an end. I would like to thank all of our dedicated and energetic teachers, leaders, shepherds and helpers who have made this year so successful. These volunteers gave their time, energy, and love to nurture our children in our faith.

- In our nursery, thank you to Virginia Weiss, Lisa Higgs, Christina Hidek, Linda Rainey and Ron Register.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Becky West, Diana Johannessen, Sarah & Matt Winters, and Kate & David Burleigh.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Pat & Jim Seeders, Jill & Kevin White, Christina & Jason Hidek, Sarah & Matt Winters.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land program, thank you to Laurie Logan, Molly Bergman, Julie Lustic, Susanne & David Peterjohn, Wendy Brock, Joanne Shaner, Peter Williams, Consuelo Heineman and Jim Roosa.
- In Descant Choir activity time, thank you to Kate & David Burleigh, Barry Hartz, Chantal Miller, Susanne & David Peterjohn, Jeannine Gury & Scott Peters, Jim Roosa, Lora & Chuck Smith, and Tori Weisberg.

## Children Ministry Summer Programs

Through the summer months there will be child care for infants through five year olds. The nursery/crib room is a wonderful space where parents can leave their young children in confidence that they will be cared for and nurtured. If you would like to help out in our nursery please contact the church office.

### Summer Pathways

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

This year the children will explore being good stewards of God's creation as they help others by participating in activities around Forest Hill Church's Abundance Acres garden. Usually we think of gardens as we plant, flowers and vegetables. We also can plant an idea that grows into something that wasn't there before. When we "plant" the idea that God loves us, there is no telling what will happen. This summer we hope to "plant" the idea of helping others through our garden. Laurie Logan and Laura Steiner will be guiding the children, through nurturing of the garden, in taking care of the earth as they help those in need. The children will actually be working in the garden, please be sure your child/children are dressed accordingly.

Summer Pathways dates: May 30, June 6 & 20, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22

### Youth Ministries

From the family of Forest Hill Church, to this year's high school graduating seniors:

We wish you well as you move beyond high school and on to the next phase of your life. We watched you grow, be baptized, join Pathways, go on mission trips, be confirmed, sing in choirs and participate in the life of the church. We hope you take faith and wisdom and understanding as you move past your high school years. May God always be with you.

**Adam Jesberger** is graduating from Mayfield High School and will attend Lakeland Community College.

**Eric Brock** is graduating from Cleveland Heights High School and will be attending Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

**Lena Console** is graduating from Cleveland Heights High School and will be attending Cincinnati Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

**Ian Higgs** is graduating from Cleveland Heights High School and will be attending Ohio State University.

**Jon Newton** is graduating from Hudson High School.

**Jaiye Sampson** is graduating from Cleveland Heights High School and will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology.

**Jordan Shoger** is graduating from Cleveland Heights High School and will be attending Wittenberg University.

**Leslie Smith** is graduating from Cleveland Heights High School and will be attending New York University.

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**Thomas Taylor** is graduating from Cleveland Heights High School and has enlisted in the US Navy.

**Seth Ungemach** is graduating from Cleveland Heights High School and will be attending Bowling Green State University.

We would also like to recognize our college graduates:

**Mathew Austin** (son of financial administrator Becky Austin) is graduating from Ohio University with a Master's in Sociology

**Bethany Bell** is graduating from the University of Cincinnati, School of Law (JD).

**Elizabeth Caldwell** (daughter of new member Barbara Caldwell) is graduating from University of Pittsburgh.

**Robin Craig** is graduating with a Master's in Divinity (MDiv) from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

**George Dise** is graduating with a BA in History with a Creative Writing minor from the University of Rochester.

**Sarah Fuller** (daughter of office administrator Lynda Bernays) is graduating from Cornell University with a BS in Natural Resources.

**Claire Logan** is graduating with a Master's in Speech and Language Pathology from Boston University.

**Erin Lustic** is graduating with a Master's in Nursing from the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati.

John Linn Obery is graduating from the College of Wooster.

#### Dates to Know

May 30 Summer Pathways

June 6 Teacher Appreciation Sunday

June 6 Summer Pathways
June 13 Graduate Recognition
June 20 Summer Pathways

Faithfully,

Liz Wollaeger

Director of Christian Education

# Confessions of an IHN Worker (cont.)

But move beyond all that anger, and what do you find? Trust, if you are lucky – first from the kids, who warm up quickly and ask for a cookie or a game or a movie; then from the moms, who accept your offer of help and allow you to carry a small child. Trust, because if you offer to serve someone and she accepts, it means she trusts you with her needs. Trust, because if you are

willing to wash out a bottle and refill it for the youngest child, the three-year-old will then start talking to you and the twelve-year-old will stop making outlandish requests he knows you can't grant. Trust, because once you trust someone you can see her as an equal.

(cont. on p. 18)



### Music

As the choir season draws to a close, I would like to take this moment to thank all the dedicated, creative and loving people who have faithfully attended rehearsals each week in order to praise God in song (or bells) every Sunday morning. It is a joy for me to work with all the choirs, and I'm grateful to my special helpers: Nancy Grube, the choir librarian; Jaired Birks, Chancel Choir Chancellor; Elizabeth Shaw, vice-president; Joy Stang, choir secretary; Bob Jeffreys, choir treasurer; Frank Ragone, mascot ⑤, Ginie Mast, assistant conductor; Katie Muller-Girard, Descant Choir president, and Laura Peterjohn, vice-president; Seth Ungemach, Sine Nomine Choir president and Megan Muller-Girard, vice president; Sue Conant, Voices in Bronze president; Lisa Koops, Cherub Choir Director, and Lena Console, Cherub Choir assistant.

**Summer Choir** begins Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> with rehearsals held at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday before the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The music is easy to learn, and singers of all ages (even babes in arms) are most welcome to participate. No hot choir robes – just come as you are. I strongly encourage everyone in the congregation to sing in the Summer Choir at least once. Bring the whole family and experience the worship service from "the other side." The Summer Choir sings every Sunday during June and July.

I wish you good health and safety during your summer travels. My own summer plans include attending a Jazz Camp at the University of Louisville, and exploring the Pacific Northwest (Seattle, Victoria and Vancouver). Though I was invited to teach at two professional conferences this summer, both have been canceled due to budget woes, which is sad. I hope, as the economy recovers, these church music conferences will be up and running again.

www.fhcpresb.org

Soli Deo Gloria

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE

Anne Wilson Organist/Director of Music annew@fhcpresb.org

SEE WHAT'S NEW! Q

10-11 calendar

Sundays in June
9:00 Summer Bible Study (June 20, 27)
9:30 Child care begins
Summer Choir
Continental Breakfast
10:00 Worship
Summer Pathways (gr. 1-5) (June 6, 20)
11:15 Coffee Hour

June 6 10:00 Worship: Teacher Recognition	1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Galatians 1: 11-24 Luke 7: 11-17	
June 13	1 Kings 21: 1-10, 15-21a	
10:00 Worship in Fellowship Hall:	Psalm 5: 1-8	
Recognition of Graduates	Galatians 2: 15-21	
	Luke 7: 36-8:3	
June 20	1 Kings 19: 1-4, 8-15a	
11:15 Blood pressure check	Psalms 42-43	
·	Galatians 3: 23-29	
	Luke 8: 26-39	
June 27	2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14	
TOWER distribution	Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20	
10:00 Worship: Baptism of	Galatians 5: 1, 13-25	
Jake MacPhail	Luke 9: 51-62	

The summer schedule begins June 6.
Worship will be at 10 a.m.
The regular schedule will resume September 12.

## Adult Ed Continues in the Summer!

Even though our traditional Sunday morning adult education classes will end for the "school year" on May 23 (my how time flies when you're talking about God!), we will once again be holding our informal summer Bible study before worship, starting on June 20th and continuing through July 25th. As we did last year, we'll meet at 9:00 in South Hall to read, discuss and share our insights into scriptural passages taken from the lectionary readings. The enthusiastic reaction to our experiment with adult "summer school" last year tells us that there is no reason to abandon Adult Ed just because summer is here. Clover and I hope to see you there!

Elder Tom Zych

# News of Our Church Family

New Contact Information Betty Farnfield

19455 Rockside Rd. #222 Bedford, OH 44146 440-786-7083 Jean Izant

889 N. Aurora Rd #161 Aurora OH 44202

Brian & Becky West; Connor, Jude

2396 Demington Dr. Cleveland Hts OH 44106 216-346-2356 Barbara Caldwell Cynthia Caldwell; Caleb 3519 Edison Cleveland Hts OH 44121

### **Ushers for June**

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

### Care Group

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

Members of the Jordan CARE Group are:

Debbie Adrine, Deacon and Leader
Betsy and Joe Andrews
Chessie Bleick
the Cosgrove family
Dale and Elaine Dannefer

Ellen McChesney
Mary McMillan
Jon Newton
Frank Ragone
Linda Rainey

Sally Davis the Schellenberg family Ralph and Kathy Dise Jim and Pat Seeders

Kaye Gardiner Dalma Takacs
Ron and Marcia Grant Grace Uhle
the Heineman family Tori Weisberg

Colleen and Christian Hunter

Carl Jenks

Carson and Mary Jean Kent

Tori Weisberg and family Pat and Ray Weissbrod

Becky and Brian West and family

Marilyn Wilk

Diana and Ted Woodbridge

# From the Ministry of Worship ~

With summer vacations approaching keep FHC in mind as you travel.

If you are fortunate to visit another church please C.A.S.E. the joint – Copy And Steal Everything – well, perhaps not steal, but observe and ask for copies. We'd like to benefit from the wisdom and creativity of others – please collect information for us including (but not limited to):

- Sample bulletins
- Listing of events
- Your impressions on what really interesting programs or events they are offering.
- Ways of worshipping that enhance the experience.

Please send the samples and observations to the Ministry of Worship through the church office. Thank you in advance for helping us understand how the spirit is moving in other places.

**Elder Melody Obery** 

# MISSION WORK AT FOREST HILL CHURCH

We have completed two successful IHN hosting weeks so far this year with your generous help. We thank all of you who have volunteered in any way during these host weeks. Your willingness to share your time and talents with our families is greatly appreciated. Families have been moving in and out of the network faster than before due to rapid re-housing subsidies and other financial assistance that has become available. This is great for the families but requires us to be flexible! The really good news is that several of the families that have stayed with us at FHC are now in stable housing. Alissa, with us in November 2009, was able to find housing through the rapid re-housing program. Erica, also with us in November 2009, moved into the New Life Community. Judith, our mother-to-be when she was with us, found housing through rapid re-housing. Michelle and her three children were housed by Cleveland Housing Network.

IHN collects gently used furniture and beds that are used to help the families when they move into permanent housing. These are collected on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. IHN is also in need of laundry baskets filled with cleaning supplies, boxes of size 4 or larger diapers, liquid laundry soap, and 3T and 4T pull-ups. If you would like to donate any of the smaller items, please let the FHC IHN coordinators know and we will be glad to transport them to the IHN Family Center in Tremont. If you have larger items such as furniture to donate, you can let us know at FHC and we will contact IHN for pick up.

### **Prayerful Consideration**

We are always looking for more coordinators to help keep everything running smoothly. If you might be interested in working with us, please let one of us know. Many hands make light work. We only host 4 times a year so the job is not overwhelming. It is an opportunity to become involved in mission work without having to leave town.

#### **FHC Coordinators**

Anne Smith, Coordinator of meals Julie Lustic and Sue Lafferty, Co-coordinators of volunteers

# Upcoming Host Dates September 12-18 and December 5-11

Elder Julie Lustic

Social Groups and Circles

**Hilltoppers** (retired singles and couples)

The Hilltoppers will hold their annual Planning Meeting on Wednesday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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

In June, **The Group** will attend the Cain Park production of **Sweeney Todd**, an award-winning musical by Stephen Sondheim, in the Alma Theater on Saturday, June 12, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$22.00 for center seats and \$20.00 for sides. For reservations and information, contact Bob and Pat Jeffreys (216-381-2120, or <a href="mailto:bobpatj@aol.com">bobpatj@aol.com</a>). Deadline for reservations is **June 4th**. All are invited.

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

Iris Circle will have their annual planning meeting June15, 2010 at the home of Barb Hansen 9104 Idlewood Dr. Mentor). We will have a salad pot luck and plan our next year with exciting, challenging and fun filled events. Bring your salad and ideas to Barb's home on Tuesday, June 15th at 6:30 p.m. Contact Barb with any questions (440 255-5514 or <a href="mailto:bhansen@oh.rr.com">bhansen@oh.rr.com</a>). All women of Forest Hill Church are invited

Pacesetters (singles and couples 40s - 50s) Join the Pacesetters on the Towpath! All are welcome!







The Pacesetters are heading out on the bike trails again this summer!

Please join the Pacesetters on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> for a group bike ride in beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and then relaxing with a picnic lunch afterwards in the nearby Brecksville Metro Park. We will meet at the Station Road Trailhead (off Route 82) at 9:30 and plan to set out at 10:00 AM (to beat the summer heat) and bike or hike (for those non-bikers) until about 12 noon.

Haven't been on a bicycle in years? Not to worry; the trail is not too difficult and if you get tired out, the Cuyahoga Valley train picks up at

various points along the trail and will transport you and your bike back to the Station Road stop for a mere \$2.

RSVP to Scott and Sue Lafferty (<u>salaff@sbcglobal.net</u> or 440-449-2361) or to let us know that you will join the fun. For the picnic, we will supply the paper products, condiments, utensils and drinks; please bring \$1/person for hamburgers and hot dogs, plus a side dish to share. Additional directions will be sent closer to the date!

# Office News and Reminders

The deadline for the weekly bulletin is every Wednesday morning.

The deadline for the **TOWER** is as follows: **7 a.m.** on June 18 (for the July-August edition), August 20, September 18. **Note** that the due dates are later. We will be distributing TOWERs in Fellowship Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of the month; we will mail only those that don't get picked up. The TOWER will be posted on the website the weekend it is available for pick-up.

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), <a href="mailto:annew@fhcpresb.org">annew@fhcpresb.org</a>, ext 208
- ❖ CE Office: Liz Wollaeger, lizw@fhcpresb.org, ext. 206
- Becky Austin (financial office): <u>beckya@fhcpresb.org</u>, 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.

# A few tips for writing checks, since we have so many active funds right now –

It is perfectly fine to write one check for several purposes. Please be very sure to write in the memo line how much money is for each fund. This same holds true when writing checks on-line; be sure to add a description such as Base Pledge, Building Campaign, or Flowers. That way your gifts will get posted to the correct accounts without delay.

### 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!

### Confessions of an IHN Worker (cont.)

It's easier to get there if you are a regular presence. If you are there frequently, you walk in and their faces light up. You look forward to seeing them and wonder what their day was like. You share a little bit of your day and listen to their conversation. You offer to take them on a tour of the church, the floors above and the space around their quarters. You arrange for a meal they request or the kind of salad dressing they like.

It's a busy week, as are the weeks leading up to it – emails abound, information overflows, phone calls confirm an offer to drive or to cook. And then it's over, and what's left is a pile of laundry and a refrigerator of left-over food and a sense that while we did well, we could have done better. And the knowledge that we did our best, and what we learned will help us do better next time. And gratitude to all the people who offered time and energy and food in the course of seven days.

Lynda Bernays
FHC office administrator
IHN Coordinator for Christ Episcopal Church
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# Faith Leader Fandango

This year's Faith Leader group was gathered around the table for its final session after 27 weeks of convening each Sunday evening. One of the leaders asked us for a word to describe our feelings upon finishing the Faith Leader marathon. A sampling of responses included:

"Wonder-filled" "Yearning" "Open" "Apprehensive" "Grateful"

The variety of responses, even after so much time together, implies what Faith Leader isn't. It isn't doctrinaire, proselytizing, narrow-minded or *risk-free*. It thrives when people in very different places on their faith journeys convene to share their experience with honesty, openness and a sense of humor.

The result is an opportunity to find your spiritual voice – to explore your gifts, your doubts, your convictions, your faith, your practices, your fears, and your relationship with God – in community with others, under expert and caring supervision, all in the safety of a place with few sharp edges. The outcomes are uncertain but almost always revealing.

Jon Adams